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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. TLAIB).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 16, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RASHIDA TLAIB to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

FACING CATASTROPHE ON SOUTHERN BORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, despite what the Biden administration would like the American people to believe, our Nation is facing a catastrophe on the southern border.

Last month alone, U.S. Border Protection officers encountered more than 100,000 migrants attempting to cross the border illegally. This is a 173 percent increase from last February.

Right now, the Office of Refugee Resettlement shelters that house unaccompanied migrant children are reaching capacity. Our border agents are being diverted from their posts to care for record numbers of teenagers and children who are illegally crossing our border.

This escalating crisis is rooted right here in Washington, D.C., more than 1,700 miles away from that border. As we witness unprecedented groups of migrants reaching the United States, there is no question that the President's weak border security stance has heightened this so-called challenge.

By reversing the Trump administration's actions to bolster security on the southern border and halting construction of the border wall, the current administration is sending a clear message to the world that America's border, unfortunately, is wide open.

Innocent people, and cartels and human traffickers who prey upon them, pay attention to what we say here in Washington. Words have consequences. Rhetoric has ramifications.

What is happening on the southern border is both a humanitarian and security crisis. It is simply inhumane for politicians to incentivize the dangerous trek across Central America to the southern border.

Those who attempt the journey face treacherous conditions, gang violence, and unthinkable danger. As my friend, Republican leader KEVIN MCCARTHY, said at the border just yesterday, ''This is human heartbreak.''

As the situation worsens, the limited resources on the border are being pulled away from protecting the American people. The Biden administration is prioritizing illegal immigrants over the American people. As U.S. Customs and Border Protection leadership shifts to caring for migrants, there are fewer officers focusing on apprehending threats.

This is not only a human trafficking crisis; it is also a drug trafficking crisis. The illicit drugs, including deadly methamphetamine, cocaine, and fentanyl, that come across the porous southern border are killing Pennsylvanians in the streets of Altoona, Johnstown, Bedford, Chambersburg, Gettysburg, and Somerset, and throughout my district.

Just this weekend, Border Patrol agents apprehended two individuals attempting to smuggle nearly 8 pounds of methamphetamine across the border. By preventing these drugs from reaching American communities, we likely saved lives. What would have happened if these suspects hadn't been caught?

Clearly, we need more, and not less, security on our southern border.

As our Nation continues to combat the COVID–19 pandemic, Congress cannot afford to stand back and allow the border crisis to get even worse. We need safer, stronger, and more secure communities in Pennsylvania and across the country.

Here is the truth: The border crisis has consequences beyond the border. Inaction is not the correct action. Border security is national security.

FAREWELL TO CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. HAALAND) for 5 minutes.

Ms. HAALAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to deliver my final remarks on the floor of the people's House.

I am humbled to have spent the last 2 years in this Chamber, where I proudly served New Mexico, alongside my colleagues past and present in the New Mexico delegation. I am thankful to Senators MARTIN HEINRICH and BEN RAY LUJÁN, in particular, for helping to build support for my confirmation, and to former Senator Tom Udall for his years of friendship and mentorship.

I love New Mexico. Not only is it my home, where I raised my child, went to

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college, started a small business, and started organizing, it is my ancestral homeland.

As a 35th-generation New Mexican, and not unlike the other families with roots in our State, I have a deep connection to the land, air, and water that sustains our communities. My ancestors settled there because they were drawn to the once-mighty Rio Grande and the sacred places that dot the sandstone mesas and granite mountains.

That is why I made the most of my time in Congress. I spent every opportunity meeting with families, listening to small business owners, learning about our tech industry, connecting with brave servicemembers and veterans, and working to deliver for the people.

When I was a little girl, none of this crossed my mind as a possibility for me. I wasn't one of the students picked out to apply to college. In fact, I didn't apply to college until I was 28. I was constantly struggling to make ends meet, and I raised my child as a single mom.

Growing up, Native women rarely held Federal leadership positions, and now little girls everywhere will know that they can run for Congress and win and that this country holds promise for everyone.

In fact, it is the unique experiences and struggles that make good leaders and why I became an organizer in the first place. I believe that it is the fact that I relied on food stamps to feed my family that makes me qualified to advocate for families like mine. It is the fact that I overcame addiction that makes me qualified to help people who are in their own struggles. It is the fact that I know what it is like to be indigenous that makes me qualified to advocate for our country to meet its trust responsibility.

The beauty of this Chamber is that each Member of Congress brings their unique experiences to the table and advocates for the causes we know best. With Speaker NANCY PELOSI's brilliant leadership, House Natural Resources Committee Chair RAÚL GRIJALVA'S wisdom, and House Armed Services Committee Chair ADAM SMITH's guidance, and all the leadership here in the House, I had the opportunity to make a real difference for communities everywhere by addressing climate change; protecting voting rights; fighting for racial, environmental, and economic justice; and providing urgent COVID relief for millions of people.

I am also thankful for the collaboration and mentorship of my colleagues across the aisle, including Representative TOM COLE and the dean of the House, DON YOUNG, and my colleagues on the House Armed Services and Natural Resources Committees.

We worked in a bipartisan way to address issues, including missing and murdered indigenous women and ensuring that our servicemen and -women and military families have the resources that they need.

To my colleagues in the Tri-Caucus, thank you for embracing the issues facing Native Americans and working to address longstanding disparities in our communities.

I am proud that, with the support of my colleagues, several of my bills became law: the Not Invisible Act; Rent the Camo, a pilot program for pregnant servicemembers in the 2021 NDAA; the PROGRESS for Indian Tribes Act; provisions from my Military Housing Oversight and Servicemember Protection Act in the 2020 NDAA; the Native American Business Incubators Act; and the Veterans Affairs Tribal Advisory Committee Act.

I thought I would have more time here, but we are called to service in different ways.

Though I am excited to become the first Native American Cabinet Secretary in history, I am also sad to leave this Chamber. As a twice-elected Member of Congress, it has been both a pleasure and privilege to serve alongside you in our quest to improve the lives of the American people.

I want each of you to know that I am grateful for the knowledge you shared with me, the friendship, and the work we accomplished together, and I will miss all of you dearly.

I wouldn't be here today without my extraordinary staff in Albuquerque and here at the Capitol, the Natural Resources Committee staff, and the House Armed Services Committee staff. They all put in very long hours on behalf of our State and our country. My legislative accomplishments are also their accomplishments.

Additionally, thanks to all of the staff who work right here on the floor, whose dedication and experience keep our Congress running. I am so grateful to all of you.

To New Mexico, thank you. Thank you to the activists, supporters, families, and communities that make our State an incredible place to call home.

CONGRATULATING JIM SCHMITT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Jim Schmitt for being named Teacher of the Year in Duval County.

Mr. Schmitt received this honor for his work teaching global perspectives and research at Mandarin High School.

Serving as a teacher for 28 years, Mr. Schmitt has dedicated his career to improving both student learning and the methods teachers use to educate their students.

During the COVID–19 pandemic, Mr. Schmitt has demonstrated his leadership ability by creating a discussion forum for teachers to share strategies, ensuring that teachers and students are prepared to learn in an in-class or online environment.

On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Florida, I thank Mr. Schmitt for his dedication to educating the students of northeast Florida and for his commitment to the success of his students and peers alike.

CONGRATULATING ALI PRESSEL

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Ali Pressel for being named Teacher of the Year in St. Johns County.

Ms. Pressel received this honor for her work teaching biology and agriculture at Creekside High School.

As a teacher for more than 15 years, Ms. Pressel worked tirelessly to help bring exciting educational opportunities in STEM to her students and to encourage them to engage their curiosity.

The philosophy that guides Ms. Pressel's work is that all students should have limitless opportunities to make connections in their communities through exploration and discovery.

On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Florida, I thank Ms. Pressel for her dedication to educating the students of northeast Florida and for her commitment to the success of her students and peers alike.

CONGRATULATING KRISTAN CRONIN

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Kristan Cronin for being named Teacher of the Year in Nassau County.

Ms. Cronin received this honor for her work teaching fourth grade math, science, and social studies at Wildlight Elementary School.

Ms. Cronin has been a teacher for 17 years and is committed to guiding her students as they recognize and develop their talents and abilities. Ms. Cronin creates a hands-on work environment for her students to succeed, develops a love for knowledge, and helps them apply what they have learned to everyday life.

On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Florida, I thank Ms. Cronin for her dedication to educating the students of northeast Florida and for her commitment to the success of her students and peers alike.

□ 1215

COMMONSENSE SOLUTIONS TO GUN VIOLENCE CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. UNDERWOOD) for 5 minutes.

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Madam Speaker, I rise to call on our colleagues in the Senate to swiftly pass H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act; and H.R. 1446, the Enhanced Background Checks Act.

These bills are bipartisan, commonsense solutions to our Nation's gun violence crisis. Together, they accomplish what the vast majority of Americans want, to keep guns out of the wrong hands. I was proud to cosponsor both bills and vote for them when they passed the House last week. Now it is time for the Senate to take action.

In 2020, the Gun Violence Archive reported more than 40,000 deaths caused by gun violence, including over 1,300 children. Yet, despite the fact that gun violence continues to rise—and 90 percent of Americans, including 80 percent of gun owners support universal background checks—Republicans in Congress have spent years blocking bipartisan legislation to close our biggest loopholes and keep our communities safe.

Gun violence is preventable, yet it is such a tragically routine occurrence in this country that every community has a story. Mine is no exception.

I recently joined the Aurora Historical Society in Illinois to pay tribute to the five people murdered and the seven heroic first responders who were injured 2 years ago during a shooting at the Henry Pratt Company.

The mayor of Aurora, Richard Irvin, said after the shooting that ''we as a society cannot allow these horrific acts to become commonplace.''

Yet, absurdly, we have already reached the point in which this unspeakable tragedy in Illinois is not even America's most lethal mass shooting in a town named Aurora. So I call on my colleagues in the Senate to take action with us so that our children can someday live in a country in which gun violence is no longer commonplace.

Madam Speaker, as a nurse, I am thrilled that, in 2019, we finally directed Federal funding toward public health research on gun violence, for the first time in two decades. This type of research is critical for evidence-based policymaking, and I will keep fighting to make sure that that funding continues. But studying the problem is just the first step in our work to solve it. It is already past time to make simple changes that we already know work.

Madam Speaker, background checks are a simple, effective way to keep guns out of the wrong hands. A 1995 Connecticut law requiring background checks for firearm purchases was associated with a 40 percent decline in gun homicides and a 15 percent drop in gun suicides. Meanwhile, when Missouri repealed a similar law in 2007, gun homicides jumped by 23 percent, while firearm suicides rose by 16 percent. Homicides and suicides by other means stayed flat in both States; only gun violence changed.

I wish all our public health crises had such a clear, straightforward solution.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 8 would require a lifesaving background check for every gun sale, while H.R. 1446 would give the FBI more time to complete those checks before a single sale goes through. These bills would not add any new restrictions on who can buy a gun or what kind of gun that they can have. Rather, it would make it easier to enforce our existing gun laws and stop guns from being sold to people who are already prohibited from owning one.

Madam Speaker, I am not willing to wait for the next murderer to attack the next church in the next Charleston. I am not willing to wait for the next angry employee to murder his coworkers at the next Henry Pratt in the next Aurora, Illinois. I am not willing to wait for the next Aurora, Colorado, or the next Pulse Nightclub, or the next Parkland, or the next Tree of Life, or the next Sandy Hook. I am also not willing to wait for more women to be murdered by their abusers, or for more children to be lost to gun violence.

I am done waiting. My constituents are done waiting. Enough is enough.

Americans deserve to feel safe in their schools, in their houses of worship, in their movie theaters, in their workplaces, and in their homes. We can no longer live in a country where any building can so easily become a battlefield.

Madam Speaker, my colleagues and I in the House voted last week for a safer future for our children. Now I call on my colleagues in the Senate to save lives and send H.R. 8 and H.R. 1446 to the President's desk.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 19 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

Gracious God, as we approach another week of legislation, we pray with the psalmist Your favor on each leader in this Chamber. Endow them with Your righteousness, that the judgments of their hearts and the words of their mouths will demonstrate Your defense of the disheartened.

Grant them an understanding of Your perfect justice, that their legislation would reflect Your deep affection for those in need of Your salvation. May the words we speak to one another and the motions put forward be as refreshing as rain on a mown field. And may their decisions, their actions, and their passionate hearts serve this Nation as showers watering the earth.

Bless each and all of us that in all we say, in all that we do, in everything we accomplish this week would give honor to Your glorious name.

We offer this prayer to You in the strength of that name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

SUPPORT THE NUTRITION CARE ACT

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

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Madam Speaker, March is National Nutrition Month, and I am proud to join my colleagues, Representatives JUDY CHU and JACKIE WALORSKI, in leading H.R. 1551, the Nutrition Counseling Aiding Recovery for Eating Disorders Act, or the Nutrition CARE Act for short.

Madam Speaker, eating disorders account for one death every 52 minutes and can impact the lives of individuals across their lifespan. This mental illness does not discriminate, but longstanding health inequities, implicit bias, and stigma contribute to why people of color with eating disorders are half as likely to be diagnosed or to receive treatment.

The Nutrition CARE Act would provide Medicare part B coverage for medical nutrition therapy for beneficiaries with eating disorders, meaning hundreds of thousands of Medicare beneficiaries who identify as Black, indigenous, or people of color would have coverage of a key treatment component.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to help lead this effort, and I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 1551 and bring it to the floor of this Congress.

CRISIS AT OUR BORDERS

(Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, as we speak, at President Biden's behest, thousands of migrants are crossing our border illegally and being detained in facilities that are well over capacity.

Besides the many adults, the real victims are the thousands of unaccompanied migrant children, many being

sent by drug cartels to this country. These children are often used by cartels to smuggle drugs or money, and many are being sold into essential slavery with the promise of easy and safe passage to the U.S.

Does the President not care about the problem of juvenile human trafficking occurring at the border?

For years, Democrats and media types slammed the Trump administration for keeping kids in cages. Their righteous indignation is conspicuously absent from today's discourse, as they are now referring euphemistically in the press to the ''migrant detention centers.'' Amazingly, you have to have a negative COVID test to fly into the country, but you can be COVID-positive and enter illegally.

Madam Speaker, the basic reality is this: We need to know who is in our country. We are a country of laws. ''Catch and release'' has now become a national security threat. Even CNN is calling this a crisis.

I urge the Biden administration to admit this is a crisis and fix the problem it has caused.

CONGRATULATING BOYDEN-HULL AND WESTERN CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

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

Mr. FEENSTRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate something that hasn't happened in Iowa for over 110 years.

Last Friday night, two schools from the same community met in the Boys Class 2A State Basketball Championship. It just so happened that the two schools are from my hometown, Hull, Iowa, a community of 2,500 people. The game was an incredible game where Western Christian ended up winning by 6 points at the end.

With this win, Wolfpack, from Western Christian, set another record, being the first school to have 10 State championships in the State.

Congratulations to Boyden-Hull on an incredible season, and congratulations to Western Christian on being the 2A State Champions of Iowa. Both teams make me proud. Both teams make Iowa proud. Both teams make Hull proud.

Madam Speaker, I can truly say this: Hull, Iowa, is the capital of basketball in Iowa.

RECOGNIZING LEW COHEN AND MAGNES GLENN

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, one month ago, the entire State of Texas was blanketed with a polar vortex that plunged temperatures to single digits for over 120 hours. Six inches of ice, combined with nine inches of snow, were common as far south as San Antonio, Texas. Within a day, all 254 counties in Texas were under a State and Federal emergency declaration.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to give thanks to heroes who heard and saw this crisis and did something about it.

Two heroes—Chairman Lew Cohen, and his partner, Magnes Glenn, from Hawaiian Springs Water—sprung into action. A simple call as a result of our friendship resulted in over 8,000 water bottles being shipped to Leon County, Texas; and 8,500 bottles of water being shipped to Freestone County, Texas.

Help they were. Thank you to so many who were just like these two heroes who helped Texas in her time of need.

COMMEMORATING K9 VETERANS DAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize this past Saturday, March 13, as K9 Veterans Day, an opportunity to commemorate the working dogs that support our men and women in uniform.

This year marks the 79th anniversary of the establishment of the K9 Corps. In 1942, following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Army began training for the K9 Corps, originally known as the War Dog Program. In the years that passed, the K9 Corps has become a vital part of our Armed Forces operations.

Perhaps one of the well-known military K9s is Conan, whose efforts led to the success of the 2019 al-Baghdadi raid.

Following their service, these retired dogs often serve as support animals to servicemembers who may be suffering from PTSD and other disabilities, both mental and physical.

Madam Speaker, our veterans can greatly benefit from the assistance and companionship that a dog provides, and our K9 veterans benefit from their newfound forever homes. Our K9 veterans have served our country, and they, too, deserve to be honored for their service.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 16, 2021.

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on March 16, 2021, at 11:24 a.m.:

Appointments:

Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the Canada-U.S. Interparliamentary Group conference during the 117th Congress.

United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control.

Vice Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the Canada-U.S. Interparliamentary Group conference during the 117th Congress.

Senate National Security Working Group for the 117th Congress.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk.

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
March 16, 2021.

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

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: A short time from now, I will be sworn in as the 54th Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior. As such, I respectfully offer my resignation from the seat representing New Mexico's 1st Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives effective immediately.

I am excited to become the first Native American cabinet secretary in history, although I also feel a sense of sadness in preparing for this new role. As a twice elected member of Congress, it has been the pleasure and privilege of a lifetime to serve alongside you and my colleagues in our quest to improve the lives of the American people and find ways to both protect and advance the greatest democracy in history.

As the daughter of a 30-year combat Marine who grew up traveling our country, and a single mom who relied on food stamps to get by, I never imagined a day like this. I am grateful for my time here in the House. I am grateful for the love and support of many people, and most notably, I am a proud New Mexican.

As a volunteer, activist, and organizer for more than twenty years, it was my proudest professional moment to be elected as one of the first two Native American women to serve in Congress. I feel immensely satisfied to have been a part of what our Democratic House Majority accomplished in a short period of time. With your brilliant leadership, I have had the opportunity to help move legislation forward on critical issues like climate change, voting rights, racial and economic justice, and most recently COVID relief for millions of Americans. I'm also proud to have worked in a bipartisan manner to help address the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and ensure the men and women serving in our nation's military and their families have the support they need. The professional alliances and personal friendships I have made during my time in the People's House will last a lifetime.

I know that my work as a member of the Natural Resources Committee and as Chair of the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands has helped prepare me for my new role in the Biden Administration, and I am grateful to my colleagues for those opportunities. The honor and responsibility that President Biden has bestowed on me to serve the country in this way is profound, humbling, and exhilarating.

Many thanks to you and all of my colleagues for your support and your friendship.

I will miss serving in the House, and I look forward to building back better together.

Sincerely,

DEBRA A. HAALAND.

Hon. MAGGIE TOULOUSE OLIVER,
New Mexico Secretary of State,
Santa Fe, NM.

DEAR SECRETARY TOULOUSE OLIVER: Effective immediately, I have resigned my seat in the U.S. House of Representatives representing the 1st Congressional District of New Mexico. Enclosed is a copy of my letter of resignation to the Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, which was hand delivered today.

As a 35th generation New Mexican, serving the people of the 1st Congressional District has been an honor. My selection by President Joe Biden as Secretary of the Interior and confirmation by the Senate will allow me to continue to serve New Mexicans and all Americans.

Thank you for your leadership of our great State.

Sincerely,

DEBRA A. HAALAND.

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 gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. HAALAND), the whole number of the House is 430.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 13 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1502

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BEYER) at 3 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

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

AWARDING THREE CONGRESSIONAL MEDALS TO UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE AND THOSE WHO PROTECTED THE U.S. CAPITOL ON JANUARY 6, 2021

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1085) to award three congressional gold medals to the United States Capitol Police and those who protected the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1085

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

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) Every day, the United States Capitol Police (''Capitol Police'') protects the U.S. Capitol, Members of Congress, congressional staff and institutional staff, journalists, and the visiting public.

(2) On January 6, 2021, a mob of insurrectionists forced its way into the U.S. Capitol building and congressional office buildings and engaged in acts of vandalism, looting, and violently attacked Capitol Police officers.

(3) The sacrifice of heroes including Capitol Police Officers Brian Sicknick and Howard Liebengood, Metropolitan Police Department Officer Jeffrey Smith, and those who sustained injuries, and the courage of Capitol Police Officer Eugene Goodman, exemplify the patriotism and the commitment of Capitol Police officers, and those of other law enforcement agencies, to risk their lives in service of our country.

(4) Up to seven Americans died following this violent attack, and more than 140 law enforcement officers suffered physical injuries, including 15 officers who were hospitalized.

(5) The desecration of the U.S. Capitol, which is the temple of our American Democracy, and the violence targeting Congress are horrors that will forever stain our Nation's history.

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDALS.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZATION.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of three gold medals of appropriate design to the United States Capitol Police and those who protected the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the ''Secretary'') shall strike gold medals with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) DISPOSITION OF MEDALS.—Following the award of the gold medals under subsection (a):

(1) USCP HEADQUARTERS.—One gold medal shall be given to the United States Capitol Police, so that the medal may be displayed at the headquarters of the United States Capitol Police and made available for research, as appropriate.

(2) DC METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS.—One gold medal shall be given to the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia, so that the medal may be displayed at the headquarters of the Metropolitan Police Department and made available for research, as appropriate.

(3) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—One gold medal shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where it shall be available for display as appropriate and available for research.

(B) PLAQUE.—In displaying the gold medal given under subparagraph (A), the Smithsonian Institution shall display the medal with a plaque that lists the other law enforcement agencies that participated in protecting the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021.

(C) SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should make the gold medal given under subparagraph (A) available for display elsewhere, particularly at appropriate locations associated with the protection of the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021.

SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medals struck pursuant to section 2 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of the Congress that the United States Mint should expedite production of the gold medals and duplicate medals under this Act, so that the sacrifices of fallen officers and their families, and the contributions of other law enforcement agencies who answered the call of duty on January 6, 2021, can be recognized and honored in a timely manner.

SEC. 5. NATIONAL MEDALS.

Medals struck pursuant to this Act are national medals for the purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

SEC. 6. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled ''Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation'' for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the distinguished Speaker of the House, who is also the sponsor of this legislation.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California for her leadership in bringing this legislation to the floor where we can recognize the patriotism and heroism of members of the Capitol Police force, and I thank her for facilitating this honor.

This usually takes a much longer period of time, but because of the gentlewoman from California, the chair of the Financial Services Committee, this is on a faster track, and it needs to be.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, January 6 was one of the darkest and deadliest days in American history. The waging of the violent insurrection against the United States Capitol and our very democracy on that day was a profound horror that nearly defies comprehension.

That day, the country witnessed the gleeful desecration of our temple of democracy. We observed Members of Congress flee for their lives, as staff and support workers barricaded behind doors and hid under furniture.

We saw how over 140 members of law enforcement were physically harmed while defending our democracy and how several lost their lives.

January 6 was a day of horror and heartbreak. But because of these courageous men and women, it was also a moment of extraordinary heroism.

That day, the United States Capitol Police force put themselves between us and the violence. They risked their safety and their lives for others with the utmost selflessness, and they did so because they were patriots, the type of Americans who heard the call to serve and answered it, putting country above self:

Heroes like Capitol Police Officer Brian Sicknick, described by his brother as someone who ''spent his life trying to help other people.'' Our sympathies go out to his family.

Heroes like Capitol Police Officer Howie Liebengood, honored as ''an example of selfless service'' and beloved by Senators for being ''one of the most kindest and thoughtful people'' they had ever met. Our sympathies as well.

Heroes like Metropolitan Police Officer Jeffrey Smith, a 12-year veteran of the force, known by all as the type of officer who would never hesitate to help those in need. He made that sacrifice.

Heroes like Metropolitan Police Officer Daniel Hodges, whom I had the privilege of meeting and thanking, who was beaten and crushed nearly to death, who said about protecting our democracy on January 6: ''If it wasn't my job, I would have done it for free.''

Heroes like Capitol Police Officer Eugene Goodman. We all saw his heroism as he drew the mob away from Senators, saving lives, again, in an act of profound heroism.

May the courage of these heroes always remain an inspiration to us, and may we always remember the valor of the fallen, which made them martyrs for our democracy.

I feel very honored to be sponsoring this legislation. The Speaker rarely sponsors legislation, certainly cosponsors hardly ever.

Today, united in grief and gratitude, the House is honoring these heroes as we pass legislation to bestow upon them the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest honor this Congress can give.

The service of our men and women in uniform of the Capitol Police force and other services that day brings honor to our democracy, and their accepting this medal will bring luster to this award.

Over 300 Members of Congress have already cosponsored this legislation in a bipartisan fashion, including Mr. MCCARTHY and Mr. SCALISE, the Republican leadership, and that is a tribute to the great respect that we all have for the Capitol Police force.

We also saw that respect reflected in the presence of so many distinguished leaders who came to the Capitol when Officer Brian Sicknick was honored with a lying-in-state ceremony in the rotunda. Among those leaders was the President of the United States, Joe Biden, and Dr. Biden as well.

Let me end by returning to January 6. That day was also the Feast of the Epiphany, a holy day of revelation in the church. It remains my hope that that day of violence will provide a revelation of healing for our Nation.

In a spirit of healing, that evening, as the House returned to the Chamber to complete our duty to the Constitution and to the American people to validate the election, I invoked the Song of St. Francis, the patron saint of the city I am proud to represent, San Francisco. The Song of St. Francis is the anthem of our city.

Lord, make me a channel of Thy peace.
Where there is darkness, let me bring light;
Where there is hatred, let me bring love;
Where there is despair, let me bring hope.

We were blessed by the heroism of our law enforcement officers that day when they brought light, hope, love, and peace to our grieving Nation.

The Congress promises the families that we will always remember, as we have remembered Gibson and Chestnut. Every year, we honor them for the sacrifice they made to protect this Capitol and our democracy. As we always remember and honor their service, with this legislation we will ensure that their heroism will be forever etched in the history of our country.

I urge a huge bipartisan vote on this legislation. I thank the distinguished chairwoman for enabling us to bring this to the floor, affording us that honor to associate ourselves with the heroism of the U.S. Capitol Police.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1085, a bill to award Congressional Gold Medals to the United States Capitol Police and those who protected the Capitol on January 6, 2021.

I thank Speaker PELOSI for bringing this legislation to the floor in a timely manner, and I thank the chairwoman of the Financial Services Committee, my friend, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS).

What happened to this institution on January 6 was horrific. This building is a working monument to our Nation's Founding Fathers and our principles. It is a testament to the freedoms we hold dear.

Mr. Speaker, the brave men and women who stood and faced danger on January 6 deserve to be recognized for their actions. Without their courageousness, many of us here today could have been seriously injured or worse. When I say ''us,'' Mr. Speaker, I don't just mean Members of Congress. I mean the staff; I mean the administrative personnel and peaceful visitors.

Once H.R. 1085 is enacted, a Congressional Gold Medal will be displayed at the U.S. Capitol Police headquarters, another will be displayed at the D.C. Metropolitan Police headquarters, and the third will be given to the Smithsonian Institution, so everyone who visits D.C. will be reminded of the bravery shown that day.

We have seen bravery from the Capitol Police many times before. January 24, 1998, we were reminded of Officers Chestnut and Gibson; a few years ago, on a baseball field, Crystal Griner and Special Agent David Bailey. These men and women are heroic. They put their lives in danger, and January 6 was certainly no exception to that.

I speak for all of my colleagues when I say thank you. Thank you to each and every officer who was here on January 6. Your bravery will not be forgotten. The U.S. Capitol Police and those who protected us on January 6 deserve Congressional Gold Medals.

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, every day the men and women of the United States Capitol Police protect the United States Capitol. They protect us; they protect our staff; and they protect journalists and other visitors who come into the people's House.

On January 6, 2021, the United States Capitol building was attacked by armed insurrectionists who attacked Capitol Police Officers and engaged in acts of looting and vandalism.

On that day, we witnessed the courage, patriotism, and commitment to service exemplified by Members of the Capitol Police, Metropolitan Police, and other law enforcement agencies, who risked their lives and sustained injuries as they sought to protect those trapped in the Capitol.

We honor these officers who sustained injuries in the line of duty, and we honor the sacrifices of heroes, including Capitol Police Officers Brian Sicknick and Howard Liebengood and Metropolitan Police Department Officer Jeffrey Smith. And, finally, we honor Capitol Police Officer Eugene Goodman, whose quick thinking and selfless action undoubtedly saved the lives of many.

This legislation authorizes the Department of Treasury to mint three Congressional Gold Medals to be given to the United States Capitol Police, Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia, and the Smithsonian Institution, so that we may never forget the valor and courage displayed by the brave men and women who protected the Capitol on January 6, 2021.

I thank Speaker PELOSI for introducing this bill. This is one of the most important bills that we could ever put before the Congress of the United States, and I urge Members to vote ''yes.''

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

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

□ 1515

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the police who are to receive Congressional Gold Medals: The U.S. Capitol Police, the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia, and the other law enforcement agencies that participated in protecting the Capitol on January 6, 2021.

The insurrection that day halted the final leg of congressional business declaring Joe Biden President of the United States. Yet, Congress was able to continue with its business that evening and early the next morning because of the help of the law enforcement officers we honor here today.

Then-President Donald Trump urged the crowd to the Capitol and delayed using his authority to deploy the D.C. National Guard in the country's moment of crisis. As a result, I have reintroduced a bill that would give the mayor of the District of Columbia control over the D.C. National Guard, and I am hopeful that this bill will be brought to the floor during this Congress.

It cannot be forgotten that the damage done would have been worse were it not for the Metropolitan Police Department, our local police, funded by D.C. taxpayers, who were was responsible for indispensable intervention when most Federal police forces did not appear, saving lives at the Capitol on January 6. I appreciate this recognition for the work of our local police force. An important way to reward them would be to ensure that the people they protect in the Nation's capital are given full and equal rights by passing the D.C. statehood bill.

Congratulations again to the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia, the U.S. Capitol Police, and the other law enforcement agencies on these congressional gold medals, which are well deserved for the protection they provided to our democracy on January 6.

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, once again, we are reminded of the dangers that law enforcement face every single day, and January 6 was one of those days.

Our thoughts and prayers continue to go out to the family of Brian Sicknick, a true hero to our country, a great emblem of the bravery and heroism of the Capitol Hill Police. Again, he will be remembered fondly by this institution and by the American people for his sacrifice for freedom.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER).

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1085, awarding three Congressional Gold Medals to the law enforcement agencies and officers who protected the Capitol during the armed assault on January 6, 2021.

The bravery displayed by the U.S. Capitol Police, Metropolitan Police Department, and other responding agencies helped save countless lives that day. Two heroes who were there that day were my constituents, and ultimately they lost their lives as a result of the attack.

United States Capitol Police Officer Brian D. Sicknick died from the physical injuries he sustained while engaging with the attackers on January 6. His face was drenched at close range by bear spray.

Metropolitan Police Officer Jeffrey Smith, who responded to the attack at the Capitol from Georgetown, who was dragged into the mob and beaten, died by suicide just a few days later. His death reminds us that not all wounds sustained that day were visible. The invisible damage to those who engaged with the insurrectionists is very real and may last a lifetime.

I mourn both of their losses deeply. We must ensure that we honor the sacrifices they and others made.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill to award the gold medals to the U.S. Capitol and Metropolitan Police Departments and to honor the courage shown by those who protected us on January 6.

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

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, may I inquire, through the Chair, if my colleague has any remaining speakers on his side?

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers at this time, and I am prepared to close.

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

In closing, I commend Speaker PELOSI for bringing forward this bipartisan legislation, acknowledging the bravery displayed by the men and women who protected the Capitol on January 6. It is through their leadership and decisive action on that day that many lives, including my own, were saved.

I urge all Members to honor the sacrifices and courage displayed by members of the Capitol Police, Metropolitan Police, and other law enforcement agencies on January 6 by voting ''yes'' on H.R. 1085.

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

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I, too, urge my colleagues to support this legislation and to award the Capitol Police with the Congressional Medal of Honor.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. CLARKE of New York). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1085, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. BIGGS. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

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

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

PPP EXTENSION ACT OF 2021

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1799) to amend the Small Business Act and the CARES Act to extend the covered period for the paycheck protection program, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1799

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 ''PPP Extension Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF COVERED PERIOD FOR PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7(a)(36)(A)(iii) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(36)(A)(iii)) is amended by striking ''March 31, 2021'' and inserting ''June 30, 2021''.

(b) FUNDING.—Section 1102(b)(1) of the CARES Act (Public Law 116–136), as amended by section 323 of the Economic Aid to Hard-Hit Small Businesses, Nonprofits, and Venues Act (Public Law 116–260), is amended by striking ''March 31, 2021'' and inserting ''June 30, 2021''.

(c) RESTRICTION.—From June 1, 2021, through June 30, 2021, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall not accept new lender applications for loans under paragraph (36) or (37) of section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)) and shall only process such lender applications that have been submitted to the Administrator before June 1, 2021.

SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The budgetary effects of this Act shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 933(d)).

(b) SENATE PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this Act shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 4106 of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the bill before us today, H.R. 1799, the PPP Extension Act of 2021.

Let me begin by saying that, throughout my tenure on the committee, we have been able to set aside our differences and work together on behalf of small businesses. I am committed to doing that again this Congress. Our small firms deserve nothing less.

I want to welcome our new ranking member, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, back to the committee. I look forward to working with him this Congress to provide our Nation's entrepreneurs with meaningful assistance. I would also like to thank the ranking member for working with me in a bipartisan manner to further extend the Paycheck Protection Program for small businesses that are still struggling.

Over the past year, the PPP helped millions of small business owners retain employees and meet business expenses as economic activity slowed down during the pandemic.

Seeing that value and impact, Congress, on a bipartisan basis, extended the program multiple times, including a brief extension last summer and, most recently, through March 31 under the Economic Aid Act.

We heard last week that some participating lenders have begun to wind down their PPP operations in advance of this deadline, limiting the relief options available to entrepreneurs at a time when many still need help.

I understand why this is. Lenders want to be able to focus their efforts on processing existing applications and work through thousands of holds, which remain outstanding on these applications.

But I must stress that far too many small businesses, especially the smallest of the small, remain in desperate need for relief. This is simply not the time to let this valuable program expire, especially as thousands of timely loan applications are still sitting in SBA's queue.

That is why I am pleased the bill before us today takes into account the arguments we have heard from all sides, both the lending community and the small business owners in communities like mine, who are still searching for help.

Specifically, today's bill extends the application deadline to May 31, giving employers an additional 2 months to apply for PPP loans. It gives the SBA an additional 30 days to review, process, and approve loan applications submitted by the May 31 deadline.

This approach is supported by a coalition of over 90 groups, representing virtually all sides of the small business economy, including local chambers of commerce, retail and other businessowner associations, and the lending community.

I would like to reiterate my thanks to Mr. LUETKEMEYER and his team for their cooperation on securing this important achievement for America's small businesses. I also want to thank two first-term Congresswomen on our committee, Ms. BOURDEAUX and Mrs. KIM of California, for leading the way at the committee level on these discussions and for introducing this important bill.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I rise in support of H.R. 1799, the PPP Extension Act of 2021, as amended.

The Paycheck Protection Program has proven to be a successful rescue vessel for millions of small businesses across the country. When COVID–19 wiped out their operations, their plans, and their next steps, the PPP provided stability and confidence to small businesses in a time of darkness.

With over two rounds of funding, the program has provided 7½ million loans for approximately $687 billion. According to the SBA's own statistics, the program assisted or saved roughly 50 million American jobs from April of last year to August of last year.

This has been a monumental task for the SBA and the Department of Treasury. However, more work needs to be done to ensure this program can wrap up smoothly for small businesses and lenders.

Currently, PPP loans are facing lengthy delays as error codes force multiple back-and-forth conversations between small businesses, lenders, and the SBA. It is these cross-checks that are creating uncertainty as to how the loans will proceed.

Complicating this even further, the PPP is set to expire 2 weeks from tomorrow, and the SBA is reporting that the end date will prevent all loans that are currently in the pipeline from being processed.

□ 1530

Under no circumstances should an American small business that applied for a PPP loan have their loan discarded due to a bureaucratic technical delay at the SBA. Simply put, if they completed their PPP paperwork on time, their loans should be considered.

To correct this, H.R. 1799, the PPP Extension Act, provides a 30-day exclusive window for the SBA to fully process and consider all PPP applications that are received before the program concludes.

Additionally, given the current demand for the PPP and the billions of dollars remaining within the program, H.R. 1799 extends the application window for 60 days.

As a reminder, Congress reformed and replenished the PPP in December with the Consolidated Appropriations Act, providing the program with $284.5 billion. This funding should be reserved solely for American small businesses and should remain available to them through a program that is proven to be successful.

I thank Chair VELÁZQUEZ for working in a collaborative manner with me to ensure the program remains available to the hardest-hit small businesses through May 31 and that the SBA will have enough time to fully consider and address all error codes.

Additionally, I look forward to working with Chair VELÁZQUEZ to address other PPP issues in the coming weeks.

I applaud the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM) and the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. BOURDEAUX) for working efficiently and in a bipartisan manner to address these issues that are creating uncertainty across the Nation.

I urge and recommend all of my colleagues to support H.R. 1799, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. BOURDEAUX).

Ms. BOURDEAUX. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ, Ranking Member LUETKEMEYER, and Representative KIM for joining me in introducing the bipartisan Paycheck Protection Program Extension Act.

In 2 weeks, the Paycheck Protection Program, also known as PPP, application period will expire, taking away much-needed help from thousands of small businesses that are struggling to keep the doors open and employees on the payroll.

The PPP Extension Act would extend the application period for another 2 months, ensuring that those small businesses can continue to apply for critical financial assistance until May 31. It also provides an additional 30 days for the Small Business Administration to process applications submitted by May 31.

PPP loans have provided a lifeline to mom-and-pop businesses across the country, including those in my district, that are simply trying to survive an unprecedented health and economic crisis.

In Georgia alone, the Paycheck Protection Program has provided more than 260,000 forgivable loans for nearly $19 billion since the program was created last year. Without that money, we would have lost thousands more of the small businesses that make up the foundation of our communities.

I hear every day from small businesses in Gwinnett and Forsyth Counties who are simply struggling to survive. This bill has its origins in a conversation that I had with local business owners Tony Rodriguez and his wife, Ann-Carol Pence, who own Lawrenceville's Aurora Theatre.

In early February, they reached out to me, concerned about the March 31 PPP deadline. The Aurora Theatre is hoping to receive support through the shuttered venue operator grant program, but due to some delays in

launching that program, they were concerned that with the PPP application period set to end on March 31, they could potentially miss out on critical financial assistance.

While this was one of the first times I heard from businesses in my district about the March 31 deadline, it was certainly not the last. As I talked to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, we realized we were hearing the same thing from small businesses and lenders across the country: They needed more time to make sure we are reaching as many businesses as possible.

Last year, Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ, along with Members on both sides of the aisle, made significant improvements to the PPP loans in order to protect small businesses. Recently, President Biden made changes enhancing access to the PPP loans for the smallest of small businesses, many of which are minority-owned and women-led businesses, such as the ones located throughout my district.

The data show that it is working: 73.5 percent of the loans distributed in 2021 are under $50,000, almost 5 percent higher than what that number was last year. Now is not the time to stop fighting for the mom-and-pop stores, restaurants, and businesses across the country.

Some examples of situations that this bill will address include a local pre-prepared food company that has not applied for a PPP loan because of how the loan amounts were initially calculated for sole proprietorships.

Thanks to President Biden's changes to the loan calculation formula, this business would now qualify for a forgivable loan. However, because of the March 31 deadline, some lenders are reluctant to help out because it is such a short timeframe to evaluate and process these loans.

Another performance venue in Gwinnett County was pleased to learn that the American Rescue Plan we just passed would now allow them to access both the shuttered venue operator grant program and the PPP program, but now they are scrambling to get their loan application in by March 31.

This bill allows additional time to get funding to the small businesses that need it most. This bill is supported by a number of leading business organizations, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Federation of Independent Business, the International Franchise Association, the National Restaurant Association, and Small Business Majority, as well as over 90 additional organizations.

Last, I also want to appreciate and point out that this bill is bipartisan. In this time of deep division in our country, we have all come together to do what is right for our communities, and I hope that we can build on this moment as we continue to tackle the challenges that face our Nation.

I thank Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ, Ranking Member LUETKEMEYER, Congresswoman KIM, and the House Committee on Small Business for partnering to protect small businesses.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support H.R. 1799, the PPP Extension Act of 2021.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM).

Mrs. KIM of California. Madam Speaker, I thank Ranking Member LUETKEMEYER for yielding. I thank Representative LUETKEMEYER and Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ for their leadership on the Small Business Committee. I look forward to working with all of them to strengthen small businesses across the country.

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1799, the Paycheck Protection Program Extension Act of 2021. I was proud to introduce this bipartisan bill with Representative CAROLYN BOURDEAUX, Ranking Member LUETKEMEYER, and Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ to extend the PPP deadline for new applications from March 31 to May 31, and to provide the Small Business Administration an additional 30 days to process PPP applications.

Much of the importance of why this bipartisan legislation is needed was already spoken about, but I think it is important, so I am going to say a few words about the State of California that I represent.

Forty thousand small businesses have closed in California during the COVID–19 pandemic, and half of those closures are permanent. The Paycheck Protection Program has been a lifeline for small businesses to keep their doors open as we safely reopen our communities.

As the Biden administration announced five changes to PPP on February 22, the looming March 31 deadline does not give our small businesses the time to adjust to the new guidance listed by the SBA. This bill provides small businesses and lenders with the time needed to process PPP loans and adjust to the recent changes.

As a small business owner myself, I understand the challenges that small businesses face each day. Our bipartisan bill provides Main Street with the opportunity to overcome the pandemic and thrive.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1799 and put Main Street on a path to recovery.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. HAGEDORN).

Mr. HAGEDORN. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from Missouri for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1799, the PPP Extension Act of 2021.

This targeted, bipartisan 60-day Paycheck Protection Program extension is exactly the type of relief that Congress should be focused on providing. This bill contrasts sharply with the nearly $2 trillion partisan monstrosity of progressive wish list policies this body passed just a week ago.

With optimism on the vaccine front, Governors around the country finally loosening their arbitrary restrictions on small businesses and schools, and $1 trillion from previous relief measures still unspent, this bill is a responsible and appropriate way to ensure relief reaches our small businesses that are most in need. Our small businesses must have the tools necessary to compete and contribute to our local economies as we move past this pandemic.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY).

Ms. TENNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 1799, the Paycheck Protection Program Extension Act of 2021.

This bipartisan legislation will extend the PPP application period, allowing the Small Business Administration more time to process loans. The PPP has been a vital tool for small businesses across the country and throughout New York's 22nd Congressional District.

Extending the application period will give small business owners the tools they need to continue paying their employees and keep their doors open, helping to reopen our economy even faster.

In my home State of New York, PPP has provided 140,000 loans, totaling $12 billion, and saved hundreds of thousands of jobs. PPP has been an effective, bipartisan COVID–19 relief program, and I am pleased to cosponsor this legislation. It will extend relief to small businesses that need it the most.

As a member of the House Small Business Committee, one of my top priorities in Congress is to deliver targeted relief to families and small businesses across New York's 22nd District. H.R. 1799 does just that. It will ensure that the remaining $120 billion in PPP funds under the CARES Act gets to the small businesses that desperately need it.

As we look to reopen our economy and get back to normal after a tremendously difficult year, particularly in my district, where over 94 percent of the jobs are created by small business owners, this will make all the difference.

I thank Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ, my friend from New York; Ranking Member LUETKEMEYER; and everyone who is joining on this legislation. I appreciate your leadership. As a small business owner, I am grateful.

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

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, through no fault of their own, small businesses were forced to change how they operated in the face of COVID–19. Some adapted; some had to change their product lines; and unfortunately, some had to close.

As a response, Congress created the bipartisan Paycheck Protection Program. Its impact and effectiveness have been instrumental to the small business economy.

With technical difficulties plaguing applications and a fast-approaching deadline, H.R. 1799 provides a targeted, straightforward approach to addressing these issues.

H.R. 1799 will extend the PPP for 60 days through May 31 and extend a 30-day exclusive window to the SBA in order to address all outstanding PPP applications.

The program was always meant to be temporary assistance to struggling small businesses. The PPP Extension Act will provide small businesses and lenders the confidence they need while also creating a plan for a smooth conclusion of the program.

As America continues to open up and recover, small businesses will drive our economic recovery forward.

Madam Speaker, I would be remiss if I didn't point out that this bill stands as one of the most impactful bipartisan pieces of legislation to advance in Congress this year. I thank Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ for her sincere efforts and hard work on this. I look forward to working with her, on a bipartisan basis, on other issues for the remainder of our term here. And I hope that this bipartisan product will serve as a prime example of what can get done in Washington when both sides come together and talk through the issues.

Madam Speaker, I recommend and urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1799, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1545

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, with over 95 million COVID–19 vaccine doses administered as of last week, the country is finally starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Entrepreneurs are feeling more hopeful that if they can just get through the rest of 2021, that 2022 can be a year of growth for them.

But, put simply, the small business economy is not there yet, and many of the smaller firms continue to report a need for economic relief.

Today's 2-month extension of the PPP application deadline, from March 31 to May 31, will help small firms access much-needed relief to meet their expenses and put them in a position to fully reopen as soon as it is safe to do so. The additional 30-day period will give the SBA the flexibility it needs to process and approve the loans submitted by the new May 31 deadline.

Once again, I thank Ms. BOURDEAUX of Georgia and Mrs. KIM of California for their leadership on this important issue.

I also thank the ranking member, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, for his unwavering commitment to our Nation's 30 million small businesses and his bipartisan cooperation on this bill. I look forward to working with him on legislation that will provide a retroactive fix for Schedule C borrowers and also allow farmers and ranchers to use gross income to maximize PPP assistance.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all my colleagues to vote ''yes,'' and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1799, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. BIGGS. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

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

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

STRONGER CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT ACT

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 485) to reauthorize the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 485

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 ''Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act''.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

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

TITLE I—GENERAL PROGRAM

Sec. 101. Repeal of findings.
Sec. 102. Repeal of Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect.
Sec. 103. National clearinghouse for information relating to child abuse.
Sec. 104. Research and assistance activities.
Sec. 105. Grants to States, Indian Tribes or tribal organizations, and public or private agencies and organizations.
Sec. 106. Grants to States for child abuse or neglect prevention and treatment programs.
Sec. 107. Miscellaneous requirements.
Sec. 108. Reports.
Sec. 109. Authorization of appropriations.
Sec. 110. Monitoring and oversight.
Sec. 111. Electronic interstate data exchange system.
Sec. 112. Technical and conforming amendments.

TITLE II—COMMUNITY-BASED GRANTS FOR THE PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Sec. 201. Purpose and authority.
Sec. 202. Eligibility.
Sec. 203. Amount of grant.
Sec. 204. Application.
Sec. 205. Local program requirements.
Sec. 206. Performance measures.
Sec. 207. National network for community-based family resource programs.
Sec. 208. Definitions.
Sec. 209. Rule of construction.
Sec. 210. Authorization of appropriations.
Sec. 211. Study and report.

TITLE III—ADOPTION OPPORTUNITIES

Sec. 301. Purpose.
Sec. 302. Report and guidance on unregulated custody transfers.
Sec. 303. Information and services.
Sec. 304. Study and report on successful adoptions.
Sec. 305. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE IV—AMENDMENTS TO OTHER LAWS

Sec. 401. Technical and conforming amendments to other laws.

TITLE I—GENERAL PROGRAM

SEC. 101. REPEAL OF FINDINGS.

Section 2 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 note) is repealed.

SEC. 102. REPEAL OF ADVISORY BOARD ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT.

Section 102 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5102) is repealed.

SEC. 103. NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE FOR INFORMATION RELATING TO CHILD ABUSE.

Section 103 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5104) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting ''early learning programs and'' after ''including'';

(2) in subsection (c)(1)(C)—

(A) in clause (iii), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in clause (iv), by adding ''and'' at the end; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(v) the number of child fatalities and near fatalities due to maltreatment, as reported by States in accordance with the uniform standards established pursuant to subsection (d), and any other relevant information related to such fatalities;''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(d) UNIFORM STANDARDS FOR TRACKING AND REPORTING OF CHILD FATALITIES RESULTING FROM MALTREATMENT.—

''(1) REGULATIONS REQUIRED.—Not later than 24 months after the date of the enactment of the Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, the Secretary shall develop and issue final regulations establishing uniform standards for the tracking and reporting of child fatalities and near-fatalities resulting from maltreatment. As a condition on eligibility for receipt of funds under section 106, the standards established under this paragraph shall be used by States for the tracking and reporting of such fatalities under subsection (d) of such section.

''(2) MAINTENANCE OF STATE LAW.—Notwithstanding the uniform standards developed under paragraph (1), a State that defines or describes such fatalities for any purpose other than tracking and reporting under this subsection may continue to use that definition or description for such purpose.

''(3) NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING.—In developing regulations under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit such regulations to a negotiated rulemaking process, which shall include the participants described in paragraph (4).

''(4) PARTICIPANTS DESCRIBED.—The participants described in this paragraph are—

''(A) State and county officials responsible for administering the State plans under this Act and parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 621 et seq., 670 et seq.);

''(B) child welfare professionals with field experience;

''(C) child welfare researchers;

''(D) domestic violence researchers;

''(E) domestic violence professionals;

''(F) child development professionals;

''(G) mental health professionals;

''(H) pediatric emergency medicine physicians;

''(I) child abuse pediatricians, as certified by the American Board of Pediatrics, who specialize in treating victims of child abuse;

''(J) forensic pathologists;

''(K) public health administrators;

''(L) public health researchers;

''(M) law enforcement;

''(N) family court judges;

''(O) prosecutors;

''(P) medical examiners and coroners;

''(Q) a representative from the National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention; and

''(R) such other individuals and entities as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.''.

SEC. 104. RESEARCH AND ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES.

Section 104 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5105) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

''(1) TOPICS.—The Secretary shall, in consultation with other Federal agencies and recognized experts in the field, carry out a continuing interdisciplinary program of research, including longitudinal research, that is designed to provide information needed to improve primary prevention of child abuse and neglect, better protect children from child abuse or neglect, and improve the well-being of victims of child abuse or neglect, with at least a portion of such research being field initiated. Such research program may focus on—

''(A) disseminating evidence-based treatment directed to individuals and families experiencing trauma due to child abuse and neglect, including efforts to improve the scalability of the treatments and programs being researched;

''(B) developing a set of evidence-based approaches to support child and family well-being and developing ways to identify, relieve, and mitigate stressors affecting families in rural, urban, and suburban communities;

''(C) establishing methods to promote racial equity in the child welfare system, including a focus on how neglect is defined, how services are provided, and the unique impact on Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian communities;

''(D) improving service delivery or outcomes for child welfare service agencies engaged with families experiencing domestic violence, substance use disorder, or other complex needs;

''(E) the extent to which the number of unsubstantiated, unfounded, and false reported cases of child abuse or neglect have contributed to the inability of a State to respond effectively to serious cases of child abuse or neglect;

''(F) the extent to which the lack of adequate resources and the lack of adequate professional development of individuals required by law to report suspected cases of child abuse and neglect have contributed to the inability of a State to respond effectively to serious cases of child abuse and neglect;

''(G) the extent to which unsubstantiated reports return as more serious cases of child abuse or neglect;

''(H) the incidence and outcomes of child abuse and neglect allegations reported within the context of divorce, custody, or other family court proceedings, and the interaction between family courts and the child protective services system;

''(I) the information on the national incidence of child abuse and neglect specified in clauses (i) through (xi) of subparagraph (J); and

''(J) the national incidence of child abuse and neglect, including—

''(i) the extent to which incidents of child abuse and neglect are increasing or decreasing in number and severity;

''(ii) the incidence of substantiated and unsubstantiated reported child abuse and neglect cases;

''(iii) the number of substantiated cases that result in a judicial finding of child abuse or neglect or related criminal court convictions;

''(iv) the extent to which the number of unsubstantiated, unfounded and false reported cases of child abuse or neglect have contributed to the inability of a State to respond effectively to serious cases of child abuse or neglect;

''(v) the extent to which the lack of adequate resources and the lack of adequate education of individuals required by law to report suspected cases of child abuse and neglect have contributed to the inability of a State to respond effectively to serious cases of child abuse and neglect;

''(vi) the number of unsubstantiated, false, or unfounded reports that have resulted in a child being placed in substitute care, and the duration of such placement;

''(vii) the extent to which unsubstantiated reports return as more serious cases of child abuse or neglect;

''(viii) the incidence and prevalence of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and physical and emotional neglect in substitute care;

''(ix) the incidence and prevalence of child maltreatment by a wide array of demographic characteristics such as age, sex, race, family structure, household relationship (including the living arrangement of the resident parent and family size), school enrollment and education attainment, disability, grandparents as caregivers, labor force status, work status in previous year, and income in previous year;

''(x) the extent to which reports of suspected or known instances of child abuse or neglect involving a potential combination of jurisdictions, such as intrastate, interstate, Federal-State, and State-Tribal, are being screened out solely on the basis of the cross-jurisdictional complications; and

''(xi) the incidence and outcomes of child abuse and neglect allegations reported within the context of divorce, custody, or other family court proceedings, and the interaction between family courts and the child protective services system.'';

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''paragraph (1)(O)'' and inserting ''paragraph (1)(J)'';

(C) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

''(3) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 4 years after the date of the enactment of the Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report that contains the results of the research conducted under paragraph (2).

''(B) NATIONAL INCIDENCE.—The Secretary shall ensure that research conducted, and data collected, under paragraph (1)(J) are reported in a way that will allow longitudinal comparisons as well as comparisons to the national incidence studies conducted under this title.''; and

(D) by striking the second paragraph (4);

(2) in subsection (b), by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

''(2) AREAS OF EMPHASIS.—Such technical assistance—

''(A) shall focus on—

''(i) implementing strategies that can leverage existing community-based and State funded resources to prevent child abuse and neglect and providing education for individuals involved in prevention activities;

''(ii) reducing racial bias in child welfare systems, including how such systems interact with health, law enforcement, and education systems;

''(iii) promoting best practices for families experiencing domestic violence, substance use disorder, or other complex needs; and

''(iv) providing professional development and other technical assistance to child welfare agencies to improve the understanding of and to help address the effects of trauma and adverse childhood experiences in parents and children in contact with the child welfare system; and

''(B) may include the identification of—

''(i) various methods and procedures for the investigation, assessment, and prosecution of child physical and sexual abuse cases;

''(ii) ways to mitigate psychological trauma to the child victim;

''(iii) effective programs carried out by the States under titles I and II; and

''(iv) effective approaches being utilized to link child protective service agencies with health care, mental health care, and developmental services and early intervention to improve forensic diagnosis and health evaluations, and barriers and shortages to such linkages.'';

(3) in subsection (c), by striking paragraph (3); and

(4) by striking subsection (e).

SEC. 105. GRANTS TO STATES, INDIAN TRIBES OR TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND PUBLIC OR PRIVATE AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS.

Section 105 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (7) as paragraph (11);

(B) by striking paragraphs (1) through (6) and inserting the following:

''(1) PREVENTION SERVICES.—The Secretary may award grants under this subsection to entities to establish or expand prevention services that reduce incidences of child maltreatment and strengthen families.

''(2) TRAUMATIC STRESS.—The Secretary may award grants under this subsection to entities to address instances of traumatic stress in families due to child abuse and neglect, especially for families with complex needs or families that exhibit high levels of adverse childhood experiences.

''(3) PROMOTING A HIGH-QUALITY WORKFORCE.—The Secretary may award grants under this subsection to entities to carry out programs or strategies that promote a high-quality workforce in the child welfare system through—

''(A) improvements to recruitment, support, or retention efforts; or

''(B) education for professionals and paraprofessionals in the prevention, identification, and treatment of child abuse and neglect.

''(4) IMPROVING COORDINATION.—The Secretary may award grants under this subsection to entities to carry out activities to improve intrastate coordination within the child welfare system. Such activities may include—

''(A) aligning information technology systems;

''(B) improving information sharing regarding child and family referrals; or

''(C) creating collaborative voluntary partnerships among public and private agencies, the State's child protective services, local social service agencies, community-based family support programs, State and local legal agencies, developmental disability agencies, substance use disorder treatment providers, health care providers and agencies, domestic violence prevention programs, mental health services, schools and early learning providers, religious entities, and other community-based programs.

''(5) PRIMARY PREVENTION.—The Secretary may award grants under this subsection to entities to carry out or expand primary prevention programs or strategies that address family or community protective factors.

''(6) NEGLECT DUE TO ECONOMIC INSECURITY.—The Secretary may award grants under this subsection to entities to carry out programs or strategies that reduce findings of child neglect due in full or in part to family economic insecurity.

''(7) EDUCATION OF MANDATORY REPORTERS.—The Secretary may award grants under this subsection to entities for projects that involve research-based strategies for innovative education of mandated child abuse and neglect reporters, and for victims to understand mandatory reporting.

''(8) SENTINEL INJURIES.—The Secretary may award grants under this subsection to entities to identify and test effective practices to improve early detection and management of injuries indicative of potential abuse in infants to prevent future cases of child abuse and related fatalities.

''(9) INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretary may award grants under this subsection to entities to carry out innovative programs or strategies to coordinate the delivery of services to help reduce child abuse and neglect via partnerships among health, mental health, education (including early learning and care programs as appropriate), and child welfare agencies and providers.

''(10) REDUCING CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT DUE TO THE SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER OF A PARENT OR CAREGIVER.—The Secretary may award grants under this subsection to entities to carry out activities to reduce child abuse and neglect due to the substance use disorder of a parent or caregiver.''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(12) NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award a grant under this subsection to a nonprofit entity to provide for the ongoing operation of a 24-hour, national, toll-free telephone hotline to provide information and assistance to youth victims of child abuse or neglect, parents, caregivers, mandated reporters, and other concerned community members, including through alternative modalities for communications (such as texting or chat services) with such victims and other information seekers.

''(B) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants described in this paragraph, the Secretary shall give priority to applicants with experience in operating a hotline that provides assistance to victims of child abuse, parents, caregivers, and mandated reporters.

''(C) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant described in this paragraph, a nonprofit entity shall submit an application to the Secretary that shall—

''(i) contain such assurances and information, be in such form, and be submitted in such manner, as the Secretary shall prescribe;

''(ii) include a complete description of the entity's plan for the operation of a national child abuse hotline, including descriptions of—

''(I) the professional development program for hotline personnel, including technology professional development to ensure that all persons affiliated with the hotline are able to effectively operate any technological systems used by the hotline;

''(II) the qualifications for hotline personnel;

''(III) the methods for the creation, maintenance, and updating of a comprehensive list of prevention and treatment service providers;

''(IV) a plan for publicizing the availability of the hotline throughout the United States;

''(V) a plan for providing service to non-English speaking callers, including service through hotline personnel who have non-English language capability;

''(VI) a plan for facilitating access to the hotline and alternative modality services by persons with hearing impairments and disabilities;

''(VII) a plan for providing crisis counseling, general assistance, and referrals to youth victims of child abuse; and

''(VIII) a plan to offer alternative services to calling, such as texting or live chat;

''(iii) demonstrate that the entity has the capacity and the expertise to maintain a child abuse hotline and a comprehensive list of service providers;

''(iv) demonstrate the ability to provide information and referrals for contacts, directly connect contacts to service providers, and employ crisis interventions;

''(v) demonstrate that the entity has a commitment to providing services to individuals in need; and

''(vi) demonstrate that the entity complies with State privacy laws and has established quality assurance practices.''; and

(2) by striking subsections (b) and (c) and inserting the following:

''(b) GOALS AND PERFORMANCE.—The Secretary shall ensure that each entity receiving a grant under this section—

''(1) establishes quantifiable goals for the outcome of the project funded with the grant; and

''(2) adequately measures the performance of the project relative to such goals.

''(c) PERFORMANCE REPORT REQUIRED.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Each entity that receives a grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary a performance report that includes—

''(A) an evaluation of the effectiveness of the project funded with the grant relative to the goals established for such project under subsection (b)(1); and

''(B) data supporting such evaluation.

''(2) SUBMISSION.—The report under paragraph (1) shall be submitted to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

''(d) CONTINUING GRANTS.—The Secretary may only award a continuing grant to an entity under this section if such entity submits a performance report required under subsection (c) that demonstrates effectiveness of the project funded.''.

SEC. 106. GRANTS TO STATES FOR CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT PREVENTION AND TREATMENT PROGRAMS.

(a) DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION GRANTS.—Subsection (a) of section 106 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a) is amended to read as follows:

''(a) DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION GRANTS.—The Secretary shall make grants to the States, from allotments under subsection (f) for each State that applies for a grant under this section, for purposes of assisting the States in improving and implementing a child protective services system that is family-centered, integrates community services, and is capable of providing rapid response to high-risk cases, by carrying out the following:

''(1) Conducting the intake, assessment, screening, and investigation of reports of child abuse or neglect.

''(2) Ensuring that reports concerning a child's living arrangements or subsistence needs are addressed through services or benefits and that no child is separated from such child's parent for reasons of poverty.

''(3) Creating and improving the use of multidisciplinary teams and interagency, intra-agency, interstate, and intrastate protocols to enhance fair investigations; and improving legal preparation and representation.

''(4) Complying with the assurances in section 106(b)(2).

''(5) Establishing State and local networks of child and family service providers that support child and family well-being, which shall—

''(A) include child protective services, as well as agencies and service providers, that address family-strengthening, parenting skills, child development, early childhood care and learning, child advocacy, public health, mental health, substance use disorder treatment, domestic violence, developmental disabilities, housing, juvenile justice, elementary and secondary education, and child placement; and

''(B) address instances of child abuse and neglect by incorporating evaluations that assess the development of a child, including language and communication, cognitive, physical, and social and emotional development, the need for mental health services, including trauma-related services, trauma-informed care, and parental needs.

''(6) Ensuring child protective services is addressing the safety of children and responding to parent and family needs, which shall include—

''(A) family-oriented efforts that emphasize case assessment and follow up casework focused on child safety and child and parent well-being, which may include—

''(i) ensuring parents and children undergo physical and mental health assessments, as appropriate, and ongoing developmental monitoring;

''(ii) multidisciplinary approaches to assessing family needs and connecting the family with services, including prevention services under section 471 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 671);

''(iii) organizing a treatment team with the goal of preventing child abuse and neglect, and improving parent and child well-being;

''(iv) case monitoring that supports child well-being; and

''(v) differential response efforts; and

''(B) establishing and maintaining a rapid response system that responds promptly to all reports of child abuse or neglect, with special attention to cases involving children under 3 years of age.

''(7) Educating caseworkers, community service providers, attorneys, health care professionals, parents, and others engaged in the prevention, intervention, and treatment of child abuse and neglect, which shall include education on—

''(A) practices that help ensure child safety and well-being;

''(B) approaches to family-oriented prevention, intervention, and treatment of child abuse and neglect;

''(C) early childhood, child, and adolescent development, and the impact of adverse childhood experiences on such development;

''(D) the relationship between child abuse and domestic violence, and support for non-abusing parents;

''(E) strategies to work with families impacted by substance use disorder and mental health issues (and, when appropriate, be coordinated with prevention efforts funded under section 471 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 671));

''(F) effective use of multiple services to address family and child needs, including needs resulting from trauma;

''(G) efforts to improve family and child well-being;

''(H) support for child welfare workers affected by secondary trauma; and

''(I) supporting families and caregivers to combat and prevent unsubstantiated, unfounded, or false reports, including through education on the rights of families and caregivers.

''(8) Creating or improving data systems that allow for—

''(A) the identification of cases requiring prompt responses;

''(B) real-time case monitoring that tracks assessments, service referrals, follow-up, case reviews, and progress toward parent and child goals; and

''(C) sharing basic identifying data with law enforcement, as necessary.

''(9) Improving the general child protective system by developing, improving, and implementing safety assessment tools, providing that such tools, protocols, and systems shall not authorize the separation of any child from the legal parent or guardian of such child solely on the basis of poverty, or without a judicial order, except in the case of imminent harm.''.

(b) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) STATE PLAN.—Paragraph (1) of section 106(b) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a(b)) is amended to read as follows:

''(1) STATE PLAN.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a State shall submit to the Secretary a State plan that—

''(i) specifies how the grant will be used, and the State's strategic plan, to treat child abuse and neglect and enhance community-based, prevention-centered approaches that attempt to prevent child abuse and neglect while strengthening and supporting families whenever possible; and

''(ii) meets the requirements of this subsection.

''(B) COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION.—

''(i) COORDINATION.—Each State, to the maximum extent practicable, shall coordinate its State plan under this subsection with its State plan under part B of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 621 et seq.) relating to child and family services and, in States electing to provide services under part E of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 670 et seq.) relating to foster care prevention services, its State plan under such part E.

''(ii) CONSULTATION.—In developing a State plan under this subsection, a State shall consult with community-based prevention and service agencies, parents and families affected by child abuse or neglect in the State, law enforcement, family court judges, prosecutors who handle criminal child abuse cases, and medical professionals engaged in the treatment of child abuse and neglect.

''(C) DURATION AND SUBMISSION OF PLAN.—Each State plan shall—

''(i) be submitted not less than every 5 years; and

''(ii) if necessary, revised by the State to inform the Secretary of any substantive changes, including—

''(I) any changes to State law or regulations, relating to the prevention of child abuse and neglect that may affect the eligibility of the State under this section; or

''(II) any changes in the State's activities, strategies, or programs under this section.''.

(2) CONTENTS.—Paragraph (2) of section 106(b) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a(b)) is amended to read as follows:

''(2) CONTENTS.—A State plan submitted under paragraph (1) shall contain a description of the activities that the State will carry out using amounts received under the grant to achieve the objectives of this title, including—

''(A) an assurance in the form of a certification by the Governor of the State that the State has in effect and is enforcing a State law, or has in effect and is operating a statewide program, relating to child abuse and neglect that includes—

''(i) provisions or procedures for an individual to report known and suspected instances of child abuse and neglect, including a State law for mandatory reporting by individuals required to report such instances;

''(ii) procedures for the immediate screening, risk and safety assessment, and prompt investigation of such reports of alleged abuse and neglect in order to ensure the well-being and safety of children;

''(iii) procedures for immediate steps to be taken to ensure and protect the safety of a victim of child abuse or neglect and of any other child under the same care who may also be in danger of child abuse or neglect and ensuring their placement in a safe environment;

''(iv) methods to preserve the confidentiality of all records in order to protect the rights of the child and of the child's parents or guardians, including requirements ensuring that reports and records made and maintained pursuant to the purposes of this Act shall only be made available to—

''(I) individuals who are the subject of the report;

''(II) Federal, State, or local government entities, or any agent of such entities, as described in clause (xi) of this subparagraph;

''(III) child abuse citizen review panels;

''(IV) child fatality review panels;

''(V) a grand jury or court, upon a finding that information in the record is necessary for the determination of an issue before the court or grand jury; and

''(VI) other entities or classes of individuals statutorily authorized by the State to receive such information pursuant to a legitimate State purpose;

''(v) provisions and procedures requiring that in every case involving a victim of child abuse or neglect which results in a judicial proceeding, a guardian ad litem, who has received education appropriate to the role, including education in early childhood, child, and adolescent development, and domestic violence, and who may be an attorney or a court appointed special advocate who has received education appropriate to that role (or both), shall be appointed to represent the child (who, for purposes of this section, shall have any age limit elected by the State pursuant to section 475(8)(B)(iii) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 675(8)(B)(iii)) in such proceedings—

''(I) to obtain first-hand, a clear understanding of the situation and needs of such child; and

''(II) to make recommendations to the court concerning the best interests of such child;

''(vi) the establishment of citizen review panels in accordance with subsection (c);

''(vii) provisions and procedures to require that a representative of the child protective services agency shall, at the initial time of contact with the individual subject to a child abuse or neglect investigation, advise the individual of the complaints or allegations made against the individual, in a manner that is consistent with laws protecting the rights of the informant;

''(viii) provisions, procedures, and mechanisms—

''(I) for the expedited termination of parental rights in the case of any infant determined to be abandoned under State law; and

''(II) by which individuals who disagree with an official finding of child abuse or neglect can appeal such finding;

''(ix) provisions addressing the professional development of representatives of the child protective services system regarding the legal duties of the representatives, which may consist of various methods of informing such representatives of such duties (including providing such education in different languages if necessary), in order to protect the legal rights and safety of children and their parents and caregivers from the initial time of contact during investigation through treatment;

''(x) provisions for immunity from civil or criminal liability under State and local laws and regulations for individuals making good faith reports of suspected or known instances of child abuse or neglect, or who otherwise provide information or assistance, including medical evaluations or consultations, in connection with a report, investigation, or legal intervention pursuant to a good faith report of child abuse or neglect;

''(xi) provisions to require the State to disclose confidential information to any Federal, State, or local government entity, or any agent of such entity, that has a need for such information in order to carry out its responsibilities under law to protect children from child abuse and neglect;

''(xii) provisions requiring, and procedures in place that facilitate the prompt expungement of any records that are accessible to the general public or are used for purposes of employment or other background checks in cases determined to be unsubstantiated or false, except that nothing in this section shall prevent State child protective services agencies from keeping information on unsubstantiated reports in their casework files to assist in future risk and safety assessment;

''(xiii) provisions and procedures for requiring criminal background record checks that meet the requirements of section 471(a)(20) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 671(a)(20)) for prospective foster and adoptive parents and other adult relatives and non-relatives residing in the household;

''(xiv) provisions for systems of technology that support the State child protective services system and track reports of child abuse and neglect from intake through final disposition;

''(xv) provisions and procedures requiring identification and assessment of all reports involving children known or suspected to be victims of sex trafficking (as defined in section 103(12) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102(12)));

''(xvi) provisions, procedures, and mechanisms that assure that the State does not require reunification of a surviving child with a parent who has been found by a court of competent jurisdiction—

''(I) to have committed murder (which would have been an offense under section 1111(a) of title 18, United States Code, if the offense had occurred in the special maritime

or territorial jurisdiction of the United States) of another child of such parent;

''(II) to have committed voluntary manslaughter (which would have been an offense under section 1112(a) of title 18, United States Code, if the offense had occurred in the special maritime or territorial jurisdiction of the United States) of another child of such parent;

''(III) to have aided or abetted, attempted, conspired, or solicited to commit such murder or voluntary manslaughter;

''(IV) to have committed a felony assault that results in the serious bodily injury to the surviving child or another child of such parent;

''(V) to have committed sexual abuse against the surviving child or another child of such parent; or

''(VI) to be required to register with a sex offender registry under section 113(a) of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (34 U.S.C. 20913(a)); and

''(xvii) an assurance that, upon the implementation by the State of the provisions, procedures, and mechanisms under clause (xvi), conviction of any one of the felonies listed in clause (xvi) constitute grounds under State law for the termination of parental rights of the convicted parent as to the surviving children (although case-by-case determinations of whether or not to seek termination of parental rights shall be within the sole discretion of the State);

''(B) an assurance that the State has in place procedures for responding to the reporting of medical neglect (including instances of withholding of medically indicated treatment from infants with disabilities who have life-threatening conditions), procedures or programs, or both (within the State child protective services system), to provide for—

''(i) coordination and consultation with individuals designated by and within appropriate health-care facilities;

''(ii) prompt notification by individuals designated by and within appropriate health-care facilities of cases of suspected medical neglect (including instances of withholding of medically indicated treatment from infants with disabilities who have life-threatening conditions); and

''(iii) authority, under State law, for the State child protective services system to pursue any legal remedies, including the authority to initiate legal proceedings in a court of competent jurisdiction, as may be necessary to prevent the withholding of medically indicated treatment from infants with disabilities who have life-threatening conditions;

''(C) an assurance or certification that programs and education conducted under this title address the unique needs of unaccompanied homeless youth, including access to enrollment and support services and that such youth are eligible for under parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 621 et seq., 670 et seq.) and meet the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11301 et seq.); and

''(D) a description of—

''(i) policies and procedures (including appropriate referrals to child welfare service systems and for other appropriate services (including home visiting services and mutual support and parent partner programs) determined by a family assessment) to address the needs of infants born with and identified as being affected by substance use or withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal drug exposure, or a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, including a requirement that health care providers involved in the delivery or care of such infants notify the child protective welfare service system of the occurrence of such condition in such infants, except that—

''(I) child protective services shall undertake an investigation only when the findings of a family assessment warrant such investigation; and

''(II) such notification shall not be construed to—

''(aa) establish a definition under Federal law of what constitutes child abuse or neglect; or

''(bb) require prosecution for any illegal action;

''(ii) the development of a multi-disciplinary plan of safe care for the infant born and identified as being affected by substance use or withdrawal symptoms or a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder to ensure the safety and well-being of such infant following release from the care of health care providers, including through—

''(I) using a risk-based approach to develop each plan of safe care;

''(II) addressing, through coordinated service delivery, the health and substance use disorder treatment needs of the infant and affected family or caregiver as determined by a family assessment; and

''(III) the development and implementation by the State of monitoring systems regarding the implementation of such plans of safe care to determine whether and in what manner local entities are providing, in accordance with State requirements, referrals to and delivery of appropriate services for the infant and affected family or caregiver;

''(iii) policies and procedures to make available to the public on the State website the data, findings, and information about all cases of child abuse or neglect resulting in a child fatality or near fatality, including a description of—

''(I) how the State will not create an exception to such public disclosure, except in a case in which—

''(aa) the State would like to delay public release of case-specific findings or information (including any previous reports of domestic violence and subsequent actions taken to assess and address such reports) while a criminal investigation or prosecution of such a fatality or near fatality is pending;

''(bb) the State is protecting the identity of a reporter of child abuse or neglect; or

''(cc) the State is withholding identifying information of members of the victim's family who are not perpetrators of the fatality or near fatality; and

''(II) how the State will ensure that in providing the public disclosure required under this clause, the State will include—

''(aa) the cause and circumstances of the fatality or near fatality;

''(bb) the age and gender of the child; and

''(cc) any previous reports of child abuse or neglect investigations that are relevant to the child abuse or neglect that led to the fatality or near fatality;

''(iv) how the State will use data collected on child abuse or neglect to prevent child fatalities and near fatalities;

''(v) how the State will implement efforts to prevent child fatalities and near fatalities;

''(vi) the cooperation of State law enforcement officials, court of competent jurisdiction, and appropriate State agencies providing human services in the investigation, assessment, prosecution, and treatment of child abuse and neglect;

''(vii) the steps the State will take to improve the professional development, retention, and supervision of caseworkers and how the State will measure the effectiveness of such efforts;

''(viii) the State's plan to ensure each child under the age of 3 who is involved in a substantiated case of child abuse or neglect will be referred to the State's child find system under section 635(a)(5) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1435(a)(5)) in order to determine if the child is an infant or toddler with a disability (as defined in section 632(5) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1432(5)));

''(ix) the State's plan to improve, as part of a comprehensive State strategy led by law enforcement, professional development for child protective services workers and their appropriate role in identifying, assessing, and providing comprehensive services for children who are sex trafficking victims, in coordination with law enforcement, juvenile justice agencies, runaway and homeless youth shelters, and health, mental health, and other social service agencies and providers;

''(x) the services to be provided under the grant to individuals, families, or communities, either directly or through referrals, aimed at preventing the occurrence of child abuse and neglect;

''(xi) the State's efforts to ensure professionals who are required to report suspected cases of child abuse and neglect are aware of their responsibilities under subparagraph (A)(i) and receive professional development relating to performing such responsibilities that is specific to their profession and workplace;

''(xii) policies and procedures encouraging the appropriate involvement of families in decisionmaking pertaining to children who experienced child abuse or neglect;

''(xiii) the State's efforts to improve appropriate collaboration among child protective services agencies, domestic violence services agencies, substance use disorder treatment agencies, and other agencies in investigations, interventions, and the delivery of services and treatment provided to children and families affected by child abuse or neglect, including children exposed to domestic violence, where appropriate;

''(xiv) policies and procedures regarding the use of differential response, as applicable, to improve outcomes for children; and

''(xv) the State's efforts to reduce racial bias in its child protective services system.''.

(3) LIMITATIONS.—Paragraph (3) of section 106(b) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a(b)) is amended—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking ''LIMITATION'' and inserting ''LIMITATIONS'';

(B) by striking ''With regard to clauses (vi) and (vii) of paragraph (2)(B),'' and inserting the following:

''(A) DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN IDENTIFYING INFORMATION.—With regard to subparagraphs (A)(iv) and (D)(iii) of paragraph (2),'';

(C) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) PUBLIC ACCESS TO COURT PROCEEDINGS.—Nothing in paragraph (2) shall be construed to limit the State's flexibility to determine State policies relating to public access to court proceedings to determine child abuse and neglect, except that such policies shall, at a minimum, ensure the safety and well-being of the child, parents, and families.''.

(4) DEFINITIONS.—Paragraph (4) of section 106(b) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a(b)) is amended—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking ''DEFINITIONS'' and inserting ''DEFINITION'';

(B) by striking ''this subsection'' and all that follows through ''means an act'' and inserting the following: ''this subsection, the term 'near fatality' means an act'';

(C) by striking ''; and'' and inserting a period; and

(D) by striking subparagraph (B).

(c) CITIZEN REVIEW PANELS.—Section 106(c) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking ''EXCEPTIONS.'' and all that follows through ''A State may'' and inserting ''EXCEPTION.—A State may'';

(2) in paragraph (4)(A)—

(A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''and where appropriate, specific cases,''; and

(B) in clause (iii)(I), by striking ''foster care and adoption programs'' and inserting ''foster care, prevention, and permanency programs''; and

(3) by amending the first sentence of paragraph (6) to read as follows: ''Each panel established under paragraph (1) shall prepare and make available to the State and the public, on an annual basis, a report containing a summary of the activities of the panel, the criteria used for determining which activities the panel engaged in, and recommendations or observations to improve the child protective services system at the State and local levels, and the data upon which these recommendations or observations are based.''.

(d) ANNUAL STATE DATA REPORTS.—Section 106(d) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a(d)) is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (13) to read as follows:

''(13) The annual report containing the summary of the activities and recommendations of the citizen review panels of the State required by subsection (c)(6), and the actions taken by the State as a result of such recommendations.'';

(2) in paragraph (15), by striking ''subsection (b)(2)(B)(ii)'' and inserting ''subsection (b)(2)(D)(i)'';

(3) in paragraph (16), by striking ''subsection (b)(2)(B)(xxi)'' and inserting ''subsection (b)(2)(D)(viii)'';

(4) in paragraph (17), by striking ''subsection (b)(2)(B)(xxiv)'' and inserting ''subsection (b)(2)(A)(xv)'';

(5) in paragraph (18)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''subsection (b)(2)(B)(ii)'' and inserting ''subsection (b)(2)(D)(i)'';

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''subsection (b)(2)(B)(iii)'' and inserting ''subsection (b)(2)(D)(ii)''; and

(C) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''subsection (b)(2)(B)(iii)'' and inserting ''subsection (b)(2)(D)(ii)''; and

(6) by adding at the end the following:

''(19) The number of child fatalities and near fatalities from maltreatment and related information in accordance with the uniform standards established under section 103(d).''.

(e) ALLOTMENTS.—Section 106(f) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a(f)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(6) LIMITATION.—For any fiscal year for which the amount allotted to a State or territory under this subsection exceeds the amount allotted to the State or territory under such subsection for fiscal year 2021, the State or territory may use not more than 2 percent of such excess amount for administrative expenses.''.

SEC. 107. MISCELLANEOUS REQUIREMENTS.

Section 108 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106d) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by inserting ''Indian tribes, and tribal organizations,'' after ''States,'';

(2) by redesignating subsections (c) through (e) as subsections (d) through (f), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

''(c) PROTECTING AGAINST SYSTEMIC CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE.—

''(1) REPORTING AND TASK FORCE.—Not later than 24 months after the date of the enactment of the Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, each State task force established under section 107(c) and expanded as described in paragraph (2) shall study and make recommendations on the following, with a focus on preventing systemic child sexual abuse:

''(A) How to detect systemic child sexual abuse that occurs in an organization.

''(B) How to prevent child sexual abuse and systemic child sexual abuse from occurring in organizations, which shall include recommendations to improve—

''(i) practices and policies for the education of parents, caregivers, and victims, and age appropriate education of children, about risk factors or signs of potential child sexual abuse; and

''(ii) the efficacy of applicable State laws and the role such laws play in deterring or preventing incidences of child sexual abuse.

''(C) The feasibility of making available the disposition of a perpetrator within an organization to—

''(i) the child alleging sexual abuse or the child's family; or

''(ii) an adult who was a child at the time of the sexual abuse claim in question or the adult's family.

''(2) TASK FORCE COMPOSITION.—For purposes of this subsection, a State task force shall include—

''(A) the members of the State task force described in section 107(c) for the State; and

''(B) the following:

''(i) Family court judges.

''(ii) Individuals from religious organizations.

''(iii) Individuals from youth-serving organizations, including youth athletics organizations.

''(3) REPORTING ON RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 6 months after a State task force makes recommendations under paragraph (1), the State maintaining such State task force shall—

''(A) make public the recommendations of such report;

''(B) report to the Secretary on the status of adopting such recommendations; and

''(C) in a case in which the State declines to adopt a particular recommendation, make public the explanation for such declination.

''(4) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection—

''(A) the terms 'child sexual abuse' and 'sexual abuse' shall not be limited to an act or a failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker;

''(B) the term 'organization' means any entity that serves children; and

''(C) the term 'systemic child sexual abuse' means—

''(i) a pattern of informal or formal policy or de facto policy to not follow State and local requirements to report instances of child sexual abuse in violation of State and local mandatory reporting laws or policy; or

''(ii) a pattern of assisting individual perpetrators in maintaining their careers despite substantiated evidence of child sexual abuse.''.

SEC. 108. REPORTS.

(a) SCALING EVIDENCE-BASED TREATMENT OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT.—Section 110 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106f) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 110. STUDY AND REPORT RELATING TO SCALING EVIDENCE-BASED TREATMENT OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT; STUDY AND REPORT ON MARITAL AGE OF CONSENT; STUDY AND REPORT ON STATE MANDATORY REPORTING LAWS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a study that examines challenges to, and best practices for, the scalability of treatments that reduce the trauma resulting from child abuse and neglect and reduce the risk of revictimization, such as those allowable under sections 105 and 106.

''(b) CONTENT OF STUDY.—The study described in subsection (a) shall be completed in a manner that considers the variability among treatment programs and among populations vulnerable to child abuse and neglect. The study shall include, at minimum:

''(1) A detailed synthesis of the existing research literature examining barriers and challenges to, and best practices for the scalability of child welfare programs and services as well as programs and services for vulnerable children and families in related fields, including healthcare and education.

''(2) Data describing state and local providers' experiences with scaling treatments that reduce the trauma resulting from child abuse and neglect and reduce the risk of revictimization.

''(3) Consultation with experts in child welfare, healthcare, and education.

''(c) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of the Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives a report that contains the results of the study conducted under subsection (a), including recommendations for best practices for scaling treatments that reduce the trauma resulting from child abuse and neglect and reduce the risk of revictimization.

''(d) STUDY AND REPORT ON MARITAL AGE OF CONSENT.—

''(1) STUDY.—The Secretary shall study, with respect to each State—

''(A) the State law regarding the minimum marriage age; and

''(B) the prevalence of marriage involving a child who is under the age of such minimum marriage age.

''(2) FACTORS.—The study required under paragraph (1) shall include an examination of—

''(A) the extent to which any statutory exceptions to the minimum marriage age in such laws contribute to the prevalence of marriage involving a child described in paragraph (1)(B);

''(B) whether such exceptions allow such a child to be married without the consent of such child; and

''(C) the impact of such exceptions on the safety of such children.

''(3) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives a report containing the findings of the study required by this subsection, including any best practices.

''(e) STUDY AND REPORT ON STATE MANDATORY REPORTING LAWS.—

''(1) STUDY.—The Secretary shall collect information on and otherwise study State laws for mandatory reporting of incidents of child abuse or neglect. Such study shall examine trends in referrals and investigations of child abuse and neglect due to differences

in such State laws with respect to the inclusion, as mandatory reporters, of the following individuals:

''(A) Individuals licensed or certified to practice in any health-related field licensed by the State, employees of health care facilities or providers licensed by the State, who are engaged in the admission, examination, care or treatment of individuals, including mental health and emergency medical service providers.

''(B) Individuals employed by a school who have direct contact with children, including teachers, administrators, and independent contractors.

''(C) Peace officers and law enforcement personnel.

''(D) Clergy, including Christian Science practitioners, except where prohibited on account of clergy-penitent privilege.

''(E) Day care and child care operators and employees.

''(F) Employees of social services agencies who have direct contact with children in the course of employment.

''(G) Foster parents.

''(H) Court appointed special advocates (employees and volunteers).

''(I) Camp and after-school employees.

''(J) An individual, paid or unpaid, who, on the basis of the individual's role as an integral part of a regularly scheduled program, activity, or service, accepts responsibility for a child.

''(2) REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of the Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives a report containing the findings of the study required by this subsection, including any best practices related to the inclusion, as mandatory reporters, of individuals described in paragraph (1).''.

(b) REPORT ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT IN INDIAN TRIBAL COMMUNITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General, in consultation with the Indian tribes from each of the 12 regions of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, shall study child abuse and neglect in Indian Tribal communities for the purpose of identifying vital information and making recommendations concerning issues relating to child abuse and neglect in such communities, and submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Education and Labor and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report on such study, which shall include—

(A) the number of Indian tribes providing primary child abuse and neglect prevention activities;

(B) the number of Indian tribes providing secondary child abuse and neglect prevention activities;

(C) promising practices of Indian tribes with respect to child abuse and neglect prevention that are culturally-based or culturally-adapted;

(D) information and recommendations on how such culturally-based or culturally-adapted child abuse and neglect prevention activities could become evidence-based;

(E) the number of Indian tribes that have accessed Federal child abuse and neglect prevention programs;

(F) child abuse and neglect prevention activities that Indian tribes provide using State funds;

(G) child abuse and neglect prevention activities that Indian tribes provide using Tribal funds;

(H) Tribal access to State children's trust fund resources, as described in section 202 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116a);

(I) how a children's trust fund model could be used to support prevention efforts regarding child abuse and neglect of American Indian and Alaska Native children;

(J) Federal agency technical assistance efforts to address child abuse and neglect prevention and treatment of American Indian and Alaska Native children;

(K) Federal agency cross-system collaboration to address child abuse and neglect prevention and treatment of American Indian and Alaska Native children;

(L) Tribal access to child abuse and neglect prevention research and demonstration grants under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.); and

(M) an examination of child abuse and neglect data systems to identify what Tribal data is being submitted, barriers to submitting data, and recommendations on improving the collection of data from Indian Tribes.

(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

(A) the term ''Alaska Native'' has the meaning given the term in section 111 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106g); and

(B) the terms ''child abuse and neglect'' and ''Indian tribe'' have the meaning given the terms in section 3 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 note).

SEC. 109. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 112(a) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106h(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking ''to carry out'' through ''fiscal year 2010'' and inserting ''to carry out this title $270,000,000 for fiscal year 2022''; and

(B) by striking ''2011 through 2015'' and inserting ''2023 through 2027''; and

(2) by striking paragraph (2)(A) and inserting the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts appropriated for a fiscal year under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall make available 30 percent of such amounts, or $100,000,000, whichever is less, to fund discretionary activities under this title.''.

SEC. 110. MONITORING AND OVERSIGHT.

Section 114(1) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5108(1)) is amended—

(1) in each of subparagraphs (A) and (B), by striking ''and'' at the end; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) include written guidance and technical assistance to support States, which shall include guidance on the requirements of this Act with respect to infants born with and identified as being affected by substance use or withdrawal symptoms, Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, or Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, as described in clauses (i) and (ii) of section 106(b)(2)(D), including by—

''(i) enhancing States' understanding of requirements and flexibilities under the law, including by clarifying key terms;

''(ii) addressing State-identified challenges with developing, implementing, and monitoring plans of safe care; and

''(iii) disseminating best practices on implementation of plans of safe care, on such topics as differential response, collaboration and coordination, and identification and delivery of services for different populations, while recognizing needs of different populations and varying community approaches across States; and

''(D) include the submission of a report to the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act that contains a description of the activities taken by the Secretary to comply with the requirements of subparagraph (C); and''.

SEC. 111. ELECTRONIC INTERSTATE DATA EXCHANGE SYSTEM.

Title I of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 115. ELECTRONIC INTERSTATE DATA EXCHANGE SYSTEM.

''(a) INTERSTATE DATA EXCHANGE SYSTEM.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall consider the recommendations included in the reports required under paragraph (8)(A) and subsection (b)(2) in developing an electronic interstate data exchange system that allows State entities responsible under State law for maintaining child abuse and neglect registries to communicate information across State lines.

''(2) STANDARDS.—In developing the electronic interstate data exchange system under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

''(A) use interoperable standards developed and maintained by intergovernmental partnerships, such as the National Information Exchange Model;

''(B) develop policies and governance standards that—

''(i) ensure consistency in types of information shared and not shared; and

''(ii) specify circumstances under which data should be shared through the interstate data exchange system; and

''(C) ensure that all standards and policies adhere to the privacy, security, and civil rights laws of each State and Federal law.

''(3) LIMITATION ON USE OF ELECTRONIC INTERSTATE DATA EXCHANGE SYSTEM.—The electronic interstate data exchange system may only be used for purposes relating to child safety.

''(4) PILOT PROGRAM.—

''(A) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall begin implementation of a pilot program to generate recommendations for the full integration of the electronic interstate data exchange system. Such pilot program shall include not less than 10 States and not more than 15 States.

''(B) COMPLETION.—Not later than 30 months after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall complete the pilot program described in subparagraph (A).

''(5) INTEGRATION.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services may assist States in the integration of this system into the infrastructure of each State using funds appropriated under this subsection.

''(6) PARTICIPATION.—As a condition on eligibility for receipt of funds under section 106, each State shall—

''(A) participate in the electronic interstate data exchange system to the fullest extent possible in accordance with State law (as determined by the Secretary of Health and Human Services) not later than December 31, 2027; and

''(B) prior to the participation described in subparagraph (A), provide to the Secretary of Health and Human Services an assurance that the child abuse and neglect registry of such State provides procedural due process protections with respect to including individuals on such registry.

''(7) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services may not access or store data from the electronic interstate data exchange system, unless the State to which such data pertains voluntarily shares such data with the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

''(8) REPORTS.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall prepare and submit to Congress—

''(A) not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this section, a report on the recommendations from the pilot program described in paragraph (4); and

''(B) not later than January 31, 2026, a report on the progress made in implementing this subsection.

''(9) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Of the funds appropriated under section 112 for a fiscal year—

''(A) for each of fiscal years 2022 and 2023, $2,000,000 shall be reserved to carry out this section; and

''(B) for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2027, $1,000,000 shall be reserved to carry out this section.

''(b) WORKING GROUP.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall convene a working group to study and make recommendations on the following:

''(A) The feasibility of making publicly available on the website of each State definitions and standards of substantiated child abuse and neglect for the State.

''(B) Whether background check requirements under this Act, the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858 et seq.), and part E of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 670 et seq.) are complementary or if there are discrepancies that need to be addressed.

''(C) How to improve communication between and across States, including through the use of technology and the use of the electronic interstate data exchange system established under subsection (a), to allow for more accurate and efficient exchange of child abuse and neglect records.

''(D) How to reduce barriers and establish best practices for the State to provide timely responses to requests from other States for information contained in the State's child abuse and neglect registry through the electronic interstate data exchange system established under subsection (a).

''(E) How to ensure due process for any individual included in a State's child abuse and neglect registry, including the following:

''(i) The level of evidence necessary for inclusion in the State's child abuse and neglect registry.

''(ii) The process for notifying such individual of inclusion in the State's child abuse and neglect registry and the implications of such inclusion.

''(iii) The process for providing such individual the opportunity to challenge such inclusion, and the procedures for resolving such challenge.

''(iv) The length of time an individual's record is to remain in the State's child abuse and neglect registry, and the process for removing such individual's record.

''(v) The criteria for when such individual's child abuse and neglect registry record may be—

''(I) made accessible to the general public;

''(II) made available for purposes of an employment check; and

''(III) be shared for the purposes of participation in the electronic interstate data exchange system described in subsection (a).

''(2) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this section, the working group convened under paragraph (1) shall submit a report containing its recommendations to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, and the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives.

''(3) CONSTRUCTION.—There shall be no requirement for any State to adopt the recommendations of the working group, nor shall the Secretary of Health and Human Services incentivize or coerce any State to adopt any such recommendation.''.

SEC. 112. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.), as amended by the preceding provisions of this Act, is further amended—

(1) by striking ''Committee on Education and the Workforce'' each place it appears and inserting ''Committee on Education and Labor'';

(2) in section 103(c)(1)(F), by striking ''abused and neglected children'' and inserting ''victims of child abuse or neglect''; and

(3) in section 107(f), by striking ''(42 U.S.C. 10603a)'' and inserting ''(34 U.S.C. 20104)''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) SECTION 103.—Section 103(b)(5) (42 U.S.C. 5104(b)(5)) is amended by striking ''section 106(b)(2)(B)(iii)'' and inserting ''section 106(b)(2)(D)(ii)''.

(2) SECTION 105.—Section 105(a)(11) (42 U.S.C. 5106(a)(11) (as redesignated by section 105(1)(A) of this Act) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''section 106(b)(2)(B)(iii)'' and inserting ''section 106(b)(2)(D)(ii)'';

(B) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) in clause (i)(II), by striking ''section 106(b)(2)(B)(iii)'' and inserting ''section 106(b)(2)(D)(ii)'';

(ii) in clause (i)(IV), by striking ''section 106(b)(2)(B)(iii)(II)'' and inserting ''section 106(b)(2)(D)(ii)(II)''; and

(iii) in clause (ii), by striking ''clauses (ii) and (iii) of section 106(b)(2)(B)'' and inserting ''clauses (i) and (ii) of section 106(b)(2)(D)'';

(C) in subparagraph (D)—

(i) in clause (i)(I), by striking ''section 106(b)(2)(B)(iii)(I)'' and inserting ''section 106(b)(2)(D)(ii)(I)'';

(ii) in clause (ii)(I), by striking ''section 106(b)(2)(B)(ii)'' and inserting ''section 106(b)(2)(D)(i)'';

(iii) in clause (ii)(II), by striking ''section 106(b)(2)(B)(iii)'' and inserting ''section 106(b)(2)(D)(ii)(I)'';

(iv) in clause (iii)(I), by striking ''section 106(b)(2)(B)(i)'' and inserting ''section 106(b)(2)(A)(i)'';

(v) in clause (iii)(IV), by striking ''section 106(b)(2)(B)(iii)'' and inserting ''section 106(b)(2)(D)(ii)''; and

(vi) in clause (v), by striking ''section 106(b)(2)(B)(iii)'' and inserting ''section 106(b)(2)(D)(ii)'';

(D) in subparagraph (E), by striking ''section 106(b)(2)(B)(ii)'' and inserting ''section 106(b)(2)(D)(i)''; and

(E) in subparagraph (G)(ii), by striking ''clauses (ii) and (iii) of section 106(b)(2)(B)'' and inserting ''clauses (i) and (ii) of section 106(b)(2)(D)''.

(3) SECTION 114.—Section 114(1)(B) (42 U.S.C. 5108(1)(B)) is amended by striking ''clauses (ii) and (iii) of section 106(b)(2)(B)'' and inserting ''clauses (i) and (ii) of section 106(b)(2)(D)''.

(4) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act is amended—

(A) by striking the items relating to sections 2 and 102;

(B) by inserting after the item relating to section 114 the following:

''Sec. 115. Electronic interstate data exchange system.'';

and

(C) by striking the item relating to section 110, and inserting the following:

''Sec. 110. Study and report relating to scaling evidence-based treatment of child abuse and neglect; study and report on marital age of consent; study and report on State mandatory reporting laws.''.

TITLE II—COMMUNITY-BASED GRANTS FOR THE PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

SEC. 201. PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY.

Subsections (a) and (b) of section 201 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116) are amended to read as follows:

''(a) PURPOSE.—The purposes of this title are—

''(1) to establish and maintain support for community-based family strengthening services and statewide systems-building approaches to the extent practicable, to ensure the development, operation, expansion, coordination, and evaluation of quality services, initiatives, programs, and activities to prevent child abuse and neglect; and

''(2) to promote improved access for diverse populations with demonstrated need, including low-income families, racial and ethnic minorities, families with children or caregivers with disabilities, underserved communities, and rural communities, to family strengthening services in order to more effectively prevent child abuse and neglect.

''(b) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall make grants under this title on a formula basis to the entity designated by the State as the lead entity (referred to in this title as the 'lead entity') under section 202(1) for the following purposes:

''(1) Providing programs, activities, and initiatives to help families build protective factors linked to the prevention of child abuse and neglect, such as knowledge of parenting and child development, parental resilience, social connections, time-limited and need-based concrete support, and social and emotional development of children, that—

''(A) are accessible to diverse populations, effective, and culturally appropriate;

''(B) build upon existing strengths;

''(C) offer assistance to families;

''(D) provide early, comprehensive support for parents;

''(E) promote the development of healthy familial relationships and parenting skills, especially in young parents and parents with very young children;

''(F) increase family stability;

''(G) improve family access to formal and informal community-based resources, including health and mental health services, time-limited and need-based concrete supports, and services and supports to meet the needs of families with children or caregivers with disabilities; and

''(H) support the additional needs of families with children with disabilities, including through respite care.

''(2) Fostering the development of a continuum of preventive services to strengthen families through State- and community-based collaborations and both public and private partnerships.

''(3) Financing the start-up, maintenance, expansion, or redesign of core services described in section 205, where communities have identified gaps and decided to prioritize the establishment of such services, to the extent practicable given funding levels and community priorities.

''(4) Maximizing funding through leveraging Federal, State, local, public, and private funds to carry out the purposes of this title.

''(5) Developing or enhancing statewide and local networks to operate, expand, or enhance community-based family strengthening services, initiatives, and activities

that promote child, parent, family, and community health and well-being and prevent child abuse and neglect.

''(6) Promoting the development of, and coordination with, existing community coalitions of networks of family strengthening services that utilize culturally responsive providers in order to enhance child, family, and community well-being and prevent child abuse and neglect in all families.

''(7) Financing public information activities that focus on parent and child development and child abuse and neglect prevention.

''(8) To the extent practicable—

''(A) promoting the development and implementation of a statewide systems-building strategy to address the unmet needs identified in the inventory described in section 204(3), including the participation of public and private stakeholders, community-based organizations, legislators, parents and other relevant stakeholders, and State agencies, including the child welfare agency, the public health agency, housing agency, and the State education agency, to scale evidence-based, evidence-informed, and promising programs that expand access to family strengthening services and reduce the numbers of children entering the foster care system;

''(B) developing comprehensive outreach strategies to engage families with various risk factors, including families who have experienced trauma or domestic violence, parents with substance use disorder, and families with children or caregivers with disabilities; and

''(C) providing capacity-building supports to local programs to improve desired outcomes for children and families, such as—

''(i) technical assistance, including support for local programs to collect outcome data that helps improve service delivery;

''(ii) professional development; and

''(iii) peer support networks, including through developing a problem-solving forum.''.

SEC. 202. ELIGIBILITY.

Section 202 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116a) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

''(A) the Governor of the State has designated a lead entity to administer funds under this title for the purposes identified under the authority of this title, including to develop, implement, operate, enhance, or expand community-based family strengthening services designed to prevent child abuse and neglect;''; and

(B) by striking subparagraph (D) and inserting the following:

''(D) the Governor of the State has given consideration to the capacity and expertise of all entities requesting to be designated under subparagraph (A);''; and

(2) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

''(A) has demonstrated ongoing meaningful partnerships with parents in the development, operation, and oversight of State- and community-based family strengthening services designed to prevent child abuse and neglect;'';

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''community-based and prevention-focused programs and activities designed to strengthen and support families'' and inserting ''community-based family strengthening services designed'';

(C) by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

''(C) has the capacity to provide operational support (both financial and programmatic), professional development, technical assistance, and evaluation assistance, to community-based organizations;''; and

(D) by striking subparagraph (D) and inserting the following:

''(D) will integrate efforts with individuals and organizations experienced in working in partnership with low-income families, racial and ethnic minorities, families with children or caregivers with disabilities, sexual and gender minority youth, victims of domestic violence, and with the child abuse and neglect prevention activities in the State, and demonstrate a financial commitment to those activities; and

''(E) will take into consideration access for diverse populations and unmet need when distributing funds to local programs under section 205.''.

SEC. 203. AMOUNT OF GRANT.

Section 203 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116b) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

''(a) RESERVATION.—For the purpose of making allotments to Indian tribes and tribal organizations and migrant programs, the Secretary shall reserve 5 percent of the amount appropriated under section 210(a) for each fiscal year, except that, if making such reservation would cause the total amount allotted to States under this section for a fiscal year to be less than such total for fiscal year 2021, the Secretary shall reserve 1 percent of the amount appropriated under section 210(a) for the year for such purpose.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(d) LIMITATION.—For any fiscal year for which the amount allotted to a State under subsection (b) exceeds the amount allotted to the State under such subsection for fiscal year 2021, the State's lead entity may use not more than 10 percent of such excess amount for administrative expenses.''.

SEC. 204. APPLICATION.

Section 204 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116d) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''specified by the Secretary as essential to carrying out the provisions of section 202, including'' and inserting ''and assurances required in paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 202 and types of information specified by the Secretary as essential in carrying out the provisions of section 201(b), including'';

(2) in paragraphs (1), (2), and (4), by striking ''community-based and prevention-focused programs and activities designed to strengthen and support families'' and inserting ''community-based family strengthening services designed'';

(3) in paragraph (3) by striking ''community-based and prevention-focused programs and activities'' and inserting ''community-based family strengthening services designed'';

(4) in paragraph (5), by striking ''and prevention-focused programs and activities designed to strengthen and support families to prevent child abuse and neglect;'' and inserting ''services and statewide strategies designed to strengthen and support families to promote child, family, and community well-being and prevent child abuse and neglect;'';

(5) by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the following:

''(6) a description of the State's capacity and commitment to ensure the meaningful involvement of parents who are or have been consumers of preventative supports, including the involvement of parents of diverse populations, such as low-income families, families with children or caregivers with disabilities, racial and ethnic minorities, and members of other underrepresented or underserved groups, family advocates, and adult victims of child abuse or neglect who can provide leadership in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the programs and policy decisions of the applicant agency in accomplishing the desired outcomes for such efforts;'';

(6) by redesignating paragraph (12) as paragraph (15);

(7) by redesignating paragraphs (7) through (11) as paragraphs (8) through (12), respectively;

(8) by inserting after paragraph (6) the following:

''(7) a description of the process and criteria the lead entity will use to identify and select communities in which to build a continuum of family strengthening services, including an assurance that the process will ensure access for all families, including families in communities with high rates of child abuse and neglect relative to other communities in the State;'';

(9) by striking paragraph (9), as so redesignated, and inserting the following:

''(9) a description of outreach activities that the lead entity and local grantees will undertake to maximize the participation of low-income families, racial and ethnic minorities, families with children or caregivers with disabilities, sexual and gender minority youth, victims of domestic violence, homeless families and those at risk of homelessness, and members of other underserved or underrepresented groups;'';

(10) by striking paragraph (10), as so redesignated, and inserting the following:

''(10) a plan for providing operational support, professional development, and technical assistance to grantees, other State and local programs and providers, families, and other entities involved in strengthening families and preventing child abuse and neglect;'';

(11) in paragraph (11), as so redesignated, by striking ''and its members (where appropriate)'' and inserting ''of community-based family strengthening services and statewide initiatives''; and

(12) by striking paragraph (12), as so redesignated, and inserting the following:

''(12) a description of the actions that the applicant entity will take to inform systemic changes in State policies, practices, procedures, and regulations to improve the delivery of community-based family strengthening services designed to promote child, family, and community well-being, and to prevent child abuse and neglect;

''(13) a description of how the lead entity will incorporate research evidence in its process for selecting community-based family strengthening services;

''(14) an assurance that, in issuing regulations to improve the delivery of community-based family strengthening services designed to promote child, family, and community well-being, and to prevent child abuse and neglect, the State will—

''(A) take into account how such regulations will impact activities funded under this Act; and

''(B) where appropriate, attempt to avoid duplication of efforts, minimize costs of compliance with such regulations, and maximize local flexibility with respect to such regulations; and''.

SEC. 205. LOCAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.

Section 205 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116e) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 205. LOCAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Grants from the lead entity made under this title shall be used to

develop, implement, operate, expand, and enhance community-based family strengthening services designed to prevent child abuse and neglect that—

''(1) assess community assets and needs and develop a strategy to create a comprehensive continuum of effective services that strengthen and support families to prevent child abuse and neglect, through a planning process involving parents, local and public agencies, local nonprofit organizations and service providers, and private sector representatives in meaningful ways;

''(2) develop or enhance existing place-based family strengthening services, other parenting support services, and connections and coordination among key family services in the community by reaching spaces familiar to such families; and

''(3) help families build protective factors that support child and family well-being and help prevent child abuse and neglect, including knowledge of parenting and child development, parental resilience, social connections, time-limited and need-based concrete support, and social and emotional development of children.

''(b) LOCAL CONSIDERATION.—In awarding grants, the lead entity shall consider, consistent with the needs of the State and community, how the grantee—

''(1) demonstrates the ability to form collaborations across a range of services or initiatives and the commitment to engage in long-term planning and strategic development for community-based family strengthening services as well as provide on-going problem solving support;

''(2) involves parents, including parents of children with disabilities, diverse racial and ethnic groups, and members of other underrepresented or underserved populations, in the development, implementation, oversight, and evaluation of services;

''(3) addresses the need for place-based services and the need to reach families in hard-to-reach areas through approaches that provide core family strengthening services;

''(4) promotes improved access to family strengthening services for diverse populations and ensures that the services address identified needs of all families; and

''(5) demonstrates an understanding of the sources of child and family trauma and the strategies that mitigate the impact of and prevent adverse childhood experiences.

''(c) LOCAL USES OF FUNDS.—Grant funds from the lead entity shall be used for community-based family strengthening services designed to prevent child abuse and neglect, which may include the following:

''(1) Developing a strategy based on supporting a comprehensive continuum of preventive, family-centered services that strengthen and support families to prevent child abuse and neglect, especially to young parents, to parents with young children, and to parents who are adult victims of domestic violence or child abuse or neglect, through public-private partnerships.

''(2) Addressing the needs of families in hard-to-reach areas by creating access to place-based family strengthening services.

''(3) Performing an assessment of community needs, including by partnering, at the option of the grantee, with an organization that already has performed a needs assessment (such as a Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting program under section 511 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 711) or a Head Start program under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.)).

''(4) Supporting outreach for services, including by coordinating with existing family strengthening services such as home visiting and other early intervention programs.

''(5) Providing, promoting the development or enhancement of, or connecting families to, core services that include—

''(A) parenting support and parent education programs, including services that help parents and other caregivers support children's development;

''(B) parent leadership skills development programs that support parents' personal growth as leaders in their families and communities;

''(C) mutual support groups for parents, children, and parent partners;

''(D) respite and crisis care; and

''(E) referrals to optional community and social services, including—

''(i) domestic violence services;

''(ii) screening and referrals to early intervention;

''(iii) voluntary home visiting programs;

''(iv) health and mental health services, including referrals for information on the State Medicaid plan under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.);

''(v) early care and learning programs including child care and Head Start programs and Early Head Start programs under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.);

''(vi) nutrition programs, including the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children established under section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786) and the supplemental nutrition assistance program established under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.);

''(vii) education and workforce development programs, including adult literacy, child development, wellness, and family socioeconomic mobility programs; and

''(viii) services and supports to meet the needs of families with children or caregivers with disabilities, such as early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families, as early intervention services are defined in section 632 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1432).

''(6) Providing leadership in mobilizing local public and private resources to support the provision of community-based family strengthening services designed to prevent child abuse and neglect.

''(7) Developing and maintaining meaningful partnerships with parents relating to the development, operation, evaluation, and oversight of the programs and services.

''(8) Coordinating with other community-based family strengthening services designed to prevent child abuse and neglect in the development, operation, and expansion of networks where appropriate.

''(d) PRIORITY.—When awarding grants, a lead entity shall give priority to effective community-based efforts that serve low-income communities and are focused on comprehensive approaches to serving young parents or parents with young children.''.

SEC. 206. PERFORMANCE MEASURES.

Section 206 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116f) is amended—

(1) in paragraphs (1), (5), (6), and (8), by striking ''community-based and prevention-focused programs and activities designed to strengthen and support families'' and inserting ''community-based family strengthening services designed'';

(2) in paragraph (1), by striking ''meets'' and inserting ''meet'';

(3) in paragraph (2), by striking ''including core and optional services as described in section 202'';

(4) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

''(3) shall demonstrate how they have addressed unmet needs identified by the inventory required under section 204;'';

(5) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

''(4) shall describe the number of families served, including families with children or caregivers with disabilities, and the involvement of a diverse representation of families in the design, operation, and evaluation of both community-based family strengthening services and networks of such services;'';

(6) by striking paragraph (7) and inserting the following:

''(7) shall describe—

''(A) the number of programs funded disaggregated by urban, suburban, and rural community type;

''(B) the number of children and families served under each such program disaggregated by urban, suburban, and rural community type; and

''(C) the number of programs that partner with outside entities and the services such outside entities provide;'';

(7) in paragraph (8)—

(A) by striking ''leadership of'' and insert ''partnership with''; and

(B) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(8) by adding at the end the following:

''(9) shall describe the extent to which there is evidence to support the effectiveness of activities conducted under this title for the program's intended purpose, or, in instances where such evidence is not available, shall describe barriers and challenges to developing evidence of effectiveness.''.

SEC. 207. NATIONAL NETWORK FOR COMMUNITY-BASED FAMILY RESOURCE PROGRAMS.

Section 207 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116g) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''such sums as may be necessary'' and inserting ''not more than 5 percent''; and

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking ''community-based and prevention-focused programs and activities designed to strengthen and support families'' and inserting ''community-based family strengthening services designed''.

SEC. 208. DEFINITIONS.

Section 208 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116h) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as paragraphs (2) and (1), respectively, and transferring paragraph (1) as redesignated to appear before paragraph (2) as redesignated; and

(2) by striking paragraph (1) (as so redesignated) and inserting the following:

''(1) COMMUNITY-BASED FAMILY STRENGTHENING SERVICES.—The term 'community-based family strengthening services' includes organizations such as family resource programs, family support programs, voluntary home visiting programs, respite care services, parenting education, mutual support groups for parents, children, parent partner programs, and other community programs or networks of such programs that provide activities that are designed to prevent child abuse and neglect.''.

SEC. 209. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title II of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 209 as section 210; and

(2) by inserting after section 208 the following:

''SEC. 209. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

''Nothing in this title shall be construed to prohibit grandparents, kinship care providers, foster parents, adoptive parents, or any other individual in a parenting role from

receiving or participating in services and programs under this title.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act is amended by striking the item relating to section 209 and inserting the following:

''Sec. 209. Rule of construction.

''Sec. 210. Authorization of appropriations.''.

SEC. 210. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 210 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116 et seq.), as redesignated by section 209 of this Act, is amended—

(1) by striking ''There are'' and inserting the following:

''(a) IN GENERAL.—There are'';

(2) by striking ''to carry out'' through ''fiscal year 2010'' and inserting ''to carry out this title $270,000,000 for fiscal year 2022'';

(3) by striking ''2011 through 2015'' and inserting ''2023 through 2027''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) TREATMENT OF NON-FEDERAL FUNDS IN CERTAIN FISCAL YEARS.—For any fiscal year for which the amount appropriated under subsection (a) exceeds the amount appropriated under such subsection for fiscal year 2021, the Secretary shall consider non-Federal funds and in-kind contributions as part of the State contribution for the activities specified in section 204(4).''.

SEC. 211. STUDY AND REPORT.

(a) STUDY RELATING TO NEW PREVENTION PROGRAMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall complete a study, using data reported by States to the Secretary of Health and Human Services under section 206 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116f), as amended by this Act—

(A) to determine how many families and children in the first 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act are served annually through programs funded under title II of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116 et seq.); and

(B) to compare the number of such families and children served annually in the first 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act to the number of such families and children served in fiscal year 2021.

(2) CONTENTS.—The study required under paragraph (1) shall include the following for each of the first 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act:

(A) An examination of how many families received evidence-based programming under title II of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116 et seq.).

(B) An examination of the extent to which local programs conduct evaluations using funds provided under such title and the findings of such evaluations.

(C) An examination of whether findings of effectiveness in evaluation studies vary by urban, suburban, or rural community type.

(D) An examination of whether programs partnering with other entities are more effective than those that do not partner with other entities.

(E) An examination of barriers to implement evidence-based programming or to conduct evaluations in instances where such activities do not occur.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives a report that contains the results of the study conducted under paragraph (1).

TITLE III—ADOPTION OPPORTUNITIES

SEC. 301. PURPOSE.

Section 201 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 5111) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking ''**CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS AND DECLARATION OF PURPOSE**'' and inserting ''**PURPOSE**'';

(2) by striking subsection (a); and

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking ''(b) PURPOSE.—'';

(B) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting ''sexual and gender minority youth'' after ''particularly older children, minority children,''; and

(C) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''services and,'' after ''post-legal adoption''.

SEC. 302. REPORT AND GUIDANCE ON UNREGULATED CUSTODY TRANSFERS.

The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 5111 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 201 the following:

''SEC. 202. REPORT AND GUIDANCE ON UNREGULATED CUSTODY TRANSFERS.

''(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that:

''(1) Some adopted children may be at risk of experiencing an unregulated custody transfer because the challenges associated with adoptions (including the child's mental health needs and the difficulties many families face in acquiring support services) may lead families to seek out unregulated custody transfers.

''(2) Some adopted children experience trauma, and the disruption and placement in another home by unregulated custody transfer creates additional trauma and instability for children.

''(3) Children who experience an unregulated custody transfer may be placed with families who have not completed required child welfare or criminal background checks or clearances.

''(4) Social services agencies and courts are often unaware of the placement of children through unregulated custody transfer and therefore do not conduct assessments on the child's safety and well-being in such placements.

''(5) Such lack of placement oversight places a child at risk for future abuse and increases the chance that the child may experience—

''(A) abuse or neglect;

''(B) contact with unsafe adults or youth; and

''(C) exposure to unsafe or isolated environments.

''(6) The caregivers with whom a child is placed through unregulated custody transfer often have no legal responsibility with respect to such child, placing the child at risk for additional unregulated custody transfers.

''(7) Such caregivers also may not have complete records with respect to such child, including the child's birth, medical, or immigration records.

''(8) A child adopted through intercountry adoption may be at risk of not acquiring United States citizenship if an unregulated custody transfer occurs before the adoptive parents complete all necessary steps to finalize the adoption of such child.

''(9) Engaging in, or offering to engage in, unregulated custody transfer places children at risk of harm.

''(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall provide to the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Finance of the Senate, and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report on unregulated custody transfers of children, including of adopted children.

''(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include—

''(A) the causes, methods, and characteristics of unregulated custody transfers, including the use of social media and the internet;

''(B) the effects of unregulated custody transfers on children, including the lack of assessment of a child's safety and well-being by social services agencies and courts due to such unregulated custody transfer;

''(C) the prevalence of unregulated custody transfers within each State and across all States; and

''(D) recommended policies for preventing, identifying, and responding to unregulated custody transfers, including of adopted children, that include—

''(i) amendments to Federal and State law to address unregulated custody transfers;

''(ii) amendments to child protection practices to address unregulated custody transfers; and

''(iii) methods of providing the public information regarding adoption and child protection.

''(c) GUIDANCE TO STATES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date specified in subsection (b)(1), the Secretary shall issue guidance and technical assistance to States related to preventing, identifying, and responding to unregulated custody transfers, including of adopted children.

''(2) ELEMENTS.—The guidance required under paragraph (1) shall include—

''(A) education materials related to preventing, identifying, and responding to unregulated custody transfers for employees of State, local, and Tribal agencies that provide child welfare services;

''(B) guidance on appropriate pre-adoption education and post-adoption services for domestic and international adoptive families to promote child permanency; and

''(C) the assistance available through the National Resource Center for Special Needs Adoption under section 203(b)(9).

''(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) STATE.—The term 'State' means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, and any commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States.

''(2) UNREGULATED CUSTODY TRANSFER.—The term 'unregulated custody transfer' means the abandonment of a child, by the child's parent, legal guardian, or a person or entity acting on behalf, and with the consent, of such parent or guardian—

''(A) by placing a child with a person who is not—

''(i) the child's parent, step-parent, grandparent, adult sibling, legal guardian, or other adult relative;

''(ii) a friend of the family who is an adult and with whom the child is familiar; or

''(iii) a member of the Federally recognized Indian tribe of which the child is also a member;

''(B) with the intent of severing the relationship between the child and the parent or guardian of such child; and

''(C) without—

''(i) reasonably ensuring the safety of the child and permanency of the placement of the child, including by conducting an official home study, background check, and supervision; and

''(ii) transferring the legal rights and responsibilities of parenthood or guardianship under applicable Federal and State law to a person described in subparagraph (A).''.

SEC. 303. INFORMATION AND SERVICES.

(a) NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR SPECIAL NEEDS ADOPTION.—Section 203(b)(9) of

the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 5113(b)(9)) is amended by inserting ''not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of the Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, establish and'' before ''maintain''.

(b) PLACEMENT WITH ADOPTIVE FAMILIES.—Section 203(b)(11)(C) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 5113(b)(11)(C)) is amended by striking ''such children'' and inserting ''the children and youth described in the matter preceding paragraph (1) of section 201''.

(c) PRE-ADOPTION SERVICES.—Section 203(c)(1) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 5113(c)(1)) is amended by striking ''post'' and inserting ''pre- and post-''.

(d) SERVICES.—Section 203(c)(2) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 5113(c)(2)) is amended by inserting ''and the development of such services,'' after ''not supplant, services''.

(e) ELIMINATION OF BARRIERS TO ADOPTION ACROSS JURISDICTIONAL BOUNDARIES.—Section 203(e)(1) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 5113(e)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''with, States,'' and inserting ''with States, Indian Tribes,''; and

(2) by inserting '', including through the use of web-based tools such as the electronic interstate case-processing system referred to in section 437(g) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 629g(g))'' before the period at the end.

SEC. 304. STUDY AND REPORT ON SUCCESSFUL ADOPTIONS.

Section 204 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 5114) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 204. STUDY AND REPORT ON SUCCESSFUL ADOPTIONS.

''(a) STUDY.—The Secretary shall conduct a study (directly or by grant to, or contract with, public or private nonprofit research agencies or organizations) on adoption outcomes and the factors (including parental substance use disorder) affecting those outcomes.

''(b) REPORT.—Not later than the date that is 36 months after the date of the enactment of the Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act the Secretary shall submit a report to Congress that includes the results of the study required under subsection (a).''.

SEC. 305. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 205(a) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 5115(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''fiscal year 2010'' and inserting ''fiscal year 2022''; and

(2) by striking ''fiscal years 2011 through 2015'' and inserting ''fiscal years 2023 through 2027''.

TITLE IV—AMENDMENTS TO OTHER LAWS

SEC. 401. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO OTHER LAWS.

(a) HEAD START ACT.—Section 658E(c)(2)(L) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9858c(c)(2)(L)) is amended by striking ''will comply with the child abuse reporting requirements of section 106(b)(2)(B)(i) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a(b)(2)(B)(i))'' and inserting ''will comply with the child abuse reporting requirements of section 106(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a(b)(2)(A)(i))''.

(b) VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT OF 1984.—Section 1404A of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (34 U.S.C. 20104) is amended by striking ''section 109'' and inserting ''section 107''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, or Stronger CAPTA.

One of the most basic responsibilities as public servants is to protect children from physical and emotional trauma of child abuse and neglect.

Unfortunately, at the beginning of the last decade, we saw a disturbing rise in rates of child maltreatment, which coincided with the devastating opioid epidemic. Now the COVID–19 pandemic is not only reaffirming the urgent need to address the growing crisis, but also, across the country, families are coping with severe financial and emotional challenges. State child protective services agencies, which have been chronically underfunded, are also struggling to help families while keeping caseworkers safe.

Stronger CAPTA is a bipartisan solution we need to prevent child abuse and neglect from happening in the first place and to provide better treatments to address child abuse when it takes place.

This legislation provides States with the resources they need to expand locally driven prevention strategies, which will help strengthen families and improve child protective services. It also invests in child protective services so that they can ensure that caseworkers will have the resources to both help children and keep themselves safe. The legislation also streamlines communications between child protective services across the country so that critical information is not lost across State lines.

Such a system would have likely saved the life of Heaven Watkins, an 11-year-old girl from my community, who tragically died because local child protective services had no way of knowing that her parents had a history of child abuse in another State.

Finally, Stronger CAPTA builds on our bipartisan commitment to keeping families together when it is in the best interest of the child.

Madam Speaker, we must do everything in our power to ensure that our Nation's children learn and grow in healthy environments. That is why, last Congress, both Democrats and Republicans worked together to pass Stronger CAPTA with broad bipartisan support. Our bipartisan effort to pass this bill again this year demonstrates that, no matter our party affiliations, we can all agree that Congress must do everything we can to support children and families.

To that end, I thank the subcommittee chair, Ms. BONAMICI; and ranking subcommittee member, Mr. COMER, for their leadership on this key priority for our committees.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from Virginia, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today as a partner in important work to prevent and treat child abuse through the bipartisan Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, or Stronger CAPTA.

Child abuse and neglect are heartbreaking, immoral, and inexcusable. No child should ever have to endure pain and suffering at the hands of a parent or caregiver, yet, unfortunately, such behavior continues to affect millions of children across the country.

This bill, Stronger CAPTA, is focused on doing what Congress can do to see that no child experiences the dreadful impacts caused by neglect and abuse. This legislation is the result of bipartisan collaboration among members of the Committee on Education and Labor and will strengthen Federal efforts to recognize, prevent, and treat child abuse and neglect nationwide.

While we have a variety of perspectives represented on the committee, I believe this compromise will benefit children and families and maintain important protections for parents and faith-based providers of care to families.

Importantly, Stronger CAPTA not only protects children, but it also maintains and strengthens parental rights. While there are certainly instances where intervention is necessary, this legislation includes important safeguards to limit unsubstantiated or false reports and provides education to child protective service workers about the rights of parents and families.

The first priority of the Federal Government should always be to protect and respect the family unit, while fostering an environment for both parents and children to thrive. Stronger CAPTA gives a holistic view of child abuse and neglect, providing States with resources designed to strengthen families and keep children with those who love them most.

CAPTA was originally enacted in 1974, to support the development of programs aimed at prevention, assessment, investigation, prosecution, and treatment of child abuse and neglect.

Stronger CAPTA seeks to continue this important work while putting more emphasis on prevention so that abuse and neglect can be stopped before it happens.

Madam Speaker, the need to pass this legislation and send it to the President's desk is urgent. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, heightened stress, school closures, loss of income, and social isolation resulting from the COVID–19 pandemic have increased the risk for child abuse and neglect.

The rate of child maltreatment has ticked up in recent years, devastating families and communities across the country and underscoring the necessity to open America's schools safely. Without teachers interacting with students every day, an entire line of defense against neglect and abuse is lost.

Additionally, due to the increased demand on their services, State child protective service agencies are struggling to respond to the growing number of reports they receive each year.

That is why we are here. Stronger CAPTA will help States address the recent and devastating rise in child abuse and neglect by improving the quality of child protective services and building networks of prevention services designed to strengthen American families.

It improves collaboration between States regarding accountability, supports the development of strategies and best practices for reducing rates of abuse and neglect linked to parents' substance abuse disorder, and ensures that no child is removed from a family solely because of their economic situation or without a judicial order, except in cases of imminent harm.

Furthermore, the bill seeks to prevent and treat child abuse by engaging the community. We want to prevent abuse before it ever happens, and one of the best ways to accomplish that goal is to ensure that communities and parents work together in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of prevention services.

I believe every Member of this body wishes to live in a world where laws like Stronger CAPTA are not necessary. Unfortunately, we do not live in such a world, but it is reassuring that during times of extreme political divisiveness, we can come together for the greater good.

Madam Speaker, I acknowledge the hard work done on both sides of the aisle to author this bipartisan legislation aimed at protecting some of our most vulnerable citizens. Protecting America's children from abuse and neglect is something we can all agree is of paramount importance, and I am glad we could work together on such a meaningful initiative.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to support the Stronger CAPTA, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. MCBATH), a distinguished member of the Committee on Education and Labor.

Mrs. MCBATH. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman SCOTT for yielding. I appreciate it.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 485, the Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act.

Children are our future teachers, doctors, police officers, and Members of Congress. It is our responsibility to ensure that they can live, learn, and grow up in a safe environment.

In fiscal year 2020, in my home State of Georgia, it actually ranked second in the country for the number of calls to child abuse hotlines.

That is why I was so proud to introduce an amendment in the Committee on Education and Labor last Congress with my colleague, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK), that would establish a national child abuse hotline. I am excited that same language was once again included in this year's Stronger CAPTA legislation.

Madam Speaker, our bill will create a grant program for a national child abuse hotline, for the establishment and operation of a 24-hour hotline for victims of child abuse. Their families and caregivers, parents, youth, mandated reporters, and any other concerned community member can call or text the national child abuse hotline when looking for immediate help and support during moments of crisis and moments of doubt.

The COVID–19 pandemic has increased the risk factors that lead to child abuse, as millions are experiencing elevated levels of stress due in part to job and income loss, or even the loss of a loved one. Before the pandemic, teachers, social workers, and members of the community who regularly interacted with children and youth were able to identify the instances of child abuse and record them and report them accordingly. However, as we maintain social distancing to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe, it is much harder for those individuals, who once interacted with our youth, to identify such abuse.

That is why we must continue to invest in child abuse and prevention services, such as the national child abuse hotline that Congressman STEFANIK and I have included in Stronger CAPTA.

□ 1600

We do not yet know the full extent to which the COVID–19 pandemic will impact our children, but we need to make sure that we are fully prepared to take care of them no matter what.

As my esteemed colleague, Representative FOXX, has just made mention of, we know that additional stressors with COVID–19 pose more conflicts in our homes, and thereby adding additional opportunities for child abuse. Now is not the time to reduce funding or support for these well-needed services. Our Nation's children need us now more than ever.

And I am so grateful, even though I no longer have my child with me, I am so grateful to be able to encourage my colleagues to stand and support this well-meaning legislation so that I can take part in saving the lives and protecting children that may not even be my own.

Stronger CAPTA is bipartisan legislation that provides critical protections and resources to families and children across our Nation to prevent and end child abuse. With the passage of this bipartisan legislation, we are just one step closer to saving our children's lives. Stronger CAPTA is important, not only for my home State of Georgia, but for the Nation.

Together we must ensure the safety of our Nation's children, they are our future. If we, as a Nation, do not protect the most vulnerable in the least of these, then who are we? Who are we in the eyes of the Nation? And who are we in the eyes of the world? Together we must ensure the safety of our Nation's children.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues, both Republicans and Democrats, to support this very vital, well-meaning and important legislation.

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

Madam Speaker, no child should ever have to endure the pain of abuse or neglect by a parent or caregiver, and that is why today's work is so important.

By passing today's bill, we are focused on protecting the most vulnerable citizens among us and give them a voice here in Congress.

The bipartisan Stronger CAPTA bolsters prevention efforts and streamlines current assurances and requirements so States can focus on serving and providing treatment to children rather than spending more time filling out paperwork.

Child abuse and neglect has no place in America's homes, and it is my hope that today's legislation will significantly reduce the number of children who must cope with the devastating impacts of abuse and neglect.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their hard work on this critical legislation. Again, I urge a ''yes'' vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, I, once again, want to thank Ms. BONAMICI and Mr. COMER, as well as Ms. STEVENS, Ms. STEFANIK, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. JOHNSON, and Ranking Member FOXX for their leadership in advancing this bill.

Stronger CAPTA will make significant improvements in existing law by authorizing record levels of funding for prevention as well as treating child abuse, increasing accountability to make sure States are using the money effectively, and closing gaps in the law that will put vulnerable children in danger.

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

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise today in strong support of the CAPTA reauthorization measure that is before the House today.

I want to thank Chairman SCOTT and Ranking Member FOXX for their leadership and for the bipartisan work on this legislation that has brought us to this point.

This measure provides an overdue but critical reauthorization of programs authorized under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA). These changes would, among others, address child abuse and neglect related to families impacted by substance use disorders, racial bias in the child protective services system, and improving efforts to combat child sexual abuse.

The bill also contains language based on my Family Poverty is Not Child Neglect Act, which aims to stop families from being ripped apart not because of neglect or abuse, but for issues rooted in poverty. In these situations, services to help families and support them and their children are a much better approach than family separation.

I appreciate the support from the chairman and bipartisan support and efforts of Rep. SUSIE LEE and Rep. BOB GOOD to ensure this language was included in the bill.

I also worked with Rep. JOSEPH MORELLE and Rep. VAN TAYLOR to include the Study and Report on Marital Age of Consent examining the prevalence of forced child marriages in the United States and their impact on children's safety and well-being.

I am pleased that we are taking steps to refresh and strengthen our efforts, with states and local authorities, to protect our children. I urge my colleagues to vote yes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 485.

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

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

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

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

COVID–19 BANKRUPTCY RELIEF EXTENSION ACT OF 2021

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1651) to amend the CARES Act to extend the sunset for the definition of a small business debtor, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1651

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 ''COVID–19 Bankruptcy Relief Extension Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. EXTENSIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1113 of the CARES Act (Public Law 116–136) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(5) (11 U.S.C. 1182 note), by striking ''1 year'' and inserting ''2 years''; and

(2) in subsection (b)(2)(B) (11 U.S.C. 101 note), by striking ''1 year'' and inserting ''2 years''.

(b) MODIFICATION OF PLAN AFTER CONFIRMATION.—

(1) Section 1329(d)(1) of title 11, United States Code, is amended, in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''this subsection'' and inserting ''the COVID–19 Bankruptcy Relief Extension Act of 2021''.

(2) Section 1113(b)(1)(D)(ii) of the CARES Act (11 U.S.C. 1329 note) is amended by striking ''this Act'' and inserting ''the COVID–19 Bankruptcy Relief Extension Act of 2021''.

(c) BANKRUPTCY RELIEF.—Section 1001 of division FF of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260) is amended by striking ''the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act'' each place the term appears and inserting ''March 27, 2022''.

SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled ''Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation'' for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 1651.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 1651, the COVID–19 Bankruptcy Relief Extension Act of 2021, is bipartisan legislation to temporarily extend, until March 27, 2022, the COVID–19 bankruptcy relief provisions enacted as part of the CARES Act in the December 2020 omnibus appropriations bill.

Since the bankruptcy provisions of the CARES Act will expire next week, it is urgent for Congress to ensure that families and small businesses do not lose access to these economic lifelines.

These provisions were enacted last year to provide critical relief to families and small businesses forced into bankruptcy because of the ongoing pandemic. For example, they help ensure that Federal COVID-related relief payments are used by families to get through this pandemic instead of being seized by creditors. They also help people stay in their homes and ensure that their utilities are not shut off.

In addition, these provisions protect individuals and creditors alike from the effects of the pandemic derailing the court-ordered repayment plans that promise a way out of chapter 13 bankruptcy.

They will also allow more small businesses to take advantage of the streamlined process established by the Small Business Reorganization Act.

Extending these necessary protections until March of next year will provide much-needed certainty that the bankruptcy system will remain responsive to debtors and creditors alike during this extraordinarily disruptive crisis.

I thank Mr. CLINE for his work with me on this bill, and for his work to ensure that small businesses have meaningful access to the bankruptcy process.

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

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

Madam Speaker, this pandemic, everyone knows, has uprooted lives and caused untold destruction to families, to workers, and to small businesses. And many see the partisan behavior as destructive during this time, and they often do not see the bipartisan behavior.

Today's extension, H.R. 1651, is an example of bipartisan behavior on behalf of the American people. Repeated and lengthy government shutdowns in response to the pandemic have devastated the ability of millions to work, pay bills, and support their families, and keep their small businesses afloat.

In my home State of California, the restaurant industry has seen more than one out of four restaurants shutter their doors forever.

In 2020, Congress passed five bipartisan COVID relief packages. The CARES Act allowed a variety of temporary relief measures for families and small businesses. When it was passed, we believed that, in fact, once the vaccine was available, that we would be able to put this behind us. But today, when over 10 percent of Americans have received a vaccine, we now know that the road to full recovery is longer ahead of us even after we begin going to work.

So allowing small businesses to file chapter 11 bankruptcy by increasing the maximum debt ceiling, excluding Federal COVID relief payments from income calculations, and allowing debtors to file chapter 13 to modify their payment plans are only some of the critical items that the CARES Act did. Today we are making sure these will continue until March of 2022.

This bill also extends through 2022 bankruptcy relief provisions included in the December 2020 COVID relief package. This extension will provide

individuals and businesses with certainty and simplicity as they look at an economic recovery that, although it is underway, may be long.

Enacting this bill will assist debtors and businesses of all sorts, as Americans and their firms continue to address economic realities. This bill is bipartisan, and the bill recognizes that even businesses which have remained up and running often find themselves in a ripple effect of other bankruptcies or failures by companies that have been shut down.

Madam Speaker, I strongly recommend the passage of this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE), one of the coauthors of this bill.

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California, my friend, for his work on this issue, and I thank the chairman for his work on this issue and their great leadership on this important initiative.

Madam Speaker, in 2010, the National Bankruptcy Conference Small Business Working Group released and presented to Congress a report that identified a problem regarding small businesses and the bankruptcy law, and recommended amendments to the code to add a new chapter for small business reorganizations.

As a result of this recommendation, I introduced the Small Business Reorganization Act, which was signed into law in August of 2019, and I am pleased to say it has been a great success for small businesses.

It is my understanding that 80 percent of small business debtors have chosen to proceed under subchapter V, and preliminary data indicates that these cases are achieving confirmation far more often than small businesses who filed prior to SBRA.

However, the Small Business Reorganization Act implemented only a month before the COVID–19 pandemic caused the State-mandated temporary closure of thousands of businesses.

□ 1615

Seeing the need to ensure that this new lifeline would be even more impactful, the CARES Act passed in March 2020 increased the amount of debt a business can have to be eligible for small business bankruptcy procedures from $2.7 million to $7.5 million and allowed debtors experiencing hardship because of COVID–19 to modify bankruptcy reorganization plans entered into before the law was enacted.

I have heard from bankruptcy judges and lawyers in the Western District of Virginia who have said that their experience with the Small Business Reorganization Act has been extremely positive. According to the American Bankruptcy Institute, as of last Sunday, 1,651 cases have been filed.

In addition, according to the Federal Judicial Center's Integrated Database, as of September 30, 2020, there were 759 subchapter V cases filed in the 6 months from the time the debt limit was raised to the end of fiscal year 2020, with information on liabilities available for 548 of these cases. Of those, 28 percent involved debtors whose liabilities exceeded the original limit of $2.7 million. These debtors would not have been eligible for subchapter V without the temporary increase provided by the CARES Act.

Without this bill to keep the debt limit at $7.5 million for another year while we continue to navigate this pandemic, about 30 percent of businesses that would choose to use it would no longer be eligible.

Preservation of the business benefits both the creditor, which should receive a higher recovery because of the debtor's restructuring than they would if the business liquidated, and the debtor, who will now be able to remain in business rather than liquidating.

Our districts depend on their small businesses. They are hotels, convenience stores, restaurants, and pharmacies. Those who endeavor to open and run a small business are proud of their work and their standing in our communities.

Unfortunately, they also take on a sometimes-insurmountable financial burden. As we have seen over the last year, when they are forced to close, it has a great impact on the rest of us. That is why the year-end spending and relief package omitted recovery rebate payments from bankruptcy estates and blocked utilities from stopping or denying service to some individuals in bankruptcy. This bill would extend those provisions by 3 months but wouldn't affect other provisions in that law that are already scheduled to expire later in 2022.

I am proud to have introduced this legislation along with Chairman NADLER to support our small businesses and our families, and I urge its passage.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, both sides of the aisle are united behind this good, sensible extension of law.

Madam Speaker, I strongly recommend that all of our Members vote for it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, this bill will provide critical relief to the small businesses and families forced into bankruptcy because of the ongoing pandemic. These provisions help make sure that the pandemic does not derail the path to a fresh start that the bankruptcy code promises for individuals and businesses alike.

As Mr. ISSA said, this is bipartisan legislation. I am aware of no opposition to it whatsoever.

Madam Speaker, I hope all of my colleagues will support this urgently needed bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1651, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

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

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

VOCA FIX TO SUSTAIN THE CRIME VICTIMS FUND ACT OF 2021

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1652) to deposit certain funds into the Crime Victims Fund, to waive matching requirements, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1652

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 ''VOCA Fix to Sustain the Crime Victims Fund Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. COMPREHENSIVE FIX OF CRIME VICTIMS FUND AND COMPENSATION.

(a) CRIME VICTIMS FUND.—Section 1402 of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (34 U.S.C. 20101) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (4), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (5)(B), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(6) any funds that would otherwise be deposited in the general fund of the Treasury collected pursuant to—

''(A) a deferred prosecution agreement; or

''(B) a non-prosecution agreement.''; and

(2) in subsection (e), by striking ''Director'' and inserting ''Director, except that renewals and extensions beyond that period may be granted at the discretion of the Attorney General''.

(b) CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION.—Section 1403 of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (34 U.S.C. 20102) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''40 percent in fiscal year 2002 and of 60 percent in subsequent fiscal years'' and inserting ''75 percent'';

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''of 40 percent in fiscal year 2002 and of 60 percent in subsequent fiscal years'';

(C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(D) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph:

''(3) For the purposes of calculating amounts awarded in the previous fiscal year under this subsection, the Director shall not require eligible crime victim compensation programs to deduct recovery costs or collections from restitution or from subrogation for payment under a civil lawsuit.'';

(2) in subsection (b)(2) by striking ''authorities;'' and inserting ''authorities, except

if a program determines such cooperation may be impacted due to a victim's age, physical condition, psychological state, cultural or linguistic barriers, or any other health or safety concern that jeopardizes the victim's wellbeing;''; and

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(5) the term 'recovery costs' means expenses for personnel directly involved in the recovery efforts to obtain collections from restitution or from subrogation for payment under a civil law suit.''.

SEC. 3. WAIVER OF MATCHING REQUIREMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1404(a) of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (34 U.S.C. 20103(a)) is amended by inserting at the end the following new paragraph:

''(7)(A) Each chief executive may waive a matching requirement imposed by the Director, in accordance with subparagraph (B), as a condition for the receipt of funds under any program to provide assistance to victims of crimes authorized under this chapter. The chief executive shall report to the Director the approval of any waiver of the matching requirement.

''(B) Each chief executive shall establish and make public, a policy including—

''(i) the manner in which an eligible crime victim assistance program can request a match waiver;

''(ii) the criteria used to determine eligibility of the match waiver; and

''(iii) the process for decision making and notifying the eligible crime victim assistance program of the decision.''.

(b) NATIONAL EMERGENCY WAIVER.—Section 1404(a) of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (34 U.S.C. 20103(a)), as amended by subsection (a), is further amended by inserting at the end the following new paragraph:

''(8) Beginning on the date a national emergency is declared under the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) with respect to a pandemic and ending on the date that is one year after the date of the end of such national emergency, each chief executive shall issue waivers for any matching requirement, in its entirety, for all eligible crime victim assistance programs contracted to provide services at that time.''.

SEC. 4. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled ''Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation'' for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1652.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, the VOCA Fix to Sustain the Crime Victims Fund Act would support vital victim service programs by preventing future cuts to already diminished Federal victim service grants.

Grants under the Victims of Crime Act, or VOCA, are the primary source of Federal funding for thousands of victim service providers around the country, including programs serving victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, trafficking, and drunk driving. VOCA grants also fund victim compensation, including paying medical bills, covering lost wages, and paying for funeral costs.

These critical grants are not taxpayer-funded. Instead, they are paid out of the Crime Victims Fund, or CVF, which is funded, in turn, through Federal criminal fines, forfeited bail bonds, penalties, and special assessments collected by U.S. Attorneys' Offices, Federal U.S. courts, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Over the past several years, however, deposits into the CVF have dropped significantly, leading to corresponding cuts in grants to victim service providers. This is, in part, because the Federal Government has increased its reliance in recent years on deferred prosecution and nonprosecution agreements, the penalties from which are not deposited into the CVF.

This legislation would shore up funding for this critical fund by requiring DOJ to deposit penalties from these deferred prosecution and nonprosecution agreements into the CVF, in addition to the funds currently deposited from other sources.

Not only does this legislation ensure the CVF is more financially stable, it would also make much-needed improvements to victim compensation and services. For example, it would increase the statutory amount awarded to victim compensation programs, and it expands the range of victims eligible for compensation. It also allows States to request a no-cost extension from the Attorney General, as allowed for other Department of Justice formula grant programs, to ensure that States can thoughtfully and effectively distribute victim service grants without being penalized.

Other improvements include waiving matching requirements for the duration of the COVID–19 crisis, plus 1 additional year, and additional discretion for the States which administer VOCA funds to further waive matching requirements once this initial waiver period expires.

All of these provisions would substantially improve the program's effectiveness and would enable it to offer more services to more people.

I want to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK), the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), and the other bipartisan cosponsors of this important legislation for their support. I also want to thank our colleagues in the Senate, including Senator DURBIN, the lead sponsor, and Senator GRAHAM, for their efforts to pass this bill in that Chamber as well.

This bipartisan and bicameral legislation ensures that programs and services assisting victims of crime are fully funded and are better-supported, with no new taxpayer dollars.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, so often, we hear criminals should pay for what they have done wrong. This is exactly what the Victims of Crime Act has done.

Since 1984, it has provided the ability to collect fines and fees against those very perpetrators and apply it toward the solution and, in fact, the remediation of the damage they have done. No amount of money makes up for the crimes they have committed, but certainly, this goes a long way.

Today, we are dealing with the tendency within Article II, within the executive branch, that when money is available, to see if they can't move it to where they would like to spend it rather than the clear intent of Congress.

I would like to thank Chairman NADLER and Congresswoman WAGNER for their work on making sure that this bill does just that. It puts the money back where it was originally intended.

For instance, VOCA supports shelters for victims of domestic violence, which affects more than 12 million adults each year. VOCA funding is also used to support services for victims of child abuse and sexual assaults.

In all, more than 6,000 organizations nationwide are funded through this act. However, because funding has fluctuated and at times has been diverted by the Department of Justice, this, in fact, will both increase and stabilize those funds.

Over the years, Congress has adjusted funding flowing in and out of this account in an attempt to create certainty for support for these programs. Unfortunately, we haven't always succeeded, and I am not without some recognition that today will not be the last time we come back to say that Congress, on a completely nonpartisan basis, really means it: These penalties and fines need to get to the organizations that deal with the victims.

Today's bill will do just that. We stand, on a bipartisan basis, ready to ensure that we do that again.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the chairman, Congresswoman WAGNER, and all the others who worked so diligently on this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, across America, we can hear the cries of those who have been victims of crime. It is not in any way distinguished by communities, race, age, or sex. It prevails in our society.

I am reminded of the tragedy of two brothers on a crime spree killing a man and kidnapping a woman. Those are victims of crimes. Their families are victims of crimes.

I can assure you, Madam Speaker, that we stand collectively, as Members of Congress, recognizing that VOCA is crucial to responding to restorative justice for victims.

The Federal grants used to support victim services through VOCA have decreased significantly over the past several years. Further drastic cuts to VOCA funding are expected as the nontaxpayer-funded pool from which these grants originated, the Crime Victims Fund, is running dry.

I am delighted to be an original cosponsor with Chairman NADLER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Ms. SCANLON, and to have worked with Congresswoman WAGNER over the years on this very important legislation.

Further drastic cuts to VOCA are expected as the nontaxpayer-funded pool from which these grants originate, the Crime Victims Fund, is running dry. The Crime Victims Fund serves as an example of true justice because the money used to support victims comes, not from taxpayer dollars but, rather, from the criminal fines and penalties paid by federally convicted offenders.

The Crime Victims Fund has shrunk rapidly in recent years and continues to decline because, rather than prosecuting cases, the Department of Justice increasingly settles cases through deferred prosecution and nonprosecution agreements, and the monetary penalties associated with these agreements are deposited in the Treasury rather than the Crime Victims Fund.

We don't want to pit one form of reform against one great need. These agreements may diminish the ability of VOCA to be funded because of the lack of dollars going into the fund. The crimes for which these penalties are derived are the same whether they are prosecuted or settled, and the funding should be given to serve victims.

The VOCA Fix Act of 2021 fixes this by ensuring that monetary penalties associated with deferred and nonprosecution agreements go into the Crime Victims Fund instead of into the Treasury. It is common sense. Victims are outcrying their need for relief.

This simple fix will prevent future funding cuts that jeopardize programs' abilities to serve their communities and will help address the many growing and unmet needs of victims and survivors, including survivors of domestic violence.

We will be on the floor tomorrow with the opportunity to vote on the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act. There are countless examples in domestic violence, stalking, sexual assault, and sex trafficking that show that victims are in need. Victims are elders, victims are young, victims are families, and victims are mothers and fathers.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. SEWELL). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman an additional 1 minute.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. We are doing so because we recognize the urgency and dire need faced by victims and survivors throughout this country during a pinnacle moment caused by the pandemic.

The numbers of domestic violence have gone up in cities like Houston and San Antonio and in States like Oregon and New York. We should recognize that cooperation on this legislation, in terms of improving the funding, is absolutely crucial.

Without the VOCA fix of 2021, survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault will inevitably lose access to victim support services. It is leaving victims and survivors without options for safety and valuable opportunities to help them in their victimization if we don't fund this and change this process.

The VOCA fix will rebuild lives, and it will save the lives of children who have been impacted by violence against their family members.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1652, or the "VOCA Fix Act of 2021," a critical piece of legislation designed to curtail and prevent future cuts to an already diminished federal victim service grants program.

This legislation must pass, because VOCA grants provides compensation to victims of crime at critical moments of desperate need.

VOCA funds could help compensate the only surviving victim of Robert Lee Haskell who, driven by vengeance, fatally shot six members of his ex-wife's family in Texas, including four children.

The survivor of Haskell's rampage, a girl of only fifteen, was shot in the head and only survived by playing dead.

VOCA funds could help compensate the wife and two children of a man killed in a home intrusion in Harris County, Texas, after an intruder entered the family's home, ordered the wife and children to lock themselves into a room, and then proceeded to shoot their husband and father.

VOCA funds could help compensate a woman who was abducted in Houston and forced to drive to an ATM at gunpoint, where she withdrew cash to give to her abductors.

VOCA funds could help compensate innumerable victims and survivors of federal crimes, but only if we pass this legislation.

VOCA grants have been vital in their support of traditional victim service providers across the nation, particularly for those organizations serving victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, trafficking, and drunk driving.

VOCA grants also fund victim compensation, which helps survivors pay medical bills, missed wages, and in the most severe cases, funeral costs.

However, the federal grants used to support victim services through VOCA have decreased significantly over the past several years.

Further drastic cuts to VOCA funding are expected, as the non-taxpayer-funded pool from which these grants originate, the Crime Victims Fund, is running dry.

The Crime Victims Fund serves as an example of true justice, because the money used to support victims comes not from taxpayer dollars but rather from the criminal fines and penalties paid by federally convicted offenders.

The Crime Victims Fund has shrunk rapidly in recent years and continues to decline, because rather than prosecuting cases, the Department of Justice increasingly settles cases through deferred prosecution and non-prosecution agreements, and the monetary penalties associated with these agreements are deposited into the Treasury rather than the Crime Victims Fund.

These agreements deny funding to victim services, which is contrary to the spirit of VOCA: monetary penalties from crimes should go to serve victims of crimes.

The crimes from which these penalties are derived are the same, whether they are prosecuted or settled, and the funding should be going to serve victims.

The VOCA Fix Act of 2021 fixes this by ensuring that monetary penalties associated with deferred and non-prosecution agreements go into the Crime Victims Fund instead of into the Treasury.

This simple fix will prevent future funding cuts that jeopardize programs' abilities to serve their communities and will help address the many growing and unmet needs of victims and survivors, including survivors of domestic violence.

VICTIM COOPERATION

This legislation not only recognizes that it is the victims of crime that bear the brunt of the drastic cuts being made, but also that we must protect those victims that have the courage to come forward and work together with the authorities to bring justice to their offenders.

Victims who cooperate with authorities often fear for their own safety and face pain at revisited trauma, and this legislation recognizes that rather than putting victims in further danger, we create for them a safe environment—both physically and emotionally.

Victims may be intimidated by law enforcement or other government agencies, but if we want victims to fully and freely cooperate with the authorities, we must ensure that victims feel protected and that there is no risk of becoming retraumatized.

We must also make sure that if victims cooperate with authorities, then measures to ensure the safety of victims will be provided in our government agencies working in tandem with victim service providers.

Tomorrow, the House will vote on H.R. 1620, which will reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act (VA WA) of 1994.

We are doing so because we recognize the urgency and dire need faced by the victims and survivors throughout this country during a significant moment of ongoing domestic violence caused by this pandemic and experienced by both women and men.

Although local victim services agencies are there to help, they are facing record numbers of clients as well as the economic consequences of the pandemic.

Without the VOCA Fix Act of 2021, survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault will inevitably lose access to victim support

services, leaving victims and survivors without options for safety and vulnerable to further victimization.

Madam Speaker, the time is now to deliver access to the services victims and survivors so desperately need during a critical moment when the need for victim assistance has skyrocketed, and programs are being forced to cut lifesaving services for victims.

Yes, it will be the fair assessment of justice. That is what we are here to do; fair operatives of justice. So I ask my colleagues to support this legislation and to join us tomorrow to support the Violence Against Women Act, to recognize that it is our job to promote justice.

□ 1630

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER), who has done so much on this bill.

Mrs. WAGNER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding. A good friend in Congress for years, we are so glad to have the gentleman back.

I also thank Chairman NADLER for leading this legislation, along with so many others.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1652, the VOCA Fix to Sustain the Crime Victims Fund Act. I am proud to co-lead this critical legislation, which will ensure that victims of serious crimes can continue to access the services that they need to heal and rebuild their lives.

The Victims of Crime Act, or VOCA, grants are the primary source of support for programs dedicated to survivors of domestic abuse, sexual assault, trafficking, child abuse, and other very traumatic crimes.

These grants are funded by Federal criminal monetary penalties, not by taxpayers. However, with the Department of Justice increasingly seeking nonprosecution and deferred-prosecution agreements instead of prosecuting Federal crimes, VOCA grants are facing catastrophic cuts.

In my own home State of Missouri, we are expecting a 25 percent cut to VOCA funds in the upcoming year if this bill is not signed into law. Missouri law enforcement and victim service providers, along with prosecutors, need Congress to enact this legislation so they can protect and care for their communities.

If we do not act swiftly to stabilize the VOCA funding, thousands of Americans will be unable to access lifesaving services. These programs have never been more important. The pandemic has put women and children, in particular, at an increased risk of abuse and domestic violence. We cannot leave victims without support during frightening and vulnerable times.

This bipartisan and bicameral legislation will help those victims recover as our justice system prosecutes the criminals responsible, which is why I am also hopeful that when the Senate passes this, we will have the opportunity to actually make this law.

I am grateful that the House is taking swift action to secure services for victims. Again, I urge my colleagues to support the VOCA Fix to Sustain the Crime Victims Fund Act.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, in closing, I urge passage of this bill, I recommend that all Members vote ''yes,'' and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

Last year, all 56 State and territorial attorneys general sent a letter to Congress warning us that the balance and financial health of the Crime Victims Fund is in jeopardy and urging that we act swiftly to address the problem. They explained any decrease in the funds available for distribution results in a decrease in the number of victims and survivors that are served, as well as potential loss of essential staff in victim service programs.

The VOCA Fix to Sustain the Crime Victims Fund Act heeds their call and would ensure that this fund has the resources it needs to continue delivering essential services to victims of crime. This important legislation is supported by more than 1,670 national, regional, State, territorial, and local organizations.

I thank all of my colleagues who have supported this bill. I am aware of no opposition to this bill at all, and I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1652, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

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

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

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1620, VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2021; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6, AMERICAN DREAM AND PROMISE ACT OF 2021; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1603, FARM WORKFORCE MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2021; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1868, PREVENTING PAYGO SEQUESTRATION; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 17, REMOVING THE DEADLINE FOR THE RATIFICATION OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 233 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 233

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 1620) to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. An amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117-3, modified by the amendment printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees; (2) the further amendments described in section 2 of this resolution; (3) the amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution; and (4) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. After debate pursuant to the first section of this resolution, each further amendment printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules not earlier considered as part of amendments en bloc pursuant to section 3 of this resolution shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, may be withdrawn by the proponent at any time before the question is put thereon, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

SEC. 3. It shall be in order at any time after debate pursuant to the first section of this resolution for the chair of the Committee on the Judiciary or his designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of further amendments printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc offered pursuant to this section 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.

SEC. 4. All points of order against the further amendments printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution or amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution are waived.

SEC. 5. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 6) to authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain aliens, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. An amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117–4 shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 6. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 1603) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for terms and conditions for nonimmigrant workers performing agricultural labor or services, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment printed in part C of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 7. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 1868) to prevent across-the-board direct spending cuts, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 8. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 17) removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment. All points of order against consideration of the joint resolution are waived. The joint resolution shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the joint resolution are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 9. House Resolution 232 is hereby adopted.

SEC. 10. Notwithstanding clause 7(a) of rule X, during the One Hundred Seventeenth Congress, the period described in such clause shall end at midnight on April 22.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from California is recognized for 1 hour.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. FISCHBACH), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, today, the Rules Committee met and reported a rule, House Resolution 233, providing for consideration of H.R. 1620 under a structured rule. The rule self-executes a manager's amendment by Chairman NADLER, makes in order 41 amendments, and provides en bloc authority to Chairman NADLER.

□ 1645

The rule also provides for consideration of H.R. 6, H.R. 1603, and H.J. Res. 17, under closed rules.

The rule provides 1 hour of debate each, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their designees for H.R. 1620, H.R. 6, H.R. 1603, and H.J. Res. 17.

The rule provides for one motion to recommit on each bill. The rule also self-executes a manager's amendment by Chairman NADLER for H.R. 1603.

The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 1868 under a closed rule. It also provides 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking member of the Committee on the Budget or their designees.

Finally, the rule provides that H.R. 232 is hereby adopted and extends the deadline for the committee funding resolution until April 22, 2021.

Madam Speaker, we are here today to protect the vulnerable among us, to strengthen the foundation of our democracy, and ensure humane working conditions for the people who feed America.

We are here to live up to our best ideals as a Nation by creating protections against some of the worst threats that a person can face, threats like domestic violence.

In the minute that I have been talking, 20 people in this country have been abused by their partner. By the time we are done tonight, that number will be over a thousand.

As someone who worked as a 911 dispatcher for nearly 18 years, as someone who has been on the other end of the line from domestic violence, as someone who has heard gunshots silence a young girl's screams for help, I am telling you, the thousand people victimized while we are here tonight need and deserve our help.

That is exactly what the Violence Against Women Act does. It makes vital new investments in prevention. It strengthens essential protections for the most vulnerable among us, including immigrant, LGBTQ, and Native American women, and it improves services for victims, prevents abusers and stalkers from getting firearms, and much, much more.

VAWA is one of many vital protections we will discuss today, but it isn't the only one.

Madam Speaker, this September will mark 100 years since an amendment was first proposed for our Constitution to guarantee women equal rights with men. It finally passed Congress in 1972.

This simple amendment, which reads in part, ''Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged,'' is being held up on a technicality. States took so long to sign on that the arbitrary deadline that was set by Congress, this body, has passed, even as 38 States have ratified the amendment.

Congress created this problem, and Congress must fix it. H.J. Res. 79 will remove the deadline for ratification and finally allow us to ensure women are treated as equals to men in our democracy.

The need for equal rights under the law is not debatable. Too often, we have seen the results of unfair and unequal policies for women. This bill will help end those injustices.

As we strive to make our Nation a more perfect union, we need to consider how we treat immigrants, too. Immigrants are the invisible backbone of this country. They are our family members, our neighbors, our frontline workers, woven into every aspect of the American fabric.

Dreamers grew up in our communities. They pledge allegiance to our flag. They played in our fields, prayed in our churches, and worked in our stores. They want to contribute to the only Nation that they have ever called home.

The American Dream and Promise Act helps them do that. It creates a pathway to citizenship for our Dreamers. And it updates our temporary protected status and deferred enforced departure laws to prevent devastating deportations.

The fact is, too often the contributions of aspiring Americans are left out of our dialogue about immigrants. But this pandemic has put a spotlight on just how vital they are.

Without immigrants working our fields, your last meal would have looked much different. Without them enduring record-setting temperatures, facing threats of wildfires, and doing it all without proper PPE, the price you pay to feed your family would go way up.

Deaths among Latino farmworkers increased by 60 percent during the pandemic. They are sacrificing their lives to feed us. The question is: What are we willing to do in return?

The Farm Workforce Modernization Act creates a pathway to legal status for more than a million farmworkers and addresses our future labor needs by modernizing our outdated system for temporary workers. This bill will give farmworkers the dignity and recognition they deserve, while giving our farmers the stability they need to run their businesses.

Now, before I move on to another topic, I want to say something about my personal immigration story. Just like many other Dreamers, I was sent here by my parents to escape the violence my family faced in Guatemala. I know exactly what it is like to decide between the violence and poverty of staying or the dangers and unknowns of trying to immigrate here.

What I know is that we cannot legislate a solution for immigration when we ignore the factors that drive it. Strongmen, narco-traffickers, have taken hold in Central America, and the rule of law is under assault.

The organizations that once fought to hold corrupt actors accountable have been dismantled, and their former employees are now being pursued by those very same corrupt actors. Attorneys General, unfortunately, are asylum seekers in our own country.

We don't just have a responsibility to help stabilize the region; it is imperative if we are ever to stop the rush of people trying to come here.

I will close by saying every policy I describe today is a policy I am truly proud of. Just like the American Rescue Plan did last week, Democrats are making clear, with our actions, exactly what our priorities are.

It doesn't matter how good our agenda is if we can't deliver on the bills we pass. The one thing standing in our way right now is an inside-the-beltway term called ''PAYGO.'' If we don't address it now, it will trigger massive cuts. It goes without saying that this would be completely unacceptable at a time when Americans are in urgent need of more support, not less.

Republicans passed legislation in 2017 to avoid PAYGO, in order to provide tax cuts for the filthy rich, so they clearly understand the need to avoid draconian cuts. I expect them to join us in preventing them.

H.R. 1868, the final bill we are here to discuss today, will do exactly that. I look forward to a fruitful debate on these bills.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from the Rules Committee, the Representative from California, for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rule, a continuation of the Democrats' weeks-long partisan push to fulfill their partisan wish list.

First up is H.R. 1620, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act, which is a highly divisive distortion of the original Violence Against Women Act, that will jeopardize the safety of women.

By extending services to men who identify as women and allowing them to utilize programs that were designed to protect vulnerable women, the bill puts the safety of women at risk. The bill expands the definition of domestic violence to include economic and emotional duress, driving needed resources away from combatting violent crimes against women and promoting an unproven restorative justice approach instead.

Democrats have told us again and again that it is time to rethink our approach to law enforcement. But the same Democrats who want to defund the police are now pushing this unfunded mandate, to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars, upon law enforcement. That doesn't help anyone.

Next is H.J. Res. 17, which removes the established deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment. As the deadline for States to ratify the ERA has long passed, the constitutionality of this legislation is suspect, at best. Congress does not have the authority to simply extend the deadline some four decades later.

I also have concerns about this amendment radicalizing gender to enshrine pro-abortion rights in the Constitution. I do not need a constitutional amendment to tell me I am equal. The Constitution and Federal law already require equal protection for all Americans.

If my colleagues on the other side were serious about the equal rights amendment, they would ensure that the process for adoption was done entirely by the book, rather than saying ''good enough,'' as they move forward in this questionable manner.

Next, H.R. 6, the American Dream and Promise Act of 2021, will provide amnesty to millions of illegal immigrants, incentivize illegal border crossings, and worsen the surge of illegal immigration we are currently seeing. The bill will provide green cards to criminal aliens at a time when the southern border is already overwhelmed, costing taxpayers hundreds of billions more.

H.R. 1868 addresses the very real budgetary consequences of last week's massive partisan spending package being signed into law. While we can all agree that we should avoid cuts to mandatory spending that have been automatically triggered by this level of spending, there was an opportunity to work across the aisle on a bipartisan solution. It is unfortunate that the majority has chosen, once again, to forge ahead on their own with highly partisan policies.

For these reasons, Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to think twice before supporting this rule. We can do better for the American people.

Finally, I want to address H.R. 1603, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act, a bipartisan effort to reform our agricultural worker programs to address the workforce needs of our agricultural community.

While I appreciate the efforts of my colleagues, including my colleague from the State of Washington, Congressman NEWHOUSE, and others on both sides of the aisle to negotiate in good faith on this legislation, I will point out that this bill is not without its flaws. It does not address the already high cost of the H–2A program to make it a more economical solution to producers.

It introduces a new private right of action against employers that risks costly litigation that our producers cannot afford. These types of issues are why stakeholders, such as the American Farm Bureau, have concerns with this legislation. Make no mistake, a viable workforce for our agriculture industry is a national security issue. However, I would like my colleagues to recognize that, with the current language, this bill is not the end-all and be-all solution for our farmers and ranchers. While this legislation may pass the full floor this week as it stands, I hope our counterparts in the other body improve the bill before it is sent to the President.

Madam Speaker, I urge opposition to this rule, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1700

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the manager of the bill for her leadership and the rule.

Let me, first of all, rise in support of H.R. 6 because there are millions of young people waiting for this relief in the DACA promise.

The American Dream and Promise Act is long overdue. These are nurses and doctors, these are hardworking young people, these are college students who are ready to serve America.

Let me also rise in support of the Farm Workforce Modernization Act for the many, many farmers across America who are supporting that and needing that.

And I don't know who would be against making sure that there are no Medicare cuts as we proceed to give a lifeline to the American people through the American Rescue Act. I stand solidly behind that bill.

But let me spend most of my time, Madam Speaker, on the question of the Violence Against Women Act, H.R. 1620, and H.J. Res. 17.

First of all, there is no divisiveness, and I really stand openly against that interpretation. Is there divisiveness on helping rape victims across America who, as President Biden has said, live

in States that are not blue States or red States, but they live with the scourge of domestic violence, one of the most dangerous calls that police officers make?

In 2018, we could not get the Violence Against Women Act, which I wrote, to the floor because our Republican friends would not proceed. At that time there was a Republican President, a Republican House, and a Republican Senate. Nothing happened, and women suffered.

My women's center right now is teeming with women who are impacted by domestic violence during this pandemic. They are crying out for this legislation, and they don't see divisiveness.

What they do see is enhanced legal assistance.

What they do see is $110 million for rape prevention.

What they do see is intervention, with training for men and boys.

They see a space that provides training and refuge for culturally distinct women who are victimized who can go to a quiet, calm place and deal with culturally sensitive counselors and others.

What they see is cooperation between the victim and law enforcement by providing and making sure that they have the kinds of resources and legal representation that is necessary. No one goes without legal representation, whether they are immigrant or Native American.

They see an enhanced response to the victimization of Native American women who, in fact, there are those who victimize them on their particular reservation or pueblo and then run off outside of that, and they are not prosecuted. We changed that.

They see the closing of the boyfriend loophole.

They see the taking away of guns from stalkers.

Yes, this is a lifeline. The Violence Against Women Act, constitutionally grounded, due-process protected for those who may be accused, but it is legislation that women have been waiting for.

This bill expired in 2018. We wrote it in 2018, we built on it in the last Congress, and the amendments that were both Republican and Democrat are still in this bill because we believe in bipartisanship, and it is a bipartisan bill with Members from the Republican Conference, who are in this bill in terms of cosponsors.

As it relates to H.J. Res. 17, let me say that Congress has the authority to extend the deadline for ratification of the ERA.

The ERA says that women do not have to live in discomfort and live under equality and live in inequality. They live in a Nation of equality, and they live in inequality in housing, in income, in access to credit, in employment, in many ways. Why are we continuing this in the 21st century?

So what does H.J. Res. 17 do? It extends the deadline for the compliance with the equal rights amendment for the States to be able to reach the 38 margin.

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

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. It extends that time beyond the time that was last extended. When we extended that time, we extended it by majority vote in the United States Congress.

A decision came out just recently about the fact that the deadline had expired, but what it did say is that the deadline was created by Congress and that Congress obviously has that authority.

When we researched this in 1978 in the Judiciary Committee, there was no requirement that that extension of the deadline constitutionally require a two-thirds supermajority vote. Simple majority. Are you going to suggest that women now should be denied the ERA when a number of States have already sanctioned this? There are some States that have rescinded, but that will be the jurisdiction of the United States Congress when appropriate.

I ask my colleagues to support VAWA, H.R. 1620, and H.J. Res. 17, removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment. It is time for VAWA. It is time for the ERA.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE), the ranking member of the Rules Committee.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this rule. This rule and the accompanying legislation, sadly, is not about passing law. It is about making a point.

All five of the bills dealt with in this rule have not been marked up by any committee in this Congress at all, and all of them are filled with poison pills that are designed to make sure most Republicans will not vote for them, and they cannot pass the Senate of the United States.

The two bills dealing with illegal immigration will not just help DACA people, it will legalize millions of people in this country illegally.

The measure on ERA, the timeline ran out for that 42 years ago. This matter cannot be reversed now.

Frankly, the matter dealing with the budget, as my friend from Minnesota suggested, we said last week you are going to run into this problem, you are going to cut Medicare. There are billions of dollars of wasted spending in that reconciliation bill that could actually offset those cuts. We should be considering that.

Let me turn now to the Violence Against Women Act, Madam Speaker. I have been one of the strongest supporters of that legislation since I arrived in Congress, and I particularly am pleased with some of the measures dealing with Native American women, particularly some of the changes in this bill that extend it to children, that extend it to Tribal law enforcement officers. Those are good changes.

But there are other measures coupled with it dealing with the Second Amendment or dealing with, frankly, people that are not biologically female that will put this bill at risk on this floor and certainly in the United States Senate.

Madam Speaker, none of this was ever designed to become law. Two years ago, we made that mistake. Three years ago, actually, a little over two years ago, in 2018, and none of the good things happened. Let's not make that mistake again. Let's reject this rule. Let's modify these bills. Let's send the Senate something it can work with and pass. If we do that, we have a chance of not making a point, but of actually making law that benefits every single American.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, let the RECORD show that Oklahoma's Fourth District has 146,168 eligible Medicare beneficiaries that will be harmed if H.R. 1868 does not pass.

Let the RECORD show that Minnesota's Seventh District has 152,451 eligible Medicare beneficiaries that will also be harmed if H.R. 1868 does not pass.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD an October 18, 2019, USA Today article entitled, ''1 in 3 American Indian and Alaska Native women will be raped, but survivors rarely find justice on tribal lands.''

[From USA TODAY, Oct. 18, 2019]

1 IN 3 AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE WOMEN WILL BE RAPED, BUT SURVIVORS RARELY FIND JUSTICE ON TRIBAL LANDS

(By Maren Machles, Carrie Cochran, Angela M. Hill and Suzette Brewer)

Twila Szymanski lowered the scope on her rifle, took aim and hit a target in the distance. The shooting range is where she and her husband go to relax and forget the things they worry about, she said.

Some experiences are hard to shake.

''To trust somebody you know after a sexual assault happens . . . it has been so difficult to work through that,'' Szymanski said.

Szymanski, 40, has lived on the Fort Peck Reservation in northeast Montana since she was born and is an enrolled member of the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux tribes. She said she's been assaulted three times.

''I was a victim when I was 13, a victim when I was 14 and a victim when I was 34,'' she said.

Twila Szymanski is a lifelong resident of the Fort Peck Reservation. ''Native women have told me that what you do when you raise a daughter in this environment is you prepare her for what to do when she's raped—not if, but when,'' said Sarah Deer, University of Kansas professor and author of ''The Beginning and End of Rape: Confronting Sexual Violence in Native America.''

More than half of American Indian and Alaska Native women will experience sexual violence in their lifetimes, according to the Department of Justice.

''You talk to Native women who have lived their whole lives on a reservation, and they say, 'I can't think of anyone, any woman that I know who hasn't been victimized in this way,'" said Deer, a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma.

National data on sex crimes in tribal communities is scarce, so Newsy spent 18 months focused on two reservations: the Fort Peck Reservation in Montana and the Fort Berthold Reservation in North Dakota. After analyzing exclusively obtained documents and conducting dozens of interviews, a stark picture emerged.

Sexual assault investigations can fall through the cracks when tribes and the federal government fail to work together. Even for those few cases that end in a conviction in tribal court, federal law prevents most courts from sentencing perpetrators to more than a year.

Survivors who come forward to report assaults often find themselves trapped in small communities with their perpetrators, and several said the broken legal system contributed to their trauma.

The federal government has a unique political and legal relationship with the 573 federally recognized tribes. The tribes are sovereign and have jurisdiction over their citizens and land, but the federal government has a treaty obligation to help protect the lives of tribal members. This legal doctrine, called the ''trust responsibility,'' goes back to the treaties the United States signed with tribal nations in the 18th and 19th centuries.

The array of Supreme Court decisions and federal laws that followed resulted in a complicated legal arrangement among federal, state and tribal jurisdictions, making it difficult for survivors of sexual assault to find justice.

Sarah Deer is author of ''The Beginning and End of Rape: Confronting Sexual Violence in Native America.'' ''A lot of times, when I try to explain it, people don't even believe me because it's so bizarre,'' Deer said. ''And the reason it's bizarre is because there's been this patchwork of laws that don't talk to each other over the last century.''

ONLY ONE YEAR

The tribal courthouse on the Fort Peck reservation is a small brick building. The front desk is lined with pamphlets about dating violence and sexual assault.

''The trauma that has developed over the generations . . . some of the assaults are generational, and they're within the same home,'' said Chief Judge Stacie Smith, a member of the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux tribes. ''Pretend it wasn't there, and maybe it'll go away, you know, the next generation, it won't happen again. But it continues.''

Smith wants to break the cycle, but tribal courts face major restrictions, including a one-year limit on sentences regardless of the crime and almost no jurisdiction over non-Indians.

Stacie Smith is chief judge of the Fort Peck Tribal Court. ''When you think about rape and you think about somebody who is a perpetrator of that kind of crime, and you think, 'What do they deserve?' one year doesn't usually sound like the right answer,'' Deer said.

In 2010, the sentencing cap was expanded to three years per offense through the Tribal Law and Order Act as long as the tribes met certain requirements. Only 16 tribes have implemented the three-year sentencing enhancement.

Fort Peck is one of them.

When the law took effect, there were no attorneys, no one with a law degree in the court system.

Smith decided to leave her young daughters to attend law school hundreds of miles away. This would help the tribal court meet the federal requirements and give it more authority.

The tribal court was able to hand out three-year sentences starting in late 2012. From 2013–2018, there were three sexual assault convictions, but none of them had enhanced sentences. The longest sentence was still one year.

''We use the enhanced sentencing sparingly because we want it to have meaning,'' said Scott Seifert, a member of the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma and Fort Peck's lead tribal prosecutor.

GOING FEDERAL

Tribal court is not the only option for those seeking justice for sexual assault. In most cases, the FBI, Bureau of lndian Affairs (BIA) and U.S. attorneys' offices are federally mandated to work with the tribes to investigate and prosecute ''major crimes,'' which include sexual assault.

''So if you have a rape case or a child sex abuse case and you do want to see that perpetrator put away, the best possibility for you is that it will go federal,'' Deer said.

That responsibility falls to the U.S. attorneys' offices, which have seen their funding and staffing in Indian communities cut by more than 40% in the past seven years, according to the Department of Justice.

Data Newsy obtained from the DOJ shows that the Montana U.S. Attorney's Office declined 64% of cases of sexual assault in the past four fiscal years.

Kurt Alme is the U.S. attorney for Montana. The U.S. attorney for Montana, Kurt Alme, said a lot of cases are declined because of weak or insufficient evidence, ''and it is something that has to be worked on,'' he said.

According to the BIA, tribal courts received less than 5% of the funding that was needed in 2016. Law enforcement received 22% of what was needed, and jails received less than 50%.

Less than half of the law enforcement agencies that the bureau funds and oversees are properly staffed, said Charles Addington, director of the BIA Office of Justice Service and a member of the Cherokee Nation.

In August 2018, Fort Peck tribal police had funding for 21 positions, but nine of them were vacant, said Ken Trottier, criminal investigations supervisor for the Fort Peck Tribes and a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa.

''We have a hiring pool that is literally nothing here on the reservation, even though we open it up to off-reservation people,'' he said. ''There's no houses for sale. No houses for rent. Where's that person going to live?''

Constant turnover and understaffing can lead to an under trained police department, Deer said.

''[The survivor is] waiting for help. They don't know if help is coming. They don't know if the help is going to be compassionate and trained,'' Deer said. ''The system is not feeling like a safe, productive system to them anymore.''

Big money but little justice Three hours east of Fort Peck, the Fort Berthold Reservation in North Dakota sits on the Bakken oil basin and has an annual budget of $400 million. The reservation is home to the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation, or the Three Affiliated Tribes.

Driving around the remote reservation, council member Monica Mayer pointed to a multimillion-dollar housing project that she said will soon have an aquatic center, baseball diamonds and mini golf.

A $17 million public safety and judicial center was built, and staffing increased in the court system. In the past three years, the reservation has hired more than a dozen additional officers to help an understaffed police department.

Monica Mayer is a tribal council member on the Fort Berthold Reservation. Despite this financial independence, the justice system appears to be failing sexual assault survivors who report.

''At every level, we are not adequately functioning to provide the services that are needed in a critical situation,'' Mayer said.

The Fort Berthold tribal court does not have enhanced sentencing. The court sentenced three people for sexual assault from 2013 to mid–2018, according to court records. Sentences ranged from eight days to six months.

The tribes' relationship with its federal partners—the BIA, the FBI and the U.S. attorneys—is crucial to helping survivors get justice. Based on interviews and records obtained from federal and tribal agencies, it's unclear whether all sexual assaults on Fort Berthold were fully investigated by any agency in the past six years.

The tribes are supposed to refer every major crime to either the BIA or the FBI for investigations. Both are charged with overseeing all major criminal investigations on Fort Berthold and will determine which agency takes the lead.

The tribal criminal investigators had records of 66 sexual assault cases from January 2016 to September 2018. The BIA had records of only 10 investigations during that same time period. The FBI declined to provide any records.

After Newsy asked about the status of these cases, Three Affiliated Tribes Police Capt. Grace Her Many Horses, a member of the Oglala Sioux tribe from the Pine Ridge Reservation, said she would do a case file review.

''The priority for me, right now, is to go through those case files to find out what's been declined, why, and is there anything we can do to make it happen,'' she said. ''I guess part of that is on me, too. I should know this by now.''

Her Many Horses said she finished the case file review nearly a year later, but she did not provide the details of what she found, nor did she disclose whether the police referred all 66 cases up to their federal partners.

Exactly one week after Newsy's last trip to Fort Berthold, during which reporters asked how sexual assaults and rapes are handled on the reservation, the Department of Justice and the BIA released a joint statement saying, ''A number of concerns have been raised about public safety and criminal investigations on the Fort Berthold Reservation.''

Citing ''the high rate of violence against women and children,'' it said the BIA was increasing the number of special agents from ''one to two.'' As of the start of October, no second agent had started working on Fort Berthold.

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights issued two reports on funding in Indian communities, one in 2003 and an update in December 2018, called ''Broken Promises.'' The report said, ''The federal government continues to fail to support adequately the social and economic well-being of Native Americans,'' and this ''contributes to the inequities observed in Native American communities.''

TRYING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Twila Szymanski works as the deputy court administrator for the Fort Peck Tribal Court, maintaining records and stats.

Szymanski reported only one of her three assaults—the one when she was 14. Her case made it into federal court.

The defendant pleaded guilty in 1995. He was sentenced to three years' probation and no prison time.

Twila Szymanski is the deputy court administrator for the Fort Peck Tribal Court. ''Justice wasn't served, in my opinion,'' she said. ''He was back in the community quickly, and I had to see him when this was all fresh.''

Szymanski is confronted with the memory of what happened to her each time a case comes up and each time she sees her perpetrator in the community.

She said she uses her position in the court to go through cases and stop them from dropping through the cracks, and she is running for Fort Peck associate judge in the election this month.

''When the system has failed you time and time and time again, you don't feel empowered,'' Deer said. ''It feels like a disconnect between this moment of 'Me Too' and the reality of lndian country and sexual assault.''

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Madam Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. RESCHENTHALER), my good friend and another colleague from the Rules Committee.

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Madam Speaker, the rule before us today provides for consideration of H.R. 6, a bill creating a pathway to citizenship for millions of people who entered this country illegally, while it does nothing to enforce our immigration laws or secure our borders.

You heard that right. This bill does nothing to enforce our immigration laws. It does nothing to secure our borders. And it does so as a record number of illegal immigrants pour across our Southern border. And yet, House Democrats are passing a bill that will further incentivize illegal immigration and will worsen the Biden border crisis.

The numbers speak for themselves. Over 100,000 migrants were encountered at our Southern border just last month. The CBP facility in Donna, Texas, was at 729 percent capacity last week. Let me repeat that. That facility was at 729 percent capacity.

And, alarmingly, CBP confirmed that four people were arrested at the border, three of whom were from Yemen, one of whom was from Serbia, and those individuals matched the names on the FBI's Terrorist Screening Database.

So despite my liberal progressive colleagues' claims to the contrary, this surge is directly the result of the Biden administration's decision to halt the border wall construction, to reimplement Obama-era catch-and-release policies, and to cancel President Trump's asylum agreements.

This Chamber should work to address the border crisis going on, Biden's border crisis. We should not pass legislation that encourages and rewards illegal immigration and further incentivizes this crisis, yet that is what H.R. 6, in fact, does. This bill places the interest of those who broke our laws above the interests of those who followed them.

It has no enforcement provisions. It includes loopholes to give green cards to gang members and criminals. It even puts U.S. taxpayers on the hook for grant programs to help illegal immigrants obtain green cards.

Again, H.R. 6 would do absolutely nothing to address President Biden's border security and humanitarian crisis at the Southern border.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on the rule and vote ''no'' on H.R. 6.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, the situation at the border has nothing to do with the Dream and Promise Act. If anything, former President Trump's attempt to eliminate all resources contributed to the crisis at the border. The Dream and Promise Act does not apply to future migrants, just those who were already in the country before 2021.

This Dream and Promise Act has a very high criminal bar. An applicant is disqualified if they have any one of the following: A felony conviction, one misdemeanor conviction involving moral turpitude, more than two misdemeanors, or one misdemeanor for domestic violence.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER).

Mrs. WAGNER. Madam Speaker, I rise in stark opposition to H.J. Res. 17, which would retroactively and unconstitutionally remove the deadline to ratify the equal rights amendment.

Ratification of the equal rights amendment will expand taxpayer-funded abortions and imperil basic pro-life protections that States have enacted based on the will of their people through their State legislatures.

I am a committed defender of rights for women and girls, and I have led efforts in Congress to end sex trafficking, address the rape kit backlog, and help women balance staying in the workforce and caring for their children.

As a mother and as a proud grandma, I want my sweet granddaughter to feel secure in the knowledge that she is entitled to the same rights and opportunities as men.

□ 1715

However, I cannot support this attempt to circumvent the amendment process and enshrine access to taxpayer-funded abortion in the Constitution by a simple majority vote rather than with the required support of two-thirds of Congress or the States.

Congress has twice given States time to ratify the equal rights amendment, but the deadline has long since passed. While some States ratified the ERA after the deadline, others—up to five—have withdrawn their ratification.

I strongly agree and associate myself with the late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's words when she made the point: ''If you count a latecomer on the plus side, how can you disregard States that said, 'We have changed our minds'?''

If Democrats want to test the longstanding bipartisan agreement on limiting taxpayer-funded abortions, they should follow Justice Ginsburg's guidance and start the process over, just as our Founders intended.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to set the record straight when it comes to the Violence Against Women Act, or VAWA. My amendment was removed, in a partisan fashion, from VAWA this Congress, stripping vital sex trafficking funding for victims, for children. This has always been included, and it was stripped out and not allowed in the amendment process. Also not allowed was my PRENDA amendment that would have stopped sex selection in the womb taking the lives of young girls.

Madam Speaker, I urge opposition to this legislation.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, my colleagues across the aisle are not supportive of provisions to protect LGBTQ-plus individuals in this bill, but LGBTQ-plus members of our community experience domestic violence, too. Abusers do not discriminate based on sexual orientation, and neither should this body.

Legislators who oppose equality are trying to turn this into a debate about abortion to distract from the issue at hand. I would like to clarify that the ERA doesn't include any requirement to provide specific healthcare services, including abortion. It is about equality under the law.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, the most recent Marist poll found that 7 in 10 Americans, including nearly half who identify as pro-choice, want significant restrictions on abortion. Yet, the ERA as written will be used in an aggressive litigation strategy to nullify those restrictions, including the Hyde amendment, waiting periods, parental involvement, women's right-to-know laws, conscience rights, and the late-term abortion bans like the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act.

NARAL Pro-Choice America has said: ''The ERA would reinforce the constitutional right to abortion'' and ''require judges to strike down anti-abortion laws.''

The National Organization for Women said: ''An ERA—properly interpreted—could negate the hundreds of laws that have passed restricting access to abortion.''

Abortion activists, Madam Speaker, successfully litigated using State ERAs in both New Mexico and Connecticut to compel taxpayers to pay for abortion on demand.

Last year, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg spoke on the legal impermissibility of extending the deadline for ratification and said she ''would like it to start over.'' I couldn't agree more.

Madam Speaker, two leaders of the National Organization for Women (NOW) wrote: "During the 1972 ERA ratification campaign, several prominent women's leaders denied that an ERA would apply to abortion . . .".

Ever since, pro-abortion leaders have largely ignored, trivialized, or denied the fact that

activists plan to aggressively use the federal ERA as currently written in a litigation strategy to overturn all pro-life laws and policies including restrictions supported by huge majorities of Americans. According to the most recent Marist poll (January 2021):

7 in 10 Americans including nearly half who identify as pro-choice want significant restrictions on abortion,

58 percent of all Americans oppose using tax dollars for abortion,

55 percent want to ban abortion after 20 weeks,

70 percent of Americans oppose abortion if the child will be born with Down Syndrome,

80 percent of Americans believe that laws can protect both a pregnant woman and the life of her unborn child.

While I fundamentally disagree with abortion activists who refuse to recognize an unborn child's inherent dignity, worth, and value, at least both sides now agree that the ERA as written will be used in court to promote abortion.

NARAL—Pro-Choice America said: "The ERA would reinforce the constitutional right to abortion . . . (and) require judges to strike down anti-abortion laws . . .".

The National Right to Life Committee states that "the proposed federal ERA would invalidate the federal Hyde Amendment and a state restrictions on tax-funded abortions."

As director of reproductive-justice initiatives and National Women's Law Center senior counsel Kelli Garcia said, the ERA would help create a basis to challenge abortion restrictions."

And NOW said: "An ERA—properly interpreted—could negate the hundreds of laws that have passed restricting access to abortion . . .".

Those laws restricting abortion include the Hyde Amendment, waiting periods, parental involvement, women's right to know laws, conscience rights including the Weldon Amendment and any late term abortion ban like the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003.

Should the ERA be ratified without clarifying abortion-neutral language—to wit: "Nothing in this Article shall be construed to grant or secure any right relating to abortion or the funding thereof"—it is absolutely clear that abortion activists will use the ERA as they have successfully used state ERAs in both New Mexico and Connecticut—to force taxpayers to pay for abortion on demand.

By now, my colleagues know that:

The Supreme Court of New Mexico ruled in 1998 that the state was required to fund abortion based solely on the state ERA and said the law "undoubtedly singles out . . . a gender-linked condition that is unique to women" and, therefore, "violates the Equal Rights Amendment."

In like manner, the Supreme Court of Connecticut invalidated its state ban on abortion funding and wrote in 1986: "it is therefore clear, under the Connecticut ERA, that the regulation excepting . . . abortions from the Medicaid program discriminates against women."

Today in Pennsylvania, activists are suing to eviscerate the abortion funding restriction in that state claiming that the Hyde-type restriction violates the Pennsylvania Equal Rights Amendment.

I believe that all human beings—especially the weakest and most vulnerable including unborn baby girls and boys—deserve respect, empathy, compassion, and protection from violence.

Madam Speaker, last year, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg spoke on the legal impermissibility of extending the deadline for ratification and that she "would like it to start over".

According to Vox, Justice Ginsburg said, There's too much controversy about latecomers, plus, a number of states have withdrawn their ratification. So, if you count a latecomer on the plus side, how can you disregard states that said 'we've changed our minds?' "

Five states—Idaho, Kentucky, Nebraska, Tennessee, and South Dakota—voted to ratify the ERA but later rescinded that ratification.

I strongly believe in equal rights for women. I've introduced the ERA with the abortion-neutral language I mentioned a moment ago.

Over the course of many years, I have consistently sponsored and promoted women's rights legislation to ensure equal pay for equal work including most recently, the Paycheck Fairness Act.

In the struggle against wage discrimination, I voted in favor of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act.

To help ensure that women are not disadvantaged in their careers because of time taken to attend to their families, I was an early and strong advocate of multiple legislative initiatives to provide family medical leave—including the groundbreaking bill that became law, the Family and Medical Leave Act.

I voted to ensure that women's rights are protected in higher education by strongly supporting Title IX.

I have supported legislation to amend pension and tax policies that negatively impact women, and I supported numerous bills to establish certain rights for sexual assault survivors including the Survivors' Bill of Rights which is now law.

Since the mid-1990s, I have led the effort to end the barbaric practice of human trafficking, a human rights abuse that is an unimaginable exploitation of women and girls that thrives on greed, disrespect, and secrecy.

Twenty years ago, the U.S. Congress approved and the President signed legislation that I authored—the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000—a comprehensive whole-of-government initiative to combat sex and labor trafficking in the United States and around the world.

The Violence Against Women Act (See Division B) was reauthorized and significantly expanded by my law. Last Congress, I cosponsored the Violence Against Women Extension Act of 2019.

In 2019, I authored another bill that was signed into law-my fifth major law on human trafficking—The Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Act.

After a young college student from my district, Samantha Josephson, was brutally murdered by the driver of what she thought was her Uber ride, I introduced Sami's Law which passed the House—but never got a vote in the Senate—to make the ride share industry safer for all. In recent months, it has been shocking to learn that thousands of women who use Lyft or Uber have been sexually assaulted and some have been murdered. I reintroduced Sami's Law in February.

Yesterday, it was reported that another woman was sexually assaulted in Ft. Lauderdale by an "off-duty" Uber driver.

Ensuring equal rights for women and serious protections against violence requires laws, policies, and spending priorities to achieve those noble and necessary goals—without putting unborn baby girls and boys at risk of death.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD a March 16 USA Today opinion piece from activists Dolores Huerta, Carol Jenkins, and Eleanor Smeal titled "There is no deadline on women's equality. Add the equal rights amendment to the Constitution."

[From USA TODAY, March 16, 2021]

THERE'S NO DEADLINE ON WOMEN'S EQUALITY. ADD THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION.

(By Dolores Huerta, Carol Jenkins and Eleanor Smeal)

For the second time in a century, a global pandemic has occurred at the height of a determined movement to expand women's rights under the U.S. Constitution. The 1918 flu pandemic nearly halted the drive for ratification of the 19th Amendment on women's suffrage. But advocates rallied, lobbied President Woodrow Wilson for support and urged Congress to pass a joint resolution adopting the amendment. That was followed by ratification by the states and final certification in August 1920.

Today, the campaign for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment is in the middle of another global pandemic with women losing jobs at a much higher rate than men, especially affecting women of color. In these first 100 days of the Biden-Harris administration and during Women's History Month, there is a real opportunity to make constitutional history again with lasting change for women's rights and gender equality by adding the ERA to the Constitution.

No rights denied 'on account of sex'

Congress approved the ERA in 1972. It says, very simply, that "equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of sex."

President Joe Biden and Congress now have the opportunity to rally as well. This week, the House of Representatives will consider a joint resolution clearing the way for the ERA to be added to the Constitution. If the Senate also adopts the resolution, it could become part of the Constitution this year.

The ERA won ratification by the necessary three-fourths of the states when Virginia became the 38th state last year. Earlier, Nevada ratified in 2017 and Illinois in 2018. However, the ERA has yet to be formally enshrined into the Constitution because of an arbitrary timeline in the amendment's preamble—not the legislative text sent to the states for approval—which set 1979 for ratification. Congress changed the timeline by extending it to 1982.

Congress can again weigh in by removing the timeline and recognizing the final three states, because Article V of the Constitution puts the amending process with the Congress and ratification with the states.

Button supporting the Equal Rights Amendment on April 2, 2013, in Little Rock, Arkansas. Congressional action is needed to support the attorneys general of Virginia, Nevada and Illinois, who went to federal court asking the national archivist to include the ERA in the Constitution.

But a U.S. district judge ruled this month that the three states did not have standing to bring the case, and the 1982 deadline remains in effect.

Now is the time for Congress to recognize there can be no time limit on equality. The

House and Senate should approve a joint resolution ''removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment.'' The measure, introduced in the House in January, already has more than 200 co-sponsors.

The vast majority of Americans across demographic and partisan lines agree that women should have equal rights with men in this country. In a 2020 Pew Research Center survey, more than 9 in 10 U.S. adults said it is very important (79%) or somewhat important (18%). Fully 78% of U.S. adults—including majorities of women, men, Republicans and Democrats—favored adding the ERA to the Constitution.

'All men would be tyrants if they could'

Abigail Adams is often quoted as saying, ''Remember the Ladies.'' In March of 1776, she wrote more than these three words to her husband, John, just months before the Declaration of Independence was adopted and as he was engaged in drafting the U.S. Constitution. She had some ideas about what should be included ''in the new code of laws' he was making: ''I desire you would remember the ladies and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors. . . . Remember, all men would be tyrants if they could. If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies, we are determined to formant a rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation.''

That rebellion has been taking place through the hundreds of peaceful ERA marches and rallies that led up to the 2017 Women's March, events that galvanized millions of women and men nationwide to new levels of political activism. The #MeToo movement sparked public outrage over sexual assault and misogyny in the workplace.

In 2020, women again far outnumbered men as voters with a gender gap that has become decisive in presidential, Senate and House elections. And women and men alike supported the Equal Rights Amendment by electing a pro-ERA majority of members in the House and Senate.

An estimated 1 million more women than men have lost their jobs during the COVID–19 lockdowns, and the pandemic shows that most essential workers are women, most of them are Black and Latina, and most still have the majority of caregiving responsibilities. These along with other economic realities make constitutional rights for women more urgent than ever before.

The pandemic has sparked a reexamination of the role of government and the need for social safety net and economic policies that work for all. In short, the new reality of 2021 demands that Congress approve the ERA resolution. It will mark a historic commitment to women's rights by ensuring equality under the law for current and future generations.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, COVID's impact on women shows the continued need for equality. We have the power to remove the ERA ratification deadline and make it a reality.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

If we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to provide for consideration of Congresswoman MILLER-MEEKS' H.R. 1897, the REACT Act.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment in the RECORD, along with extraneous material, immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) to speak further on the amendment.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend, Congresswoman FISCHBACH, for yielding me time.

I urge my colleagues to defeat the previous question so we can take up my bill, H.R. 1897, the REACT Act.

My bill would require the Department of Homeland Security to test all migrants illegally crossing our border who they plan to release into our communities for COVID–19.

Yesterday, I traveled to El Paso, Texas, to meet with the men and women of the United States Customs and Border Protection. I saw firsthand the crisis they are facing and believe it is our job as Congress to do everything in our power to address it.

CBP is currently encountering more than 3,000 migrants on average per day, which is rapidly approaching levels seen at the height of the 2019 crisis. To put this in perspective, President Obama's Secretary of Homeland Security, Jeh Johnson, stated during his tenure that 1,000 apprehensions a day was considered a bad day. We are at more than three times that now, and on top of it, we continue to face a global pandemic.

In February, CBP encountered over 100,000 migrants on the southwest border trying to illegally enter our country. This does not include those migrants who may have gotten away or evaded detection, some of whom may be positive for COVID–19.

The Department of Homeland Security announced today that we are on track to encounter the highest number of migrants along the southwest border in the last 20 years. Seasonally, migration gets worse in the spring months of April and May, so we are likely to see these numbers increase over the coming months.

Yesterday, I heard directly from the Border Patrol agents that few, if any, of the thousands of migrants we saw in CBP custody are being tested for COVID–19. These migrants, and children, in particular, are being held in facilities that are already at capacity, and often for longer than the 72-hour limit permitted by law. According to recent reports, as of March 8, 185 migrants released into Brownsville, Texas, have tested positive for COVID–19.

Border security and immigration is not an issue that only affects border States. It affects every community across the country. If the Biden administration continues to release these migrants, they will not stay in our border communities. Instead, they will travel to every State. Without proper testing and quarantine, they are likely to bring COVID–19 with them, and the communities to which they are transferred are unaware.

As a physician and former director of the Iowa Department of Public Health, I know that the COVID–19 pandemic is not yet over. We must ensure that any individuals the Biden administration insists on releasing into our communities do not have COVID–19. This is also why I support reinstating the PAUSE Act, to prevent the introduction of new COVID–19 cases from Canada and Mexico.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to require that we keep all of our communities and these migrants safe and to stop spreading COVID–19 by voting ''no'' on the previous question.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, President Biden inherited a dismantled and gutted immigration system. The prior administration's strategy of cruelty, chaos, and confusion was ineffective and set the stage for our current challenges.

I include in the RECORD a March 15 Columbus Dispatch article titled ''Undocumented immigrants pay billions in taxes each year—and have been for 25 years.''

[From the Columbus Dispatch, Mar. 15, 2021]

UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS PAY BILLIONS IN TAXES EACH YEAR—AND HAVE BEEN FOR 25 YEARS

(By Danae King)

Every year, Arturo pays thousands of dollars in taxes from the revenue produced by his central Ohio-based painting company.

But he will never receive Social Security benefits. Or Medicare. Or Medicaid.

That's because Arturo, whose last name is not being used for his safety, is an undocumented immigrant from Mexico—one of about 6 million who pay taxes annually, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

Jorge Beltran is a Columbus tax preparer who is certified by the IRS to file taxes for undocumented immigrants. He hopes to shatter misconceptions about immigrants not paying taxes and being drains on society.

A report from the office shows that 50% to 75% of undocumented immigrants pay billions in taxes each year—and have been since the Internal Revenue Service created a program 25 years ago allowing people without a Social Security number to file taxes.

When it comes to state and local taxes, undocumented immigrants pay more than $11 billion a year, according to a 2017 report from the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, a nonpartisan nonprofit based in Washington, D.C. In Ohio, they paid $83.2 million in state and local taxes in 2017, according to the institute.

Jorge Beltran, left, reviews tax documents with client Ana Narciso. Beltran is a Columbus tax preparer who is certified by the IRS to file taxes for undocumented immigrants. He hopes to shatter misconceptions about immigrants not paying taxes and being drains on society. Narciso has legal status to be in the United States.

''When you hear people who are citizens—who may be against immigration or immigrants, especially undocumented—say, 'Oh, they're here and sucking up all the government resources and taking handouts and

welfare.' That's not the case,'' said Jessica Rodriguez Bell, a Columbus immigration attorney who has undocumented clients.

''These people are not eligible for those benefits, and many times they're paying into the system like we are. It's frustrating to hear that a lot.''

Still, many attorneys recommend their undocumented clients pay taxes, Rodriguez Bell said.

''The reason for that is that, one, it's income they've been paying in and are likely entitled to a refund of some sort,'' Rodriguez Bell said. ''Then, also because in the future, even if they don't have a current immigration case pending or even if they're not eligible for relief at this time . . . oftentimes you want to demonstrate good moral character and that you've been an upstanding citizen while you've been here.''

Years of tax returns also establish that a person has been living in the United States, she said.

To some, though, the issue is not whether or not undocumented immigrants pay taxes, said Mark Krikorian, executive director of the Center for Immigration Studies, a Washington, D.C.-based conservative think tank.

''There's this sort of implicit assumption that if you pay your taxes everything else is fine,'' he said. ''Paying your taxes doesn't wipe away everything else that you've done.''

Krikorian said that the real question is what is the balance of taxes undocumented immigrants pay versus the services they consume.

''There's no real debate about less-skilled workers,'' he said. ''Whether they're legal or illegal, they use more in services than they pay in taxes.''

A 2010 report from another Washington, D.C., think tank, the Brookings Institution, however, suggests that while U.S.-citizen children of undocumented immigrants can be costly when they're young, those costs are paid out through a lifetime of taxes.

The mere act of filing taxes could be seen as a risk for undocumented immigrants because it could result in the federal government pursing legal action to return the immigrants to their home country. But Rodriguez-Bell said she hasn't seen any such negative consequences.

''The IRS is a separate department, so it's not something where we've ever seen information exchanged between the IRS and, say, ICE,'' she said, referring to Immigration and Customs Enforcement. ''This is not something that's going to get you in trouble, and you're not doing something illegal by doing that. It can only help your situation in the future if you are filing.''

In 1996, the IRS created the Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) to allow people working in the United States without Social Security numbers to pay taxes. It is a 9-digit number, the same length as a Social Security number, issued only to those who are not eligible for Social Security numbers.

In order to help undocumented immigrants get a tax ID number and file, the IRS certifies what are called acceptance agents. There are 13 in Columbus, 79 in Ohio and more than 5,000 nationwide.

Jorge Beltran, the owner of Belmont Services LLC, a tax preparation company on Columbus' Northwest Side, has been a certified acceptance agent with the IRS since 2008. The vast majority of Beltran's clients are undocumented immigrants, and he's passionate about letting people know that they pay taxes.

''Imagine if more people knew this,'' Beltran said. ''These are not people asking for a handout. They're not asking for unemployment. They're not asking for any benefits. Even if they wanted to, they couldn't.''

Consider his clients Javier and Norma—whose first names only are being used, as with other undocumented immigrants in this story, for their safety—who both worked in food service before the pandemic. In March 2020, Javier got laid off but had no access to unemployment or COVID–19 relief payments due to his status. Over the course of the rest of the year, he worked six different jobs to support his family, which includes their three U.S.-born children.

The couple made $56,369 in 2020 and got a refund of $3,337, which made a big difference in their lives, Beltran said, possibly paying for five months of their rent. If they had Social Security numbers, they could've gotten $6,900 in federal COVID relief payments in 2020 to help support their family, Beltran said.

''They contribute to all of our communities,'' he said. ''They pay the school system from their taxes. They pay for the roads from their taxes, and they spend money they make in the grocery stores and movie theaters and everywhere but nobody knows about it.''

Beltran shared the story of another two of his clients, Cirilo and Patricia, who live in Mount Vernon and have been in the country for almost 20 years. Cirilo works two jobs as a cook, but only made $26,784 last year, paying $3,706 in taxes. His earnings had to support his six children—four of whom have Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status, allowing them to work and go to school legally, and two of whom were born in the United States.

Nicole, who owns a painting business with her undocumented immigrant husband, Arturo, both pose for a portrait on Friday, March 12, 2021. Undocumented immigrants pay taxes and own businesses that employ people and help the local economy.

Arturo and his wife, Nicole, a U.S. citizen whose family is from Mexico and who owns their painting company with him, are Beltran's clients as well. They employ 47 people and paid $118,250 in estimated taxes this year, according to Beltran.

''Talk about being productive members of society,'' he said. ''Forty-seven people can feed their families, help pay the schools, whatever, with the employment they have and that's generated by this company.

More than $11,000 from the family's taxes went to the city of Columbus.

The couple started their business after Arturo got injured in his job as a butcher and was fired. He started working for a friend as a painter, but had always dreamed of working for himself and owning a business. So, with the help of a friend, they started their own business six years ago and now support themselves and their four children.

''He comes from nothing in Mexico. His parents are farmers, and he has just a middle school, almost high school education,'' Nicole said, of her husband. ''It was really important for him not to be stuck. He came to the United States to make something for himself, to provide a better future for his children.''

Immigrants are here to make the country better, Nicole said.

''This is what makes America great,'' she said. ''immigrants coming here and finding their way and helping the country prosper, too.''

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, during the last 4 years, millions of immigrants faced uncertainty as the Trump administration pursued cruel immigration policies. With passage of H.R. 6, we are beginning a new chapter in our Nation's immigration policy.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO).

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I will note, in response to my colleagues across the aisle, that there is nothing wrong with enforcing the immigration laws that are on the books. That is all we are talking about doing at the border, and keeping the border secure.

Madam Speaker, yesterday, I visited the southern border, and what I saw was unacceptable, full stop. I witnessed the dangerous and rapidly growing impacts of Biden's border crisis.

I spoke to Border Patrol agents on the front line of the crisis and witnessed firsthand what they are up against. Thousands of migrants are showing up every week, hanging onto the words and promises of President Biden's goal of relaxing border restrictions.

Our Border Patrol agents are underresourced and overwhelmed. They have been put in an untenable situation, with little regard for their health or safety.

Department of Homeland Security Secretary Mayorkas recently announced the Department would begin allocating FEMA resources. FEMA is the agency that is in charge of overseeing the pandemic and delivering vaccines to our American citizens. He has taken resources away from American citizens to deal with this crisis on the border. If FEMA is involved, it is, by definition, a disaster.

Last week, senior Department of Homeland Security officials told the committee that Customs and Border Protection doesn't have the capacity to test and quarantine migrants in their custody, and that there was no planning being done to ensure migrants are not released by the Federal Government at the border if they are COVID–19 positive. Thousands have been released.

I saw with my own eyes hundreds of people in this facility. Not a single one was tested. And only half of the Border Patrol agents have been inoculated. We don't know how many have COVID–19, and quite frankly, I don't think they want to know.

In the midst of the ongoing pandemic, it is the Department's job to ensure it doesn't release anyone who is COVID–19 positive. For this reason, I support efforts to defeat the previous question and bring up commonsense legislation to require that any individual released from CBP or ICE custody tests negative for COVID–19.

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

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO).

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, President Biden's knee-jerk reversal of productive, effective border security policies from the previous administration

was a political calculation that has, quite frankly, backfired and created a humanitarian, security, and public health crisis.

We can't allow our Nation's progress in overcoming the ongoing pandemic to be undermined by dangerous policies allowing individuals with COVID–19 to be released into our communities.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote to defeat the previous question.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD a statement by Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro N. Mayorkas in which he states the many issues associated with the southern border and what we are doing to address those issues.

For example, Border Patrol facilities and border personnel that had not had complete access to a COVID–19 vaccine now have complete access to the vaccine. It talks about the disruptions of the previous administration and their lack of commitment to deal with tender-age children and many other issues that could help inform this conversation moving forward.

[From the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Mar. 16, 2021]

STATEMENT BY HOMELAND SECURITY SECRETARY ALEJANDRO N. MAYORKAS REGARDING THE SITUATION AT THE SOUTHWEST BORDER

There is understandably a great deal of attention currently focused on the southwest border. I want to share the facts, the work that we in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and across the government are doing, and our plan of action. Our personnel remain steadfast in devotion of their talent and efforts in the service of our nation.

The situation at the southwest border is difficult. We are working around the clock to manage it and we will continue to do so. That is our job. We are making progress and we are executing on our plan. It will take time and we will not waver in our commitment to succeed.

We will also not waver in our values and our principles as a Nation. Our goal is a safe, legal, and orderly immigration system that is based on our bedrock priorities: to keep our borders secure, address the plight of children as the law requires, and enable families to be together. As noted by the President in his Executive Order, ''securing our borders does not require us to ignore the humanity of those who seek to cross them.'' We are both a nation of laws and a nation of immigrants. That is one of our proudest traditions.

THE FACTS

We are on pace to encounter more individuals on the southwest border than we have in the last 20 years. We are expelling most single adults and families. We are not expelling unaccompanied children. We are securing our border, executing the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) public health authority to safeguard the American public and the migrants themselves, and protecting the children. We have more work to do.

This is not new. We have experienced migration surges before—in 2019, 2014, and before then as well. Since April 2020, the number of encounters at the southwest border has been steadily increasing. Border Patrol Agents are working around the clock to process the flow at the border and I have great respect for their tireless efforts. To understand the situation, it is important to identify who is arriving at our southwest border and how we are following the law to manage different types of border encounters.

SINGLE ADULTS

The majority of those apprehended at the southwest border are single adults who are currently being expelled under the CDC's authority to manage the public health crisis of the COVID–19 pandemic. Pursuant to that authority under Title 42 of the United States Code, single adults from Mexico and the Northern Triangle countries of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras are swiftly expelled to Mexico. Single adults from other countries are expelled by plane to their countries of origin if Mexico does not accept them. There are limited exceptions to our use of the CDC's expulsion authority. For example, we do not expel individuals with certain acute vulnerabilities.

The expulsion of single adults does not pose an operational challenge for the Border Patrol because of the speed and minimal processing burden of their expulsion.

FAMILIES

Families apprehended at the southwest border are also currently being expelled under the CDC's Title 42 authority. Families from Mexico and the Northern Triangle countries are expelled to Mexico unless Mexico does not have the capacity to receive the families. Families from countries other than Mexico or the Northern Triangle are expelled by plane to their countries of origin. Exceptions can be made when a family member has an acute vulnerability.

Mexico's limited capacity has strained our resources, including in the Rio Grande Valley area of Texas. When Mexico's capacity is reached, we process the families and place them in immigration proceedings here in the United States. We have partnered with communitybased organizations to test the family members and quarantine them as needed under COVID-19 protocols. In some locations, the processing of individuals who are part of a family unit has strained our border resources. I explain below additional challenges we have encountered and the steps we have taken to solve this problem.

UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN

We are encountering many unaccompanied children at our southwest border every day. A child who is under the age of 18 and not accompanied by their parent or legal guardian is considered under the law to be an unaccompanied child. We are encountering six- and sevenyear-old children, for example, arriving at our border without an adult. They are vulnerable children and we have ended the prior administration's practice of expelling them.

An unaccompanied child is brought to a Border Patrol facility and processed for transfer to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Customs and Border Protection is a passthrough and is required to transfer the child to HHS within 72 hours of apprehension. HHS holds the child for testing and quarantine, and shelters the child until the child is placed with a sponsor here in the United States. In more than 80 percent of cases, the child has a family member in the United States. In more than 40 percent of cases, that family member is a parent or legal guardian. These are children being reunited with their families who will care for them.

The children then go through immigration proceedings where they are able to present a claim for relief under the law.

The Border Patrol facilities have become crowded with children and the 72–hour timeframe for the transfer of children from the Border Patrol to HHS is not always met. HHS has not had the capacity to intake the number of unaccompanied children we have been encountering. I describe below the actions we have taken and the plans we are executing to handle this difficult situation successfully.

WHY THE CHALLENGE IS ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT NOW

Poverty, high levels of violence, and corruption in Mexico and the Northern Triangle countries have propelled migration to our southwest border for years. The adverse conditions have continued to deteriorate. Two damaging hurricanes that hit Honduras and swept through the region made the living conditions there even worse, causing more children and families to flee.

The COVID–19 pandemic has made the situation more complicated. There are restrictions and protocols that need to be followed. The physical distancing protocol, for example, imposes space and other limitations on our facilities and operations.

The prior administration completely dismantled the asylum system. The system was gutted, facilities were closed, and they cruelly expelled young children into the hands of traffickers. We have had to rebuild the entire system, including the policies and procedures required to administer the asylum laws that Congress passed long ago.

The prior administration tore down the lawful pathways that had been developed for children to come to the United States in a safe, efficient, and orderly way. It tore down, for example, the Central American Minors program that avoided the need for children to take the dangerous journey to our southwest border.

The previous administration also cut foreign aid funding to the Northern Triangle. No longer did we resource efforts in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras to tackle the root causes of people fleeing their homes.

And, there were no plans to protect our front-line personnel against the COVID–19 pandemic. There was no appropriate planning for the pandemic at all.

As difficult as the border situation is now, we are addressing it. We have acted and we have made progress. We have no illusions about how hard it is, and we know it will take time. We will get it done. We will do so adhering to the law and our fundamental values. We have an incredibly dedicated and talented workforce.

ACTIONS WE HAVE TAKEN

In less than two months, Customs and Border Protection stood-up an additional facility in Donna, Texas to process unaccompanied children and families. We deployed additional personnel to provide oversight, care, and transportation assistance for unaccompanied minors pending transfer to HHS custody.

We are standing up additional facilities in Texas and Arizona to shelter unaccompanied children and families. We are working with Mexico to increase its capacity to receive expelled families. We partnered with community-based organizations to test and quarantine families that Mexico has not had the capacity to receive. We have developed a framework for partnering with local mayors and public health officials to pay for 100% of the expense for testing, isolation, and quarantine for migrants. ICE has also developed additional facilities to provide testing, local transportation, immigration document assistance, orientation, travel coordination in the interior, and mechanisms to support oversight of the migrant families who are not expelled.

Working with Mexico and international organizations, we built a system in which migrants who were forced to remain in Mexico and denied a chance to seek protection under

the previous administration can now use a virtual platform—using their phones—to register. They do not need to take the dangerous journey to the border. The individuals are tested, processed, and transported to a port of entry safely and out of the hands of traffickers. We succeeded in processing the individuals who were in the Matamoros camp in Mexico. This is the roadmap going forward for a system that is safe, orderly, and fair.

To protect our own workforce, we launched Operation Vaccinate Our Workforce (VOW) in late January. At the beginning of this administration, less than 2 percent of our frontline personnel were vaccinated. Now more than 25 percent of our frontline personnel have been vaccinated.

We directed the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to assist HHS in developing the capacity to meet the surge of unaccompanied children. FEMA already established one new facility for HHS to shelter 700 children. They have identified and are currently adding additional facilities. We are working with HHS to more efficiently identify and screen sponsors for children. In two days, we recruited more than 560 DHS volunteers to support HHS in our collective efforts to address the needs of the unaccompanied children.

We are restarting and expanding the Central American Minors program. It creates a lawful pathway for children to come to the United States without having to take the dangerous journey. Under this expansion, children will be processed in their home countries and brought to the United States in a safe and orderly way.

In addition, DHS and HHS terminated a 2018 agreement that had a chilling effect on potential sponsors—typically a parent or close relative—from coming forward to care for an unaccompanied child placed in an HHS shelter. In its place, DHS and HHS signed a new Memorandum of Agreement that promotes the safe and timely transfer of children. It keeps safeguards designed to ensure children are unified with properly vetted sponsors who can safely care for them while they await immigration proceedings.

THE PATH FORWARD

We are creating joint processing centers so that children can be placed in HHS care immediately after Border Patrol encounters them. We are also identifying and equipping additional facilities for HHS to shelter unaccompanied children until they are placed with family or sponsors. These are short-term solutions to address the surge of unaccompanied children.

Longer term, we are working with Mexico and international organizations to expand our new virtual platform so that unaccompanied children can access it without having to take the dangerous journey to our border. As mentioned, we are expanding the Central American Minors program to permit more children to be processed in their home countries and if eligible, brought to the United States in a safe and orderly way.

We are developing additional legal and safe pathways for children and others to reach the United States. While we are building a formal refugee program throughout the region, we are working with Mexico, the Northern Triangle countries, and international organizations to establish processing centers in those countries so that individuals can be screened through them and brought to the United States if they qualify for relief under our humanitarian laws and other authorities.

For years, the asylum system has been badly in need of reengineering. In addition to improving the process by which unaccompanied children are placed with family or sponsors, we will be issuing a new regulation shortly and taking other measures to implement the long needed systemic reforms. We will shorten from years to months the time it takes to adjudicate an asylum claim while ensuring procedural safeguards and enhancing access to counsel.

President Biden laid out a vision of a ''multi-pronged approach toward managing migration throughout North and Central America that reflects the Nation's highest values.'' To that end, we are working with the Departments of Health and Human Services, Justice, and State in an all-of-government effort to not only address the current situation at our southwest border, but to institute longer-term solutions to irregular migration from countries in our hemisphere that are suffering worsening conditions. This is powerfully exemplified by the President's goal to invest $4 billion in the Northern Triangle countries to address the root causes of migration.

CONCLUSION

The situation we are currently facing at the southwest border is a difficult one. We are tackling it. We are keeping our borders secure, enforcing our laws, and staying true to our values and principles. We can do so because of the incredible talent and unwavering dedication of our workforce.

I came to this country as an infant, brought by parents who understood the hope and promise of America. Today, young children are arriving at our border with that same hope. We can do this.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1730

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. HERRELL).

Ms. HERRELL. Madam Speaker, I rise because I am concerned about the release of aliens into my community without COVID–19 testing.

Dr. MILLER-MEEKS' changes to this legislation are vital to protecting Americans from the spread of COVID–19.

As our Nation continues to deal with the COVID–19 pandemic, our State is still largely locked down, our schools are shuttered, and many of our businesses have been closed due to orders from State and local officials.

In many areas along the border, the CBP has restarted catch and release in the midst of this unprecedented pandemic. This is completely illogical, especially while American citizens continue to live under such restrictions. In fact, again, I can point to a double standard.

Madam Speaker, it is very unfair to think that we want to do something to protect these young families, these unaccompanied children, when we know for a fact that they are coming across the border at the age 1, 3, and 5 alone, without any supervision. We know for a fact that they are being raped and pillaged along the way. And if we feel that is somehow a benefit to the children, let alone being exposed in coming into this Nation with COVID, then we are fooling not only ourselves, but, again, the American people. We aren't just putting the immigrants in harm's way, but also the American people.

Madam Speaker, we should be more mindful of what is happening. This is a health pandemic we are living in. This is a crisis. We have suicide rates that we have never seen before amongst students. Our businesses are shut down. We must do something to protect the American people first.

We also must protect the migrants. But allowing our borders to be porous without the COVID testing is, again, a mistake, not only for the Nation, but for the migrants trying to come here. It is dangerous for both Americans and migrants.

We deserve better than that in America. Our Americans deserve better than that. And we must support Dr. MILLER-MEEKS' bill and insist that there is COVID testing before migrants are released into America.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, as difficult as the situation is at our southern border, we are addressing it.

The Biden administration has acted, and they have made progress. They have no illusions about how hard it is, because they inherited a dismantled program. And to protect our own workforce, they have launched Operation Vaccinate our Workers, VOW, in late January.

At the beginning of the Biden administration, less than 2 percent of our frontline personnel were vaccinated. To date, more than 25 percent of our frontline personnel have been vaccinated. That is leadership. That is not avoidance of the problem that we face.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, in closing, there is a crisis at our border. Whether the Democrats acknowledge it or not, our border patrol agents are overwhelmed, detention facilities are way over capacity, and COVID–19 is spreading unchecked throughout. This puts the health of both individuals detained and the border agents at risk.

We currently require a negative COVID test to travel in the U.S. So why should the southern border be any different?

The border crisis is a direct result of the administration's lax immigration policy, and it is putting our communities at further risk of contracting COVID–19.

Madam Speaker, I urge a ''no'' vote on the previous question, and a ''no'' vote on the underlying measure.

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

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Last week, we passed a historic American Rescue Plan, which set out a vision of who we are as a nation. We are a country that can conquer this virus, a country that cares about eliminating childhood poverty, and a country that is dedicated to ensuring that

everyone—everyone, not just the rich—are able to emerge from the pandemic and do better.

The bills before us today are a continuation of this vision of a country committed to doing better for the people. Too many people in America live in fear, fear because they are not protected under the law, but these bills before us today say: ''No more.''

The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act says to domestic abuse survivors: ''You are safe. You are going to be safe.''

H.J. Res. 17, which removes the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment says to women: ''You are equal.'' ''We are equal.''

The Dream and Promise Act says to Dreamers: ''You, too, can have a shot at the American Dream.''

And the Farm Workforce Modernization Act tells our farm workers: ''You can do your job without fear of deportation.''

H.R. 1868 tells Americans: ''Don't worry about draconian cuts. Let's focus on recovery.''

Madam Speaker, the bills before us today will continue the Democratic Congress' work to do better by all the American people.

Madam Speaker, I urge a ''yes'' vote on the rule and the previous question.

The material previously referred to by Mrs. FISCHBACH is as follows:

AMENDMENT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 233

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 11. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution, the House shall proceed to the consideration in the House of the bill (H.R. 1897) to require a diagnostic test for COVID–19 for an inadmissible alien released from the custody of the United States Customs and Border Protection or the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 12. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 1897.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

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

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

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

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 37 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PANETTA) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1620, VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2021; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6, AMERICAN DREAM AND PROMISE ACT OF 2021; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1603, FARM WORKFORCE MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2021; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1868, PREVENTING PAYGO SEQUESTRATION; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 17, REMOVING THE DEADLINE FOR THE RATIFICATION OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 233) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1620) to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6) to authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain aliens, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1603) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for terms and conditions for nonimmigrant workers performing agricultural labor or services, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1868) to prevent across-the-board direct spending cuts, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 17) removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment; and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question on the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 212, nays 200, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 78]

YEAS—212

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Auchincloss
Axne
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brownley
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis, Danny K.
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fletcher
Foster
Frankel, Lois
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gomez
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hastings
Hayes
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Kahele
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newman
Norcross
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Rice (NY)
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Veasey
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NAYS—200

Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Banks
Barr
Bentz
Bergman
Bice (OK)
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brooks
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Calvert
Cammack
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Comer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Estes
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Gohmert
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Granger
Graves (LA)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harris
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hern

Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
Jacobs (NY)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Katko
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kim (CA)
Kinzinger
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Latta
LaTurner
Lesko
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Mace
Malliotakis
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
Meijer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Mullin
Murphy (NC)
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunes
Obernolte
Owens
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Stivers
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wittman
Womack
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—17

Armstrong
Balderson
Brady
Brown
Davis, Rodney
Gaetz
Golden
Graves (MO)
Lamborn
Lee (CA)
Murphy (FL)
Simpson
Speier
Vela
Waltz
Wilson (SC)
Young

□ 1916

Mr. LONG changed his vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ changed her vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, on roll-call vote 78, I was not present because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted ''Yes'' on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 233.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Allred (Davids (KS))
Axne (Stevens)
Baird (Walorski)
Barragán (Beyer)
Bera (Aguilar)
Bishop (GA) (Butterfield)
Blumenauer (Beyer)
Buchanan (Gimenez)
Bush (Clark (MA))
Cárdenas (Gomez)
Castro (TX) (Garcia (TX))
Cleaver (Davids (KS))
Craig (McCollum)
DeFazio (Davids (KS))
DeSaulnier (Matsui)
DesJarlais (Fleischmann)
Garamendi (Sherman)
Garbarino (Joyce (OH))
Gonzalez (OH) (Joyce (OH))
Gottheimer (Suozzi)
Grijalva (García (IL))
Hastings (Wasserman Schultz)
Higgins (NY) (Kildee)
Johnson (TX) (Jeffries)
Kahele (Mrvan)
Kim (NJ) (Davids (KS))
Kind (Connolly)
Kinzinger (Herrera-Beutler)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Kuster (Clark (MA))
Langevin (Lynch)
Lawson (FL) (Demings)
Lieu (Beyer)
Lowenthal (Beyer)
McEachin (Wexton)
Meng (Clark (MA))
Moore (WI) (Beyer)
Moulton (Underwood)
Napolitano (Correa)
Payne (Wasserman Schultz)
Perlmutter (Courtney)
Peters (Kildee)
Pingree (Cicilline)
Porter (Wexton)
Roybal-Allard (Aguilar)
Rush (Underwood)
Schneider (Crow)
Sires (Pallone)
Slotkin (Stevens)
Timmons (Steube)
Watson Coleman (Pallone)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the resolution.

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

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 216, nays 204, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 79]

YEAS—216

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Auchincloss
Axne
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brown
Brownley
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis, Danny K.
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fletcher
Foster
Frankel, Lois
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gomez
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hastings
Hayes
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Kahele
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newman
Norcross
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Rice (NY)
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NAYS—204

Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Banks
Barr
Bentz
Bergman
Bice (OK)
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brooks
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Calvert
Cammack
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Comer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Estes
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Gohmert
Golden
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harris
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
Jacobs (NY)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Katko
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kim (CA)
Kinzinger
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
LaTurner
Lesko
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Mace
Malliotakis
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
Meijer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Mullin
Murphy (NC)
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunes
Obernolte
Owens
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Stivers
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wittman
Womack
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—9

Armstrong
Balderson
Brady
Gaetz
Murphy (FL)
Simpson
Waltz
Wilson (SC)
Young

□ 2003

Ms. MACE and Mr. VAN DREW changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So the resolution 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, 117TH CONGRESS

Allred (Davids (KS))
Axne (Stevens)
Baird (Walorski)
Barragán (Beyer)
Bera (Aguilar)
Bishop (GA) (Butterfield)
Blumenauer (Beyer)
Buchanan (Gimenez)
Bush (Clark (MA))
Cárdenas (Gomez)
Castro (TX) (Garcia (TX))
Cleaver (Davids (KS))
Craig (McCollum)
DeFazio (Davids (KS))

DeSaulnier (Matsui)
DesJarlais (Fleischmann)
Garamendi (Sherman)
Garbarino (Joyce (OH))
Gonzalez (OH) (Joyce (OH))
Gottheimer (Suozzi)
Grijalva (García (IL))
Hastings (Wasserman Schultz)
Higgins (NY) (Kildee)
Johnson (TX) (Jeffries)
Kahele (Mrvan)
Kim (NJ) (Davids (KS))
Kind (Connolly)
Kinzinger (Herrera-Beutler)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Kuster (Clark (MA))
Lamborn (Walberg)
Langevin (Lynch)
Lawson (FL) (Demings)
Lieu (Beyer)
Lowenthal (Beyer)
McEachin (Wexton)
Meng (Clark (MA))
Moore (WI) (Beyer)
Moulton (Underwood)
Napolitano (Correa)
Payne (Wasserman Schultz)
Perlmutter (Courtney)
Peters (Kildee)
Pingree (Cicilline)
Porter (Wexton)
Roybal-Allard (Aguilar)
Rush (Underwood)
Schneider (Crow)
Sires (Pallone)
Slotkin (Stevens)
Timmons (Steube)
Watson Coleman (Pallone)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

PPP EXTENSION ACT OF 2021

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1799) to amend the Small Business Act and the CARES Act to extend the covered period for the paycheck protection program, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 415, nays 3, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 80]

YEAS—415

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Allred
Amodei
Arrington
Auchincloss
Axne
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Banks
Barr
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice (OK)
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NC)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Boebert
Bonamici
Bost
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brooks
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Cammack
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carl
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Cleaver
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Clyde
Cohen
Cole
Comer
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
Davids (KS)
Davidson
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donalds
Doyle, Michael F.
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Estes
Evans
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Gohmert
Golden
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez, Vicente
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harder (CA)
Harris
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hastings
Hayes
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jacobs (NY)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kahele
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Keller
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kinzinger
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamb
Lamborn
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Lesko
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Lowenthal
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luria
Lynch
Mace
Malinowski
Malliotakis
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Mann
Manning
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meijer
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy (NC)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Newman
Norcross
Norman
Nunes
O'Halleran
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Pfluger
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Ross
Rouzer
Roy
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Spanberger
Spartz
Speier
Stanton
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stevens
Stewart
Stivers
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wittman
Womack
Yarmuth
Zeldin

NAYS—3

Greene (GA)
Massie
McClintock

NOT VOTING—11

Armstrong
Balderson
Brady
Clarke (NY)
Gaetz
McHenry
Murphy (FL)
Simpson
Waltz
Wilson (SC)
Young

□ 2051

Messrs. STEWART and WEBSTER of Florida changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, due to last-minute congressional business, I was unable to vote on this measure.

Had I been present, I would have voted: "yea" on rollcall No. 80 (PPP Extension Act of 2021).

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Allred (Davids (KS))
Axne (Stevens)
Baird (Walorski)
Barragán (Beyer)
Bera (Aguilar)
Bishop (GA) (Butterfield)
Blumenauer (Beyer)
Buchanan (Gimenez)
Bush (Clark (MA))
Cárdenas (Gomez)
Castro (TX) (Garcia (TX))
Cleaver (Davids (KS))
Craig (McCollum)
DeFazio (Davids (KS))
DeSaulnier (Matsui)
DesJarlais (Fleischmann)
Garamendi (Sherman)
Garbarino (Joyce (OH))
Gonzalez (OH) (Joyce (OH))
Gottheimer (Suozzi)
Grijalva (García (IL))
Hastings (Wasserman Schultz)
Higgins (NY) (Kildee)
Johnson (TX) (Jeffries)
Kahele (Mrvan)
Kim (NJ) (Davids (KS))
Kind (Connolly)
Kinzinger (Herrera-Beutler)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Kuster (Clark (MA))
Lamborn (Walberg)
Langevin (Lynch)
Lawson (FL) (Demings)
Lieu (Beyer)
Lowenthal (Beyer)
McEachin (Wexton)
Meng (Clark (MA))
Moore (WI) (Beyer)
Moulton (Underwood)
Napolitano (Correa)
Payne (Wasserman Schultz)
Perlmutter (Courtney)
Peters (Kildee)
Pingree (Cicilline)
Porter (Wexton)
Roybal-Allard (Aguilar)
Rush (Underwood)
Schneider (Crow)
Sires (Pallone)
Slotkin (Stevens)
Timmons (Steube)
Watson Coleman (Pallone)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

STRONGER CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 485) to reauthorize the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 345, nays 73, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 81]

YEAS—345

Adams
Aguilar
Allen
Allred
Amodei
Auchincloss
Axne
Bacon
Baird
Banks
Barr
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice (OK)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Bucshon
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (GA)
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Comer
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crenshaw
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
Davids (KS)
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Emmer
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, C. Scott
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Golden
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gottheimer
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harder (CA)
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hastings
Hayes
Herrera Beutler
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jacobs (NY)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kahele
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Keller
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kinzinger
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Kustoff
Lamb
Lamborn
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luria
Lynch
Mace
Malinowski
Malliotakis
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meijer
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Murphy (NC)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Newman
Norcross
Nunes
O'Halleran
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Owens
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Peters
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (KY)
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Salazar
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Spanberger
Spartz
Speier
Stanton
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Stevens
Stewart
Stivers
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Timmons
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Walberg
Walorski
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wittman
Womack
Yarmuth
Zeldin

NAYS—73

Aderholt
Arrington
Babin
Biggs
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Brooks
Buck
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Cammack
Carl
Carter (TX)
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Crawford
Davidson
Donalds
Duncan
Dunn
Estes
Fallon
Fitzgerald
Fulcher
Gohmert
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Granger
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Harris
Hern
Herrell
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Jackson
Jordan
Kelly (MS)
LaHood
LaMalfa
LaTurner
Lesko
Loudermilk
Mann
Massie
Mast
McClintock
Miller (IL)
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Mullin
Norman
Palazzo
Perry
Pfluger
Rogers (AL)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Smith (MO)
Steube
Tiffany
Weber (TX)

NOT VOTING—11

Armstrong
Balderson
Brady
Gaetz
McHenry
Murphy (FL)
Simpson
Wagner
Waltz
Wilson (SC)
Young

□ 2138

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi changed his vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Messrs. CAWTHORN, PALMER, and CARTER of Georgia changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Allred (Davids (KS))
Axne (Stevens)
Baird (Walorski)
Barragán (Beyer)
Bera (Aguilar)
Bishop (GA) (Butterfield)
Blumenauer (Beyer)
Buchanan (Gimenez)
Bush (Clark (MA))
Cárdenas (Gomez)
Castro (TX) (Garcia (TX))
Cleaver (Davids (KS))
Craig (McCollum)
DeFazio (Davids (KS))
DeSaulnier (Matsui)
DesJarlais (Fleischmann)
Garamendi (Sherman)
Garbarino (Joyce (OH))
Gonzalez (OH) (Joyce (OH))
Gottheimer (Suozzi)
Grijalva (García (IL))
Hastings (Wasserman Schultz)
Higgins (NY) (Kildee)
Johnson (TX) (Jeffries)
Kahele (Mrvan)
Kim (NJ) (Davids (KS))
Kind (Connolly)
Kinzinger (Herrera-Beutler)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Kuster (Clark (MA))
Lamborn (Walberg)
Langevin (Lynch)
Lawson (FL) (Demings)
Lieu (Beyer)
Lowenthal (Beyer)
McEachin (Wexton)
Meng (Clark (MA))
Moore (WI) (Beyer)
Moulton (Underwood)
Napolitano (Correa)
Payne (Wasserman Schultz)
Perlmutter (Courtney)
Peters (Kildee)
Pingree (Cicilline)
Porter (Wexton)
Roybal-Allard (Aguilar)
Rush (Underwood)
Schneider (Crow)
Sires (Pallone)
Slotkin (Stevens)
Timmons (Steube)
Watson Coleman (Pallone)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

REQUIRING AN AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS PRESENT AND VOTING, A QUORUM BEING PRESENT, ON FINAL PASSAGE OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 17

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 9 of House Resolution 233, House Resolution 232 is hereby adopted.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 232

Resolved, That an affirmative vote of a majority of the Members present and voting, a quorum being present, shall be required on final passage of House Joint Resolution 17.

BLACK LIVES MATTER IS FIGHTING FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pose a question to my good friend, the Senator from Wisconsin.

It amazes me that in the conspicuous and confirmed insurrection of January 6, when there were persons who were literally attacking and beating law enforcement officers in plain view; seeking to kill the Vice President, the Speaker, and Members of Congress; and throwing off racial epithets, that Senator from Wisconsin seemed to be confused.

He was not afraid of the insurrectionists, who were beating police officers, but he would be afraid of young people of Black Lives Matter, who were fighting for social justice, and allegedly those who were Antifa, which is really an ideology.

It strikes me quite amazing that this individual would not understand that that is racist. That is racism.

I would hope that if a Senator takes an oath to serve the people of the United States of America and his own State that is very diverse that he would correct that kind of behavior and that he would, in fact, not be someone who would offer to say that Black Lives Matter is worthy of being frightened of.

No, they are not. They are fighting for social justice. They are fighting for what is right. I think the gentleman needs to get corrected in what he is thinking.

RECOGNIZING VINCENT SPERANZA, 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION PARATROOPER

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Vincent Speranza, a 101st Airborne Division paratrooper, a Battle of the Bulge legend, and now a frequent flyer out of the Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport in Springfield, Illinois.

Mr. Speranza is 95 years old and usually flies out of Abraham Lincoln on his way to travel the world or to jump out of airplanes like last year with the U.S. Army's Golden Knights.

Just a few weeks ago, I had the honor of being on the same flight as he was. TSA Officers Martin Derhake and Deanna Victor love Mr. Speranza and know he will always have a new story to brighten their day and lift their spirits.

Mr. Speranza grew up in Staten Island but now lives in Sherman, Illinois. He became a paratrooper after basic training and joined the 101st just prior to the Battle of the Bulge, where his actions have cemented his legacy to this day. Mr. Speranza filled up his Army helmet with beer from a tap in Bastogne for his friend who was wounded. Later, Airborne Beer was born because of Speranza's efforts. Madam Speaker, I urge you to look this story up if you haven't already.

I thank Mr. Speranza for his service to our country, for the way his presence brightens everyone's day, and for helping his fellow troops find a beer during the Battle of the Bulge.

Cheers to many more years, my friend.

□ 2145

SCHOOL TESTING

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

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Madam Speaker, the American Rescue Plan is going to help get kids back to full, in-person learning in Massachusetts' Fourth Congressional District. Since even before taking office, opening the schools has been my top district priority.

With the rescue plan, we are not only boosting the production of vaccines that protect teachers and staff, but we are also providing money for HVAC upgrades and for ongoing COVID surveillance testing in the schools. This testing catches outbreaks early and breaks transmission chains. It provides confidence and transparency as we reopen.

I am proud that scientists and operators in my district are developing these cutting-edge, low-cost school testing technologies, including at Ginkgo Bioworks, CIC Health, and Project Beacon. Classrooms must open, and they must be safe for students and teachers alike. With vaccines and testing, they will be.

REAUTHORIZATION OF VAWA

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, my legislation, which will be on this House floor tomorrow.

Madam Speaker, for years, VAWA has been instrumental in safeguarding women and children from abuse, anguish, and violence, and has resulted in the saving of millions of lives.

Madam Speaker, in my own district in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, A Woman's Place has served as a lifesaving resource for over 40 years; and NOVA, the Network of Victim Assistance, has helped over 3,600 victims—neither of which would be able to do their work without the help of VAWA and the reauthorization.

Madam Speaker, in August of 2018, 7-year-old Kayden Mancuso of Bucks County was murdered by her father after being awarded partial, unsupervised custody, despite a documented history of violence. She was a beautiful young girl whose life was taken from us.

Kayden's Law is included in this bill and takes steps to improve our response to the failures of State courts to protect children in custody proceedings.

Madam Speaker, VAWA is lifesaving legislation, and I implore my colleagues and all of my friends who we have built relationships with on both sides of the aisle to join me tomorrow in supporting this legislation.

REMEMBERING MICHAEL SCARBROUGH

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor an important voice of Tybee Island, Georgia. Michael, or Mike, Scarbrough passed away on March 4.

He was born in Birmingham, Alabama, but eventually moved to Norcross, Georgia, where he became vice president of Marathon Construction.

Mike later moved to Tybee Island in 1992, where he and his lovely wife, Iris, became owners of Lazaretto Creek Marina. There, they created Captain Mike's Dolphin Tours.

Captain Mike's Dolphin Tours was voted the best adventure tour on Tybee Island for 9 straight years, and it was all thanks to Mike's tireless contributions and engaging persona.

Mike was an active member of the Tybee Island Republican Club, Tybee Island American Legion, and the Alee Temple Shriners.

I am thankful for his wonderful contributions to Tybee Island for the last few decades.

My thoughts and prayers go out to his family, friends, and all who knew him during this most difficult time.

PRESIDENT TRUMP

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

Mr. LAMALFA. President Trump is owed yet another apology from fake news outlets. The recent revelation about the Washington Post and its retraction and other disinformation sources going with a made-up narrative from ''sources'' in the Georgia election scandal prove, once again, that no act is out of bounds for the media, Democrats, and others with Trump derangement syndrome in their effort to discredit President Trump. The Washington Post even went so far as to criticize all conservative media for not covering this story.

Two distorted accounts of phone calls by President Trump got us two phony, baseless impeachment proceedings by this House. With no real review, witness testimony, or anything else resembling due process in the bum-rush to have round two of impeachment, the blatant political usage of this process is a stain on this institution and should be an embarrassment to all who drove it.

Apologies are owed not only to President Trump, but, more importantly, to the citizens of the United States, who lived through a year of being clamped down, their jobs lost and damaged, savings used up, and a giant legacy of deficit and death that this institution should be tackling.

Instead, many weeks and costs wasted on two impeachments in two years in the House. Shame on this institution for fulfilling this fake news.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF JUDGE JEFF BURDETTE

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

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my very good friend, Judge Jeff Burdette, from Mt. Vernon, Kentucky, in Rockcastle County, upon his retirement as circuit court judge after 30 years of distinguished service to the good people of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Judge Burdette's circuit court district comprised Rockcastle, Lincoln, and Pulaski Counties.

Judge Burdette was considered a constitutional scholar who was respected by everyone, not just on the bench and in the legal community, but everyone in the community in southern Kentucky.

He was instrumental in launching the 28th Circuit Adult Drug Court and the rocket docket.

Judge Burdette has been someone I have always looked up to, and I wish him the very best in his retirement. I thank him on behalf of the United States House of Representatives for his service to the good people of Kentucky.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. JACOBS of California). Pursuant to section

11(b) of House Resolution 188, the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon (at 9 o'clock and 51 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, March 17, 2021, at 10 a.m.

BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF PAYGO LEGISLATION

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 1651, the COVID–19 Bankruptcy Relief Extension Act of 2021, as amended, would have no significant effect on the deficit, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, the attached estimate of the costs of H.R. 1652, the VOCA Fix to Sustain the Crime Victims Fund Act of 2021, as amended, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

ESTIMATE OF PAY-AS-YOU-GO EFFECTS for H.R. 1652

	By fiscal year, in millions of dollars—												
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2021–2026	2021–2031
Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Impact	0	38	243	513	763	950	1,025	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	2,505	7,530

Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

EC-597. A letter from the Congressional Assistant II, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's final Major rule — Net Stable Funding Ratio: Liquidity Risk Measurement Standards and Disclosure Requirements [Regulation WW; Docket No.: R-1537] (RIN: 7100-AE51) received March 16, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-598. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Arkansas; Infrastructure for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R06-OAR-2019-0616; FRL-10018-28-Region 6] received February 25, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-599. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Massachusetts; Infrastructure State Implementation Plan Requirements for the 2015 Ozone Standard [EPA-R01-OAR-2019-0659; FRL-10018-99-Region 1] received February 25, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-600. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Pennsylvania; 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard Second Maintenance Plan for the Harrisburg-Lebanon-Carlisle Area [EPA-R03-OAR-2020-0288; FRL-10016-56-Region 3] received February 25, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-601. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Pennsylvania; 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) Second Maintenance Plan for the Altoona (Blair County) Area [EPA-R03-OAR-2020-0332; FRL-10017-26-Region 3] received February 25, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-602. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Virginia; Negative Declarations Certification for the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard Including the 2016 Oil and Natural Gas Control Techniques Guidelines [EPA-R03-OAR-2020-0283; FRL-10016-88-Region 3] received February 25, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-603. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; West Virginia; 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard Second Maintenance Plan for the West Virginia Portion for the Charleston, West Virginia Area Comprising Kanawha and Putnam Counties [EPA-R03-OAR-2020-0194; FRL-10017-11-Region 3] received February 25, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-604. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Wisconsin; VOC RACT Requirements for Lithographic Printing Facilities [EPA-R05-OAR-2019-0700; FRL-10018-39-Region 5] received February 25, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-605. A letter from the Acting Assistant General Counsel, Regulatory Affairs Division, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Department's direct final rule — Revisions to Safety Standard for Infant Swings [Docket No.: CPSC-2013-0025] received February 25, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-606. A letter from the Director, Equal Employment Opportunity and Inclusion, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's 2020 No FEAR Act Report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3242); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-607. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's FY 2020 Federal Information Security Modernization Act Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-608. A letter from the Director, Equal Employment Opportunity and Inclusion, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's 2020 No Fear Act Report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3242); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-609. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Delisting and Foreign Species, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removing Bradshaw's Lomatium (Lomatium bradshawii) from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife [Docket No.: FWS-R1-ES-2019-0013; FF09E22000 FXES11130000000 212] (RIN: 1018-BD59) received March 15, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-610. A letter from the Director, Regulations and Disclosure Law Division, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Imposition of Import Restrictions on Categories of Archaeological and Ethnological Material from Morocco (RIN: 1515-AE60) received February 25, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-611. A letter from the Chair, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, transmitting the Commission's March 2021 Report to Congress: Medicare Payment Policy, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1395b-6(b)(1)(c); Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title XVIII, Sec. 1805(b)(1)(c) (as amended by Public Law 111-148, Sec. 2801(b)(1)); (124 Stat. 332); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mrs. TORRES of California: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 233. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1620) to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6) to authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain aliens, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1603) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for terms and conditions for nonimmigrant workers performing agricultural labor or services, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1868) to prevent across-the-board direct spending cuts, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 17) removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment; and for other purposes (Rept. 117–12). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. GIMENEZ:

H.R. 1895. A bill to enhance the preparedness of the Transportation Security Administration for public health threats to the transportation security system of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. KIM of New Jersey (for himself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 1896. A bill to amend title I of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to provide for additional grants for States to conduct activities related to establishing American Health Benefit Exchanges; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS (for herself, Mr. KATKO, and Mr. NORMAN):

H.R. 1897. A bill to require a diagnostic test for COVID-19 for an inadmissible alien released from the custody of the United States Customs and Border Protection or the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARBAJAL (for himself and Mr. LAMALFA):

H.R. 1898. A bill to amend the FAST Act to authorize appropriations for the United States Forest Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GRIFFITH:

H.R. 1899. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to provide for the modification, transfer, and termination of a registration to manufacture, distribute, or dispense controlled substances or list I chemicals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BERGMAN (for himself and Mr. NEGUSE):

H.R. 1900. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the health care professionals, first responders, scientists, researchers, all essential workers, and individuals who provided care and services during the coronavirus pandemic; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BIGGS (for himself, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Ms. HERRELL, Mr. BUDD, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BABIN, Mr. ROY, Mr. CLOUD, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. NORMAN, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. PERRY, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. STEUBE, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska):

H.R. 1901. A bill to close loopholes in the immigration laws that serve as incentives to aliens to attempt to enter the United States unlawfully, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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. BISHOP of North Carolina (for himself, Mr. ISSA, Mr. BROOKS, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. OWENS, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. PERRY, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. MANN, Mr. BANKS, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, and Mrs. LESKO):

H.R. 1902. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to eliminate the use of official time by Federal employees; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. BOST (for himself and Mr. GOLDEN):

H.R. 1903. A bill to amend title II of the Higher Education Act of 1965 with respect to partnership grants for the establishment of rural teaching residency programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. BOWMAN (for himself and Mr. CLEAVER):

H.R. 1904. A bill to include broadband as a utility that tenants residing in federally assisted housing can have subsidized by the Federal Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania (for himself, Ms. DEAN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. HASTINGS):

H.R. 1905. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to allow the sponsor of a drug to use a non-animal test as an alternative to an animal test for purposes of demonstrating the safety and effectiveness of a drug if such approach satisfies the requirements of the applicable statutes and regulations; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BROWN:

H.R. 1906. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code to prohibit persons convicted of misdemeanor crimes against dating partners and persons subject to protection orders from possessing firearms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

H.R. 1907. A bill to authorize the Attorney General to make grants for technical assistance and training in the operation or establishment of a lethality assessment program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

H.R. 1908. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land as the Ka'ena Point National Heritage Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas (for himself, Mr. LIEU, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. VELA, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. CORREA, Mr. SOTO, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. MENG, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. RUSH, Mr. JONES, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. JACOBS of California, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. NEWMAN, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. DEGETTE, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. DEAN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. CHU, and Mr. SUOZZI):

H.R. 1909. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for the adjustment of status of essential workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CHABOT (for himself and Mr. LATTA):

H.R. 1910. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to list fentanyl-related substances as schedule I controlled substances; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts (for herself, Mr. BOWMAN, and Ms. BONAMICI):

H.R. 1911. A bill to provide assistance with respect to child care infrastructure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS OF ILLINOIS:

H.R. 1912. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to clarify the treatment of certain institutional financial assistance; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. KELLY OF MISSISSIPPI (for himself and Mr. BACON):

H.R. 1913. A bill to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to products of Uzbekistan; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DEFAZIO (for himself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Ms. PRESSLEY):

H.R. 1914. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to encourage State Medicaid programs to provide community-based mobile crisis intervention services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DEFAZIO (for himself, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 1915. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize certain water pollution control programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. ESHOO (for herself, Mr. FERGUSON, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mrs. AXNE, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mrs. LURIA, Mr. STANTON, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. GALLEGO,

Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. WILD, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. NORTON, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. CROW, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. PASCRELL, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. VELA, Mr. COOPER, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. TRONE, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. MENG, Ms. PORTER, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. TIMMONS, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. POSEY, Mr. LAMB, Mr. COLE, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. SIRES, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. TONKO, Mr. STIVERS, Ms. ROSS, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. BASS, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. MRVAN, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. ADERHOLT, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. JONES, Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. OMAR, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. RUSH, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. BACON, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. MANN, Mr. UPTON, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. KHANNA, Mrs. HARTZLER, Ms. BUSH, Mr. BOST, Ms. STRICKLAND, Ms. MANNING, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. GUEST, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. BABIN, Ms. TITUS, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. POCAN, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. RYAN, Mr. STEWART, Mr. HAGEDORN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. EMMER, and Mr. MOORE of Utah):

H.R. 1916. A bill to provide health insurance benefits for outpatient and inpatient items and services related to the diagnosis and treatment of a congenital anomaly or birth defect; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and 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 Mrs. FLETCHER (for herself and Mr. MCCAUL):

H.R. 1917. A bill to modify eligibility requirements for certain hazard mitigation assistance programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GARAMENDI (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. COHEN, Ms. MENG, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Mr. SIRES, Mr. TONKO, Mr. HARDER of California, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. KATKO, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, and Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas):

H.R. 1918. A bill to provide for the refinancing and recalculation of certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. GOMEZ (for himself, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. CHU, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CORREA, Mr. COSTA, Ms. DEAN, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KIND, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. LIEU, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OMAR, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. RUSH, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. SIRES, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SOTO, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VELA, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia):

H.R. 1919. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to treat attendance at an institution of higher education the same as work for the purpose of determining eligibility to participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana (for himself and Mr. CUELLAR):

H.R. 1920. A bill to provide for Federal agency accountability and improve the effectiveness of major rules in accomplishing their regulatory objectives by requiring retrospective review and report, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana:

H.R. 1921. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. HICE of Georgia (for himself, Mr. COMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, and Mr. CLYDE):

H.R. 1922. A bill to reauthorize and modify the authority of the Merit Systems Protection Board, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' 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. HIMES (for himself and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 1923. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect more victims of domestic violence by preventing their abusers from possessing or receiving firearms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JEFFRIES (for himself, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. CRENSHAW):

H.R. 1924. A bill to provide first-time, low-level, nonviolent simple possession offenders an opportunity to expunge that conviction after successful completion of court-imposed probation; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

H.R. 1925. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land as the South Kona National Heritage Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LAMALFA (for himself, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. BANKS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. ADERHOLT, and Mr. BABIN):

H.R. 1926. A bill to amend chapter 110 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit gender reassignment medical interventions on minors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LAMALFA (for himself, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. BANKS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. BABIN, and Mr. GOOD of Virginia):

H.R. 1927. A bill to prohibit taxpayer-funded gender reassignment medical interventions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LIEU:

H.R. 1928. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to protect students from sexual abuse, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 1929. A bill to amend title 44, United States Code, to require the President make and preserve records, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York (for herself and Mr. COMER):

H.R. 1930. A bill to amend the Federal Advisory Committee Act to increase the transparency of Federal advisory committees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and 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. MATSUI (for herself, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. CHU, Mr. BUCK, Ms. MENG, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KAHELE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. PORTER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Mr. KHANNA, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. CARSON, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. OMAR, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. KILMER, Mr. BERA, and Mr. CASE):

H.R. 1931. A bill to provide competitive grants for the promotion of Japanese American confinement education as a means to understand the importance of democratic principles, use and abuse of power, and to raise awareness about the importance of cultural tolerance toward Japanese Americans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. MCBATH (for herself and Mr. LOWENTHAL):

H.R. 1932. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require institutions of

higher education to disclose hazing incidents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mrs. MCBATH (for herself and Mr. STIVERS):

H.R. 1933. A bill to require institutions of higher education to disclose hazing-related misconduct, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. MCCAUL (for himself, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, and Mr. LANGEVIN):

H.R. 1934. A bill to direct the Federal Government to provide assistance and technical expertise to enhance the representation and leadership of the United States at international standards-setting bodies that set standards for equipment, systems, software, and virtually-defined networks that support 5th and future generations mobile telecommunications systems and infrastructure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina (for himself and Mr. BIGGS):

H.R. 1935. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to reassign 95 percent of the members of the National Guard deployed to the National Capital Region to the southern land border of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 1936. A bill to require the Comptroller General to evaluate and issue a report on the structural and economic impacts of climate resiliency at the Federal Emergency Management Agency, including recommendations on how to improve the building codes and standards that the Agency uses to prepare for climate change and address resiliency in housing, public buildings, and infrastructure such as roads and bridges; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. NORMAN (for himself, Mr. LATURNER, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. TIMMONS, Ms. MACE, and Mr. WEBER of Texas):

H.R. 1937. A bill to require recipients of Federal funds to disclose information relating to programs, projects, or activities carried out using the Federal funds; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 1938. A bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to ensure that a member of a reserve component of a uniformed service, who performs active service for more than 30 consecutive days under multiple calls or orders to active service that specify periods of 30 days or less, is paid the same basic allowance for housing as a similarly situated member of a reserve component called or ordered to active service for a period of more than 30 days; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. O'HALLERAN (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

H.R. 1939. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award additional funding through the Sanitation Facilities Construction Program of the Indian Health Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PENCE (for himself, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, and Mr. GUEST):

H.R. 1940. A bill to establish a public buildings public-private partnership pilot program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. RADEWAGEN (for herself, Mr. SABLAN, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, and Mr. SAN NICOLAS):

H.R. 1941. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to waive certain naturalization requirements for United States nationals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RICE of South Carolina (for himself and Ms. MACE):

H.R. 1942. A bill to extend Federal recognition to the Waccamaw Indian People of Conway, South Carolina, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. RICE of South Carolina (for himself and Ms. MACE):

H.R. 1943. A bill to extend Federal recognition to the Pee Dee Indian Tribe of McColl, South Carolina; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. RICE of South Carolina (for himself, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. LAHOOD, and Mr. PANETTA):

H.R. 1944. A bill to provide a tax credits for certain expenses associated with protecting employees from COVID-19; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. SÁNCHEZ (for herself, Mr. ESTES, Ms. CHU, Mr. MCCAUL, Ms. DELBENE, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO):

H.R. 1945. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an election to expense certain qualified sound recording costs otherwise chargeable to capital account; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. SEWELL (for herself, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. HUDSON, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. WENSTRUP, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. KIND, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. CRENSHAW):

H.R. 1946. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of multi-cancer early detection screening tests; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SMITH of Washington:

H.R. 1947. A bill to provide emergency rental assistance under the Housing Choice Voucher Program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. TAKANO (for himself, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. BROWN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. CHU, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. COOPER, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. EVANS, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. NORTON, Ms. JACOBS of California, Mr. KAHELE, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. LAMB, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. LURIA, Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MRVAN, Ms. NEWMAN, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PINGREE, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. RUSH, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. SIRES, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. TITUS, Mr. TRONE, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. OMAR, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. RYAN, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Mr. DEFAZIO, and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois):

H.R. 1948. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify authorities relating to the collective bargaining of employees in the Veterans Health Administration; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. TENNEY:

H.R. 1949. A bill to amend section 201 of title 18, United States Code, to redefine the term ''official act'' in bribery cases involving public officials to strengthen accountability and oversight; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. TENNEY:

H.R. 1950. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for the temporary halt in pension payments for Members of Congress sentenced for certain offenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. BERA, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. COSTA, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. LAMALFA, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. LOFGREN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Ms. SPEIER):

H.R. 1951. A bill to increase the Federal share provided under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act for a certain time frame during fiscal year 2020; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 1952. A bill to provide for the establishment of a national standard for incorporating a passive identification ability into all firearms sold in the United States, and to require the reporting of lost or stolen firearms to the appropriate law enforcement authorities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.J. Res. 31. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to equal rights for men and women; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RASKIN:

H. Res. 232. A resolution requiring an affirmative vote of a majority of the Members present and voting, a quorum being present, on final passage of House Joint Resolution 17; to the Committee on Rules.

By Ms. CLARKE of New York (for herself, Mr. RUSH, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. LEE of California, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CARSON, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. PLASKETT, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. JONES, and Mr. TORRES of New York):

H. Res. 234. A resolution acknowledging the history and lasting impact of the Federal Government-created problem of redlining

and the responsibility of the Federal Government to address such impact; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GREEN of Texas (for himself, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. OMAR, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. BASS, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. COHEN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. COOPER, Ms. TITUS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H. Res. 235. A resolution supporting the demands of the #EndSARS movement for justice, accountability, and meaningful police and security sector reforms in Nigeria and calling upon the President and the Secretary of State to safeguard and promote the protection of freedoms of thought, assembly, and expression in Nigeria and around the world; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. NORTON, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. COHEN, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. MEEKS, and Mrs. DINGELL):

H. Res. 236. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Social Work Month and World Social Work Day on March 16, 2021; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. LOFGREN:

H. Res. 237. A resolution recognizing the cultural and historical significance of Nowruz; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:

H. Res. 238. A resolution providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Oversight and Reform in the One Hundred Seventeenth Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ (for herself, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. GOMEZ, and Mr. MEEKS):

H. Res. 239. A resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh's independence; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. VALADAO, Ms. TITUS, Mr. COSTA, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. CICILLINE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. CHU, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. BEYER, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. PORTER, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. SPANBERGER, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. SIRES, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. LIEU, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. NUNES, Ms. OMAR, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, and Mr. SUOZZI):

H. Res. 240. A resolution calling on Azerbaijan to immediately release all prisoners of war and captured civilians; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. SHERRILL (for herself, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Mr. PAYNE):

H. Res. 241. A resolution expressing the sense of Congress that reopening schools for in-person instruction should be a critical priority for local, State, and Federal policymakers, and that funding for K-12 schools under the American Rescue Plan and State vaccination guidelines should be used to help get children back in the classroom; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. ALLRED, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mrs. HAYES, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. COHEN, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. NORTON, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. BASS, Mr. SIRES, Mr. SOTO, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. CARSON):

H. Res. 242. A resolution raising awareness of the racial disparities in the impact of colorectal cancer on the Black community; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

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

By Mr. GIMENEZ:

H.R. 1895.

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

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

By Mr. KIM of New Jersey:

H.R. 1896.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS:

H.R. 1897.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution

By Mr. CARBAJAL:

H.R. 1898.

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

Article IV, Section 3 and Article I, Section 8

By Mr. GRIFFITH:

H.R. 1899.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BERGMAN:

H.R. 1900.

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

Article One, Section Eight of the United States Constitution

By Mr. BIGGS:

H.R. 1901.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4

By Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina:

H.R. 1902.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. BOST:

H.R. 1903.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. BOWMAN:

H.R. 1904.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

By Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 1905.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution under the General Welfare Clause.

By Mr. BROWN:

H.R. 1906.

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

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

By Mr. BROWN:

H.R. 1907.

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

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

By Mr. CASE:

H.R. 1908.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas:

H.R. 1909.

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

Constitutional Authority—Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. I, Sec. 8, Clause 18)

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I, SECTION 8: POWERS OF CONGRESS CLAUSE 18

The Congress shall have power . . . To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

By Mr. CHABOT:

H.R. 1910.

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

The constitutional authority on which this joint resolution is derived is provided in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution, which grants Congress the power to provide for the ''general Welfare of the United States.''

By Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts:

H.R. 1911.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 1912.

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. KELLY of Mississippi:

H.R. 1913.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 1 and Article I, Section 8, clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H.R. 1914.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 (relating to power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress)

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H.R. 1915.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, Clause 3, and Clause 18 of the Constitution.

By Ms. ESHOO:

H.R. 1916.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mrs. FLETCHER:

H.R. 1917.

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

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

States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 1918.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. GOMEZ:

H.R. 1919.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana:

H.R. 1920.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana:

H.R. 1921.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. HICE of Georgia:

H.R. 1922.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

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

By Mr. HIMES:

H.R. 1923.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

H.R. 1924.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. KAHELE:

H.R. 1925.

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

U.S Constitution including Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 (General Welfare Clause) and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 (Necessary and Proper Clause), Article 4, Section 3, Clause 2 (Property)

By Mr. LAMALFA:

H.R. 1926.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 1

By Mr. LAMALFA:

H.R. 1927.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 1

By Mr. LIEU:

H.R. 1928.

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

Pursuant to Article 1, Section 8.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 1929.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States grants the Congress the power to enact this law.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 1930.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States grants the Congress the power to enact this law.

By Ms. MATSUI:

H.R. 1931.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mrs. MCBATH:

H.R. 1932.

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

Article I, Section 8: Congress has the power ''to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Native American tribes''

By Mrs. MCBATH:

H.R. 1933.

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

Article I, Section 8: Congress has the power ''to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Native American tribes''

By Mr. MCCAUL:

H.R. 1934.

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. MURPHY of North Carolina:

H.R. 1935.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 1936.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. NORMAN:

H.R. 1937.

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

Article 1 Section 8

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 1938.

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

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

By Mr. O'HALLERAN:

H.R. 1939.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. PENCE:

H.R. 1940.

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

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

By Mrs. RADEWAGEN:

H.R. 1941.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. RICE of South Carolina:

H.R. 1942.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. RICE of South Carolina:

H.R. 1943.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. RICE of South Carolina:

H.R. 1944.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. SÁNCHEZ:

H.R. 1945.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. SEWELL:

H.R. 1946.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. SMITH of Washington:

H.R. 1947.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 and Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress).

By Mr. TAKANO:

H.R. 1948.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. TENNEY:

H.R. 1949.

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

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

By Ms. TENNEY:

H.R. 1950.

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

Under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the power ''to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department of Officer thereof.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California:

H.R. 1951.

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

Article 1

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 1952.

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. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.J. Res. 31.

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

Article V of the United States Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 6: Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. CASE, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. LIEU, Ms. CRAIG, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. TRONE, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 24: Mr. TURNER.

H.R. 38: Mr. SESSIONS and Ms. TENNEY.

H.R. 51: Ms. BOURDEAUX.

H.R. 69: Mr. BACON.

H.R. 82: Mr. VALADAO, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. CUELLAR, Ms. NEWMAN, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. FALLON, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. TURNER, Mr. EMMER, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. PETERS, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. BROWN.

H.R. 95: Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina and Mr. WALBERG.
H.R. 144: Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. BEYER, and Ms. ROSS.
H.R. 151: Mr. SWALWELL and Ms. JACOBS of California.
H.R. 176: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 189: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.
H.R. 214: Mr. KILMER and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 255: Mrs. TRAHAN and Mr. YARMUTH.
H.R. 256: Mrs. TRAHAN and Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 263: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. COHEN, and Mrs. HARSHBARGER.
H.R. 288: Mrs. LESKO and Mr. BARR.
H.R. 303: Mr. TURNER and Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 305: Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Mr. HILL, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mrs. HARTZLER.
H.R. 310: Mr. BOST.
H.R. 315: Mr. BERA, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. GALLEGO.
H.R. 322: Mr. TIMMONS.
H.R. 333: Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 350: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. ALLRED, Ms. BASS, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. NEGUSE, and Mr. JEFFRIES.
H.R. 380: Mr. LATTA.
H.R. 392: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina and Mr. ALLRED.
H.R. 393: Mr. EVANS and Ms. DEAN.
H.R. 419: Mr. CLOUD.
H.R. 425: Ms. BASS.
H.R. 463: Mr. QUIGLEY and Mr. JONES.
H.R. 477: Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 502: Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 568: Mr. HARRIS.
H.R. 586: Mr. CRIST and Ms. DEAN.
H.R. 604: Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 611: Mr. BOST and Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 613: Ms. SÁNCHEZ.
H.R. 619: Mr. REED.
H.R. 651: Ms. NORTON and Mrs. TRAHAN.
H.R. 707: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. ROSS, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. BENTZ.
H.R. 708: Mr. JOYCE of Ohio and Mrs. MCBATH.
H.R. 712: Mr. CASE, Mr. BEYER, and Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 721: Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. VARGAS, and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 735: Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, and Ms. BARRAGÁN.
H.R. 748: Mr. LYNCH, Mr. García of Illinois, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. SHERRILL, Ms. NEWMAN, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. JONES, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mrs. DEMINGS, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
H.R. 806: Mr. YOUNG.
H.R. 815: Mr. MEEKS, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. BEYER, and Ms. SÁNCHEZ.
H.R. 819: Mr. ROSE.
H.R. 825: Ms. BROWNLEY and Ms. SCANLON.
H.R. 840: Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. HORSFORD, and Mr. PANETTA.
H.R. 852: Mr. PHILLIPS and Mr. RESCHENTHALER.
H.R. 860: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois.
H.R. 941: Mr. TRONE and Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 959: Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. KEATING, and Mr. COOPER.
H.R. 962: Ms. NORTON, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. BROWN, Mr. EVANS, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. RYAN, and Ms. MENG.
H.R. 970: Mr. OWENS and Mr. CAWTHORN.
H.R. 978: Ms. NEWMAN.
H.R. 1012: Ms. ROSS.
H.R. 1019: Mr. POCAN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. DEGETTE, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 1020: Mr. FOSTER.
H.R. 1027: Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina.
H.R. 1038: Mr. CURTIS.
H.R. 1057: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CLYDE, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. CAWTHORN, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. MANN, and Mr. GARBARINO.
H.R. 1087: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
H.R. 1111: Mr. SAN NICOLAS.
H.R. 1112: Mr. HORSFORD and Mr. WELCH.
H.R. 1115: Mr. HARDER of California, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. LATURNER, Ms. CHENEY, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, and Mr. SAN NICOLAS.
H.R. 1170: Ms. PELOSI.
H.R. 1179: Mr. FULCHER.
H.R. 1193: Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. BERA, Mr. BANKS, Mr. TRONE, Mrs. MCBATH, and Mrs. LURIA.
H.R. 1194: Ms. STRICKLAND.
H.R. 1195: Ms. MENG, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. KEATING, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. JACOBS of California, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mrs. MCBATH, and Mr. BROWN.
H.R. 1200: Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 1202: Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. SUOZZI, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. JONES, Mr. POCAN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Ms. MENG.
H.R. 1210: Mr. GUEST.
H.R. 1219: Mr. LUETKEMEYER and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
H.R. 1221: Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 1227: Ms. NORTON, Ms. WILD, and Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 1282: Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. GOLDEN, Mr. KIND, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. LAMB, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, and Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 1290: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 1297: Mr. CROW, Ms. MACE, and Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 1302: Ms. MACE and Mr. TURNER.
H.R. 1313: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 1346: Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana.
H.R. 1349: Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. CASE, and Mr. TURNER.
H.R. 1366: Mr. SUOZZI and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 1368: Mr. CROW, Mr. MRVAN, and Ms. MANNING.
H.R. 1392: Ms. PORTER.
H.R. 1400: Mr. LEVIN of California.
H.R. 1417: Mr. GOHMERT.
H.R. 1434: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. BURCHETT.
H.R. 1445: Mr. OWENS, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mrs. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. BROOKS, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, and Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 1448: Ms. CHU, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. GUEST, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. NEWMAN, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. KINZINGER, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. DELGADO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. JONES, Mr. CLINE, Ms. TITUS, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. KIND, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. GRANGER, and Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 1455: Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. CHU, Ms. ESHOO, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. BROWNLEY, and Ms. ADAMS.
H.R. 1458: Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. CRIST, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 1464: Ms. TITUS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. RASKIN.
H.R. 1466: Ms. NORTON, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. EVANS, and Mr. BOST.
H.R. 1482: Ms. TENNEY and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 1487: Ms. TENNEY.
H.R. 1490: Ms. TENNEY and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 1491: Ms. BASS.
H.R. 1492: Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. HASTINGS, and Mr. GALLEGO.
H.R. 1502: Ms. TENNEY and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 1505: Mr. QUIGLEY and Mr. HASTINGS.
H.R. 1517: Mr. COHEN and Mr. WELCH.
H.R. 1520: Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina.
H.R. 1527: Mr. BACON.
H.R. 1534: Mr. TAYLOR.
H.R. 1536: Mr. KELLY of Mississippi and Mr. TURNER.
H.R. 1551: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 1553: Mr. EVANS.
H.R. 1576: Mrs. BEATTY and Mr. CASTEN.
H.R. 1581: Ms. LEE of California, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. PORTER, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. DEGETTE, and Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas.
H.R. 1584: Mr. DAVIDSON.
H.R. 1595: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 1603: Ms. SPANBERGER and Mr. BAIRD.
H.R. 1618: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 1620: Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. PAPPAS, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. LIEU, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 1627: Ms. NORTON, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Mr. SAN NICOLAS.
H.R. 1631: Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mrs. TRAHAN.
H.R. 1633: Mr. COOPER.
H.R. 1636: Ms. KUSTER, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. BUSH, Mr. CLEAVER, and Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 1646: Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio.
H.R. 1651: Mr. TAYLOR.
H.R. 1652: Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. OWENS, Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. CARBAJAL, and Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.
H.R. 1680: Mr. CLYDE.
H.R. 1695: Ms. STEFANIK and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
H.R. 1699: Mr. OWENS, Ms. CHENEY, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. HILL, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, and Mr. GOODEN of Texas.
H.R. 1704: Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 1712: Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. ISSA, Ms. CHENEY, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. BUCSHON, and Ms. MACE.
H.R. 1718: Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. HAGEDORN, and Mr. GOHMERT.
H.R. 1728: Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 1729: Mr. MEUSER.
H.R. 1730: Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 1735: Mr. JONES.
H.R. 1750: Mr. NORMAN, Mr. BACON, and Mr. BABIN.
H.R. 1758: Mr. KELLER, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, and Mrs. LESKO.
H.R. 1761: Mr. WALBERG.
H.R. 1766: Mr. TAYLOR.
H.R. 1793: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.
H.R. 1794: Mrs. HAYES and Mr. SAN NICOLAS.
H.R. 1795: Mr. SAN NICOLAS and Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 1799: Mr. STAUBER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KUSTOFF, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. ISSA, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. WENSTRUP, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. HAGEDORN, Ms. WILD, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. CASE, Mr. RYAN, Ms. ROSS, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. RUSH, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. JACOBS of New York, Ms. MENG, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. TONKO, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. EMMER, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. WELCH, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. CICILLINE, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. ADAMS, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. SHERRILL, Ms. ESHOO, Mrs. FLETCHER, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms.

SCANLON, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. MFUME, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. TAYLOR, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. DELGADO, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Ms. WEXTON, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 1809: Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. SIRES, and Ms. STEVENS.

H.R. 1812: Mr. NEHLS, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. CRAWFORD, and Mr. BOST.

H.R. 1827: Mr. RESCHENTHALER.

H.R. 1829: Mr. VAN DREW and Mr. CARL.

H.R. 1830: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.

H.R. 1832: Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. WALBERG, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. KILMER, Ms. TLAIB, and Mr. LEVIN of Michigan.

H.R. 1834: Ms. CHU, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. JONES, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. SIRES, Ms. BARRAGÁN, and Mr. SAN NICOLAS.

H.R. 1836: Mr. MRVAN.

H.R. 1837: Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. BABIN, and Mr. LATURNER.

H.R. 1854: Mr. PHILLIPS.

H.R. 1855: Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma and Mr. BURGESS.

H.R. 1861: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. PERRY, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. KELLER, Mr. BACON, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. FULCHER.

H.R. 1864: Mr. COHEN and Mr. OBERNOLTE.

H.R. 1865: Ms. DEAN.

H.R. 1866: Mr. LUCAS, Mr. BABIN, and Mr. LATURNER.

H.R. 1883: Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 1884: Mr. GALLEGO.

H.R. 1892: Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. ISSA, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. LATTA, Mr. HERN, and Mr. STAUBER.

H.J. Res. 17: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. LAMB, Mr. HOYER, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H. Con. Res. 19: Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. CORREA, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H. Res. 30: Ms. NORTON.

H. Res. 45: Ms. DELBENE.

H. Res. 47: Ms. TLAIB.

H. Res. 104: Mr. COHEN.

H. Res. 114: Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. GIBBS, Ms. TENNEY, Ms. DEAN, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, and Ms. TLAIB.

H. Res. 121: Mr. EVANS and Ms. ROSS.

H. Res. 130: Mr. KHANNA.

H. Res. 131: Mr. SABLAN.

H. Res. 134: Mr. GREEN of Texas.

H. Res. 153: Mr. OWENS.

H. Res. 162: Mr. JACKSON.

H. Res. 196: Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H. Res. 204: Ms. BROWNLEY, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. CASE, Mr. SIRES, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. COURTNEY.

H. Res. 214: Mr. SUOZZI.

H. Res. 225: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr. KHANNA.

H. Res. 231: Ms. MCCOLLUM and Mrs. RODGERS of Washington.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

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

OFFERED BY MR. PALLONE

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Energy and Commerce in H.R. 1868 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. YARMUTH

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on the Budget in H.R. 1868 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. BURGESS

The amendment to be offered by Representative BURGESS, or a designee, to H.R. 1620, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 167 WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2021 No. 49

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Father of life, awaken in our Senators the joy of living this day with all its new challenges and hopes. May they see in the challenges opportunities to grow in grace and in a deeper knowledge of You. May they find in their hopes seeds to plant that will bring a harvest of healing to our land. Lord, fill their working hours with Your redeeming radiance and their hearts with Your peace. Keep them safe, for they have found in You a refuge. Instruct them with Your truth as You give them faith to believe in the certainty of Your ultimate triumph.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The 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 Isabella Casillas Guzman, of California, to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

(Mr. WARNOCK assumed the Chair.)

NOMINATION OF ISABELLA CASILLAS GUZMAN

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, the COVID–19 pandemic has revealed just how important the Federal Government can be in helping workers, families, and businesses during a time of crisis. Congress has passed trillions of dollars in urgent relief, and we have relied on Federal Agencies to implement that aid quickly, reliably, competently.

So, while it might not normally be as high profile as other Cabinet-level Agencies, the Small Business Administration has recently been in the spotlight. Over the last 12 months, the Small Business Administration has overseen two pandemic-related programs that will dole out more than $1 trillion to our Nation's small businesses, nonprofits, and religious institutions. Moving forward, it will play a prominent role in implementing the American Rescue Plan.

Today, the Senate will vote on President Biden's nominee to take on that important job: Ms. Isabella Guzman.

Ms. Guzman could not be more ready. She comes from a family of small business owners herself. Her dad ran his own veterinary clinic. Not only is Ms. Guzman a veteran of the Small Business Administration, in serving as the Deputy Chief of Staff in the Obama administration, she has just finished a stint as a top official at California's Office of Business and Economic Development, helping support the fifth largest economy in the world.

For many Americans, opening and operating a business of their own is part of the American dream. I have every confidence that, under Ms. Guzman's leadership, the SBA will help small business owners hold onto their dreams until our economy comes roaring back.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021

Mr. President, this morning, I also want to continue the theme of highlighting aspects of the American Rescue Plan that have not received enough attention.

We have heard a lot about the progress we have made on vaccines. I read, this morning, that 109 million Americans have received at least one vaccination, so we are well on the path to getting Americans vaccinated, and checks have gone out the door. I was on a call with people from central Brooklyn—Bed-Stuy and Brownsville—last night, and many had already received their checks. It was very much needed. It was very much welcomed.

As President Biden announced yesterday, on the vaccines, we have had 100 million shots in people's arms and 100 million checks in people's pockets. Let's say that again. That sounds good to me—100 million shots in people's arms and 100 million checks in people's pockets. The Democrats are delivering what we promised.

Now, we have heard a lot about how the American Rescue Plan will help Americans who need it the most. The 20 percent of Americans at the lowest levels of income will receive the highest levels of support. It is about time. We had the mirror image of that when our Republican colleagues ran the Senate, where the top 1 percent did the best and the bottom 20 percent was totally ignored. That is backward. God bless the people who are in the top 1 percent, but they don't need the help. It is the people struggling to feed their families, pay the rent, and help the kids in school who need the help. We are doing it for the first time in a while. Experts predict that child poverty could be cut in half. Meanwhile,

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

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the top 1 percent of Americans will see an income boost of zero percent. As I said, God bless them, but they are doing fine already. They are doing fine already.

And we have heard a lot about how the American Rescue Plan will prime the American economy to come roaring back. Economists are already projecting that economic growth could double as a result of the American Rescue Plan. When over 75–85, I think it is—percent of Americans get some checks, the money goes out. It starts revitalizing our economy. People shop in the stores, eat at the restaurants, even begin to travel and see their relatives, maybe, for the first time if people are vaccinated.

Wow, this is great news. This is great news. I think that America is turning the corner, and I think the attitude of Americans is turning the corner as well. People now see a brighter future for this country and their regions.

Today, though, as I said, there is so much in this bill that, every day, I want to focus on something else that may not be focused upon. Since the Senate is set to vote on the confirmation of the new SBA Administrator, today is a good opportunity to expand on just how the American Rescue Plan will help our Nation's 30 million small businesses.

We all know that small businesses have been some of the hardest hit entities by the pandemic. Early in the crisis, 80 percent of small businesses—four out of five—reported having to close their doors at one point. Just the other day, I heard of a local New York business owner who was forced to close up shop after surviving most of the pandemic. You could hear the pain in his voice. He poured his entire soul into this business. I know. This hits home for me.

My dad was a small business man. He struggled. He had a little exterminating business all through my growing years—from the day I was born until the day I left the house. My brother, sister, and I still have vivid memories of Dad's pacing the floor on Sunday nights at 2 a.m. because he hated going to work on Monday morning—so many challenges, so much thrown at him, and not much he could do about it. He was wondering how he would actually provide for his family. Praise God, he retired at around 70. He is now 97. He has been a happy man for these last 27 years. God is good, as the Presiding Officer knows better than most of us, but he struggled.

So, when I hear about the anguish of small business people, I will never forget. I would work there sometimes—weekends, summers. He sent me out to collect checks from a landlord who had had three or four smaller buildings, and my dad's company had done the exterminating. The guy hadn't paid for 6 months. I traveled, and it took me about an hour to an hour and a half on two buses to get to this man's door. I knocked. He opened the door.

I said, you know: I am CHUCK SCHUMER, the son of Abe Schumer of Century Exterminating. You owe us 6 months. We have been doing a good job of exterminating your house.

Do you know what he said to me?

Your dad is a small business man. He can't afford a lawyer. He can't afford anything to go after me. I am not paying.

This is the anguish that small business people face, so we need to help them. We need to help them.

That is one of the many reasons I am so proud of the American Rescue Plan—because it provides tens of billions of dollars in support for small businesses that have suffered during the pandemic. The American Rescue Plan is nothing short of a lifeline for Main Street businesses from one end of this country to the other: Main Street businesses in rural America, Main Street businesses in suburban America, and Main Street businesses in urban America and in our inner cities. It is a lifeline.

For starters, the American Rescue Plan provides $30 billion for restaurants and bars through the RESTAURANTS Act—the first bipartisan amendment added to the bill—sponsored by Senators SINEMA and WICKER.

The American Rescue Plan also includes more than $1 billion in additional support for our Nation's small theaters and venues, adding to a grant program I helped create in December called the Save our Stages Act. These independent art venues, restaurants, and places like that—churches—are the hardest hit because that is where people gather. When they are not gathering, there is no income whether it be the money they pay the small business, the checks they pay at the restaurants or the money they leave on the collection plates, when they are not there, in our religious institutions. So this is a good thing.

I want to say one more thing about Save our Stages. It not only includes more money for Save our Stages; it includes an amendment I authored to allow venue owners to apply for aid through Save our Stages without losing eligibility for traditional small business grants through the PPP. So that is a change that our arts institutions and our independent venues and theaters should know—that they could get both the PPP and Save our Stages.

Now, these venues, the small businesses of many types, the nonprofits, they are the lifeblood of our communities. They were the first to close; they will be the last to open.

I am hopeful that the support we passed in the American Rescue Plan will help our small businesses, our theaters, our music venues, and our restaurants to hold on until we can all gather safely once again.

That is not all. The American Rescue Plan provides $15 billion in flexible, targeted grants to help small businesses that have had a hard time accessing relief over the last 12 months, including most nonprofits and churches. Up to 90 percent of minority-owned small businesses will qualify for this funding, closing the racial gap and keeping local economies from deteriorating further.

We invest $10 billion in State, local, and Tribal small business financing programs.

We expand the employee retention tax credit so that businesses of any size can more easily keep their workers on the payroll because that one doesn't have an employee number limit.

Finally, we bolstered and expanded the popular Paycheck Protection Program to include more nonprofits, including labor and agricultural organizations that unfortunately, in December, our Republican colleagues wouldn't let in.

In a nutshell, the American Rescue Plan provides a colossal boost for our Nation's small businesses and will make sure that all of them, not just those with the right connections, can access relief. It will help millions of Americans keep their jobs, retain their incomes, and support their families during this recovery.

Now, we know many of these businesses are not out of the woods yet. There is still some time until our country can fully open up, until families eat inside their favorite restaurant or colleagues can meet at a bar for happy hour, until we can see one of our favorite performers put on a concert. But we are already seeing signs of hope.

As a Washington Post headline announced recently, ''Companies are scaling back layoffs because of [the American Rescue Plan].'' Let me say that again, proudly and happily. ''Companies are scaling back layoffs because of [the American Rescue Plan],'' and the Senate, I assure the American people, is going to keep working to make sure that the support for our businesses remains intact over the next few months.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

FILIBUSTER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today I would like to begin with a few quotations.

> The legislative filibuster . . . is the most important distinction between the Senate and the House. Without the 60-vote threshold for legislation, the Senate becomes a majoritarian institution like the House, much more subject to the whims of short-term electoral change. No Senator would like to see that happen. So let's find a way to further protect the 60-vote rule for legislation.

That was the current Democratic leader, Senator SCHUMER, in April of 2017, less than 4 years ago.

Now, here is another quote, Mr. President:

> What about [the] nuclear option doing away with the filibuster?
>
> I can tell you that would be the end of the Senate as it was originally devised and created going back to our Founding Fathers. We have to acknowledge our respect for the minority, and that is what the Senate tries to do in its composition and in its procedure.

That was the assistant Democratic leader, Senator DURBIN, in 2018, about 3 years ago.

A few years ago, 33 Members of the Democratic side signed a letter insisting that ''we preserve existing rules, practices, and traditions'' regarding legislation. Now, under pressure from the outside, many of our Democratic colleagues are abandoning their stated principles as fast as possible.

Yesterday, Senator DURBIN said the filibuster is not a core principle but ''an offhanded clerical suggestion.'' An offhanded clerical suggestion.

A number of Senate Democrats are trying to pressure the senior Senators from West Virginia and Arizona to abandon their own very recent commitments to honor this central rule of the Senate.

The Framers designed the Senate to require deliberation, to force cooperation, and to ensure that Federal laws in our big, diverse country earn broad enough buy-in to receive the lasting consent of the government. James Madison said the Senate should be a ''complicated check'' against ''improper acts of legislation.'' Thomas Jefferson said that ''great innovations should not be forced on slender majorities.''

Senate Democrats parroted all these arguments when they were the ones benefiting from minority protection. When President Trump pressed Republicans to kill the filibuster, our Democratic colleagues cried foul. When our Republican majority stood on principle and refused to wreck the rules, our Democratic colleagues happily used the filibuster themselves. In some cases, they flat-out blocked legislation, like Senator TIM SCOTT's police reform bill. In many other cases, Democrats did what minority parties always do and leveraged the existence of the filibuster to influence must-pass legislation long before it got to the floor.

There is so much emphasis on the most extreme bills that either party might pass with a simple majority. People forget that the Senate's 60-vote threshold is the only reason—the only reason—that any routine, must-pass legislation is bipartisan except during divided government. Big funding deals, appropriations bills, farm bills, highway bills, the NDAA—the Senate's 60-vote threshold backstops all of it. It is not just about controversial items; it is about everything we do.

The Senate Democrats who are pressuring our colleagues from Arizona and West Virginia to reverse themselves are not just arguing for some procedural tweak, not a procedural tweak; they are arguing for a radically less stable and less consensus-driven system of government. Forget about enduring laws with broad support; nothing in Federal law would ever be settled.

Does anyone really believe the American people were voting for an entirely new system of government by electing Joe Biden to the White House and a 50–50 Senate? This is a 50–50 Senate. There was no mandate to completely transform America by the American people on November 3. That may be what a few liberal activists want, but does anyone believe that millions of Americans thought that is what they were electing? Of course not.

There is an ironic element to this whole conversation. Some Democratic Senators seem to imagine this would be a tidy tradeoff. If they could just break the rules on a razor-thin majority, sure, it might damage the institution, but then nothing would stand between them and their entire agenda—a new era of fast-track policymaking. But anyone who really knows the Senate knows that is not what would happen.

So let me say this very clearly for all 99 of my colleagues: Nobody serving in this Chamber can even begin—can even begin—to imagine what a completely scorched-earth Senate would look like.

None of us have served 1 minute in the Senate that was completely drained of comity and consent. This is an institution that requires unanimous consent to turn the lights on before noon, to proceed with a garden-variety floor speech, to dispense with the reading of lengthy legislative text, to schedule committee business, and to move even noncontroversial nominees at anything besides a snail's pace.

So I want our colleagues to imagine a world where every single task—every one of them—requires a physical quorum, which, by the way, the Vice President does not count in determining a quorum. Everything that Democratic Senates did to Presidents Bush and Trump and everything the Republican Senate did to President Obama would be child's play compared to the disaster that Democrats would create for their own priorities if—if—they break the Senate.

So this is not a tradeoff between trampling etiquette but then getting to quickly transform the country. That is a false choice. Even the most basic aspects of our colleagues' agenda, the most mundane tasks of the Biden Presidency, would actually be harder—harder—not easier for Democrats in a post-nuclear Senate that is 50–50, dead even.

If the Democrats break the rules to kill rule XXII on a 50–50 basis, then we will use every other rule to make tens of millions of Americans' voices heard. Perhaps the majority would come after the other rules next. Perhaps rule XXII would just be the first domino of many, until the Senate ceases to be distinct from the House in any respect. This chaos would not open up an express lane to liberal change. It would not open up an express lane for the Biden Presidency to speed into the history books. The Senate would be more like a 100-car pileup—nothing moving.

And then there is the small matter that majorities are actually never permanent. The last time a Democratic leader was trying to start a nuclear exchange, I remember offering a warning. I said my colleagues would regret it a lot sooner than they thought. In just a few years and a few Supreme Court vacancies later, many of my Democratic colleagues said publicly that they did. Touching the hot stove again would yield the same result but even more dramatic.

As soon as Republicans wound up back in the saddle, we wouldn't just erase every liberal change that hurt the country. We would strengthen America with all kinds of conservative policies, with zero—zero—input from the other side. How about this: nationwide right-to-work for working Americans; defunding Planned Parenthood and sanctuary cities on day one; a whole new era of domestic energy production; sweeping new protections for conscience and the right to life of the unborn; concealed-carry reciprocity in all 50 States and the District of Columbia; and massive hardening of the security on our southern border.

We saw during amendment votes, just days ago, that some commonsense Republican positions actually enjoy more support right now than some of the Democratic committee chairs' priorities, and this is with them in the majority. So the pendulum would swing both ways, and it would swing hard.

My colleagues and I have refused to kill the Senate for instant gratification. In 2017 and in 2018, I was lobbied to do exactly what Democrats want to do now. A sitting President leaned on me to do it. He tweeted about it. What did I do? I said to the President at that time: No. I said ''no'' repeatedly, because being a U.S. Senator comes with higher duties than steamrolling any obstacle to short-term power. I meant it. Republicans meant it.

Less than 2 months ago, two of our Democratic colleagues said they mean it too. If they keep their word, we have a bipartisan majority that can put principle first and keep the Senate safe.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEATH TAX

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, last week I introduced a bill to permanently repeal the death tax.

I have been pushing to repeal the death tax for a long time because I have seen the consequences the tax can have for family farms and ranches and for family businesses. And I am proud that we protected a lot of family farms and businesses 3 years ago with the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act by doubling the death tax exemption, but the death tax is still a big problem.

First of all, the change we made to the death tax in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act isn't permanent. The increased exemption level expires at the end of 2025.

Second, Democrats, who are always eager to seize any possible revenue source, have proposed not merely returning the exemption to its previous level but reducing it even further. And that would be a big problem for a lot of family farms and businesses.

The death tax is a fundamentally flawed idea, both in theory and in practice. Every American, of course, has an obligation to pay taxes to help support our government, but there should be a limit to how many times the government can tax you. And death should not be a taxable event.

The money you leave at your death has already been taxed by the government at least once, which makes the death tax double taxation.

People who support the death tax tend to talk as if the death tax only affects the fabulously wealthy, but that isn't the case. Small- and medium-sized businesses, family farms, and ranches spend a lot of time and money on estate planning to avoid being hit by this tax. Farmers and ranchers in my State know, without careful and costly planning, the Federal Government can come around after their death demanding a staggering 40 percent of their taxable estate, and their children won't have the money to pay without risking the farm or the ranch. Why? Well, farming and ranching is often a cash-poor business.

A farmer might, technically, be worth several million dollars, but the vast majority of that is land and farming equipment. Only a small fraction of it is money in the bank.

The Farm Bureau reports that over the past 10 years, the value of farmland has increased by nearly 50 percent. It is completely possible that a farmer's land might have substantially increased in value over the past decade, while his income has barely increased at all or, with commodity prices the past few years, they may have been losing money. In fact, it is perfectly possible that in a bad year, a farm with several million dollars' worth of land might barely break even income-wise.

So what happens when a farmer dies? Well, the Federal Government will claim up to 40 percent of his taxable estate. But his liquid assets—in other words, the cash he has available—will likely not come close to covering the tax bill from the Federal Government. And so the only thing left for his children to do will be to start selling off farm equipment and land. In some cases, they will be able to keep the farm, just a smaller version of it. In others, they may have to sell off the family farm entirely. The same thing can happen with family-owned businesses.

In the case of a larger family-owned business, the business owner may be worth $15 or $20 million, but only a small fraction of that may be money in the bank. The vast majority may be tied up in the business. In that case, when the Federal Government comes around demanding 40 percent of the taxable estate, all the money that that business owner had in the bank won't even come close to covering the tax bill.

To pay the Federal Government, the owner's descendants will have to sell off part or all of the family business. And this can happen again and again.

Think about a business that was started half a century ago and passed down from father to daughter, to grandson. With every death, the Federal Government will have come demanding a big chunk of that estate. By the time you get to the third generation, the business may be struggling to stay afloat if it is still around at all.

I recently read testimony from a business owner who stated that, without death tax reform, the family company will end with him. Why? Because the company will have to be sold to meet the tax bill the Federal Government will hand his descendants. The company has already faced the death tax multiple times in its history and given millions upon millions to the Federal Government. This next death tax bill will be the death blow.

I am proud that Republicans improved the death tax situation for a lot of family farms and businesses by passing estate tax reform in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, but doubling the exemption is not enough. There are still family farms and businesses out there that aren't protected from this tax. And in my view, losing even one family farm or ranch or business to the death tax is one too many, not to mention the fact that in less than 5 years, the expanded exemption will expire putting many farms and businesses back in the tax's crosshairs.

Family farms and businesses play a vital role in the economy and in communities. Family farms and ranches are the lifeblood literally of rural communities in South Dakota. They are a source of jobs. They provide support for local businesses. They help build up local schools and local infrastructure. Losing a local farm can hit rural communities very hard.

It is mind-boggling that the Federal Government imposes a tax that punishes all the things we should be encouraging. The death tax punishes hard work. It punishes success. It punishes innovation. ''Success'' should not be a dirty word, and families and employees should not be punished because a family has worked hard and built up a successful farm or ranch or business.

On top of all this, the death tax is an inefficient tax that raises a small amount of revenue while placing a very large burden on farmers and ranchers and small business men and women.

Repealing the death tax is an idea that has won bipartisan support in the past, including support from more than one sitting Democratic Senator. I hope it will win bipartisan support in this Congress as well. And I will continue to fight to ensure that no family farm or business has to worry about this punishing tax.

I said it before, and I will say it again: One family farm or business lost is one too many.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PADILLA). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask to speak as if in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FILIBUSTER

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it is flattering when the Republican Senate leader comes to the floor and mentions your name, and Senator MCCONNELL did just that this morning.

The issue was the filibuster. Senator MCCONNELL found a quote several years ago where I spoke in favor of the filibuster to protect minority rights in the Senate. It is true. I did say that. It was based on life experience. Having already served in the Senate for a number of years, I came to understand how it evolved as one of the procedures in the Senate.

But I have to say to you that my impression of the filibuster changed, and the reason it changed was none other than the Republican Senate majority leader, now minority leader, Senator MCCONNELL. You see, the filibuster really was created in the Senate through its own rules, as I explained yesterday, and it came to define the Senate in this respect. The Founding Fathers looked to the Senate to provide two representatives—literally, Senators—from each State, regardless of population, so smaller States, back in the original Colonies, like Delaware, would have the same number of Senators as a large State, like Virginia. That was their intention.

So the protection of minority rights was kind of built into the definition of the U.S. Senate, and the filibuster became its manifestation in the daily procedure of the Senate. Under that filibuster, of course, one Senator could stop the debate, or at least slow it

down, by insisting on a filibuster, only to be stopped by an extraordinary majority of the Senate voting to return to the regular business.

That was the case in 1957 because, in August of 1957, Senator Strom Thurmond took to the floor of this U.S. Senate and initiated the longest filibuster in its history. For 24 hours and 18 minutes, the man stood by his desk and spoke without stopping. He didn't have any permission to leave the floor for any reason and certainly couldn't sit down without losing his filibuster. He did it. He did it for the wrong reason, I am afraid, because he was trying to stop the march of civil rights in this country, but he did it. Determinedly, he achieved that goal.

When he did, in 1957, that was the broken fifth filibuster in the history of the Senate in the previous five decades. In other words, if you went back to 1919 and all the way to 1957, Strom Thurmond's was the fifth time in history a filibuster was broken. Once every decade, a filibuster was broken on the Senate floor.

Well, that world has changed—dramatically changed. We can now have five filibusters in a couple of weeks. We now have, on average, 80 filibusters a year because of the urging and direction of the Senator from Kentucky, Senator MCCONNELL. He has institutionalized the filibuster to the point where it is now the normal course of business, not an extraordinary procedure.

I recounted the fact that I introduced the DREAM Act 20 years ago—20 years ago. DURBIN, what kind of a Senator are you that in 20 years you can't pass the DREAM Act? Well, I brought it to the Senate floor on five different occasions, and on five different occasions it was stopped by the filibuster. Other Members can tell the story of their legislative experience on the floor too.

The point I am getting to is this: It wasn't until Senator MCCONNELL and the Republicans who follow him decided to make the filibuster just daily business in the Senate that it was abused to the point where the Senate stopped doing regular legislative business.

I would like Senator MCCONNELL to come to the floor the next opportunity he has and explain this to me. In the last calendar year, 2020, the Senate considered 29 amendments on the floor of the Senate in the entire year. Now, that doesn't count a vote-arama, which is an aberration that I don't think would ever be accused of being deliberative. But 29 regular-order amendments during the course of a year—embarrassing, isn't it? When you think of this great so-called debating society, 29 times we brought an amendment to the floor? Well, it was an improvement—an improvement over the previous year, a 30-percent improvement, in fact—because in the year 2019, under Senator MCCONNELL's leadership, we had 22 amendments.

So when Senator MCCONNELL and others come to the floor and plead for us to hang on to the traditions of the Senate, I would tell you that their interpretation of the traditions is strangling this body. They have beaten the old filibuster to the point where it is hardly recognizable and is now the regular order of business in the U.S. Senate.

That is why many of us, frustrated with having worked so hard to come here, wanting to do the best we can to represent the people who have sent us here, are so frustrated by the current state of procedure. And for Senator MCCONNELL and other Republicans to come to the floor and plead for hanging on to this tradition is actually pleading for the Senate to continue to do less and less each year.

There are those of us now in control on the majority side—the bare majority side—on the Democratic side, who really believe there is much more to be done in the Senate. The American people expect us to respond.

Now, you might ask: Well, how did you pass the American Rescue Plan if there is a filibuster used so frequently? It was under a process called reconciliation, which depends on a majority vote. You can't filibuster under the reconciliation. That is why this amazing bill, this new law, the American Rescue Plan by President Biden, is so sweeping in its reach. We had to try to combine, under this law, so many provisions that had been affected by the pandemic and the state of the economy because we knew that returning to the regular order of business with the filibuster looming every single day would tie our hands just as sure as we have seen in the past several years.

So, Senator MCCONNELL, thank you for mentioning my name, but if I became skeptical of the filibuster, it is because of your use of it. I hope that you understand that you can't have it both ways. It can't be a rare procedure and be a procedure that dominates the actual business of the Senate as this has done for so many years.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. President, last year I came to the floor on multiple occasions to ask consent for a simple, sensible resolution. It called for the United States to cooperate in global efforts to address the COVID pandemic. At that time, that point was obvious, and it is even more obvious today.

Pandemics don't respect borders. None of us is safe from highly infectious diseases until all of us are safe. That is especially important to keep in mind as we begin to turn a corner here in America.

Last week, during his first address to the Nation, President Biden announced that all adults in America over the age of 18 will be eligible for vaccinations on May 1 of this year. If all goes to plan, we can look forward, as President Biden mentioned, to a Fourth of July with family and close friends at a close distance.

Considering what they inherited, the Biden administration deserves credit for dramatically scaling up vaccinations in America. The administration helped to strike a historic partnership between rival drugmakers, ramped up manufacture of the vaccine, and improved coordination with State officials everywhere.

We are seeing a world of difference that this makes. When you put competent, qualified leadership in charge in the White House and in State capitols, good things happen. Our weekly vaccine shipments in Illinois have nearly doubled. The Federal Government has erected a mass vaccination site at the United Center in Chicago. It has also supported partnerships with community health centers and retail pharmacies to expand access to vaccines. A cautious hopefulness is washing over America, but we can't lose momentum in our fight against COVID.

To put this pandemic really behind us and to bury it in history, we need to lend a hand to the many poor nations that have yet to receive a single dose of vaccine. The inequities are stark. Ten countries have accounted for 75 percent of the total vaccinations administered worldwide, while approximately 100 countries have yet to administer any vaccine doses. This dangerous shortfall has the potential to undermine the good work that is happening here in America. Closing this gap is not only the right and moral thing to do, it is the safest and smartest thing to do to stop the threat COVID, and its increasingly contagious variants, pose to us all.

Remember back a little over a year ago, an obscure city in China generated a virus—we think they did—that ended up circling the world many times over and changing life on this planet.

Last month, I received a briefing from Dr. Fauci on the new genetic mutations of COVID–19. He shared troubling news about variants that are emerging in the United Kingdom, South Africa, and Brazil. Some of them may have more resistance to our current vaccines than we care to see. He warned that if we fail to stamp out the virus globally, then we will continue to see risks within our own borders. Variants of the virus could counteract the tremendous progress we have made and the progress that we are poised to make in the near future.

As I said at the outset, viruses don't recognize borders. Crushing the virus in other countries is a strategic investment in our own national safety and security. President Biden understands this. He is serious about addressing the virus first in America and then around the world. He has set us on a pace to vaccinate all eligible Americans over the course of the next several months.

Let me urge those who are hesitant or skeptical as to whether it is the right thing to do, do it, please—for yourself, for those you love, and for this Nation.

President Biden wisely halted President Trump's withdrawal from the World Health Organization. He joined

the global COVAX vaccine effort, and he allocated significant funding toward global vaccination efforts, funding that is expanded under the American Rescue Plan, which we passed just a few weeks ago in the Senate.

Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen recently announced that the United States will support the issuance of special drawing rights, a type of IMF foreign exchange reserve that can help poor countries buy vaccines and weather the economic fallout from the pandemic, a welcome move that I encouraged and was a coauthor of with Senator SANDERS and Congressman ''CHUY'' GARCÍA.

Just last week, the President announced a partnership with key allies in the Pacific region to provide at least 1 billion COVID vaccines in countries in Asia. This is prescient, global leadership long overdue. The President's actions will save lives here at home and abroad, and these investments will fuel a global economic recovery, which we all want to see.

To understand why a global strategy is called for, look at history. Some of you who are witnessing this statement on the floor at home may be old enough to have a distinct circular scar on your upper arm. Maybe you have seen it on the arms of a parent or grandparent. That mark is a relic from one of the world's greatest public health victories: the eradication of the deadly smallpox virus.

The fact that so few people living today remember the death and misery caused by that disease is a testament to the global public health strategy that stopped it. Smallpox was one of the most devastating diseases to afflict mankind. It is estimated to have killed up to 300 million people in the 20th century, 500 million people in the last hundred years.

In 1967, the World Health Organization launched a historic international effort to eradicate it. It was one of the most successful public health initiatives in human history. Next month marks the 41st anniversary of that historic achievement.

In the years since, America has led similar global efforts to stamp out diseases like polio and Ebola. If we follow in these footsteps, historians will one day add COVID to the top of that list of historic achievements.

Pursuing a global strategy is the most effective way—maybe the only way—to accelerate vaccine production and distribution in every corner of the world. By sharing our wealth of knowledge and resources with the world, we reap lifesaving benefits, not just around the world but right here at home.

We all know public health is bigger than partisanship and always has been. In the 2000s, for example, I called on then-President Bush to help stem the scourge of AIDS around the world through the historic PEPFAR Program. At the time, many of my Republican friends in the Senate supported it. I hope and expect that they will do the same when it comes to supporting the global effort against COVID–19. The moment calls for nothing less.

Public health experts understand that. President Biden understands that. I know we here in Congress understand that. We can end the threat of COVID once and for all. It is within our power.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

Mr. President, let me start this statement by saying I am a fan of the U.S. Postal Service. I have been throughout my life. I believe the men and women who make the Postal Service work do a great service to this country and distinguish us from many countries in the world that don't have anything near our service or reliability in delivering the mail. Having said that, and believe it to my inner being, the Postal Service needs to take a hard look at what is going on within their ranks today.

Last month, the U.S. Postal Service Great Lakes area sent out the postal equivalent of an SOS. It put out the call to mail carriers in five surrounding States asking for letter carriers to come to my State of Illinois to help deliver a huge backlog of undelivered mail. It also called for mail carriers to help deliver Chicago's mail on Sundays.

Ken Labbe is one of the mail carriers who answered that call for help. Mr. Labbe has been a mail carrier in Mount Prospect, IL, just outside of Chicago, for 28 years. He is the president of the local letter carriers union. He is also quite an athlete. In 2002, he was the only male mail carrier on the USPS-sponsored professional cycling team.

He volunteered for the last Sunday in February. He figured he had the knowledge and endurance to help reduce the mail backlog that had plagued the Postal Service in Chicago. What he discovered, he said, stunned him. At every home he delivered to, he stuffed 20 to 30 pieces of mail in the mailbox. He worked 12 hours on that Sunday, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., sunup to sundown, without a break, even for lunch. Still, he couldn't complete the assigned workload; the sheer volume of backlogged mail was too great. Inside the local post office, Ken said, he found packages stacked everywhere. Some appeared to have been there for a month or more. The entire situation looked, in his words, ''like an episode of 'Extreme Hoarders.''' ''A crisis.''

Chicagoland is not the only postal chaos location. Nearly 9 months after a new Postmaster General unveiled his surprise reorganization plan, postal service in much of the Nation is erratic. Delays are longer than ever.

The delivery times have shrunk to historic lows since Louis DeJoy took over last June. At the end of December, the Agency had an on-time rate of 38 percent for nonlocal mail. What was it 1 year earlier? Ninety-two percent. A 92-percent on-time rate descended to 38 percent under Postmaster General DeJoy.

Before Louis DeJoy took over, 91 percent of Postal Service customers gave USPS high marks—one of the highest approval ratings of any government Agency. Today, postal customers across America—certainly in my State of Illinois—customers wait anxiously for important checks and bills that arrive weeks late, if at all. They check tracking websites to search for delayed packages, only to read that the package is ''out for delivery.''

In some neighborhoods in Chicago, residents have given up hope of receiving mail at home. They stand in line for hours at the local post office to try to retrieve their mail themselves. Often, even that doesn't work.

Tracey Otis is one of those people. One day last month, she was one of 40 customers—40—waiting in line at the Postal Service station in the Gresham neighborhood on the South Side of Chicago. Ms. Otis hadn't had regular mail delivery since Christmas. She waited in line for hours, hoping to retrieve a package of diabetic test strips before her current supply ran out. She told a Chicago Sun-Times reporter that she would volunteer to sort the mail if it would help. She went home empty-handed that day, still not sure where her package was or when, if ever, she might see it.

Last month, my staff in Chicago estimated that there might be 300 pieces of mail sitting undelivered in four Chicago postal facilities. We based that on the number of complaints we received in our office. After that, the Postal Inspector General released a report that showed we were wrong. There weren't 300 letters in postal limbo in these facilities; there were 19,000 undelivered pieces of mail in those four facilities.

Since then, in my State, the chaos has stretched way beyond Chicago. We hear from all over the State: Springfield, Champaign-Urbana, Belleville, East St. Louis, Quincy, Peoria, the Quad Cities, and Rockford. These delays in Illinois and across America are causing real hardship for tens of millions of Americans waiting for mail delivery. Patients and pharmacists complain about late medication. People are getting dinged for late mortgage and utility payments and forced to pay late fees. Insurance policies are being canceled because of late payments. Small business owners are forced to wait weeks or months for payments. Others are flooded with calls and emails from customers wondering where their packages are—a good way to lose business.

Who is Louis DeJoy, the mastermind of this mess? Did he come through the ranks of the Postal Service, like four Postmasters General before him? No. His qualifications? He is a former logistics executive who donated millions of dollars to Donald Trump and the Republicans—no experience working at the Postal Service before Donald Trump tapped him to head this Agency last June.

One month later, in the middle of a pandemic that turned postal deliveries

into a lifeline for many, Mr. DeJoy unveiled a radical plan to reorganize the Postal Service, after only 1 month in the job and no experience in the Department. He slashed overtime hours, prohibited late and extra mail delivery trips, and set stricter delivery schedules.

In August, with no public explanation, the Postal Service began removing mail-sorting machines from postal facilities around the country, reducing their ability to process mail. Amazingly, the Postal Service Inspector General determined that the changes were ordered with no analysis and no understanding of how they might affect timeliness of mail delivery. A Federal lawsuit forced the Agency to put the changes on hold until after the election.

On February 6, Mr. DeJoy was quoted in the Washington Post saying that his new plan for reorganizing the Postal Service would be ready for public release ''as early as next week.'' He said that on February 6. We are still waiting for it, waiting for the DeJoy plan to shape up the Postal Service. It is like waiting for a lost package.

We know some of the biggest changes he intends to propose because he has confirmed them publicly. The DeJoy plan for shaping up the post office is expected to call for the following: more service cuts, higher prices, and slower mail delivery. If that sounds like a winning combination to you, I have some vintage computers to sell to your business. In short, this is not a solution; this is sabotage of an essential public service, and we shouldn't tolerate it.

Well, America has a new President who understands that affordable, efficient postal service is essential to America. Five days after taking office, President Biden replaced the Chair of the Postal Regulatory Commission. Late last month, he filled three vacancies of the Postal Service Board of Governors, the body that hires the Postmaster General and oversees the Postal Service.

I encourage President Biden to make all the changes necessary to rescue the Postal Service. Mr. DeJoy has offered a stream of excuses for the chaos that has fallen the Postal Service since he showed up. He says it is the pandemic, the Christmas holidays, bad weather, an election that saw a record number of Americans vote by mail. He has a list as long as your arm.

I would remind him that in 1864, we held a national election in the middle of a Civil War, and 150,000 Union Army troops voted absentee from the field. The Postal Service is as old as America itself. It has proven that it can adapt to crises with the right leadership. If Mr. DeJoy cannot or will not provide that leadership, I respectfully suggest he step down.

I yield the floor.

Mr. LEAHY. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. 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 ISABELLA CASILLAS GUZMAN

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise in support of Isabella Guzman, currently the director of California's Office of the Small Business Advocate—the Presiding Officer's State—to be the Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration.

We all know the importance of small businesses and how they have been hit so hard during this pandemic. Small businesses employ nearly half of all private sector workers and make outsized contributions to the innovation that makes America's economy strong. Yet the coronavirus has put millions of people out of business, hundreds of thousands of these mom-and-pop, brick-and-mortar retail shops out of business, and restaurants out of business.

We are so pleased that there is, as we say in Minnesota, a lighthouse that we are looking to now. I was up in Duluth on Sunday, and instead of the light at the end of the tunnel, which so many of us talk about with regard to the end of this pandemic, the mayor there referred to it as a lighthouse, for they have a lot of lighthouses on Lake Superior. The end of this pandemic is our lighthouse. We see the blinking lights from a distance, but we know we are not there yet. To get there, we not only need to get this vaccine to every person—and the President has said we will have vaccines available by the end of May for every adult in America—but we have to get it distributed, and our pandemic bill certainly is going to be a major step toward getting that done.

We also need to get our business economy back in order. We need to be able to not be so far down in the ground that we can't climb out of where we are. That is why having Ms. Guzman in place—someone with her record and her ability to lead and who served as the Deputy Chief of Staff and as the Senior Adviser at the Small Business Administration during the Obama administration—is so important.

She will oversee the Paycheck Protection Program, which we established on a bipartisan basis in March of 2020 as part of the CARES Act, as she understands the need for greater equity in loan distribution and has shown a commitment to transparency and accurate loan data. She has made clear that she will make the Paycheck Protection Program more accessible to businesses that have traditionally not had access to the banking relationships needed to secure loans and grants.

Very significantly to me and to those of us who worked on the Save our Stages bill, including Senator CORNYN of Texas, who led the bill with me, she has made clear that she will move on the grant program immediately. We have been working with the staff there, and we have given these venues that have been shuttered—the first to close and the last to reopen—the ability to access PPP loans, which is really important right now. We also want to get the grant program out immediately—get that money out—and distribute over $16 billion in grants. Our venues can't wait. They need that relief. Ms. Guzman will be key to leading our way out of this and helping Senator SCHUMER with his theaters in New York to the Fargo Theatre in North Dakota. We need to get this done.

We just passed restaurant relief as part of the American Rescue Plan—a major, major bill—with the $28.6 billion Restaurant Revitalization Fund, which is going to be so key. I was at The Block Food & Drink restaurant in Saint Louis Park on Sunday and then headed up to Duluth, to the Boat Club, with the mayor and the owners of the Boat Club. There were stories I heard of servers who had been laid off, then came back, laid off, then came back, and there were stories I heard about the owners of some of these restaurants in their taking out repeated loans. They are hanging in there, and we need to have their backs.

One out of six restaurants in this country has permanently closed down during the pandemic. As the leader of the antitrust subcommittee in the Senate, we don't want to just give all of our food service and action in the restaurant area to the big guys. We are pleased we have successful restaurant chains in this country, but that can't be the only thing we have. That is why helping these smaller venues is so important.

Ms. Guzman gets that. She is a lifelong proponent of small businesses and is the daughter of a small business owner. As a former entrepreneur, this makes her the right person for this job at a pivotal time in the life of our country. She has the backing of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and numerous trade organizations. I know her leadership at the SBA will put our struggling businesses in the best hands.

I ask my colleagues to support the nomination of Isabella Guzman to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration. The Presiding Officer must be proud to have someone who has done such good work in California in this job. We are excited about her and what she can do.

NOMINATION OF XAVIER BECERRA

Mr. President, today, I rise to speak in support of Xavier Becerra's nomination to serve as Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Attorney General Becerra will bring a fresh perspective to HHS at a critical time during this pandemic. While there is light at the end of the tunnel with the distribution of the coronavirus vaccines, there is still work to do to end this pandemic and put our country on a road to recovery, and that is where Attorney General Becerra's leadership will be crucial.

Attorney General Becerra's 12 terms in the U.S. House of Representatives gave him a solid foundation in knowing how to set agendas and achieve results, which we saw deployed in his work as a key leader on the Committee on Ways and Means, ranking member of the Subcommittee on Social Security, and chair of the House Democratic Caucus.

He helped to expand the Children's Health Insurance Program, modernize and strengthen Medicare, and helped pass the Affordable Care Act. His commitment to the letter and spirit of this law is something he carried into his role as California Attorney General, fighting to maintain his State's ability to bring millions of previously uninsured residents under the ACA's umbrella.

Last November, he led the defense of the Affordable Care Act in the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of 20 States and the District of Columbia. His tweet after the oral arguments concisely sums up the national importance of his effort: ''The ACA saves lives. It is the law of the land.'' He brings a strong commitment to using the law and regulatory tools to make access to health care and other vital services equitable—the very thing that makes our nation strong.

I look forward to working with him on ensuring that everyone has access to quality and affordable healthcare, and I know he will be a partner in the fight against the coronavirus and our goal of getting all eligible Americans vaccinated, even in hard-to-reach areas.

Last week, President Biden signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act, which included major funding to address the Nation's worsening mental health and addiction crisis. This is a high priority of mine and an issue with which Attorney General Becerra has firsthand experience. He started his career as a legal aid attorney in Massachusetts, supporting clients contending with mental health issues. I am eager to work with him on this issue.

Addressing the skyrocketing costs of prescription drugs is another area where Attorney General Becerra has shown key leadership. He and I share a belief that fairer competition means increased access to affordable prescription drugs and better public health. As California Attorney General, he investigated and brought enforcement actions against drug manufacturers' anticompetitive business practices to help reduce drug prices and ensure that people have access to the drugs they need. In March 2020, he led a bipartisan group of 46 State attorneys general who successfully advocated before the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold the rights of States to regulate and address the rising cost of prescription drugs.

The United States must do more to ensure that new technologies have appropriate privacy and security protections for health data. At a September 2020 hearing on the need for Federal data privacy legislation, Attorney General Becerra told me and other members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation that ''every consumer should be able to own and control his or her data'' and that ''if we decide that we don't want anyone to use [our data], it's our choosing.'' His testimony was reassuring, and I look forward to working with him to ensure consumers can have peace of mind when it comes to the security of their personal health data.

Given the pandemic' s spotlight on the vulnerability of our Nation's seniors, I am eager to work with the Biden administration to improve the safety and well-being of older Americans. When my 92-year-old dad, living in a memory care facility, was diagnosed with COVID–19 last year, I was only able to visit him through a window. He recognized me, but he just didn't understand why we couldn't be in the same room together. Tens of thousands of families have been through these wrenching situations over the past year and want to see the Federal Government doing more. Attorney General Becerra recently moved to make the California Department of Justice Medicaid Fraud Control Unit a full-fledged division, underscoring his commitment to protecting seniors and people with disabilities. I know his leadership will place the needs of seniors front and center.

Attorney General Becerra has the expertise and experience and the enforcement and regulatory savvy to handle the job of protecting public health, strengthening our hospitals and health care system, making sure people have access to quality, affordable health care, and supporting our health care workers. And as the first Latino to lead the Department of Health and Human Services, he will bring a personal understanding of the immediate need for equitable access to care.

With that, I ask my colleagues to support the nomination: Xavier Becerra as Secretary of Health and Human Services. Thank you.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to finish my remarks before we vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF ISABELLA CASILLAS GUZMAN

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise to voice my strong support for Isabella Guzman's nomination to serve as Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

Our Nation passed the 1-year mark of COVID–19's being declared a national emergency last Saturday, March 13, and, thankfully, the American people can now see the light at the end of the tunnel. Already, more than 20 percent of all Americans have received at least one COVID–19 vaccine dose, with an average of more than 2.39 million additional doses being administered each day. We can see the light at the end of the tunnel, but we are not there yet.

The COVID–19 pandemic has decimated American small businesses, and the worst effects have been felt by the most vulnerable small businesses, especially those in Black, Latino, Native, and rural communities, so the SBA must continue to be a lifeline in the coming months. That is why it is important that we confirm Ms. Guzman's nomination, so she can provide the permanent, steady leadership the SBA needs right now.

When we passed the CARES Act, Congress tasked the SBA with one of the most important aspects of our COVID–19 relief effort. We knew we had to support our small businesses because the public health restrictions on public gatherings, which have saved thousands of lives and kept our communities safe, have been especially challenging for small businesses. We had to help small businesses so that, when we get out of this pandemic, when our economy returns, our small businesses will emerge in a position to help our economy recover and continue to grow.

The CARES Act included $377 billion in funds for small businesses and created the Paycheck Protection Program, the EIDL advance program, and the small business debt relief program to help small businesses that had traditional SBA loans, like the 7(a) and 504. In April, we passed legislation to replenish the PPP, EIDL, and the EIDL advance grant program with $370 billion in additional funds. Then, in December, we passed the bipartisan Economic Aid Act to provide another $325 billion to support small businesses, allow for second round PPP loans, and create the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant Program. In total last year, Congress appropriated more than $1 trillion to the SBA for COVID–19 relief programs.

Since the passage of the CARES Act, the SBA has approved more than 7.5 million PPP loans worth more than $687 billion and more than 3.7 million EIDL loans worth more than $200 billion. These loans and grants have saved millions of jobs and prevented millions of small businesses from closing their doors.

I want to thank the SBA personnel who have worked long hours, including nights and weekends, to implement these critical programs.

SBA still has a lot of work left to do. As I mentioned, the December bill created the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant Program, which we expect the SBA to open in the coming weeks.

SBA also has to open a new $28.6 billion grant program for restaurants and bars, which was created by the historic American Rescue Plan.

The plan appropriated an additional $50 billion in economic relief for small businesses, including $15 billion to targeted EIDL advance grants, an additional $7.25 billion to PPP, and $1.25 billion for shuttered venue grants.

The plan also required SBA to launch a Community Navigator Pilot Program, which is designed to help small businesses in underserved and underbanked communities access the COVID–19 relief resources available to them. These programs will be key to our economic recovery.

That brings me to Mrs. Guzman's nomination. Mrs. Guzman has decades of experience working with, supporting, and founding small businesses, which have prepared her to lead the SBA during this moment.

Most recently, Mrs. Guzman was the State of California's director of the Office of Small Business Advocate, where she oversaw implementation of the State's COVID–19 Relief Grant Program.

Mrs. Guzman also helped lead SBA during the Obama administration, serving as the Deputy Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor for 3 years, from 2014 through 2017.

During her nomination hearing last month, Mrs. Guzman demonstrated her commitment to ensuring that SBA's relief programs, as well as its traditional loan programs, are implemented equitably and that they help small businesses in Black, Latino, Native, rural, and other underserved communities overcome the historic barriers they face.

She is committed to ensuring the Agency has the right systems, technology, and operating procedures in place to advance the mission and reach all of our small businesses.

And she is committed to ''ensure funds get into the hands of small businesses who have been hurt the most by the pandemic and the economic crisis through no fault of their own.''

As we learned during the pandemic, SBA has a key role to play in our Nation's effort to fight systems of inequality that prevent many entrepreneurs in underserved and underbanked communities from starting and growing successful businesses.

Mrs. Guzman will be an advocate for small businesses in these communities within the administration, and she will be a strong partner to us in Congress as we build better capacity to support small businesses through the coming economic recovery.

Mrs. Guzman's commitment to equity and her deep knowledge of the needs of small businesses and the best policies to help them are why she received bipartisan praise during her nomination hearing and was advanced by the committee by a bipartisan vote.

Mrs. Guzman has earned broad support from the small business community. Her nomination has been endorsed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, U.S. Hispanic Chamber, the U.S. Black Chamber, the National Small Business Association, the Small Business Majority, the National Federation of Independent Businesses, and many other small business advocacy groups.

SBA needs an Administrator who can hit the ground running, and I am confident Mrs. Guzman is exactly the right person for the job.

I urge my colleagues who have spoken with small business owners who still need support from the SBA—and I am sure everyone has—to join me and vote to confirm Mrs. Guzman as the SBA Administrator.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 26, Isabella Casillas Guzman, of California, to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

Charles E. Schumer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Patty Murray, Chris Van Hollen, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jeff Merkley, Brian Schatz, Cory A. Booker, Amy Klobuchar, Sherrod Brown, Angus S. King, Jr., Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Tim Kaine, Tammy Baldwin, Ron Wyden.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Isabella Casillas Guzman, of California, to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 80, nays 18, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 120 Ex.]

YEAS—80

Baldwin	Durbin	Luján
Barrasso	Ernst	Manchin
Bennet	Feinstein	Markey
Blumenthal	Fischer	Marshall
Blunt	Gillibrand	McConnell
Booker	Graham	Menendez
Brown	Grassley	Merkley
Burr	Hassan	Moran
Cantwell	Heinrich	Murkowski
Capito	Hickenlooper	Murphy
Cardin	Hoeven	Murray
Carper	Hyde-Smith	Ossoff
Casey	Inhofe	Padilla
Cassidy	Johnson	Paul
Collins	Kaine	Peters
Coons	Kelly	Portman
Cornyn	King	Reed
Cortez Masto	Klobuchar	Romney
Cramer	Lankford	Rosen
Duckworth	Leahy	Rounds
Sanders	Sullivan	Warnock
Schatz	Tester	Warren
Schumer	Thune	Whitehouse
Shaheen	Tillis	Wicker
Sinema	Toomey	Wyden
Smith	Van Hollen	Young
Stabenow	Warner	

NAYS—18

Blackburn	Daines	Rubio
Boozman	Hagerty	Sasse
Braun	Hawley	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Crapo	Lee	Shelby
Cruz	Risch	Tuberville

NOT VOTING—2

Hirono	Lummis

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas are 80, the nays are 18.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. COONS. I ask unanimous consent that all postcloture time on the Guzman nomination be considered expired at 2:30 p.m. today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COONS. I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:37 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. SINEMA).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

NOMINATION OF ISABELLA CASILLAS GUZMAN

Ms. ROSEN. Madam President, I stand here today in support of Isabel Guzman's nomination to serve as SBA Administrator.

This pandemic has been challenging for our communities, and it has been especially devastating for our small businesses. We urgently need a leader who is experienced and prepared for the work ahead, someone who will hit the ground running to revive and restore our small businesses and bring back jobs, and Isabel Guzman is exactly the right person for this task.

Having previously served in the U.S. Small Business Administration, Mrs. Guzman knows the Agency well. She understands the struggles that small businesses and workers face, not just during this pandemic but also their day-to-day needs. She will use the Agency's tools to support small businesses, and she will fight fiercely on their behalf.

Ninety-nine percent of Nevada businesses are small businesses. This is a diverse community that embodies the entrepreneurial spirit of our State, and over the last year they have faced obstacle after obstacle. Thousands of Nevada business owners have called my office for help.

These small business owners are—well, they are people. They are people who have poured their hard-earned money into starting businesses. They

are people who have dedicated their lives to building a business from the ground up. They are people whose shops and stores and services—well, they are cornerstones for our communities. And now, through no fault of their own, these small business owners are left wondering if their businesses are going to make it.

Last week, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan into law. This is a major win for small businesses across the country. It includes targeted support for Black, Latino, AAPI, and minority-owned businesses, as well as support for businesses in our rural communities. Over $1 billion in grants are in there to save our stages and independent live venues. There is over $7 billion for the Paycheck Protection Program. There is $15 billion for EIDL Advance grants and $25 billion to keep restaurants afloat.

This will provide real relief to small business owners, employees, and the families that they provide for, that count on them. For so many, this additional aid will mean the difference between a business keeping its doors open or closing them forever.

And now we need an SBA Administrator who will see that this relief is delivered swiftly and fully. I am confident that Isabel Guzman will be an asset in bringing our small businesses back.

We must also do more for our small businesses, which is why, if confirmed, I look forward to working with Mrs. Guzman and the SBA to remove the cap on EIDL loans and to provide full EIDL Advance grants to all eligible small businesses, giving greater access to the relief that all our small business owners need. The EIDL and EIDL Advance Programs have helped countless small businesses in Nevada and in States across the country through these tough times, but the arbitrary caps on these loans and grants are preventing small businesses from receiving the funding assistance they need to properly recover.

Full EIDL loans and grants are what Congress intended when we passed the CARES Act 1 year ago. It is what we promised small businesses at the beginning of the pandemic. So we owe it to America's small businesses and workers to keep our word, and I know Isabel Guzman is the right person to help us keep this promise.

As we continue on the road to recovery, made possible by the American Rescue Plan, I urge my colleagues to confirm Mrs. Guzman's nomination so that she can immediately get to work for our small businesses.

Thank you.

I yield to the Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I certainly share the good Senator's views with respect to Mrs. Guzman as well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

NOMINATION OF KATHERINE C. TAI

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, the Senate will soon take a procedural vote on the nomination of Katherine C. Tai to serve as the next U.S. Trade Representative.

For Senators who watched any of Ms. Tai's nomination hearing before the committee, you will know that Ms. Tai has a whole lot of fans on both sides of the aisle here in the Senate. So I am just going to take a few minutes to discuss some of the reasons why I think Ms. Tai is a terrific choice for this job.

First, she knows that the name of the game when it comes to this country's trade policy is protecting and creating high-skill, high-wage jobs. Our country saw, for the past 4 years, that a strategy of sending mean tweets and acting on chaos does not translate into more good jobs. Under President Biden, and with Katherine Tai leading USTR, I am confident we will have a more effective approach.

Ms. Tai also has exactly the right experience for the job. She led crackdowns against China's trade cheating and job rip-offs. As the top trade staffer on the Ways and Means Committee, she was at the forefront to improve the new NAFTA when the Trump administration handed to Congress a deal that just wasn't strong enough for American workers. She already has a long track record of achieving wins for America's workers, businesses, farmers, and ranchers.

Second, Ms. Tai has committed to the Finance Committee that she will work to bring more transparency to trade policy. Bringing more sunlight to the country's trade agreements ought to be a priority that every Senator shares. That is why I am glad that President Biden has chosen somebody with congressional experience for the role of USTR.

The Constitution gives the Congress authority over international trade. Unfortunately, Congress, over the years, has delegated some of its power to the executive branch. So what that means is, now, all sides need to work together as partners, with open channels of communication, accountability, and transparency. And when I talk about transparency, I am talking about transparency with the American people. I know that Ms. Tai will continue to raise the bar for transparency and communication with Congress because she has been on our side of policymaking, and she has already proved that that kind of openness and accountability is a key priority for her.

With a former Senator in the White House and a former House staffer at USTR, I believe there would be a productive partnership with Congress so we can get trade done right and make sure that trade policy creates those high-skill, high-wage jobs that are a priority for every elected official.

Finally, there is another Finance Committee priority that I will just mention. On Thursday, the committee will hold a hearing on the subject of stamping out forced labor around the world. Forced labor is evil, it is morally repugnant, and it is a direct attack on workers in our country because, when American workers have to compete against slave labor, everybody loses. It is truly a race to absolute rock bottom when it comes to labor rights.

Ms. Tai is committed to President Biden's Build Back Better agenda. A key part of that agenda is ensuring that our workers are competing on a level playing field with the rest of the world. It is certainly not a level playing field when other countries are producing goods with slave labor.

Our government has laws on the books that can crack down on countries using slave labor and keep those products out of our market, but it is going to require an unwavering commitment to tough trade enforcement. This will continue to be an area of special focus for the Finance Committee.

Our colleague Senator BROWN and I have worked on this issue for a long, long time. I know Ms. Tai is committed to working with us on it, and I know that she will work with colleagues on the other side of the aisle on this and other issues. It is an opportunity to stand up for what is right around the world and protect American jobs and wages at the same time.

So Katherine Tai is qualified. She has the right diversity of experience. She has her priorities right, which is to get more American workers into the winner's circle of trade policy, and she is going to do it in a way that promotes openness, accountability, and transparency.

I believe Ms. Tai is going to have strong bipartisan support here in the Senate when we vote in just a few minutes. I want Senators on both sides of the aisle to know that Ms. Tai has consistently, throughout her time in public service, worked in a bipartisan way with respect to ensuring that, at a time when modern communications and transportation have, to some extent, shrunk the world and trade has gotten to be more and more important, she is going to be on the side of workers. She is going to be on the side of trade done right. I am with her 100 percent of the way.

I urge all Senators to support Katherine Tai for this crucial post at USTR.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON GUZMAN NOMINATION

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I would ask unanimous consent that the scheduled vote occur immediately.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Guzman nomination?

Mr. WYDEN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 81, nays 17, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 121 Ex.]

YEAS—81

Baldwin	Hassan	Peters
Barrasso	Heinrich	Portman
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blumenthal	Hoeven	Romney
Blunt	Hyde-Smith	Rosen
Booker	Inhofe	Rounds
Brown	Johnson	Sanders
Burr	Kaine	Schatz
Cantwell	Kelly	Schumer
Capito	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shelby
Carper	Lankford	Sinema
Casey	Leahy	Smith
Cassidy	Luján	Stabenow
Collins	Manchin	Sullivan
Coons	Markey	Tester
Cornyn	Marshall	Thune
Cortez Masto	McConnell	Tillis
Cramer	Menendez	Toomey
Duckworth	Merkley	Van Hollen
Durbin	Moran	Warner
Ernst	Murkowski	Warnock
Feinstein	Murphy	Warren
Fischer	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Wicker
Graham	Padilla	Wyden
Grassley	Paul	Young

NAYS—17

Blackburn	Daines	Rubio
Boozman	Hagerty	Sasse
Braun	Hawley	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Crapo	Lee	Tuberville
Cruz	Risch	

NOT VOTING—2

Hirono	Lummis

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 29, Katherine C. Tai, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

Charles E. Schumer, Chris Van Hollen, Michael F. Bennet, Jack Reed, Tammy Duckworth, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jeff Merkley, Christopher A. Coons, Richard Blumenthal, Patrick J. Leahy, Amy Klobuchar, Tina Smith, Brian Schatz, Robert Menendez, Richard J. Durbin, Martin Heinrich, Maria Cantwell.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Katherine C. Tai, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 98, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 122 Ex.]

YEAS—98

Baldwin	Grassley	Portman
Barrasso	Hagerty	Reed
Bennet	Hassan	Risch
Blackburn	Hawley	Romney
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Rosen
Blunt	Hickenlooper	Rounds
Booker	Hoeven	Rubio
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Sanders
Braun	Inhofe	Sasse
Brown	Johnson	Schatz
Burr	Kaine	Schumer
Cantwell	Kelly	Scott (FL)
Capito	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cardin	King	Shaheen
Carper	Klobuchar	Shelby
Casey	Lankford	Sinema
Cassidy	Leahy	Smith
Collins	Lee	Stabenow
Coons	Luján	Sullivan
Cornyn	Manchin	Tester
Cortez Masto	Markey	Thune
Cotton	Marshall	Tillis
Cramer	McConnell	Toomey
Crapo	Menendez	Tuberville
Cruz	Merkley	Van Hollen
Daines	Moran	Warner
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warnock
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Ernst	Murray	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Ossoff	Wicker
Fischer	Padilla	Wyden
Gillibrand	Paul	Young
Graham	Peters	

NOT VOTING—2

Hirono	Lummis

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 98, the nays are 0.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Katherine C. Tai, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

NOMINATION OF KATHERINE C. TAI

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, I am delighted to rise today in full support of Katherine Tai, President Biden's nominee to be our next U.S. Trade Representative.

As my colleagues are well aware, trade is an issue that impacts every corner of our country and, indeed, every corner of our globe. Roughly 75 percent—listen to this—75 percent of the world's purchasing power and over 95 percent of the world's consumers lie outside of our country's borders. If the United States is going to continue to be successful, we need to be able to tap into those markets and expand trading opportunities while ensuring a level playing field for American businesses and, I might say, for American consumers as well.

In Delaware, the First State, and throughout our Nation, trade policies affect how American businesses, both large and small—be they financial services, tech companies, workers, farmers, manufacturers—can compete in the global economy. But thanks to President Trump's haphazard trade wars over the last 4 years, American farmers, manufacturers, producers, and consumers too often have been left hanging in the balance—a situation that has been exasperated by this pandemic.

Now more than ever, all of them are in need of greater certainty and predictability. For the last 30, 40 years that I have served as Delaware's Treasurer, Congressman, Governor, and Senator, when I ask businesses what they want or need, more often than not, they say ''certainty and predictability.'' For the last 4 years, we have had too little of both.

Instead of the chaotic approach of the last 4 years, we need strategic and thoughtful trade policies. That is why President Biden has nominated Katherine Tai, an experienced public servant and trade expert, to serve as our Nation's top trade official. Katherine will be a steady hand at the U.S. Trade Rep's Office, and as a key member of the Biden administration, she will make sure that our trade policies benefit all Americans and leave no one behind. She will work hard to help jump-start our economy and ensure that American goods and services can reach international markets and that we can compete on a level playing field.

Katherine comes to this role with an exceptional breadth and depth of relevant trade expertise. She has earned a remarkable reputation as an expert in her field and is a leader who is respected by Democrats and Republicans alike in this Chamber and in the House of Representatives.

In her previous role, Katherine was chief trade counsel for the House Ways and Means Committee. There, she was a lead negotiator on the USMCA, U.S.-Mexico-Canada-America Trade Agreement, which notably passed Congress with overwhelming bipartisan support, in no smart part because of her efforts.

Members of my own staff are grateful for the opportunity to work with Katherine to secure historically strong environmental provisions, including new monitoring and enforcement tools in the USMCA, which will help make sure

that alleged environmental violations will be investigated and remedied in a timely manner. These new tools and resources will help ensure that environmental protections are not just words on a piece of paper but policies that will actually be put into practice and consistently maintained well into the future.

As chairman of both the Environment and Public Works Committee and the Finance Subcommittee on International Trade, I look forward to working with my colleagues and with Katherine Tai and her team to build on the progress that was made in the USMCA.

Another immense trade challenge that we face now is to effectively counter China's unfair trade practices and its expanding influence in international trade. Since joining the World Trade Organization, the WTO, in 2001, China has proven to be a bad actor time and again. I believe that, working with our allies in the Pacific Rim in a spirit similar to the Trans-Pacific Partnership, we can more effectively ensure that China adheres to its trade commitments with us and with the rest of the world.

Katherine has the expertise to help make that happen. Her prior experience as U.S. Trade Rep's Chief Counsel for China Trade Enforcement, where she led efforts to hold China accountable at the WTO for its unfair trade practices, is going to prove to be a tremendous asset for our Nation.

We would be lucky to have Katherine Tai, a committed public servant, represent our Nation on the world stage. As a daughter of immigrants and the first woman of color to be nominated to serve as U.S. Trade Rep, Katherine often cites her parents, also both public servants, as her inspiration.

In her testimony to the Finance Committee that I serve on, Katherine said—I want to quote her. Here is what she said. Speaking of her parents, she said:

> I am proud of their service to the nation that welcomed them. And I am proud to live in a country where, in just one generation, their daughter could grow up to represent the United States and our interests around the globe.

Those are her words.

I, too, am proud to serve in a country where this is possible.

Simply put, Katherine has decades of experience in trade, years of experience working in trade in a bipartisan fashion, and a keen understanding of the role Congress can play alongside the administration to implement successful trade policies.

As the world grapples with the greatest economic downturn since the Great Depression, it is more important now than ever to have a leader at the U.S. Trade Rep's Office who will work with Congress to advance a trade agenda that uplifts American workers in every corner of our country, spurs domestic manufacturing, and improves environmental and labor standards throughout the world.

Given Katherine's track record and many years of experience working across the aisle in Congress, I am confident that she has the broad support necessary to be a highly skilled and effective U.S. Trade Representative as she takes on the many trade challenges that we face, and I invite my colleagues to join me in voting to confirm Katherine Tai to serve as our next Trade Representative.

If I could, do I have a few more minutes to speak?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. You do.

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, my legislative director is a woman named Xiao. Lucy is her first name, Lucy Xiao. She said to me several months ago, after the election—Joe Biden was elected—she said: You know, we were working on the USMCA last year. We worked with a woman who was a very senior member of the House Ways and Means Committee staff to help make sure the environmental provisions in the law are not only strong but enforceable.

She said: The woman we worked with is a top staff person on the House Ways and Means Committee. Her name is Katherine Tai.

Lucy said to me: I think that Katherine Tai might make a good U.S. Trade Rep and may make a very interesting human story as well.

I have huge respect for Lucy's judgment, and I turned around and I called on the phone the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, an old colleague from my days in the House, RICHARD NEAL.

I said: RICHARD, does the name ''Katherine Tai'' mean anything to you?

He said: Oh, yes. She is a great member of my staff.

I said: She has been suggested as someone who might serve as the U.S. Trade Rep. What do you think?

He said: She would be excellent. She would be excellent.

The next call I made was to Ted Kaufman, former U.S. Senator, former chief of staff to Joe Biden for many years, and the interim Senator in this body for 2 years after Joe was elected Vice President. I called former Senator Kaufman, who was in charge of the transition for the Biden team, and I said: Ted, I think I have a good name for Trade Rep.

I explained who Katherine Tai was and her history and her work experience and what Chairman RICHARD NEAL said about her.

I said: She might be a keeper.

A week later, he called me and he said: We are getting all kinds of great comments about Katherine Tai.

He said: You know, I think you don't always have the best judgment, TOM CARPER, but I think in this case, maybe you are like a blind squirrel that occasionally finds a nugget.

And I think maybe in this case, I have, with the strong support and help of Lucy.

So that is the story. That is my Katherine Tai story. She is a keeper, and we are lucky to have her. She will succeed if confirmed. She will succeed Robert Lighthizer and Michael Froman, our immediate past two Trade Reps. Those are big shoes to fill, but she is very well prepared to fill them.

With that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COTTON. Madam 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 XAVIER BECERRA

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, the Senate is considering the nomination of California Attorney General Xavier Becerra to be Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. Without question, the Senate should reject this nomination.

In the midst of this pandemic, America deserves a Health Secretary who is solely—solely focused on getting shots in arms, getting kids back to school, and getting parents back to work. But that is not Mr. Becerra.

Over his long career in politics, his primary passion has been ramming through a radical, far-left agenda and using the power of his office to persecute his political enemies.

Mr. Becerra would be in charge of administering the Nation's health programs, but he has virtually no experience or expertise in healthcare. His only experience responding to the pandemic, as far as I can tell, has been his enforcement of California's excessive and traumatizing lockdowns over the last year.

Mr. Becerra has been California's top cop, overseeing the most draconian and unconstitutional series of lockdowns anywhere in our country. He has shuttered churches while liquor stores and marijuana dispensaries remain open. He has destroyed small, family-owned businesses while enriching massive corporations.

In the false name of public health, he has rigorously enforced unscientific and unproductive measures that have ruined the lives of Californians. Today, California's unemployment rate stands at 9 percent—45 percent higher than the national average, nearly two times higher than our unemployment rate in Arkansas. That is the result of bad policy. And jobless Californians have Xavier Becerra and Gavin Newsom to thank for their struggles.

If Mr. Becerra's record as attorney general is any indication, every American should be alarmed by how this nominee would fight the pandemic—not with science, compassion, or common sense but with crushing political force. Few Americans believe that California's lockdown commissar deserves a promotion. Unfortunately, the Senate may just give him one.

Mr. Becerra is also a vocal advocate for the socialist takeover of healthcare

known euphemistically as Medicare for All. He supports destroying union healthcare plans, crushing Medicare Advantage, and ultimately taking away your health insurance on the job, which covers, I would add, 158 million Americans. This disastrous boondoggle would cost $34 trillion and would inevitably result in the rationing of care, hurting senior citizens most of all. Medicare for All would, in reality, result in Medicare for None.

Last year, President Biden acknowledged that Medicare for All would yield massive tax hikes for middle-class families. Yet Joe Biden selected a supporter of this disastrous Medicare for All plan to be his top Cabinet official on healthcare.

And, of course, Mr. Becerra wouldn't be a Biden administration nominee if he didn't also support open borders. But he has gone further on open borders than even most of the other Biden administration officials, saying out loud what so many Democrats silently believe. He has openly argued for the decriminalization of illegal immigration. He has even stated with a straight face that illegal immigration does absolutely no harm at all, directly or indirectly, to American citizens. If Mr. Becerra really believes that, he is hopelessly naive and needs to get out a little more.

He can start by talking to the millions of Americans who are out of work or whose wages have stagnated thanks to competition from illegal aliens. He could also visit the graves of thousands of Americans killed by Mexican drugs and terrorized by gangs like MS–13. If confirmed, Mr. Becerra would oversee our Nation's response to the drug crisis and the maintenance of many migrant detention facilities. His radical open borders advocacy would make matters worse on both fronts. It would also fuel the ever-growing surge of unvetted, untested, and unvaccinated illegal aliens into our Nation, spreading the coronavirus in our communities just as it looks like we are about to turn the corner on this pandemic.

Finally, Mr. Becerra holds opinions on abortion that are unacceptable, unjust, and far outside the mainstream. As a Member of Congress, he voted in favor of partial-birth abortion—a disturbing and deadly procedure performed in the very last stages of pregnancy. As California's attorney general, he tried to destroy anyone who opposed his extreme position on this issue. He brought 15 felony charges against pro-life, undercover journalists who exposed Planned Parenthood's illegal and disgusting sale of baby body parts—a move that even the liberal Los Angeles Times called ''disturbingly aggressive.'' He defended an unconstitutional law that would have forced pro-life crisis pregnancy centers to advertise for abortions, the very thing it is their mission to oppose—something that the U.S. Supreme Court called a ''serious threat'' to freedom of speech.

He even sued to force an order of nuns, the Little Sisters of the Poor, to purchase healthcare coverage that violated their sincerely held religious beliefs. And when he was asked about all of this in the Senate, like any bully, he tried to cover it up, denying that he sued the Little Sisters at all. If he will sue the Little Sisters, then what will he do to you and your family?

A few of my colleagues have indicated that they will vote for Mr. Becerra, despite disagreeing with these radical views. Perhaps they think those are just his personal beliefs, that he won't practice what he preaches. Perhaps they think he won't undermine pro-life protections like the Hyde Amendment and use his office to persecute Catholic nuns. I would ask those colleagues to look at Mr. Becerra's record, not the words he utters to get their vote, and then to reconsider their support because any honest assessment will show that Xavier Becerra is a partisan cultural warrior who has consistently abused his office to punish his enemies and to enact far-left policies in Congress and in California.

If the Senate confirms his nomination, they will be empowering Mr. Becerra to bring California's lockdowns, lawsuits, and liberal policies to all of our 50 States, and that would be a disaster for our country.

I will close with a simple request for President Biden, who campaigned on unity and ending a terrible pandemic: Merely do what you said you would do. Send us a nominee who will unify the country and bring consensus, not one who will scrape by on the slimmest of majorities. Send us a nominee who is actually a healthcare expert, and the Senate will gladly consider them. Xavier Becerra is not that nominee, and the Senate should reject his nomination resoundingly.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MURPHY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

ELECTION SECURITY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, about 1 year ago today, Congress was in the midst of a debate about the most effective way to respond to COVID–19. On a call with his colleagues, the House majority whip, Mr. CLYBURN, reportedly laid out his vision about how his caucus in the House should proceed. He said, it is reported: This is a tremendous opportunity to restructure things to fit our vision.

For American families, this pandemic has been an unmistakable tragedy, one characterized by lost lives and lost livelihoods, but, apparently, for some, it is viewed as a tremendous opportunity.

The partisan $1.9 trillion bill that was signed into law last week is proof that, apparently, the Democrats in Congress and in the White House agree. After all, this legislation includes a long list of non-COVID-related priorities, again, completely unrelated to the crisis at hand: blank checks for mismanaged union pension funds, funding for climate justice, backdoor money for Planned Parenthood, an exclusive paid leave program for government bureaucrats, and the list goes on and on.

Before the bill was even signed into law, folks from the other side of the aisle started advocating making many of the provisions permanent. This is an emergency measure, supposedly, but folks advocated making those temporary provisions permanent, further proof that this is more than just a pandemic relief response; this is about, in the words of Mr. CLYBURN, restructuring government as we know it.

But it doesn't stop there. Now our Democratic colleagues in the House and some in the Senate apparently want to hijack the State and Federal election system, starting with making temporary pandemic election responses permanent. Of course, our elections are run at the State and local level. As a matter of fact, I recall, given the efforts of the Russian intelligence services to interfere with our election in 2016, one of the strengths of our system was its dispersed nature, suggesting, in other words, that if it had been a single system, it would have been much easier for our adversaries to interfere—and particularly in the cyber realm.

But we know, as a result of the pandemic, States made provisional changes to their 2020 election processes to make sure that people could safely exercise their right to vote. In my State, we extended early voting. We allowed voters to submit mail-in ballots in designated drop boxes.

Several States, of course, expanded eligibility for mail-in voting. Some, like California, took things even further and sent mail-in ballots to every registered voter. At the time, these changes were billed as temporary, given the unique and extraordinary nature of the challenges presented by the pandemic, but as the House minority whip has said, this pandemic, apparently, is viewed as a tremendous opportunity to restructure the way we run and conduct elections.

House Democrats have passed legislation to make many of the temporary changes in the 2020 elections permanent and add a list of other so-called reforms in order to federalize our State- and local-run elections. This is in the face of article I of the Constitution that explicitly gives the States the power to regulate the times, places, and manner of holding elections.

Yet this 791-page document creates a one-size-fits-all mandate for all States. It actually preempts State law, starting with mail-in balloting. Any person in any State could request a mail-in ballot for any reason. There is no need to say why you can't vote in person,

which is the current policy in most States.

Those ballots would not, under this bill, even have to be mailed in by the voter or dropped in a State-sanctioned ballot box because this legislation legalizes ballot harvesting, which means that mail-in ballots could be collected by paid activists or campaign staffers or anyone who has a stake in the outcome of the election.

It goes so far as to specify that States may not put any limit on how many voted and sealed absentee ballots any designated person can return. It really sounds like an invitation to fraud, and you can see how this could go badly pretty quickly. Maybe the ballot gets turned in with thousands of others. Maybe it is altered. Maybe it ends up in the trash. It is hard to say.

That gets to one of the root problems with this legislation is it does create limitless opportunities for fraud. Every single ballot cast illegally or due to fraud undercuts and neutralizes every legally cast ballot.

One way this bill removes some of the most basic requirements of most States' ballot integrity safeguards against election fraud is by removing any requirement of identification. This was, we should recall, one of the main recommendations of the bipartisan 2005 Commission on Federal Election Reform, cochaired by former President Jimmy Carter and former Secretary of State James Baker III. The Commission recommended that voters should be required to present photo ID cards and that States should provide free cards to voters who did not have a driver's license.

In order to vote in person, most States require voters to produce some valid form of identification. I know mine does. In Texas, there are three options—actually, several options: a driver's license, a passport, a military ID, a citizenship certificate, and other forms of government-issued ID. If, for some reason, you can't obtain one of these forms of ID, there is still a process in place to allow a person to vote by presenting other documents, making sure that they identify the person casting the ballot.

Matching the name of an eligible voter with the name on a valid form of ID is a commonsense safeguard against fraud but one which this legislation seeks to eliminate. If you go to a convenience store and want to buy a six-pack of beer or if you want to buy cigarettes or you want to get on an airplane, you have to present an ID card, but this bill eliminates that requirement when it comes to the most sacred duty and privilege that we have as citizens, and that is to vote.

This legislation stops States from requiring voters to provide proof of identification. Just sign a piece of paper saying you are who you are, and no one can ask any questions. On top of that, this bill would require the States to automatically register anyone in their databases, for everything from DMV to public assistance programs. Well, we know these databases are not limited to registered voters or even eligible voters. That could include people illegally present in the country because some States allow a driver's license to be issued to noncitizens who are not legally present in the country. These databases include other noncitizens and others not eligible to vote, not to mention the fact that those who are already registered to vote could be registered again and again.

And even if there are duplicate registrations or if someone passes away or moves, States would not be allowed to clean up the voter rolls within 6 months of an election. Just when you think things can't get any crazier, they do.

Our Democratic colleagues are proposing that the taxpayers fund their elections. A lot of companies have a match program for charitable giving. If an employee donates to a charity of their choice, then the company will match that donation dollar for dollar. The same principle applies except, instead of a charity getting the money, under this proposed legislation, it is now a political candidate. Instead of a company footing the bill, it is the taxpayers, and instead of an exact match, it is up to $6 for every $1 donated. That means if someone donates 200 bucks to their preferred candidate, Federal taxpayers will wind up coughing up $1,200.

Well, I think there are a lot of better uses for government tax dollars. They can go to support crime victims or support the response to the humanitarian crisis at the border, which we are experiencing right now. But, no, the proposal in this legislation is, let's use it to elect them.

Then there are the campaign vouchers. This bill creates a new program that provides eligible voters with a $25 voucher to donate to the campaign of their choosing—again, more government, taxpayer-funded election activities.

I could go on and on.

This legislation also alters the fundamental structure of the Federal Election Commission to remove any need for bipartisanship or consensus building. It undermines trust and accountability in elections. It implements a new financial disclosure policy that even the American Civil Liberties Union says ''could directly interfere with the ability of many to engage in political speech about causes that they care about.'' That is the ACLU.

Above all, this bill amounts to nothing more than a Federal hijacking of State elections. I can promise you, folks in my State don't want Speaker PELOSI or Majority Leader SCHUMER to determine how elections are run in our State. They want accountable leaders in our State, elected by and accountable to them, to determine the best way to conduct free and fair elections.

Following the last two Presidential campaigns, the side that lost had expressed concerns about election security. A partisan attempt to overhaul our entire election system is hardly a confidence-building exercise. This bill is not a serious attempt to improve security and accountability in our elections; rather, it is a partisan power grab that will do serious damage to our Republic.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

RACISM

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I take no pleasure in coming to the floor today. We in the Senate take pride in our decorum and our sense of comity with each other, so much so that we often twist ourselves into pretzels to avoid saying anything that might be interpreted as a criticism of another Senator. Yet there comes a time when these verbal gymnastics simply won't do. You are either going to speak the truth or fail to do justice to the values you hold dear.

What one of our colleagues said last week about the events of January 6 was felt by many to be racist and hurtful—a stain on the office he is so fortunate to hold.

Look, I get that no one likes to be called racist, but sometimes there is just no other way to describe the use of bigoted tropes that for generations have threatened Black lives by stoking White fear of African Americans and Black men in particular.

On a radio show, our colleague explained that he never feared for his safety during the January 6 insurrection of the U.S. Capitol. But make no mistake, under different circumstances, he would have been afraid. He said:

> Now, had the tables been turned—now, Joe, this will get me in trouble—had the tables been turned and President Trump won the election and those were tens of thousands of Black Lives Matter and antifa protesters, I might have been a little concerned.

Is that not racism?

I don't think the Senator is ignorant of the fact that for centuries in this country, White supremacy has thrived on using fear to justify oppression, discrimination, and violence against people of color. I do, however, think my colleague may be ignorant of the pain caused by his comments and unaware of how they compound the trauma that so many still feel in the wake of the events of January 6.

Because I do not think I can do justice to that pain, I want to share with you an email I received this weekend. It is from one of the most devoted public servants I have ever had the pleasure of working with, an African-American member of my staff. His name is Keith Roachford. He has devoted nearly three and one-half decades to serving the people of New Jersey in Congress and his community as a faithful churchgoer and Boy Scout leader. It reads:

> Senator,
>
> I would not normally send you an email like this but I am at a loss of how to express

the outrage and hurt I am feeling from the comments made by Senator JOHNSON that he would have been more afraid on January 6th if the insurrectionists would have been from Black Lives Matter.

I am blessed to be on your staff and have had the opportunity to serve as a staff member in the NJ delegation for 34 years, but this is the most painful thing I have ever heard being said by a US Senator.

I could not imagine that the horrible and painful events from [January] 6th could be replicated in a statement from a sitting member of the Senate.

However, Johnson's comment is worse than the image of the insurrectionists walking through the Capitol building with the confederate flag.

He is perpetrating the racist trope that the country should fear black people.

I have experienced what it is like to have a taxi cab pass you by in order to pick up white passengers who are further down the block of where you are standing.

Nothing can describe the feeling when you have entered a store and having store clerks watch your every step while shopping.

Sandy—

That is his wife—

and I have had the conversations with our sons when they were young about how to enter a store; not look suspicious; keep your hands out of your pockets until you make your purchase; or how to respond and talk to police officers in any interaction.

I have had the difficult conversation of explaining to a young black scouter in our scout troop why a white campground store clerk accused him of not paying for an item because he was black.

[This] type of hate speech is [not] new. The hardest part of what he said is that in 2021, a United States Senator would so freely express this type of hate out loud.

I am so grateful for our officers who endured so many injuries on [January] 6th, and I pray that they will recover physically and mentally.

They are going through so much right now, I feel guilty that my email to you might sound shallow because of the pain they are trying to overcome.

I understand that the Senate works best when both sides can find common ground, but how do [you] really reach common ground when [such views can be held]?

Again, I am sorry for reaching out late on Saturday evening, but I needed to share this with you.

Keith.

To read these pained words both broke my heart and boiled my blood. Thousands of people of color serve in the U.S. Capitol workforce. They are legislative staffers like Keith and Capitol Police officers and maintenance workers, cafeteria staff, and so much more. I should not have to stand here and remind anyone that many of them feared for their lives on January 6. But not Senator JOHNSON. He felt no fear. He wasn't afraid because, and I quote:

I knew those are people that love this country, that truly respect law enforcement, would never do anything to break the law, so I wasn't concerned.

People who love this country do not desecrate our most sacred democratic institutions and display symbols of racial hatred like the Confederate flag in the halls of Congress. People who respect law enforcement do not assault Capitol Police officers, beat them within inches of death, and hurl ugly epithets at officers of color. And people who would never do anything to break the law would not try to overturn the rule of law, plot to kill elected officials, and stop the peaceful transfer of power as instructed by the Constitution of the United States.

Now, I know what some rightwing media pundits and some of my Republican colleagues will say. They say it every time they are asked to accept some responsibility for perpetuating the lies told by President Trump that inspired the violent events of January 6.

They say: What about Black Lives Matter?

They say: Well, what about it?

Well, I say: Well, what about it?

The violent picture they paint of this movement could not be more divorced from reality. At this point, several reputable studies have confirmed that the protests launched in the wake of George Floyd's chilling murder were overwhelmingly peaceful. I repeat: The Black Lives Matter movement is overwhelmingly peaceful. I know many people don't care about facts these days, but it is the truth.

One study out of Harvard University analyzed 7,305 Black Lives Matter protests. The conclusion? Allow me to quote Professor Erica Chenoweth. She said:

Only 3.7 percent of the protests involved property damage or [some form of] vandalism. Some portion of these involved neither police nor protesters, but people engaging in vandalism or looting alongside the protests. In short, our data suggest that 96.3 percent of events involved no property damage or police injuries, and in 97.7 percent of events, no injuries were reported among participants, bystanders or police.

Likewise, the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project—an organization I might add is partially funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations—examined 7,750 different Black Lives Matter demonstrations across the Nation last summer. They found just 3 percent of those protests associated with any violence or property destruction whatsoever. They also concluded that police departments ''disproportionately used force while intervening in demonstrations associated with the [Black Lives Matter] movement relative to other types of demonstrations.''

Indeed, on January 6, as we waited for hours for backup from the National Guard and other law enforcement agencies to come to the aid of Congress, I know that I am not the only one who could not help but think of the violent, government-sanctioned crackdowns that met Black Lives Matter protesters last summer.

The bottom line is that these lies casting Black Lives Matter as violent have already done real damage. They have convinced millions of Americans that they should fear those who march under the banner of this movement for justice, when really it is the resurgence of violent White supremacy that should be Americans' real cause for alarm.

Indeed, last October, the Department of Homeland Security issued a report confirming that White supremacists pose the most lethal domestic terror threat to the American people. Research from the Center for Strategic and International Studies finds that White supremacists and their sympathizers carried out two-thirds of terrorist plots and attacks in 2020.

In the weeks since January 6, we have learned that far-right extremist groups that regularly preach White supremacy, such as the Oath Keepers and the Proud Boys, played a major role in plotting and executing the attack on the U.S. Capitol.

Every Member of this body owes their life to the sacrifices made that afternoon by Capitol Police officers, including officers of color. At least 100 officers were physically injured in the January 6 attack. One officer, a veteran and fellow New Jerseyan named Brian Sicknick, later succumbed to the injuries he sustained. Two others subsequently committed suicide. Hundreds of officers now carry with them invisible scars from the trauma they endured that day—scars that may not fade for years or even decades.

For one of our colleagues to cast those who attacked the Capitol as harmless patriots while stroking fear of Black Americans is like rubbing salt in an open wound.

Everybody in this body should know that when you perpetuate such racist tropes, you contribute to a culture that gives people permission to treat Black Americans as suspicious and their lives as expendable. We in the Senate are supposed to hold ourselves to a higher standard. We are supposed to advance America's long march toward a more perfect Union, not coddle and cater to those who would take us backwards, and we are supposed to stand up for the truth. That is what brought me to the floor today.

I hope Members of this body on both sides of the aisle will join me in making sure that we do not debase the institution and the people we are called to serve—all the people—for whom so much pain has existed for years and exists still today.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, on January 20 of this year, President Biden declared the repeal of an emergency action at our southwest border. He withdrew that and said there is no emergency that currently exists there and paused all funding for the border wall system construction—stopped it. Wherever it was that day, it ended that day.

The same day, he announced a 100-day moratorium on deportations in the country—stopped that. Within a few days, the courts stepped in and a Federal court said that you can't just stop actually executing faithfully the laws of the United States. The court halted

then his halt of a moratorium on deportations. In this case, his actual request for a moratorium on deportation halt was for those who had actually gone all the way through the court system and a Federal court had asked them to be removed from the United States. That is what President Biden was trying to stop.

Federal courts then stepped in and said that when the courts said they had to be removed, the executive branch can't just ignore that. They have to actually be removed.

That opened the flood gates. Those two announcements together—that we are not going to do any more border construction, that we are going to stop that, and the announcement of the moratorium—started the process of a stir in Central America among the human smugglers to get the word out to say this President is going to allow to let people in and it is going to be different.

Why would I say that and why would they say that? Because even in the time when I was sitting down with now Secretary Mayorkas in his hearings before he was actually confirmed, I asked him in those hearings: If there is a caravan coming to the United States right now with hundreds of people in it and growing, what is your message to them if you became the Secretary of DHS? What would you want to make sure those folks heard?

His response to me in that hearing was: I would tell them to wait. Not yet. Not yet.

The coyotes didn't hear it that way. They accelerated pushing people.

What is actually happening on the border?

Last weekend, I spent the weekend in Arizona just south of Tucson in Nogales, a small little town of 26,000 people that sits right on the border with Mexico. It is 26,000 on the American side, but on the Mexican side it is a city of 450,000. It is a very large community on that side and, literally, they have built up the community directly against the border.

Much of that border fencing has been there a very long time. They built properties directly against that fence. They are Mexicans. They can do that. That is their property to be able to do that. That is not the issue.

The interesting thing was to visit with folks from HHS taking care of the unaccompanied minors in the area, to visit with Customs and Border Protection that are actually handling the cross-border transition, and with Border Patrol leadership to go through that area and see it.

Let me tell you a couple of things I saw this weekend to help you get the context. The folks who I visited with at HHS, who are there taking care of the unaccompanied minors coming in—and we are seeing a significant surge of unaccompanied minors because the Biden administration has changed the policy and said that if you are 18 years old and up, because of the pandemic, we are not going to allow you in. It is called title 42 authority. The Trump administration actually put that in place and said: During the time of the pandemic, we are trying to limit cross-border traffic. You can't just come in.

The Biden team changed that and said: If you are 18 and up, you can't come in immediately. If you are 17 and down, you can.

So we are seeing a massive surge of unaccompanied minors right now. It is literally an invitation to say: You can come, but don't bring your family with you.

When I sat down with the folks at HHS there, who are doing a fantastic job with the best they can to be able to take care of those kids, I asked them: What are you seeing?

The vast majority of the kids that they are seeing coming across the border are 16- and 17-year-old males. When you hear the term, ''We've got all these kids coming across the border,'' sometimes, as Americans, we think these are 5-year-olds crossing the border. They are not. The vast majority of them are 16- and 17-year-old males coming across the border. They are also being transported to individuals who are here in the country who are family members and who are already present here in the country. Most of those are also illegally present in the country. They are uncles and aunts. They are cousins and brothers and sisters who are already here because we have separate categories of how we actually transition those kids to someone who can take care of them before we have the court hearing. Most of those court hearings will take 2 the years. They are crossing the border, these 16- and 17-year-old males, and being connected with an uncle who is already here and many times, illegally, as well. They will have the next 2 years to be here before they have a court hearing and be able to go through the process—if they come to the court hearing.

When I visited with the folks at Customs and Border Protection, they were frustrated with the lack of funding that has been given to them to be able to take care of the needs for that particular facility and help manage the number of people who are coming through. They need additional assistance because in that very old facility, they need additional barriers to just help them manage the flow of people as they come through.

When I visited with Border Patrol, we drove just a couple of miles out into the desert, just to the west of this town of 450,000 people, to go see the new fence that is being constructed. It may be hard to see it in this, but miles and miles of new fencing are going in.

But on the day of January 20, construction was halted. In this particular area, there are miles and miles of fencing except for these gaps in the fence. Those gaps were put in there to be gates. So if they have to take care of the fence, they can get access to both sides of this. These miles and miles of fencing are done except for the gate area, and, literally, the steel for the gates are laying on the ground.

Why in the world would you do construction and have it stop to say you can build everything except close the gates?

The Border Patrol team has literally drug over some of the steel just to be able to stack it in front of the gaps that are in the fence here to keep vehicles from driving through and try to put different barriers there and try to slow down the traffic.

For every one of these gaps along these miles and miles of fence, they are having to assign a Border Patrol agent there just to be able to sit at that gap because it is the obvious place to literally be able to walk through the fence.

There is only one reason that you would have a fence like this for miles and miles and leave it open as a gap—to allow people through. Worse than that, all the way through this construction area is just a dirt path they used for construction. But in the contract itself, it was set up to allow for the fence construction first. Remember, this is a wall system. There is technology and wall.

Walls are medieval, I get that, but there is a reason we still use fences in our backyard and still a reason we use fences as barriers because they work. They slow people down from actually crossing that barrier.

But it is a wall system in place. For miles and miles and miles in the contract and as it is written, they put up the fence first, close up the gates second, and then they finish the road so Border Patrol can actually pass through here, even when it rains in this area, to have a simple road passage there. Then they put in ground-based sensors so they can detect when people are walking across. Then they put in lights and cameras—all the technology we talk about in this room. I can't remember how many times I have heard my Democratic colleagues say: Fences are old. Let's just do the technology. Technology can help manage this.

In this situation, the contract is out and done. The fence is already installed, except for the gates, but no technology is there. So, literally, the Biden team stops before what even they claim is the effective part to stop people illegally crossing the border. The $1.6 billion was paused—that $1.6 that goes to simply closing the gates and installing the technology. That is what remains. This is nonsensical.

I understand the Biden team and some of my Democratic colleagues want a more open border. They have been clear on that. This does not provide security for our Nation. This is the result of saying: I don't want any more wall.

This is a nonsensical system on our southern border, with literally open areas that you could drive a truck through and where Border Patrol agents have to then sit at. Rather than

monitor large areas, they are stuck monitoring the open door.

Listen, we can have arguments about immigration, but, supposedly, we all agree we should have border security—at least we used to. This doesn't make sense. But this is now the reality, and it will sit like this for we don't know how long—maybe forever—until we as a nation determine this has to change.

It is an open invitation.

Have things really changed significantly on the border? Let me give you an example that is pre-COVID—pre-COVID, February of last year, before COVID came through. So don't say that things have changed in COVID. In February of 2020, we had under 40,000 people who were apprehended crossing our southern border that month—under 40,000 pre-COVID. That is a transition and an arrest process.

This February, with the only thing changing being the change of Presidents, we had over 100,000 people illegally crossing the border. One year later, we go from less than 40,000 to over 100,000.

This is a manufactured crisis that is happening on our border: a halting of closing up the holes in the fence; statements that we are going to do a moratorium, that we are not going to have anyone deported anymore; changing the rules on unaccompanied minors to basically invite them to come into the United States; and, again, statements like, ''Caravans, I will just tell them to pause; we are not quite ready for you yet.''

That is really not going to be a pause at all. That is going to be an invitation. That is not me saying that. It is the thousands and thousands of people who are coming to be able to connect with relatives who are already here and to be able to walk through a process, to be able to go around our visa application process and go around legal immigration.

I remind us as a country that we allow a million people a year to legally come to the United States and become citizens—a million people a year. We are not a stingy nation in engaging with legal immigration. There is a right way to do it, and we welcome people to do it the right way. This is welcoming people to do it the wrong way, and that does not help our security as a nation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

BUDGET

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor to talk about President Biden's runaway spending proposals.

Of course, as a conservative Republican, when I look at this thing, I have to say: Wait a second. This is not something that I can support in any way.

We have a 50–50 Senate here in the United States. The Democrats have won a narrow margin in the House, but the Democrats in Washington are acting like they have won in a landslide and have a national mandate. They do not. If there is any mandate when you have a 50–50 Senate and when you have such a narrow range in the numbers between the Republicans and the Democrats in the House, you would say it is a mandate to move to the middle. That is what the American people voted for. They said: Let's get to the middle. Let's find solutions to move our country forward.

It does seem, to me, what the Democrats are doing is an unprecedented overreach. The Democrats have only had control in Washington for about a month and a half, and it has already cost the American people $1.9 trillion. It is an astonishingly large figure. It was supposed to be for coronavirus relief, but 1 percent of the money went for vaccines, and only 9 percent went to actually fighting the coronavirus. Yet, before they passed the bill, that is what the Democrats said it was for. It does seem to be the oldest page in the Democratic playbook.

We all remember the old ObamaCare bill and debate and discussion. They said it was a tax. When they needed votes in Congress, they said it wasn't a tax. Then they realized they were going to lose in court, and they said it was a tax all over again. Well, we have seen the same playbook here. They said we needed more coronavirus relief, and then they passed this liberal wish list. Once they had the votes, they admitted the bill was not about coronavirus medical relief, healthcare relief or vaccines or fighting the disease. No—a liberal wish list.

Now, don't just take my word for it. The Democratic majority leader, standing right there, called it a ''turning point'' that transforms the United States. The White House Press Secretary called it the ''most progressive bill in American history.'' One Democratic leader in the House called it an ''ideological revolution.'' I guess they forgot it was supposed to be about the coronavirus. It doesn't sound like coronavirus healthcare relief to me.

After the bill passed, Speaker PELOSI admitted this was the same bill that she put forward last summer. Back then, the New York Times looked at it and called it ''more a messaging document than a viable piece of legislation.'' POLITICO called it a ''Democratic wish list filled up with all the party's favorite policies.''

This was never a coronavirus relief bill. They used the coronavirus to cover the payoff to all of the most powerful people in the Democratic Party: $85 billion to union pension plans, irresponsibly run; $26 billion for California Gavin Newsom; $12.5 billion for New York and Governor Andrew Cuomo; a big payoff for teachers unions and potentially millions for Planned Parenthood.

President Biden signed the bill, and then he gave a speech a few hours later. In effect, he admitted the bill doesn't get us 1 day closer to reopening our country. This is what this was supposed to be about—getting kids back to school, getting people back to work, and getting the virus behind us. President Biden said ''there is a good chance'' that small groups of people can get together outside in July. Well, he said, ''that doesn't mean large events.''

The Democrats spent $1.9 trillion, and, once again, they moved the goalposts. Congress has already paid for enough vaccines for every American to get vaccinated by the end of May. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says that getting vaccinated means getting your life back. This is what they told us. It means you can have indoor gatherings without masks. America needs to be fully open before the Fourth of July.

The Democrats haven't even finished their victory lap over the spending bill, and they are already telling us they want more. Here are just a few examples of what they propose to do, not with their money but with the American people's money—the taxpayers' money, the hard-earned dollars of the people who go to work every day and send their tax dollars to Washington.

In their $1.9 trillion wish list, the Democrats tried to double the minimum wage by Federal mandate. They failed, but they are going to keep trying.

Now, of course, the Office of Management and Budget, which took a look at this thing, said: Well, if they had succeeded, it would have forced 1.4 million Americans who have jobs right now to be out of their jobs because, when you mandate a doubling of the minimum wage, small businesses are either going to have to close or lay off certain people so they can pay the wages to others in an effort to keep the doors open. It means less tax revenue overall for the country, and it means more spending for unemployment insurance. If you add it up, it would increase the national debt by about an additional $54 billion.

In their $1.9 trillion wish list, the Democrats also wrote a big check to the teachers unions.

Now, they actually didn't need the money because, in the five bipartisan coronavirus bills that we have passed in overwhelming majorities, we sent schools $113 billion. The schools haven't even spent most of that money yet. In fact, they have only spent about $16 billion of the $113 billion. There is almost $100 billion yet to spend. On top of that, the Democrats have just put up another $170 billion in their wish list. If you add it up, that is nearly $270 billion to spend with no promise—none—to reopen the schools.

The Democratic leader wants to forgive $1 trillion in student loans. Subsidizing student loans just lets colleges raise prices. That is exactly what would happen if Leader SCHUMER's plan were to become law. Colleges don't need to raise prices. They need to lower the cost of education.

Senator SANDERS has an even more radical proposal. He wants to forgive

all Federal student loans, and that would cost $1.6 trillion. Forgive them all. Just forgive all of the loans. It doesn't matter. Rich or poor, forgive all of the loans. Well, that would drive up the price of tuition even higher. If it allows colleges to get the money directly from the Federal Government without having to go through the students, the costs will escalate dramatically.

Let me remind my Democratic colleagues that most Americans don't have college degrees. Yet, under the Democratic plan, all taxpayers—all taxpayers—would have to pay for the college tuitions for all of the students, including those who have families who can clearly afford to pay the tuitions to the colleges which they attend. It doesn't matter. If you go to the most exclusive college or if you go to your State college, if you have a debt, we are going to get rid of it, says the Democratic proposal, and the hard-working taxpayers of America are going to be stuck with the bill. Count me out on that one.

The Democrats want to take tax dollars from people who don't have college degrees or who never went to college and give it to the leftwing professors at so many universities, and this is wrong.

President Biden also wants to double down on ObamaCare. He thinks ObamaCare didn't go far enough. According to one estimate, President Biden's healthcare plan would cost about an additional $2.25 trillion. These are astronomically large figures. His housing plan would cost $640 billion. The Democrats have proposed another $2 trillion in infrastructure spending. One Democratic Senator even called for doubling that amount—$4 trillion in new infrastructure spending.

This is just the tip of the iceberg. I could go on and on. If you add up all of the new spending proposals by the Democrats and the White House and the Senate, it could cost nearly $12 trillion. By the end of this year, the national debt is going to be bigger than our economy, and we have the biggest economy in the world. Even before the Democrats passed their wish list, we were on track this year to have the second biggest deficit since World War II.

When the Democrats increase spending, we know what is next—massive tax increases on the American public. We heard it yesterday in the news. It was in the headlines. That is President Biden's plan—the first major tax increase in 28 years. He is proposing the biggest tax increase since 1993. He wants to raise taxes on businesses and on families, and he even wants to resurrect the death tax. Let me remind President Biden what happened after 1993. A year later, the Republicans took back the House and took back the Senate.

The 2020 elections were close. The American people didn't vote for this radical agenda, and it is a radical agenda. They didn't vote for $12 trillion in new spending and new taxes with increased tax rates and increased taxes on long-term investments like your home and increased taxes like the death tax—oh—and more money for the IRS so it can send agents to investigate the American public even further.

I would urge the Biden administration and my Democratic colleagues to listen to the people and to the people from whom I hear every weekend in Wyoming. It is time to put down the credit card. It is time to stop the spending spree. It is time to move to the middle to solve problems—that would be best for our Nation if we would address them—for the people of this great Nation.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, we welcome about a million immigrants every year. We welcome them because they come here, abiding by our laws, and we need immigrants. We have been a welcoming country for a long time, but I come to the floor to speak about the ongoing crisis at our southern border—a crisis that, I think, this administration doesn't want to admit is a crisis. Because of some changes in policy, we have that crisis, and that crisis is people entering our country in violation of our laws.

Since taking office, this administration has advanced policies that have undermined immigration enforcement. These policies undermine efforts to secure our southern border, and they encourage illegal immigration into our country. President Biden has signaled that, when it comes to immigration that violates our laws, the United States is open for business. Speaker PELOSI and House Democrats are doubling down on that position this very week. They are working to pass several mass amnesty bills that contain no provisions related to securing the border.

It turns out that people are finally paying attention. U.S. Customs and Border Protection recently confirmed that it had encountered over 100,000 migrants attempting to cross the southern border in February—the first full month of this new administration. That is the highest total for the month of February since 2006. News reports are that Democrats are blaming Trump's policies for this situation that we are in. Yet the number of single adults encountered at the southern border was up 175 percent compared to last February. The number of family units was up 170 percent, and the number of unaccompanied alien children was up 171 percent.

The Department of Health and Human Services, which is responsible for the care of the unaccompanied children after they arrive in the United States, had 7,300 unaccompanied children referrals in February. That is the highest number of February referrals in the history of the program.

As of late last week, Health and Human Services had over 8,500 unaccompanied children in its facilities.

As of this past weekend, more than 4,200 were being held by the Customs and Border Patrol holding facilities, with nearly 3,000 being held past the legal limit of 72 hours.

These are the ''kids in cages,'' whom many of our Democratic colleagues were so outraged about a few years ago, blaming Trump, even though the so-called cages were created in the Obama administration, just being reused again.

Curiously, we are not seeing nearly as much outrage now as we saw during the Trump episode. Where is our fair and balanced press today?

Reports emerged late last week that one Border Patrol facility in Texas was operating at 729 percent of pandemic capacity. Many minors who had been in custody for over 5 days were reportedly able to shower only once.

If this were happening during the Trump administration, our Democratic colleagues would be expressing their anger and their outrage on any media outlet that they could find. But because this crisis is happening as a result of President Biden's policies, we have mostly silence.

President Biden's border crisis reaches beyond just these staggering numbers that I have given you. First, it is a humanitarian tragedy—a crisis. The Biden administration's policies have incentivized unaccompanied children and family units to make an incredibly dangerous trip to our southern borders.

On March 10, Reuters reported that the Mexican Government is worried that the Biden administration's asylum policies ''are stoking illegal immigration and creating business for organized crime''—from the Mexican Government, reported by Reuters.

There is no doubt that cartels are profiting greatly from this trafficking. One Mexican official was quoted as saying: ''Migrants have become a commodity.''

The article went on to discuss how gangs are ''diversifying methods of smuggling'' and how smugglers are advising migrants on how to more easily apply for asylum in the United States, including by bringing children.

It also described how higher concentrations of migrants in areas near the U.S.-Mexican border have encouraged gangs to recruit some migrants as drug mules and to kidnap other migrants. For what? For money. This is a tragedy, and it is a tragedy created in just recent weeks by changes of policies at the border by this new administration.

Second, President Biden's border crisis presents a public health threat in the middle of a pandemic.

Recent reports have indicated that the administration plans to turn two Texas facilities, where migrant family units are being held, into rapid processing centers. The plan is to hold the family units for 3 days or less.

It is unclear if all of these migrants are being tested for COVID–19, when they are being tested, how they are being tested, and how they are being handled if they test positively.

Recent media reports also indicate that 100 undocumented immigrants who were released by the Department of Homeland Security into the United States later tested positive for the virus. In these times, as we are all concerned about the pandemic, it can't be acceptable.

Finally, President Biden's border crisis has created a situation that is overwhelming the men and women who work to protect our borders. It is straining the resources of agencies that must cope with the results of this administration's misguided immigration policies.

One of the most important responsibilities of the Federal Government and any Presidential administration, Republican or Democrat, is to enforce our immigration laws in ways that ensure the sovereignty of our borders, protects the American people, and, lastly, discourages illegal immigration. It is clear that this administration has failed to live up to this responsibility.

I hope that President Biden changes course and begins to work with Congress in a bipartisan way to secure our borders and, at the same time, reform our laws in ways that discourage this violation of our immigration laws by people just willy-nilly crossing the border, even being invited here. If they instead continue on their present course, this will be just the first of many border surges to come over the next 4 years.

What we need is to keep our doors open, as we have done for decades with legal immigrants, and do everything we can to discourage people from coming here in violation of our laws.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Ohio.

JOBS ACT

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I am here on the floor today to talk about workforce training, a critical issue always but particularly now as we get to the point where we are coming out of the COVID–19 crisis, the economy is picking up, and we need more workers in this country.

It is a significant issue to be able to help individuals to be able to achieve their God-given potential in life, but also it is really important to our economy because workforce is one of the big challenges we have. So to be able to get good-paying benefits for those workers, it is important but also to help our economy fully recover from the effects of the COVID–19 pandemic.

It has been over a year now since the pandemic changed all of our lives. In the early weeks and months of that crisis, it looked like things were going to continue to be really tough. I stayed in touch with business owners and workers across my home State of Ohio to hear how they were handling the closures, the layoffs, the other painful side effects of the crisis in those early months. Finally, things are getting better, and we are beginning to see more reopenings.

In Ohio, we just learned that people are going to be able to get vaccinations if they are 40 years old or older versus 60 years old and older as of the end of the week. And within another 10 days, everybody 16 years and up will be able to get a vaccine. And we have opened up some wonderful mass vaccination centers. I volunteered at one on Saturday. I spent 5 hours directing people and heard a lot of emotional stories about people really excited about getting back to their families—grandparents being able to see their grandkids for the first time in a year and the opposite, children being able to visit their parents or grandparents for the first time since the COVID–19 crisis hit, and people excited about getting back to work and back to school. So we are going to be able to see this because of Operation Warp Speed and the heroic efforts of our medical researchers and begin to help move our economy forward.

In fact, we just found out that the economy added a healthy 379,000 jobs in February. That was encouraging. And more and more businesses, again, are reopening and replacing the signs that said ''Closed Because of COVID'' with signs that now say ''Help Wanted.''

I was at a hearing today, and the representative from the National Association of Manufacturers told us that there are over 500,000 manufacturing jobs that are being offered right now. In other words, there is a shortage of manufacturing skills right now. So that is a good thing in the sense that that means there will be opportunity, but we have to have the skills to be able to fill those jobs.

Perhaps most promising, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, called CBO—it is a group around here that gives us advice on the economy—said that even without the most recent spending package, the $1.9 trillion package, that the economy is going to recover to where it was prepandemic by midyear. So by June 30, they think the economy will be back to where it was prepandemic. And we had a good economy then. In February, a year ago, we had the 19th straight month of wage growth of 3 percent or more. We had 3.5 percent unemployment, a 50-year low. We had historically low unemployment for Blacks, Hispanics. We had the lowest poverty rate we had in 60 years. Things are going well, not just for the economy but bringing people out of the sidelines and in to work. But, obviously, the pandemic hit hard. And, now, as the economy begins to recover again, we have to be sure that people have the skills they need to take advantage of a growing economy.

The pro-growth policies that we have had along the way, including the tax cuts, tax reform, regulatory relief, had helped to make sure that economy was not just strong but also inclusive. So we have to keep that up as well.

But just as the biggest challenge pre-COVID, when we had a strong economy, was finding workers with needed skills, we are back there again. So if we want to get back to the kind of economy we all want, the workforce challenge has to be addressed.

In fact, again, I think it will be an even bigger challenge now because during COVID–19, there has been a dislocation in the economy. Some jobs have been lost, and people have to find new jobs and develop skills. Some are going to have to leave the hospitality industry, for instance, and they might want to go into the tech sector or go into the manufacturing sector or the healthcare sector. So that ability to shift jobs and develop skills is more important than ever.

I am hearing it from employers all over Ohio; that as unemployment continues to fall, there are thousands of job openings for positions like welders and machinists in our manufacturing plants. I mentioned the national figure of 500,000 jobs are available right now, so we are certainly seeing that in Ohio in our factories, medical technicians in hospitals, a lot of interest in techs and in people who are willing to work in healthcare to help others, computer programmers, coders. Almost every sector of the economy is looking for people who have coding skills. So these are the kinds of jobs that economists call the midlevel skills; you know, they need more than a high school degree, for sure, but don't need a college degree. And they actually are jobs that pay quite well with good benefits. So these are the kinds of jobs that we need to be sure that we are providing out there.

The supply of skilled workers in that category, students pursuing post-high school certificates in one of these skilled areas, falls way short. They call it the skills gap. And it is holding back our economy from reaching its potential, just as it is holding back individuals from achieving their potential.

There was one study from 2019 that found that the skills gap could cause us to miss out on nearly $1.2 trillion of economic output over the next, at that point, 10 years. So, unfortunately, that skills gap hasn't been closed. In fact,

again, I think it is more important than ever that we address it.

The best option, I think, is to tackle it head-on by getting more people enrolled in these programs that can provide the skills training and equip them with the specialized skills that they need.

When people hear the words ''skills training,'' their first thought is often of career and technical education, CTE. There are some great CTE programs around the country. Some in my generation called it vocational education, but this is not your father's Oldsmobile. This is not the same old vocational education; this is high-tech stuff. It is really exciting what is going on. These programs are run by middle schools and by high schools that teach students an incredible variety of skills: health sciences, business management, culinary arts, manufacturing skills. By the way, they are incredibly popular. The good programs are really oversubscribed.

One data point that I found interesting said that 92 percent of high school students are taking at least some kind of skills training course from the CTE programs. That doesn't mean 92 percent are enrolled full time in CTE but taking at least some of those courses.

I have visited those schools all over Ohio. Again, they are exciting. They are specialized high schools that offer students a more specialized path than the traditional path that many students are encouraged to take, which would be to try to get a 4-year college degree.

By the way, again, this path, this specialized path, where you get these skills, leads to no student debt—assuming you could find a way to pay for the skills training, which we will talk about in a second—and a good job with good pay and good benefits, as opposed to many people who go to college and end up having a lot of debt and not having a degree that enables them to get the kind of job that they want. So it is a great option to do CTE and to get the skills training.

I am cofounder and cochair of what we call the Senate CTE Caucus, Career and Technical Education Caucus, with my colleague Senator TIM KAINE of Virginia. And we have worked to strengthen CTE programs, made them more accessible, made them more affordable, provided more Federal help for them. We have gone now from 2 to more than 29 Senators in our CTE Caucus. Our goal is to increase awareness of these CTE programs and the skills training they provide and get students interested in that kind of career training, provide the resources and opportunities that will then provide them what they need for good jobs with good pay.

We have also worked together on bipartisan legislation to make sure that the Federal Government is a better partner to States and local communities as they work to ensure these young people have the skills to find good jobs.

But CTE at the high school level alone isn't going to solve our workforce needs. Most industry-recognized certificates require more than the CTE training. They require a higher level of training. And CTE programs, as outstanding as they can be, are usually inaccessible to Americans who are no longer of high school age but would stand to benefit greatly from these skills programs. So people who are out of high school, adults, to get that more advanced certificate or to help older learners, the best option is to instead attend a certificate-granting technical workforce training program, the kind offered by your community college or your technical school.

These programs are outstanding. At Ohio technical schools, like the Eastland-Fairfield Career Center, the Vantage Community College, the Delaware Area Career Center, Stark State, and others, I have spoken to students in technical programs who tell me how excited they are to put these skills to work. Unfortunately, individuals potentially interested in these programs often cannot afford to make the investment in that education without some financial assistance.

I talked to Dr. Para Jones today. She is with Stark State in Summit County, Akron, OH. She told me an interesting story. She said that they have a real need in that area of Ohio, and, frankly, around the country, for truckdrivers. So for people to have the certificate, which is called a CDL—commercial truckdrivers license—they had openings in their courses, but it was $5,000. It cost $5,000 to get a CDL. And even though these students would be making that $5,000 and more in the coming years because truck driving is going to be quite a good career for them—50-, 60-, 70,000 bucks a year, plus benefits, depending on how much they are willing to drive—the 5,000 bucks was just too much of a burden, too high a hurdle. So her view is: You guys have to help us to be able to help students get into the programs they want to get into.

I remember talking to a welder at a career and technical high school program. It was a woman, 1 of 2 women in a class of 12 people—10 guys, 2 women. She was doing some pretty sophisticated welding, but she said she wanted to take it to the next level; she wanted to be an underwater welder, which pays a lot. We are talking over a hundred thousand bucks a year, easily; yet she couldn't get the skills at the high school level.

And when she was offered a Pell grant to go to college, she decided to take that instead, even though she wanted to be a welder. The government couldn't help her go to welding school. And this welding school was expensive. It makes the $5,000 for getting the CDL look like nothing. So it was tens of thousands of dollars to get this advanced certificate.

But she was offered the Pell grant to go to college, so she was going to college, even though she would rather be a welder. By the way, these welders are highly sought after by the energy industry and others.

So it is one of those examples where, if we could direct some of these Federal resources, not taking it away from colleges or universities but into our training programs, it would make so much sense, particularly for low-income students. And that is how I get to the Pell grants.

So Senator KAINE and I have introduced legislation that is called the Jumpstart Our Businesses by Supporting Students Act, or the JOBS Act. So we came up with an acronym so we could end up with the JOBS Act.

It makes all the sense in the world. It says that instead of getting a Pell grant that can only be used for going to a college or university, you should be able to get a Pell grant to get one of these shorter-term, industry-recognized certificates. They have to be high-quality, industry recognized. I think it would be much better for the students and certainly much better for the economy. Those are the middle skills that we need so desperately. Yet we are not supporting those students.

By the way, of those students who end up going to college with a Pell grant, they say that fewer than half end up getting a college degree in the end. Why? Well, the Pell doesn't pay for your full expenses. There are very few colleges in Ohio where you can use a Pell and get through without having significant additional expenses on top of that.

It is tough, and a lot of people drop out to be able to go back to work, as opposed to these career and training programs where, No. 1, you are looking down the tunnel and you can see the light at the end of the tunnel. You have got 10 weeks in this training program. You can get there. And you see at the end of that—to mix my metaphors here, you see the rainbow at the end of that, which is a job, a great job, with good benefits. Plus, the $6,400 from the Pell Program pays for it. For the most part, these programs are fully paid for by the Pell grant. So it is a really good idea.

And the JOBS Act is something Senator TIM KAINE and I have introduced before and we are introducing again this week. We want these low-income students to be able to get what they need to be able to get the good jobs, and we want our economy to be able to get those positions filled so that we can continue to grow our economy as a country.

By the way, it doesn't mean these students aren't going to go on to a college or university. I was in a CTE program several years ago talking to some students, one of whom was going to a local manufacturer who was a supplier to GE Aviation, which makes aircraft engines. He ended up going—50,000 bucks a year at the time, good benefits—to this manufacturer. He was learning welding and other skills.

Well, that company ended up paying for his college later, which I later

found out, which is not atypical. So it is a good example of where it doesn't mean you are not going to go to college. Some people will want to, and some people won't. This young man wanted to get an engineering degree, and the company was happy to help him do that to be able to come back to that company and to provide those skills.

So whether it is learning how to conduct HVAC installation, how to operate factory machinery, how to program computers, these programs teach students practical, transferrable skills to be able to keep our economy moving.

Increasing access to the skills training through the JOBS Act can also serve to lend a helping hand for those who have lost their jobs due to COVID–19. As I said earlier, many jobs have come back and are continuing to come back as we reopen our economy, but we are still down about nine, nine and a half million jobs from before the pandemic.

Some are at businesses that are now closed or in industries that have struggled and may be fundamentally changed as a result of the pandemic. In other words, some of these jobs won't come back, so people need to re-up their skills training. Folks who had those jobs, giving them the option to invest in a new skill set through technical education funded by a Pell grant is a ray of hope, a chance for them to get back on their feet, to find new, exciting, good-paying jobs.

I am pleased to say the JOBS Act has been endorsed by the National Skills Coalition, the Association for Career and Technical Education, the Association of Community College Trustees—in fact, last year, it was their No. 1 priority, among the community colleges—the American Association of Community Colleges, and other groups.

The reason the JOBS Act has this kind of strong support is it is the best proposal out there that will help fill the skills gap we have right now. It will cover programs that, at a minimum, require 150 hours and 8 weeks to complete. Alternative proposals severely limit the programs by requiring them to have too many hours, 320 hours. Ohio community colleges have told me none of their short-term training programs would qualify under that higher number of hour requirement.

Programs like welding, precision machining, and electrical trades—we need the JOBS Act now. As we work to get our economy back up to speed, passing the JOBS Act is a top priority for Senator KAINE, for myself, and for other Members on both sides of the aisle.

Let's be sure that we work together to get this legislations across the finish line. It just makes too much sense. It is going to help tens of thousands of people have better opportunities. It is going to help our economy fill the critical jobs it needs to recover.

We need to seize this opportunity, seize it now, get this economy back on track, and ensure Ohioans and all Americans have this opportunity to develop the skills to grow in the career of their choice and fulfill their potential in life.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for 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.

SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence's Rules of Procedure be printed in the RECORD.

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

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

RULE 1. CONVENING OF MEETINGS

1.1. The regular meeting day of the Select Committee on Intelligence for the transaction of Committee business shall be every Tuesday of each month that the Senate is in session, unless otherwise directed by the Chairman.

1.2. The Chairman shall have authority, upon notice, to call such additional meetings of the Committee as the Chairman may deem necessary and may delegate such authority to any other member of the Committee.

1.3. A special meeting of the Committee may be called at any time upon the written request of five or more members of the Committee filed with the Clerk of the Committee.

1.4. In the case of any meeting of the Committee, other than a regularly scheduled meeting, the Clerk of the Committee shall notify every member of the Committee of the time and place of the meeting and shall give reasonable notice which, except in extraordinary circumstances, shall be at least 24 hours in advance of any meeting held in Washington, D.C. and at least 48 hours in the case of any meeting held outside Washington, D.C.

1.5. If five members of the Committee have made a request in writing to the Chairman to call a meeting of the Committee, and the Chairman fails to call such a meeting within seven calendar days thereafter, including the day on which the written notice is submitted, these members may call a meeting by filing a written notice with the Clerk of the Committee who shall promptly notify each member of the Committee in writing of the date and time of the meeting.

RULE 2. MEETING PROCEDURES

2.1. Meetings of the Committee shall be open to the public except as provided in paragraph 5(b) of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

2.2. It shall be the duty of the Staff Director to keep or cause to be kept a record of all Committee proceedings.

2.3. The Chairman of the Committee, or if the Chairman is not present the Vice Chairman, shall preside over all meetings of the Committee. In the absence of the Chairman and the Vice Chairman at any meeting, the ranking majority member, or if no majority member is present, the ranking minority member present, shall preside.

2.4. Except as otherwise provided in these Rules, decisions of the Committee shall be by a majority vote of the members present and voting. A quorum for the transaction of Committee business, including the conduct of executive sessions, shall consist of no less than one third of the Committee members, except that for the purpose of hearing witnesses, taking sworn testimony, and receiving evidence under oath, a quorum may consist of one Senator.

2.5. A vote by any member of the Committee with respect to any measure or matter being considered by the Committee may be cast by proxy if the proxy authorization (1) is in writing; (2) designates the member of the Committee who is to exercise the proxy; (3) is limited to a specific measure or matter and any amendments pertaining thereto; and (4) is signed by the member wishing to cast a vote by proxy, either by handwritten signature or autopen. Proxies shall not be considered for the establishment of a quorum.

2.6. Whenever the Committee by roll call vote reports any measure or matter, the report of the Committee upon such measure or matter shall include a tabulation of the votes cast in favor of and the votes cast in opposition to such measure or matter by each member of the Committee.

RULE 3. SUBCOMMITTEES

Creation of subcommittees shall be by majority vote of the Committee. Subcommittees shall deal with such legislation and oversight of programs and policies as the Committee may direct. The subcommittees shall be governed by the Rules of the Committee and by such other rules they may adopt which are consistent with the Rules of the Committee. Each subcommittee created shall have a chairman and a vice chairman who are selected by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, respectively.

RULE 4. REPORTING OF MEASURES OR RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1. No measures or recommendations shall be reported, favorably or unfavorably, from the Committee unless a majority of the Committee is actually present and a majority concur.

4.2. In any case in which the Committee is unable to reach a unanimous decision, separate views or reports may be presented by any member or members of the Committee.

4.3. A member of the Committee who gives notice of intention to file supplemental, minority, or additional views at the time of final Committee approval of a measure or matter, shall be entitled to not less than three weekdays in which to file such views, in writing with the Clerk of the Committee. Such views shall then be included in the Committee report and printed in the same volume, as a part thereof, and their inclusion shall be noted on the cover of the report.

4.4. Routine, non-legislative actions required of the Committee may be taken in accordance with procedures that have been approved by the Committee pursuant to these Committee Rules.

RULE 5. NOMINATIONS

5.1. Unless otherwise ordered by a joint determination made by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, nominations referred to the Committee shall be held for at least 14 calendar days before being voted on by the Committee.

5.2. Each member of the Committee shall be promptly furnished a copy of all nominations referred to the Committee.

5.3. Nominees who are invited to appear before the Committee shall be heard in public session, except as provided in Rule 2.1.

5.4. No confirmation hearing shall be held sooner than seven calendar days after receipt of the background questionnaire and financial disclosure statement unless the time limit is waived by a majority vote of the Committee.

5.5. The Committee vote on the confirmation shall not be sooner than 48 hours after the Committee has received transcripts of the confirmation hearing unless the time limit is waived by unanimous consent of the Committee.

5.6. No nomination shall be reported to the Senate unless the nominee has filed a response to the Committee's background questionnaire and financial disclosure statement with the Committee.

RULE 6. INVESTIGATIONS

No investigation shall be initiated by the Committee unless at least five members of the Committee have specifically requested the Chairman or the Vice Chairman to authorize such an investigation. Authorized investigations may be conducted by members of the Committee and/or designated Committee staff members.

RULE 7. SUBPOENAS

Subpoenas authorized by the Committee for the attendance of witnesses or the production of memoranda, documents, records, or any other material may be issued by the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, or any member of the Committee designated by the Chairman, and may be served by any person designated by the Chairman, Vice Chairman or member issuing the subpoenas. Each subpoena shall have attached thereto a copy of S. Res. 400 of the 94th Congress, and a copy of these rules.

RULE 8. PROCEDURES RELATED TO THE TAKING OF TESTIMONY

8.1. Notice.—Witnesses required to appear before the Committee shall be given reasonable notice and all witnesses shall be furnished a copy of these Rules.

8.2. Oath or Affirmation.—At the direction of the Chairman or Vice Chairman, testimony of witnesses may be given under oath or affirmation which may be administered by any member of the Committee.

8.3. Questioning.—Committee questioning of witnesses shall be conducted by members of the Committee and such Committee staff as are authorized by the Chairman, Vice Chairman, or the presiding member.

8.4. Counsel for the Witness.—(a) Generally. Any witness may be accompanied by counsel, subject to the requirement of paragraph (b).

(b) Counsel Clearances Required. In the event that a meeting of the Committee has been closed because the subject matter was classified in nature, counsel accompanying a witness before the Committee must possess the requisite security clearance and provide proof of such clearance to the Committee at least 24 hours prior to the meeting at which the counsel intends to be present. A witness who is unable to obtain counsel may inform the Committee of such fact. If the witness informs the Committee of this fact at least 24 hours prior to his or her appearance before the Committee, the Committee shall then endeavor to obtain voluntary counsel for the witness. Failure to obtain such counsel will not excuse the witness from appearing and testifying.

(c) Conduct of Counsel for the Witness. Counsel for witnesses appearing before the Committee shall conduct themselves in an ethical and professional manner at all times in their dealings with the Committee. Failure to do so shall, upon a finding to that effect by a majority of the members present, subject such counsel to disciplinary action which may include warning, censure, removal, or a recommendation of contempt proceedings.

(d) Role of Counsel for Witness. There shall be no direct or cross-examination by counsel for the witness. However, counsel for the witness may submit any question in writing to the Committee and request the Committee to propound such question to the counsel's client or to any other witness. The counsel for the witness also may suggest the presentation of other evidence or the calling of other witnesses. The Committee may use or dispose of such questions or suggestions as it deems appropriate.

8.5. Statements by Witnesses.—Witnesses may make brief and relevant statements at the beginning and conclusion of their testimony. Such statements shall not exceed a reasonable period of time as determined by the Chairman, or other presiding members. Any witness required or desiring to make a prepared or written statement for the record of the proceedings shall file a paper and electronic copy with the Clerk of the Committee, and insofar as practicable and consistent with the notice given, shall do so at least 48 hours in advance of his or her appearance before the Committee, unless the Chairman and Vice Chairman determine there is good cause for noncompliance with the 48 hours requirement.

8.6. Objections and Rulings.—Any objection raised by a witness or counsel shall be ruled upon by the Chairman or other presiding member, and such ruling shall be the ruling of the Committee unless a majority of the Committee present overrules the ruling of the chair.

8.7. Inspection and Correction.—All witnesses testifying before the Committee shall be given a reasonable opportunity to inspect, in the office of the Committee, the transcript of their testimony to determine whether such testimony was correctly transcribed. The witness may be accompanied by counsel. Any corrections the witness desires to make in the transcript shall be submitted in writing to the Committee within five days from the date when the transcript was made available to the witness. Corrections shall be limited to grammar and minor editing, and may not be made to change the substance of the testimony. Any questions arising with respect to such corrections shall be decided by the Chairman. Upon request, the Committee may provide to a witness those parts of testimony given by that witness in executive session which are subsequently quoted or made part of a public record, at the expense of the witness.

8.8. Requests To Testify.—The Committee will consider requests to testify on any matter or measure pending before the Committee. A person who believes that testimony or other evidence presented at a public hearing, or any comment made by a Committee member or a member of the Committee staff, may tend to affect adversely that person's reputation, may request in writing to appear personally before the Committee to testify or may file a sworn statement of facts relevant to the testimony, evidence, or comment, or may submit to the Chairman proposed questions in writing for the questioning of other witnesses. The Committee shall take such action as it deems appropriate.

8.9. Contempt Procedures.—No recommendation that a person be cited for contempt of Congress or that a subpoena be otherwise enforced shall be forwarded to the Senate unless and until the Committee has, upon notice to all its members, met and considered the recommendation, afforded the person an opportunity to address such contempt recommendation or subpoena enforcement proceeding either in writing or in person, and agreed by majority vote of the Committee to forward such recommendation to the Senate.

8.10. Release of Name of Witness.—Unless authorized by the Chairman, the name of any witness scheduled to be heard by the Committee shall not be released prior to, or after, appearing before the Committee. Upon authorization by the Chairman to release the name of a witness under this paragraph, the Vice Chairman shall be notified of such authorization as soon as practicable thereafter. No name of any witness shall be released if such release would disclose classified information, unless authorized under Section 8 of S. Res. 400 of the 94th Congress or Rule 9.7.

RULE 9. PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING CLASSIFIED OR COMMITTEE SENSITIVE MATERIAL

9.1. Committee staff offices shall operate under strict security procedures administered by the Committee Security Director under the direct supervision of the Staff Director and Minority Staff Director. At least one United States Capitol Police Officer shall be on duty at all times at the entrance of the Committee to control entry. Before entering the Committee office space all persons shall identify themselves and provide identification as requested.

9.2. Classified documents and material shall be stored in authorized security containers located within the Committee's Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF). Copying, duplicating, or removing from the Committee offices of such documents and other materials is strictly prohibited except as is necessary for the conduct of Committee business, and as provided by these Rules. All classified documents or materials removed from the Committee offices for such authorized purposes must be returned to the Committee's SCIF for overnight storage.

9.3. ''Committee sensitive'' means information or material that pertains to the confidential business or proceedings of the Select Committee on Intelligence, within the meaning of paragraph 5 of Rule XXIX of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and is: (1) in the possession or under the control of the Committee; (2) discussed or presented in an executive session of the Committee; (3) the work product of a Committee member or staff member; (4) properly identified or marked by a Committee member or staff member who authored the document; or (5) designated as such by the Chairman and Vice Chairman (or by the Staff Director and Minority Staff Director acting on their behalf). Committee sensitive documents and materials that are classified shall be handled in the same manner as classified documents and material in Rule 9.2. Unclassified committee sensitive documents and materials shall be stored in a manner to protect against unauthorized disclosure.

9.4. Each member of the Committee shall at all times have access to all papers and other material received from any source. The Staff Director shall be responsible for the maintenance, under appropriate security procedures, of a document control and accountability registry which will number and identify all classified papers and other classified materials in the possession of the Committee, and such registry shall be available to any member of the Committee.

9.5. Whenever the Select Committee on Intelligence makes classified material available to any other committee of the Senate or to any member of the Senate not a member of the Committee, such material shall be accompanied by a verbal or written notice to the recipients advising of their responsibility to protect such materials pursuant to

section 8 of S. Res. 400 of the 94th Congress. The Security Director of the Committee shall ensure that such notice is provided and shall maintain a written record identifying the particular information transmitted and the committee or members of the Senate receiving such information.

9.6. Access to classified information supplied to the Committee shall be limited to those Committee staff members with appropriate security clearance and a need-to-know, as determined by the Committee, and, under the Committee's direction, the Staff Director and Minority Staff Director.

9.7. No member of the Committee or of the Committee staff shall disclose, in whole or in part or by way of summary, the contents of any classified or committee sensitive papers, materials, briefings, testimony, or other information received by, or in the possession of, the Committee to any other person, except as specified in this rule. Committee members and staff do not need prior approval to disclose classified or committee sensitive information to persons in the Executive branch, the members and staff of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and the members and staff of the Senate, provided that the following conditions are met:

(1) for classified information, the recipients of the information must possess appropriate security clearances (or have access to the information by virtue of their office);

(2) for all information, the recipients of the information must have a need-to-know such information for an official governmental purpose; and

(3) for all information, the Committee members and staff who provide the information must be engaged in the routine performance of Committee legislative or oversight duties. Otherwise, classified and committee sensitive information may only be disclosed to persons outside the Committee (to include any congressional committee, Member of Congress, congressional staff, or specified non-governmental persons who support intelligence activities) with the prior approval of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee, or the Staff Director and Minority Staff Director acting on their behalf, consistent with the requirements that classified information may only be disclosed to persons with appropriate security clearances and a need-to-know such information for an official governmental purpose. Public disclosure of classified information in the possession of the Committee may only be authorized in accordance with Section 8 of S. Res. 400 of the 94th Congress.

9.8. Failure to abide by Rule 9.7 shall constitute grounds for referral to the Select Committee on Ethics pursuant to Section 8 of S. Res. 400 of the 94th Congress. Prior to a referral to the Select Committee on Ethics pursuant to Section 8 of S. Res. 400, the Chairman and Vice Chairman shall notify the Majority Leader and Minority Leader.

9.9. Before the Committee makes any decision regarding the disposition of any testimony, papers, or other materials presented to it, the Committee members shall have a reasonable opportunity to examine all pertinent testimony, papers, and other materials that have been obtained by the members of the Committee or the Committee staff.

9.10. Attendance of persons outside the Committee at closed meetings of the Committee shall be kept at a minimum and shall be limited to persons with appropriate security clearance and a need-to-know the information under consideration for the execution of their official duties. The Security Director of the Committee may require that notes taken at such meetings by any person in attendance shall be returned to the secure storage area in the Committee's offices at the conclusion of such meetings, and may be made available to the department, agency, office, committee, or entity concerned only in accordance with the security procedures of the Committee.

9.11. Attendance of agencies or entities that were not formally invited to a closed proceeding of the Committee shall not be admitted to the closed meeting except upon advance permission from the Chairman and Vice Chairman, or by the Staff Director and Minority Staff Director acting on their behalf.

RULE 10. STAFF

10.1. For purposes of these rules, Committee staff includes employees of the Committee, consultants to the Committee, or any other person engaged by contract or otherwise to perform services for or at the request of the Committee. To the maximum extent practicable, the Committee shall rely on its full-time employees to perform all staff functions. No individual may be retained as staff of the Committee or to perform services for the Committee unless that individual holds appropriate security clearances.

10.2. The appointment of Committee staff shall be approved by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly, or, at the initiative of both or either be confirmed by a majority vote of the Committee. After approval or confirmation, the Chairman shall certify Committee staff appointments to the Financial Clerk of the Senate in writing. No Committee staff shall be given access to any classified information or regular access to the Committee offices until such Committee staff has received an appropriate security clearance as described in Section 6 of S. Res. 400 of the 94th Congress.

10.3. The Committee staff works for the Committee as a whole, under the supervision of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee. The duties of the Committee staff shall be performed, and Committee staff personnel affairs and day-to-day operations, including security and control of classified documents and material, shall be administered under the direct supervision and control of the Staff Director. All Committee staff shall work exclusively on intelligence oversight issues for the Committee. The Minority Staff Director and the Minority Counsel shall be kept fully informed regarding all matters and shall have access to all material in the files of the Committee.

10.4. The Committee staff shall assist the minority as fully as the majority in the expression of minority views, including assistance in the preparation and filing of additional, separate, and minority views, to the end that all points of view may be fully considered by the Committee and the Senate.

10.5. The members of the Committee staff shall not discuss either the substance or procedure of the work of the Committee with any person not a member of the Committee or the Committee staff for any purpose or in connection with any proceeding, judicial or otherwise, either during their tenure as a member of the Committee staff or at any time thereafter, except as directed by the Committee in accordance with Section 8 of S. Res. 400 of the 94th Congress and the provisions of these rules, or in the event of the termination of the Committee, in such a manner as may be determined by the Senate. The Chairman may authorize the Staff Director and the Staff Director's designee, and the Vice Chairman may authorize the Minority Staff Director and the Minority Staff Director's designee, to communicate with the media in a manner that does not divulge classified or committee sensitive information.

10.6. No member of the Committee staff shall be employed by the Committee unless and until such a member of the Committee staff agrees in writing, as a condition of employment, to abide by the conditions of the nondisclosure agreement promulgated by the Select Committee on Intelligence, pursuant to Section 6 of S. Res. 400 of the 94th Congress, and to abide by the Committee's code of conduct.

10.7. As a precondition for employment on the Committee, each member of the Committee staff must agree in writing to notify the Committee of any request for testimony, either during service as a member of the Committee staff or at any time thereafter with respect to information obtained by virtue of employment as a member of the Committee staff. Such information shall not be disclosed in response to such requests, except as directed by the Committee in accordance with Section 8 of S. Res. 400 of the 94th Congress and the provisions of these rules or, in the event of the termination of the Committee, in such manner as may be determined by the Senate.

10.8. The Committee shall immediately consider action to be taken in the case of any member of the Committee staff who fails to conform to any of these Rules. Such disciplinary action may include, but shall not be limited to, revocation of the Committee sponsorship of the staff person's security clearance and immediate dismissal from the Committee staff.

10.9. Within the Committee staff shall be an element with the capability to perform audits of programs and activities undertaken by departments and agencies with intelligence functions. The audit element shall conduct audits and oversight projects that have been specifically authorized by the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee, acting jointly through the Staff Director and Minority Staff Director. Staff shall be assigned to such element jointly by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, and staff with the principal responsibility for the conduct of an audit shall be qualified by training or experience in accordance with accepted auditing standards.

10.10. The workplace of the Committee shall be free from illegal use, possession, sale, or distribution of controlled substances by its employees. Any violation of such policy by any member of the Committee staff shall be grounds for termination of employment. Further, any illegal use of controlled substances by a member of the Committee staff, within the workplace or otherwise, shall result in reconsideration of the security clearance of any such staff member and may constitute grounds for termination of employment with the Committee.

10.11. All personnel actions affecting the staff of the Committee shall be made free from any discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap, or disability.

RULE 11. PREPARATION FOR COMMITTEE MEETINGS

11.1. Under direction of the Chairman and the Vice Chairman designated Committee staff members shall brief members of the Committee at a time sufficiently prior to any Committee meeting to assist the Committee members in preparation for such meeting and to determine any matter which the Committee member might wish considered during the meeting. Such briefing shall, at the request of a member, include a list of all pertinent papers and other materials that have been obtained by the Committee that bear on matters to be considered at the meeting.

11.2. The Staff Director and/or Minority Staff Director may recommend to the Chairman and the Vice Chairman the testimony, papers, and other materials to be presented

to the Committee at any meeting. The determination whether such testimony, papers, and other materials shall be presented in open or executive session shall be made pursuant to the Rules of the Senate and Rules of the Committee.

11.3. The Staff Director shall ensure that covert action programs of the U.S. Government receive appropriate consideration by the Committee no less frequently than once a quarter.

RULE 12. LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

12.1. The Clerk of the Committee shall maintain a calendar for the information of each Committee member showing the measures introduced and referred to the Committee and the status of such measures; nominations referred to the Committee and their status; and such other matters as the Committee determines shall be included. The calendar shall be available to all members of the Committee.

12.2. Measures referred to the Committee may be referred by the Chairman and/or Vice Chairman to the appropriate department or agency of the Government for reports thereon.

RULE 13. COMMITTEE TRAVEL

No member of the Committee or Committee Staff shall travel on Committee business unless specifically authorized by the Chairman and Vice Chairman. Requests for authorization of such travel shall state the purpose and extent of the trip. A full report shall be filed with the Committee when travel is completed.

RULE 14. SUSPENSION AND AMENDMENT OF THE RULES

(a) These Rules may be modified, amended, or repealed by the Committee, provided that a notice in writing of the proposed change has been given to each member at least 48 hours prior to the meeting at which action thereon is to be taken.

(b) These Rules shall continue and remain in effect from one Congress to the next Congress unless they are changed as provided herein.

SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, in accordance with rule XXVI, paragraph 2 of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I ask unanimous consent, for myself as chairman of the Select Committee on Ethics and for Senator JAMES LANKFORD, vice chairman of the committee, that the rules of procedure of the Select Committee on Ethics, which were adopted February 23, 1978, and revised November 1999, be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for the 117th Congress.

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

RULES OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

PART I: ORGANIC AUTHORITY

SUBPART A—S. RES. 338 AS AMENDED

S. Res. 338, 88th Cong., 2d Sess. (1964)

Resolved, That (a) there is hereby established a permanent select committee of the Senate to be known as the Select Committee on Ethics (referred to hereinafter asthe ''Select Committee'') consisting of six Members of the Senate, of whom three shall be selected from members of the majority party and three shall be selected from members of the minority party. Members thereof shall be appointed by the Senate in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 1 of Rule XXIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate at the beginning of each Congress. For purposes of paragraph 4 of Rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, service of a Senator as a member or chairman of the Select Committee shall not be taken into account.

(b) Vacancies in the membership of the Select Committee shall not affect the authority of the remaining members to execute the functions of the committee, and shall be filled in the same manner as original appointments thereto are made.

(c)(1) A majority of the members of the Select Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business involving complaints or allegations of, or information about, misconduct, including resulting preliminary inquiries, adjudicatory reviews, recommendations or reports, and matters relating to Senate Resolution 400, agreed to May 19, 1976.

(2) Three members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of routine business of the Select Committee not covered by the first paragraph of this subparagraph, including requests for opinions and interpretations concerning the Code of Official Conduct or any other statute or regulation under the jurisdiction of the Select Committee, if one member of the quorum is a member of the majority Party and one member of the quorum is a member of the minority Party. During the transaction of routine business any member of the Select Committee constituting the quorum shall have the right to postpone further discussion of a pending matter until such time as a majority of the members of the Select Committee are present.

(3) The Select Committee may fix a lesser number as a quorum for the purpose of taking sworn testimony.

(d)(1) A member of the Select Committee shall be ineligible to participate in—

(A) any preliminary inquiry or adjudicatory review relating to—

(i) the conduct of—

(I) such member;

(II) any officer or employee the member supervises; or

(III) any employee of any officer the member supervises; or

(ii) any complaint filed by the member; and

(B) the determinations and recommendations of the Select Committee with respect to any preliminary inquiry or adjudicatory review described in subparagraph(A).

For purposes of this paragraph, a member of the Select Committee and an officer of the Senate shall be deemed to supervise any officer or employee consistent with the provision of paragraph 12 of Rule XXXVII of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

(2) A member of the Select Committee may, at the discretion of the member, disqualify himself or herself from participating in any preliminary inquiry or adjudicatory review pending before the Select Committee and the determinations and recommendations of the Select Committee with respect to any such preliminary inquiry or adjudicatory review. Notice of such disqualification shall be given in writing to the President of the Senate.

(3) Whenever any member of the Select Committee is ineligible under paragraph (1) to participate in any preliminary inquiry or adjudicatory review or disqualifies himself or herself under paragraph (2) from participating in any preliminary inquiry or adjudicatory review, another Senator shall, subject to the provisions of subsection (d), be appointed to serve as a member of the Select Committee solely for purposes of such preliminary inquiry or adjudicatory review and the determinations and recommendations of the Select Committee with respect to such preliminary inquiry or adjudicatory review. Any Member of the Senate appointed for such purposes shall be of the same party as the Member who is ineligible or disqualifies himself or herself.

Sec. 2. (a) It shall be the duty of the Select Committee to—

(1) receive complaints and investigate allegations of improper conduct which may reflect upon the Senate, violations of law, violations of the Senate Code of Official Conduct and violations of rules and regulations of the Senate, relating to the conduct of individuals in the performance of their duties as Members of the Senate, or as officers or employees of the Senate, and to make appropriate findings of fact and conclusions with respect thereto;

(2)(A) recommend to the Senate by report or resolution by a majority vote of the full committee disciplinary action to be taken with respect to such violations which the Select Committee shall determine, after according to the individual concerned due notice and opportunity for a hearing, to have occurred;

(B) pursuant to subparagraph (A) recommend discipline, including—

(i) in the case of a Member, a recommendation to the Senate for expulsion, censure, payment of restitution, recommendation to a Member's party conference regarding the Member's seniority or positions of responsibility, or a combination of these; and

(ii) in the case of an officer or employee, dismissal, suspension, payment of restitution, or a combination of these;

(3) subject to the provisions of subsection (e), by a unanimous vote of 6 members, order that a Member, officer, or employee be reprimanded or pay restitution, or both, if the Select Committee determines, after according to the Member, officer, or employee due notice and opportunity for a hearing, that misconduct occurred warranting discipline less serious than discipline by the full Senate;

(4) in the circumstances described in subsection (d)(3), issue a public or private letter ofadmonition to a Member, officer, or employee, which shall not be subject to appeal to the Senate;

(5) recommend to the Senate, by report or resolution, such additional rules or regulations as the Select Committee shall determine to be necessary or desirable to insure proper standards of conduct by Members of the Senate, and by officers or employees of the Senate, in the performance of their duties and the discharge of their responsibilities;

(6) by a majority vote of the full committee, report violations of any law, including the provision of false information to the Select Committee, to the proper Federal and State authorities; and

(7) develop and implement programs and materials designed to educate Members, officers, and employees about the laws, rules, regulations, and standards of conduct applicable to such individuals in the performance of their duties.

(b) For the purposes of this resolution—

(1) the term ''sworn complaint'' means a written statement of facts, submitted under penalty of perjury, within the personal knowledge of the complainant alleging a violation of law, the Senate Code of Official Conduct, or any other rule or regulation of the Senate relating to the conduct of individuals in the performance of their duties as Members, officers, or employees of the Senate;

(2) the term ''preliminary inquiry'' means a proceeding undertaken by the Select Committee following the receipt of a complaint or allegation of, or information about, misconduct by a Member, officer, or employee of

the Senate to determine whether there is substantial credible evidence which provides substantial cause for the Select Committee to conclude that a violation within the jurisdiction of the Select Committee has occurred; and

(3) the term ''adjudicatory review'' means a proceeding undertaken by the Select Committee after a finding, on the basis of a preliminary inquiry, that there is substantial credible evidence which provides substantial cause for the Select Committee to conclude that a violation within the jurisdiction of the Select Committee has occurred.

(c) (1) No—

(A) adjudicatory review of conduct of a Member or officer of the Senate may be conducted;

(B) report, resolution, or recommendation relating to such an adjudicatory review of conduct may be made; and

(C) letter of admonition pursuant to subsection (d)(3) may be issued, unless approved by the affirmative recorded vote of no fewer than 4 members of the Select Committee.

(2) No other resolution, report, recommendation, interpretative ruling, or advisory opinion maybe made without an affirmative vote of a majority of the Members of the Select Committee voting.

(d)(1) When the Select Committee receives a sworn complaint or other allegation or information about a Member, officer, or employee of the Senate, it shall promptly conduct a preliminary inquiry into matters raised by that complaint, allegation, or information. The preliminary inquiry shall be of duration and scope necessary to determine whether there is substantial credible evidence which provides substantial cause for the Select Committee to conclude that a violation within the jurisdiction of the Select Committee has occurred. The Select Committee may delegate to the chairman and vice chairman the discretion to determine the appropriate duration, scope, and conduct of a preliminary inquiry.

(2) If as a result of a preliminary inquiry under paragraph (1), the Select Committee determines by a recorded vote that there is not such substantial credible evidence, the Select Committee shall dismiss the matter. The Select Committee may delegate to the chairman and vice chairman the authority, on behalf of the Select Committee, to dismiss any matter that they determine, after a preliminary inquiry, lacks substantial merit. The Select Committee shall inform the individual who provided to the Select Committee the complaint, allegation, or information, and the individual who is the subject of the complaint, allegation, or information, of the dismissal, together with an explanation of the basis for the dismissal.

(3) If as a result of a preliminary inquiry under paragraph (1), the Select Committee determines that a violation is in advertent, technical, or other wise of a de minim is nature, the Select Committee may dispose of the matter by issuing a public or private letter of admonition, which shall not be considered discipline. The Select Committee may issue a public letter of admonition upon a similar determination at the conclusion of an adjudicatory review.

(4) If, as a result of a preliminary inquiry under paragraph (1), the Select Committee determines that there is such substantial credible evidence and the matter cannot be appropriately disposed of under paragraph (3), the Select Committee shall promptly initiate an adjudicatory review. Upon the conclusion of such adjudicatory review, the Select Committee shall report to theSenate, as soon as practicable, the results of such adjudicatory review, together with its recommendations (if any) pursuant to subsection (a)(2).

(e)(1) Any individual who is the subject of a reprimand or order of restitution, or both, pursuant to subsection (a)(3) may, within 30 days of the Select Committee's report to the Senate of its action imposing a reprimand or order of restitution, or both, appeal to the Senate by providing written notice of the basis for the appeal to the Select Committee and the presiding officer of the Senate. The presiding officer of the Senate shall cause the notice of the appeal to be printed in the Congressional Record and the Senate Journal.

(2) A motion to proceed to consideration of an appeal pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be highly privileged and not debatable. If the motion to proceed to consideration of the appeal is agreed to, the appeal shall be decided on the basis of the Select Committee's report to the Senate. Debate on the appeal shall be limited to 10 hours, which shall be divided equally between, and controlled by, those favoring and those opposing the appeal.

(f) The Select Committee may, in its discretion, employ hearing examiners to hear testimony and make findings of fact and/or recommendations to the Select Committee concerning the disposition of complaints.

(g) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, no adjudicatory review shall be initiated of any alleged violation of any law, the Senate Code of Official Conduct, rule, or regulation which was not in effect at the time the alleged violation occurred. No provisions of the Senate Code of Official Conduct shall apply to or require disclosure of any act, relationship, or transaction which occurred prior to the effective date of the applicable provision of the Code.The Select Committee may initiate an adjudicatory review of any alleged violation of a rule or law which was in effect prior to the enactment of the Senate Code of Official Conduct if the alleged violation occurred while such rule or law was in effect and the violation was not a matter resolved on the merits by the predecessor Select Committee.

(h) The Select Committee shall adopt written rules setting forth procedures to be used in conducting preliminary inquiries and adjudicatory reviews.

(i) The Select Committee from time to time shall transmit to the Senate its recommendation as to any legislative measures which it may consider to be necessary for the effective discharge of its duties.

Sec. 3. (a) The Select Committee is authorized to (1) make such expenditures; (2) hold such hearings; (3) sit and act at such times and places during the sessions, recesses, and adjournment periods of the Senate; (4) require by subpoena or otherwise the attendance of such witnesses and the production of such correspondence, books, papers, and documents; (5) administer such oaths; (6) take such testimony orally or by deposition; (7) employ and fix the compensation of a staff director, a counsel, an assistant counsel, one or more investigators, one or more hearing examiners, and such mechanical, clerical, and other assistants and consultants as it deems advisable; and (8) to procure the temporary services (not in excess of one year) or intermittent services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof, by contract as independent contractors or, in the case of individuals, by employment at daily rates of compensation not in excess of the per diem equivalent of the highest rate of compensation which may be paid to a regular employee of the Select Committee.

(b)(1) The Select Committee is authorized to retain and compensate counsel not employed by the Senate (or by any department or agency of the executive branch of the Government) whenever the Select Committee determines that the retention of outside counsel is necessary or appropriate for any action regarding any complaint or allegation, which, in the determination of the Select Committee is more appropriately conducted by counsel not employed by the Government of the United States as a regular employee.

(2) Any adjudicatory review as defined in section 2(b)(3) shall be conducted by outside counsel as authorized in paragraph (1), unless the Select Committee determines not to use outside counsel.

(c) With the prior consent of the department or agency concerned, the Select Committee may (1) utilize the services, information and facilities of any such department or agency of the Government, and (2) employ on a reimbursable basis or otherwise the services of such personnel of any such department or agency as it deems advisable. With the consent of any other committee of the Senate, or any subcommittee thereof, the Select Committee may utilize the facilities and the services of the staff of such other committee or subcommittee whenever the chairman of the SelectCommittee determines that such action is necessary and appropriate.

(d)(1) Subpoenas maybe authorized by—

(A) the Select Committee; or

(B) the chairman and vice chairman, acting jointly.

(2) Any such subpoena shall be issued and signed by the chairman and the vice chairman and may be served by any person designated by the chairman and vice chairman.

(3) The chairman or any member of the Select Committee may administer oaths to witnesses.

(e)(1) The Select Committee shall prescribe and publish such regulations as it feels are necessary to implement the Senate Code of Official Conduct.

(2) The Select Committee is authorized to issue interpretative rulings explaining and clarifying the application of any law, the Code of Official Conduct, or any rule or regulation of the Senate within its jurisdiction.

(3) The Select Committee shall render an advisory opinion, in writing within a reasonable time, in response to a written request by a Member or officer of the Senate or a candidate for nomination for election, or election to the Senate, concerning the application of any law, the Senate Code of Official Conduct, or any rule or regulation of the Senate within its jurisdiction to a specific factual situation pertinent to the conduct or proposed conduct of the person seeking the advisory opinion.

(4) The Select Committee may in its discretion render an advisory opinion in writing within a reasonable time in response to a written request by any employee of the Senate concerning the application of any law, the Senate Code of Official Conduct, or any rule or regulation of the Senate within its jurisdiction to a specific factual situation pertinent to the conduct or proposed conduct of the person seeking the advisory opinion.

(5) Notwithstanding any provision of the Senate Code of Official Conduct or any rule or regulation of the Senate, any person who relies upon any provision or finding of an advisory opinion in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs (3) and (4) and who acts in good faith in accordance with the provisions and findings of such advisory opinion shall not, as a result of any such act, be subject to any sanction by the Senate.

(6) Any advisory opinion rendered by the Select Committee under paragraphs (3) and (4) may be relied upon by (A) any person involved in the specific transaction or activity with respect to which such advisory opinion is rendered: Provided, however, that the request for such advisory opinion included a complete and accurate statement of the specific factual situation; and, (B) any person

involved in any specific transaction or activity which is indistinguishable in all its material aspects from the transaction or activity with respect to which such advisory opinion is rendered.

(7) Any advisory opinion issued in response to a request under paragraph (3) or (4) shall be printed in the Congressional Record with appropriate deletions to assure the privacy of the individual concerned. The Select Committee shall, to the extent practicable, before rendering an advisory opinion, provide any interested party with an opportunity to transmit written comments to the Select Committee with respect to the request for such advisory opinion. The advisory opinions issued by the Select Committee shall be compiled, indexed, reproduced, and made available on a periodic basis.

(8) A brief description of a waiver granted under paragraph 2(c) [NOTE: Now Paragraph 1] of Rule XXXIV or paragraph 1 of Rule XXXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate shall be made available upon request in the Select Committee office with appropriate deletions to assure the privacy of the individual concerned.

Sec. 4. The expenses of the Select Committee under this resolution shall be paid from the contingent fund of the Senate upon vouchers approved by the chairman of the Select Committee. Sec. 5. As used in this resolution, the term ''officer or employee of the Senate'' means—

(1) an elected officer of the Senate who is not a Member of the Senate;

(2) an employee of the Senate, any committee or subcommittee of the Senate, or any Member of the Senate;

(3) the Legislative Counsel of the Senate or any employee of his office;

(4) an Official Reporter of Debates of the Senate and any person employed by the Official Reporters of Debates of the Senate in connection with the performance of their official duties;

(5) a Member of the Capitol Police force whose compensation is disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate;

(6) an employee of the Vice President if such employee's compensation is disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate; and

(7) an employee of a joint committee of the Congress whose compensation is disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate.

SUBPART B—PUBLIC LAW 93–191—FRANKED MAIL, PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE

Sec. 6. (a) The Select Committee on Standards and Conduct of the Senate [NOTE: Now the Select Committee on Ethics] shall provide guidance, assistance, advice and counsel, through advisory opinions or consultations, in connection with the mailing or contemplated mailing of franked mail under section 3210, 3211, 3212, 3218(2) or 3218, and in connection with the operation of section 3215, of title 39, United States Code, upon the request of any Member of the Senate or Member-elect, surviving spouse of any of the foregoing, or other Senate official, entitled to send mail as franked mail under any of those sections. The select committee shall prescribe regulations governing the proper use of the franking privilege under those sections by such persons.

(b) Any complaint filed by any person with the select committee that a violation of any section of title 39, United State Code, referred to in subsection (a) of this section is about to occur or has occurred within the immediately preceding period of 1 year, by any person referred to in such subsection (a), shall contain pertinent factual material and shall conform to regulations prescribed by the select committee. The select committee, if it determines there is reasonable justification for the complaint, shall conduct an investigation of the matter, including an investigation of reports and statements filed by that complainant with respect to the matter which is the subject of the complaint. The committee shall afford to the person who is the subject of the complaint due notice and, if it determines that there is substantial reason to believe that such violation has occurred or is about to occur, opportunity for all parties to participate in a hearing before the select committee. The select committee shall issue a written decision on each complaint under this subsection not later than thirty days after such a complaint has been filed or, if a hearing is held, not later than thirty days after the conclusion of such hearing. Such decision shall be based on written findings of fact in the case by the select committee. If the select committee finds, in its written decision, that a violation has occurred or is about to occur, the committee may take such action and enforcement as it considers appropriate in accordance with applicable rules, precedents, and standing orders of the Senate, and such other standards as may be prescribed by such committee.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no court or administrative body in the United States or in any territory thereof shall have jurisdiction to entertain any civil action of any character concerning or related to a violation of the franking laws or an abuse of the franking privilege by any person listed under subsection (a) of this section as entitled to send mail as franked mail, until a complaint has been filed with the select committee and the committee has rendered a decision under subsection (b) of this section.

(d) The select committee shall prescribe regulations for the holding of investigations and hearings, the conduct of proceedings, and the rendering of decisions under this subsection providing for equitable procedures and the protection of individual, public, and Government interests. The regulations shall, insofar as practicable, contain the substance of the administrative procedure provisions of sections 551–559 and 701–706, of title 5, United States Code. These regulations shall govern matters under this subsection subject to judicial review thereof.

(e) The select committee shall keep a complete record of all its actions, including a record of the votes on any question on which a record vote is demanded. All records, data, and files of the select committee shall be the property of the Senate and shall be kept in the offices of the select committee or such other places as the committee may direct.

SUBPART C—STANDING ORDERS OF THE SENATE REGARDING UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION, S. RES. 400, 94TH CONGRESS, PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE

SEC. 8. * * *

(c)(1) No information in the possession of the select committee relating to the lawful intelligence activities of any department or agency of the United States which has been classified under established security procedures and which the select committee, pursuant to sub section (a) or (b) of this section, has determined should not be disclosed, shall be made available to any person by a Member, officer, or employee of the Senate except in a closed session of the Senate or as provided in paragraph (2).

(2) The select committee may, under such regulations as the committee shall prescribe to protect the confidentiality of such information, make any information described in paragraph (1) available to any other committee or any other Member of the Senate. Whenever the select committee makes such information available, the committee shall keep a written record showing, in the case of any particular information, which committee or which Members of the Senate received such information. No Member of the Senate who, and no committee which, receives any information under this subsection, shall disclose such information except in a closed session of the Senate.

(d) It shall be the duty of the Select Committee on Standards and Conduct to investigate any unauthorized disclosure of intelligence information by a Member, officer or employee of the Senate in violation of subsection (c) and to report to the Senate concerning any allegation finds to be substantiated.

(e) Upon the request of any person who is subject to any such investigation, the Select Committee on Standards and Conduct shall release to such individual at the conclusion of its investigation a summary of its investigation together with its findings. If, at the conclusion of its investigation, the Select Committee on Standards and Conduct determines that there has been a significant breach of confidentiality or unauthorized disclosure by a Member, officer, or employee of the Senate, it shall report its findings to the Senate and recommend appropriate action such as censure, removal from committee membership, or expulsion from the Senate, in the case of a Member, or removal from office or employment or punishment for contempt, in the case of an officer or employee.

SUBPART D—RELATING TO RECEIPT AND DISPOSITION OF FOREIGN GIFTS AND DECORATIONS RECEIVED BY MEMBERS, OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE SENATE OR THEIR SPOUSES OR DEPENDENTS, PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Section 7342 of title 5, United States Code, states as follows:

Sec. 7342. Receipt and disposition of foreign gifts and decorations.

''(a) For the purpose of this section—

''(1) ''employee' means—

''(A) an employee as defined by section 2105 of this title and an officer or employee of the United States Postal Service or of the Postal Rate Commission;

''(B) an expert or consultant who is under contract under section 3109 of this title with the United States or any agency, department, or establishment thereof, including, in the case of an organization performing services under such section, any individual involved in the performance of such services;

''(C) an individual employed by, or occupying an office or position in, the government of a territory or possession of the United States or the government of the District of Columbia;

''(D) a member of a uniformed service;

''(E) the President and the Vice President;

''(F) a Member of Congress as defined by section 2106 of this title (except the Vice President) and any Delegate to the Congress; and

''(G) the spouse of an individual described in subparagraphs (A) through (F) (unless such individual and his or her spouse are separated) or a dependent (within the meaning of section 152 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) of such an individual, other than a spouse or dependent who is an employee under subparagraphs (A) through (F);

''(2) 'foreign government' means—

''(A) any unit of foreign governmental authority, including any foreign national, State, local, and municipal government;

''(B) any international or multinational organization whose membership is composed of any unit of foreign government described in subparagraph (A); and

''(C) any agent or representative of any such unit or such organization, while acting as such;

''(3) 'gift' means a tangible or intangible present (other than a decoration) tendered by, or received from, a foreign government;

''(4) 'decoration' means an order, device, medal, badge, insignia, emblem, or award tendered by, or received from, a foreign government;

''(5) 'minimal value' means a retail value in the United States at the time of acceptance of $100 or less, except that—

''(A) on January 1, 1981, and at 3 year intervals thereafter, 'minimal value' shall be redefined in regulations prescribed by the Administrator of General Services, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to reflect changes in the consumer price index for the immediately preceding 3—year period; and

''(B) regulations of an employing agency may define 'minimal value' for its employees to be less than the value established under this paragraph; and

''(6) 'employing agency' means—

''(A) the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct of the House of Representatives, for Members and employees of the House of Representatives, except that those responsibilities specified in subsections (c)(2)(A), (e)(1), and (g)(2)(B) shall be carried out by the Clerk of the House;

''(B) the Select Committee on Ethics of the Senate, for Senators and employees of the Senate, except that those responsibilities (other than responsibilities involving approval of the employing agency) specified in subsections (c)(2),(d), and (g)(2)(B) shall be carried out by the Secretary of the Senate;

''(C) the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, for judges and judicial branch employees; and

''(D) the department, agency, office, or other entity in which an employee is employed, for other legislative branch employees and for all executive branch employees.

''(b) An employee may not—

''(l)request or otherwise encourage the tender of a gift or decoration; or

''(2) accept a gift or decoration, other than in accordance with, the provisions of subsections (c) and (d).

''(c)(1) The Congress consents to—

''(A) the accepting and retaining by an employee of a gift of minimal value tendered and received as a souvenir or mark of courtesy; and

''(B) the accepting by an employee of a gift of more than minimal value when such gift is in the nature of an educational scholarship or medical treatment or when it appears that to refuse the gift would likely cause offense or embarrassment or otherwise adversely affect the foreign relations of the United States, except that

''(i) a tangible gift of more than minimal value is deemed to have been accepted on behalf of the United States and, upon acceptance, shall become the property of the United States; and

''(ii) an employee may accept gifts of travel or expenses for travel taking place entirely outside the United States (such as transportation, food, and lodging) of more than minimal value if such acceptance is appropriate, consistent with the interests of the United States, and permitted by the employing agency and any regulations which may be prescribed by the employing agency.

''(2) Within 60 days after accepting a tangible gift of more than minimal value (other than a gift described in paragraph (1)(B)(ii)), an employee shall—

''(A) deposit the gift for disposal with his or her employing agency; or

''(B) subject to the approval of the employing agency, deposit the gift with that agency for official use. Within 30 days after terminating the official use of a gift under subparagraph (B), the employing agency shall forward the gift to the Administrator of General Services in accordance with subsection (e)(1) or provide for its disposal in

''(3) When an employee deposits a gift of more than minimal value for disposal or for official use pursuant to paragraph (2), or within 30 days after accepting travel or travel expenses as provided in paragraph (1)(B)(ii) unless such travel or travel expenses are accepted in accordance with specific instructions of his or her employing agency, the employee shall file a statement with his or her employing agency or its delegate containing the information prescribed in subsection (f) for that gift.

''(d) The Congress consents to the accepting, retaining, and wearing by an employee of a decoration tendered in recognition of active field service in time of combat operations or awarded for other outstanding or unusually meritorious performance, subject to the approval of the employing agency of such employee. Without this approval, the decoration is deemed to have been accepted on behalf of the United States, shall become the property of the United States, and shall be deposited by the employee, within sixty days of acceptance, with the employing agency for official use, for forwarding to the Administrator of General Services for disposal in accordance with subsection (e)(1), or for disposal in accordance with subsection (e)(2).

''(e)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), gifts and decorations that have been deposited with an employing agency for disposal shall be (A) returned to the donor, or (B) forwarded to the Administrator of General Services for transfer, donation, or other disposal in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949. However, no gift or decoration that has been deposited for disposal may be sold without the approval of the Secretary of State, upon a determination that the sale will not adversely affect the foreign relations of the United States. Gifts and decorations may be sold by negotiated sale.

''(2) Gifts and decorations received by a Senator or an employee of the Senate that are deposited with the Secretary of the Senate for disposal, or are deposited for an official use which has terminated, shall be disposed of by the Commission on Arts and Antiquities of the United States Senate. Any such gift or decoration may be returned by the Commission to the donor or may be transferred or donated by the Commission, subject to such terms and conditions as it may prescribe, (A) to an agency or instrumentality of (i) the United States, (ii) a State, territory, or possession of the United States, or a political subdivision of the foregoing, or (iii) the District of Columbia, or (B) to an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 which is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code. Any such gift or decoration not disposed of as provided in the preceding sentence shall be forwarded to the Administrator of General Services for disposal in accordance with paragraph (1). If the Administrator does not dispose of such gift or decoration within one year, he shall, at the request of the Commission, return it to the Commission and the Commission may dispose of such gift or decoration in such manner as it considers proper, except that such gift or decoration may be sold only with the approval of the Secretary of State upon a determination that the sale will not adversely affect the foreign relations of the United States.

''(f)(1) Not later than January 31 of each year, each employing agency or its delegate shall compile a listing of all statements filed during the preceding year by the employees of that agency pursuant to subsection (c)(3) and shall transmit such listing to the Secretary of State who shall publish a comprehensive listing of all such statements in the Federal Register.

''(2) Such listings shall include for each tangible gift reported—

''(A) the name and position of the employee;

''(B) a brief description of the gift and the circumstances justifying acceptance;

''(C) the identity, if known, of the foreign government and the name and position of the individual who presented the gift;

''(D) the date of acceptance of the gift;

''(E) the estimated value in the United States of the gift at the time of acceptance; and

''(F) disposition or current location of the gift.

''(3) Such listings shall include for each gift of travel or travel expenses—

''(A) the name and position of the employee;

''(B) a brief description of the gift and the circumstances justifying acceptance; and

''(C) the identity, if known, of the foreign government and the name and position of the individual who presented the gift.

''(4) In transmitting such listings for the Central Intelligence Agency, the Director of Central Intelligence may delete the information described in subparagraphs (A) and (C) of paragraphs (2) and (3) if the Director certifies in writing to the Secretary of State that the publication of such information could adversely affect United States intelligence sources.

''(g)(1) Each employing agency shall prescribe such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of this section. For all employing agencies in the executive branch, such regulations shall be prescribed pursuant to guidance provided by the Secretary of State. These regulations shall be implemented by each employing agency for its employees.

''(2) Each employing agency shall—

''(A) report to the Attorney General cases in which there is reason to believe that an employee has violated this section;

''(B) establish a procedure for obtaining an appraisal, when necessary, of the value of gifts; and

''(C) take any other actions necessary to carry out the purpose of this section.

''(h) The Attorney General may bring a civil action in any district court of the United States against any employee who knowingly solicits or accepts a gift from a foreign government not consented to by this section or who fails to deposit or report such gift as required by this section. The court in which such action is brought may assess a penalty against such employee in any amount not to exceed the retail value of the gift improperly solicited or received plus $5,000.

''(i) The President shall direct all Chiefs of a United States Diplomatic Mission to inform their host governments that it is a general policy of the United States Government to prohibit United States Government employees from receiving gifts or decorations of more than minimal value.

''(j) Nothing in this section shall be construed to derogate any regulation prescribed by any employing agency which provides for more stringent limitations on the receipt of gifts and decorations by its employees.

''(k) The provisions of this section do not apply to grants and other forms of assistance to which section 108A of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 applies.''

PART II: SUPPLEMENTARY PROCEDURAL RULES

145 Cong. Rec. S1832 (daily ed. Feb. 23, 1999)

RULE 1: GENERAL PROCEDURES

(a) OFFICERS: In the absence of the Chairman, the duties of the Chair shall be filled by

the Vice Chairman or, in the Vice Chairman's absence, a Committee member designated by the Chairman.

(b) PROCEDURAL RULES: The basic procedural rules of the Committee are stated as a part of the Standing Orders of the Senate in Senate Resolution 338, 88th Congress, as amended, as well as other resolutions and laws. Supplementary Procedural Rules are stated herein and are hereinafter referred to as the Rules. The Rules shall be published in the Congressional Record not later than thirty days after adoption, and copies shall be made available by the Committee office upon request.

(c) MEETINGS:

(1) The regular meeting of the Committee shall be the first Thursday of each month while the Congress is in session.

(2) Special meetings may be held at the call of the Chairman or Vice Chairman if at least forty-eight hours notice is furnished to all members. If all members agree, a special meeting may be held on less than forty-eight hours notice.

(3)(A) If any member of the Committee desires that a special meeting of the Committee be called, the member may file in the office of the Committee a written request to the Chairman or Vice Chairman for that special meeting.

(B) Immediately upon the filing of the request the Clerk of the Committee shall notify the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the filing of the request. If, within three calendar days after the filing of the request, the Chairman or the Vice Chairman does not call the requested special meeting, to be held within seven calendar days after the filing of the request, any three of the members of the Committee may file their written notice in the office of the Committee that a special meeting of the Committee will be held at a specified date and hour; such special meeting may not occur until forty-eight hours after the notice is filed. The Clerk shall immediately notify all members of the Committee of the date and hour of the special meeting. The Committee shall meet at the specified date and hour.

(d) QUORUM:

(1) A majority of the members of the Select Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business involving complaints or allegations of, or information about, misconduct, including resulting preliminary inquiries, adjudicatory reviews, recommendations or reports, and matters relating to Senate Resolution 400, agreed to May 19, 1976.

(2) Three members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the routine business of the Select Committee not covered by the first subparagraph of this paragraph, including requests for opinions and interpretations concerning the Code of Official Conduct or any other statute or regulation under the jurisdiction of the Select Committee, if one member of the quorum is a Member of the Majority Party and one member of the quorum is a Member of the Minority Party. During the transaction of routine business any member of the Select Committee constituting the quorum shall have the right to postpone further discussion of a pending matter until such time as a majority of the members of the Select Committee are present.

(3) Except for an adjudicatory hearing under Rule 5 and any deposition taken outside the presence of a Member under Rule 6, one Member shall constitute a quorum for hearing testimony, provided that all Members have been given notice of the hearing and the Chairman has designated a Member of the Majority Party and the Vice Chairman has designated a Member of the Minority Party to be in attendance, either of whom in the absence of the other may constitute the quorum.

(e) ORDER OF BUSINESS: Questions as to the order of business and the procedure of the Committee shall in the first instance be decided by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, subject to reversal by a vote by a majority of the Committee.

(f) HEARINGS ANNOUNCEMENTS: The Committee shall make public announcement of the date, place and subject matter of any hearing to be conducted by it at least one week before the commencement of that hearing, and shall publish such announcement in the Congressional Record. If the Committee determines that there is good cause to commence a hearing at an earlier date, such notice will be given at the earliest possible time.

(g) OPEN AND CLOSED COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Meetings of the Committee shall be open to the public or closed to the public (executive session), as determined under the provisions of paragraphs 5(b) to (d) of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate. Executive session meetings of the Committee shall be closed except to the members and the staff of the Committee. On the motion of any member, and with the approval of a majority of the Committee members present, other individuals may be admitted to an executive session meeting for a specific period or purpose.

(h) RECORD OF TESTIMONY AND COMMITTEE ACTION: An accurate stenographic or transcribed electronic record shall be kept of all Committee proceedings, whether in executive or public session. Such record shall include Senators' votes on any question on which a recorded vote is held. The record of a witness's testimony, whether in public or executive session, shall be made available for inspection to the witness or his counsel under Committee supervision; a copy of any testimony given by that witness in public session, or that part of the testimony given by the witness in executive session and subsequently quoted or made part of the record in a public session shall be made available to any witness if he so requests. (See Rule 5 on Procedures for Conducting Hearings.)

(i) SECRECY OF EXECUTIVE TESTIMONY AND ACTION AND OF COMPLAINT PROCEEDINGS:

(1) All testimony and action taken in executive session shall be kept secret and shall not be released outside the Committee to any individual or group, whether governmental or private, without the approval of a majority of the Committee.

(2) All testimony and action relating to a complaint or allegation shall be kept secret and shall not be released by the Committee to any individual or group, whether governmental or private, except the respondent, without the approval of a majority of the Committee, until such time as a report to the Senate is required under Senate Resolution 338, 88th Congress, as amended, or unless otherwise permitted under these Rules. (See Rule 8 on Procedures for Handling Committee Sensitive and Classified Materials.)

(j) RELEASE OF REPORTS TO PUBLIC: No information pertaining to, or copies of any Committee report, study, or other document which purports to express the view, findings, conclusions or recommendations of the Committee in connection with any of its activities or proceedings may be released to any individual or group whether governmental or private, without the authorization of the Committee. Whenever the Chairman or Vice Chairman is authorized to make any determination, then the determination may be released at his or her discretion. Each member of the Committee shall be given a reasonable opportunity to have separate views included as part of any Committee report. (See Rule 8 on Procedures for Handling Committee Sensitive and Classified Materials.)

(k) INELIGIBILITY OR DISQUALIFICATION OF MEMBERS AND STAFF:

(1) A member of the Committee shall be ineligible to participate in any Committee proceeding that relates specifically to any of the following:

(A) a preliminary inquiry or adjudicatory review relating to (i) the conduct of (I) such member; (II) any officer or employee the member supervises; or (ii) any complaint filed by the member; and

(B) the determinations and recommendations of the Committee with respect to any preliminary inquiry or adjudicatory review described in subparagraph (A).

For purposes of this paragraph, a member of the committee and an officer of the Senate shall be deemed to supervise any officer or employee consistent with the provision of paragraph 12 of Rule XXXVII of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

(2) In any Committee proceeding appears to relate to a member of the Committee in a manner described in subparagraph (1) of this paragraph, the staff shall prepare a report to the Chairman and Vice Chairman. If either the Chairman or the Vice Chairman concludes from the report that it appears that the member may be ineligible, the member shall be notified in writing of the nature of the particular proceeding and the reason that it appears that the member may be ineligible to participate in it. If the member agrees that he or she is ineligible, the member shall so notify the Chairman or Vice Chairman. If the member believes that he or she is not ineligible, he or she may explain the reasons to the Chairman and Vice Chairman, and if they both agree that the member is not ineligible, the member shall continue to serve. But if either the Chairman or Vice Chairman continues to believe that the member is ineligible, while the member believes that he or she is not ineligible, the matter shall be promptly referred to the Committee. The member shall present his or her arguments to the Committee in executive session. Any contested questions concerning a member's eligibility shall be decided by a majority vote of the Committee, meeting in executive session, with the member in question not participating.

(3) A member of the Committee may, at the discretion of the member, disqualify himself or herself from participating in any preliminary inquiry or adjudicatory review pending before the Committee and the determinations and recommendations of the Committee with respect to any such preliminary inquiry or adjudicatory review.

(4) Whenever any member of the Committee is ineligible under paragraph (1) to participate in any preliminary inquiry or adjudicatory review, or disqualifies himself or herself under paragraph (3) from participating in any preliminary inquiry or adjudicatory review, another Senator shall be appointed by the Senate to serve as a member of the Committee solely for purposes of such preliminary inquiry or adjudicatory review and the determinations and recommendations of the Committee with respect to such preliminary inquiry or adjudicatory review. Any member of the Senate appointed for such purposes shall be of the same party as the member who is ineligible or disqualifies himself or herself.

(5) The President of the Senate shall be given written notice of the ineligibility or disqualification of any member from any preliminary inquiry, adjudicatory review, or other proceeding requiring the appointment of another member in accordance with subparagraph (k)(4).

(6) A member of the Committee staff shall be ineligible to participate in any Committee proceeding that the staff director or

outside counsel determines relates specifically to any of the following:

(A) the staff member's own conduct;

(B) the conduct of any employee that the staff member supervises;

(C) the conduct of any member, officer or employee for whom the staff member has worked for any substantial period; or

(D) a complaint, sworn or unsworn, that was filed by the staff member. At the direction or with the consent of the staff director or outside counsel, a staff member may also be disqualified from participating in a Committee proceeding in other circumstances not listed above.

(l) RECORDED VOTES: Any member may require a recorded vote on any matter.

(m) PROXIES; RECORDING VOTES OF ABSENT MEMBERS:

(1) Proxy voting shall not be allowed when the question before the Committee is the initiation or continuation of a preliminary inquiry or an adjudicatory review, or the issuance of a report or recommendation related thereto concerning a Member or officer of the Senate. In any such case an absent member's vote may be announced solely for the purpose of recording the member's position and such announced votes shall not be counted for or against the motion.

(2) On matters other than matters listed in paragraph (m)(1) above, the Committee may order that the record be held open for the vote of absentees or recorded proxy votes if the absent Committee member has been informed of the matter on which the vote occurs and has affirmatively requested of the Chairman or Vice Chairman in writing that he be so recorded.

(3) All proxies shall be in writing, and shall be delivered to the Chairman or Vice Chairman to be recorded.

(4) Proxies shall not be considered for the purpose of establishing a quorum.

(n) APPROVAL OF BLIND TRUSTS AND FOREIGN TRAVEL REQUESTS BETWEEN SESSIONS AND DURING EXTENDED RECESSES: During any period in which the Senate stands in adjournment between sessions of the Congress or stands in a recess scheduled to extend beyond fourteen days, the Chairman and Vice Chairman, or their designees, acting jointly, are authorized to approve or disapprove blind trusts under the provision of Rule XXXIV.

(o) COMMITTEE USE OF SERVICES OR EMPLOYEES OF OTHER AGENCIES AND DEPARTMENTS: With the prior consent of the department or agency involved, the Committee may (1) utilize the services, information, or facilities of any such department or agency of the Government, and (2) employ on a reimbursable basis or otherwise the services of such personnel of any such department or agency as it deems advisable. With the consent of any other committee of the Senate, or any subcommittee, the Committee may utilize the facilities and the services of the staff of such other committee or subcommittee whenever the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee, acting jointly, determine that such action is necessary and appropriate.

RULE 2: PROCEDURES FOR COMPLAINTS, ALLEGATIONS, OR INFORMATION

(a) COMPLAINT, ALLEGATION, OR INFORMATION: Any member or staff member of the Committee shall report to the Committee, and any other person may report to the Committee, a sworn complaint or other allegation or information, alleging that any Senator, or officer, or employee of the Senate has violated a law, the Senate Code of Official Conduct, or any rule or regulation of the Senate relating to the conduct of any individual in the performance of his or her duty as a Member, officer, or employee of the Senate, or has engaged in improper conduct which may reflect upon the Senate. Such complaints or allegations or information maybe reported to the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, a Committee member, or a Committee staff member.

(b) SOURCE OF COMPLAINT, ALLEGATION, OR INFORMATION: Complaints, allegations, and information to be reported to the Committee may be obtained from a variety of sources, including but not limited to the following:

(1) sworn complaints, defined as a written statement of facts, submitted under penalty of perjury, within the personal knowledge of the complainant alleging a violation of law, the Senate Code of Official Conduct, or any other rule or regulation of the Senate relating to the conduct of individuals in the performance of their duties as members, officers, or employees of the Senate;

(2) anonymous or informal complaints;

(3) information developed during a study or inquiry by the Committee or other committees or subcommittees of the Senate, including information obtained in connection with legislative or general oversight hearings;

(4) information reported by the news media; or

(5) information obtained from any individual, agency or department of the executive branch of the Federal Government.

(c) FORM AND CONTENT OF COMPLAINTS: A complaint need not be sworn nor must it be in any particular form to receive Committee consideration, but the preferred complaint will:

(1) state, whenever possible, the name, address, and telephone number of the party filing the complaint;

(2) provide the name of each member, officer or employee of the Senate who is specifically alleged to have engaged in improper conduct or committed a violation;

(3) state the nature of the alleged improper conduct or violation;

(4) supply all documents in the possession of the party filing the complaint relevant to or in support of his or her allegations as an attachment to the complaint.

RULE 3: PROCEDURES FOR CONDUCTING A PRELIMINARY INQUIRY

(a) DEFINITION OF PRELIMINARY INQUIRY: A ''preliminary inquiry'' is a proceeding undertaken by the Committee following the receipt of a complaint or allegation of, or information about, misconduct by a Member, officer, or employee of the Senate to determine whether there is substantial credible evidence which provides substantial cause for the Committee to conclude that a violation within the jurisdiction of the Committee has occurred.

(b) BASIS FOR PRELIMINARY INQUIRY: The Committee shall promptly commence a preliminary inquiry whenever it has received a sworn complaint, or other allegation of, or information about, alleged misconduct or violations pursuant to Rule 2.

(c) SCOPE OF PRELIMINARY INQUIRY:

(1) The preliminary inquiry shall be of such duration and scope as is necessary to determine whether there is substantial credible evidence which provides substantial cause for the Committee to conclude that a violation within the jurisdiction of the Committee has occurred. The Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly, on behalf of the Committee may supervise and determine the appropriate duration, scope, and conduct of a preliminary inquiry. Whether a preliminary inquiry is conducted jointly by the Chairman and Vice Chairman or by the Committee as a whole, the day to day supervision of a preliminary inquiry rests with the Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly.

(2) A preliminary inquiry may include any inquiries, interviews, sworn statements, depositions, or subpoenas deemed appropriate to obtain information upon which to make any determination provided for by this Rule.

(d) OPPORTUNITY FOR RESPONSE: A preliminary inquiry may include an opportunity for any known respondent or his or her designated representative to present either a written or oral statement, or to respond orally to questions from the Committee. Such an oral statement or answers shall be transcribed and signed by the person providing the statement or answers.

(e) STATUS REPORTS: The Committee staff or outside counsel shall periodically report to the Committee in the form and according to the schedule prescribed by the Committee. The reports shall be confidential.

(f) FINAL REPORT: When the preliminary inquiry is completed, the staff or outside counsel shall make a confidential report, oral or written, to the Committee on findings and recommendations, as appropriate.

(g) COMMITTEE ACTION: As soon as practicable following submission of the report on the preliminary inquiry, the Committee shall determine by a recorded vote whether there is substantial credible evidence which provides substantial cause for the Committee to conclude that a violation within the jurisdiction of the Committee has occurred. The Committee may make any of the following determinations:

(1) The Committee may determine that there is not such substantial credible evidence and, in such case, the Committee shall dismiss the matter. The Committee, or Chairman and Vice Chairman acting jointly on behalf of the Committee, may dismiss any matter which, after a preliminary inquiry, is determined to lack substantial merit. The Committee shall inform the complainant of the dismissal.

(2) The Committee may determine that there is such substantial credible evidence, but that the alleged violation is inadvertent, technical, or otherwise of a de minimis nature. In such case, the Committee may dispose of the matter by issuing a public or private letter of admonition, which shall not be considered discipline and which shall not be subject to appeal to the Senate. The issuance of a letter of admonition must be approved by the affirmative recorded vote of no fewer than four members of the Committee voting.

(3) The Committee may determine that there is such substantial credible evidence and that the matter cannot be appropriately disposed of under paragraph (2). In such case, the Committee shall promptly initiate an adjudicatory review in accordance with Rule 4. No adjudicatory review of conduct of a Member, officer, or employee of the Senate may be initiated except by the affirmative recorded vote of not less than four members of the Committee.

RULE 4: PROCEDURES FOR CONDUCTING AN ADJUDICATORY REVIEW

(a) DEFINITION OF ADJUDICATORY REVIEW: An ''adjudicatory review'' is a proceeding undertaken by the Committee after a finding, on the basis of a preliminary inquiry, that there is substantial cause for the Committee to conclude that a violation within the jurisdiction of the Committee has occurred.

(b) SCOPE OF ADJUDICATORY REVIEW: When the Committee decides to conduct an adjudicatory review, it shall be of such duration and scope as is necessary for the Committee to determine whether a violation within its jurisdiction has occurred. An adjudicatory review shall be conducted by outside counsel as authorized by section 3(b)(1) of Senate Resolution 338 unless the Committee determines not to use outside counsel. In the course of the adjudicatory review,

designated outside counsel, or if the Committee determines not to use outside counsel, the Committee or its staff, may conduct any inquiries or interviews, take sworn statements, use compulsory process as described in Rule 6, or take any other actions that the Committee deems appropriate to secure the evidence necessary to make a determination.

(c) NOTICE TO RESPONDENT: The Committee shall give written notice to any known respondent who is the subject of an adjudicatory review. The notice shall be sent to the respondent no later than five working days after the Committee has voted to conduct an adjudicatory review. The notice shall include a statement of the nature of the possible violation, and description of the evidence indicating that a possible violation occurred. The Committee may offer the respondent an opportunity to present a statement, orally or in writing, or to respond to questions from members of the Committee, the Committee staff, or outside counsel.

(d) RIGHT TO A HEARING: The Committee shall accord a respondent an opportunity for a hearing before it recommends disciplinary action against that respondent to the Senate or before it imposes an order of restitution or reprimand (not requiring discipline by the full Senate).

(e) PROGRESS REPORTS TO COMMITTEE: The Committee staff or outside counsel shall periodically report to the Committee concerning the progress of the adjudicatory review. Such reports shall be delivered to the Committee in the form and according to the schedule prescribed by the Committee, and shall be confidential.

(f) FINAL REPORT OF ADJUDICATORY REVIEW TO COMMITTEE: Upon completion of an adjudicatory review, including any hearings held pursuant to Rule 5, the outside counsel or the staff shall submit a confidential written report to the Committee, which shall detail the factual findings of the adjudicatory review and which may recommend disciplinary action, if appropriate. Findings of fact of the adjudicatory review shall be detailed in this report whether or not disciplinary action is recommended.

(g) COMMITTEE ACTION:

(1) As soon as practicable following submission of the report of the staff or outside counsel on the adjudicatory review, the Committee shall prepare and submit a report to the Senate, including a recommendation or proposed resolution to the Senate concerning disciplinary action, if appropriate. A report shall be issued, stating in detail the Committee's findings of fact, whether or not disciplinary action is recommended. The report shall also explain fully the reasons underlying the Committee's recommendation concerning disciplinary action, if any. No adjudicatory review of conduct of a Member, officer or employee of the Senate may be conducted, or report or resolution or recommendation relating to such an adjudicatory review of conduct may be made, except by the affirmative recorded vote of not less than four members of the Committee.

(2) Pursuant to S. Res. 338, as amended, section 2(a), subsections (2), (3), and (4), after receipt of the report prescribed by paragraph (f) of this rule, the Committee may make any of the following recommendations for disciplinary action or issue an order for reprimand or restitution, as follows:

(i) In the case of a Member, a recommendation to the Senate for expulsion, censure, payment of restitution, recommendation to a Member's party conference regarding the Member's seniority or positions of responsibility, or a combination of these;

(ii) In the case of an officer or employee, a recommendation to the Senate of dismissal, suspension, payment of restitution, or a combination of these;

(iii) In the case where the Committee determines, after according to the Member, officer, or employee due notice and opportunity for a hearing, that misconduct occurred warranting discipline less serious than discipline by the full Senate, and subject to the provisions of paragraph (h) of this rule relating to appeal, by a unanimous vote of six members order that a Member, officer or employee be reprimanded or pay restitution or both;

(iv) In the case where the Committee determines that misconduct is inadvertent, technical, or otherwise of a de minimis nature, issue a public or private letter of admonition to a Member, officer or employee, which shall not be subject to appeal to the Senate.

(3) In the case where the Committee determines, upon consideration of all the evidence, that the facts do not warrant a finding that there is substantial credible evidence which provides substantial cause for the Committee to conclude that a violation within the jurisdiction of the Committee has occurred, the Committee may dismiss the matter.

(4) Promptly, after the conclusion of the adjudicatory review, the Committee's report and recommendation, if any, shall be forwarded to the Secretary of the Senate, and a copy shall be provided to the complainant and the respondent. The full report and recommendation, if any, shall be printed and made public, unless the Committee determines by the recorded vote of not less than four members of the Committee that it should remain confidential.

(h) RIGHT OF APPEAL:

(1) Any individual who is the subject of a reprimand or order of restitution, or both, pursuant to subsection (g)(2)(iii), may, within 30 days of the Committee's report to the Senate of its action imposing a reprimand or order of restitution, or both, appeal to the Senate by providing written notice of the appeal to the Committee and the presiding officer of the Senate. The presiding officer shall cause the notice of the appeal to be printed in the Congressional Record and the Senate Journal.

(2) S. Res. 338 provides that a motion to proceed to consideration of an appeal pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be highly privileged and not debatable. If the motion to proceed to consideration of the appeal isagreed to, the appeal shall be decidedon the basis ofthe Committee's report to the Senate. Debate on the appeal shall be limited to 10 hours, which shall be divided equally between, and controlled by, those favoring and those opposing the appeal.

RULE 5: PROCEDURES FOR HEARINGS

(a) RIGHT TO HEARING: The Committee may hold a public or executive hearing in any preliminary inquiry, adjudicatory review, or other proceeding. The Committee shall accord a respondent an opportunity for a hearing before it recommends disciplinary action against that respondent to the Senate or before it imposes an order of restitution or reprimand. (See Rule 4(d).)

(b) NON-PUBLIC HEARINGS: The Committee may at any time during a hearing determine in accordance with paragraph 5(b) of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate whether to receive the testimony of specific witnesses in executive session. If a witness desires to express a preference for testifying in public or in executive session, he or she shall so notify the Committee at least five days before he or she is scheduled to testify.

(c) ADJUDICATORY HEARINGS: The Committee may, by the recorded vote of not less than four members of the Committee, designate any public or executive hearing as an adjudicatory hearing; and any hearing which is concerned with possible disciplinary action against a respondent or respondents designated by the Committee shall be an adjudicatory hearing. In any adjudicatory hearing, the procedures described in paragraph (j) shall apply.

(d) SUBPOENA POWER: The Committee may require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and the production of such correspondence, books, papers, documents or other articles as it deems advisable. (See Rule 6.)

(e) NOTICE OF HEARINGS: The Committee shall make public an announcement of the date, place, and subject matter of any hearing to be conducted by it, in accordance with Rule 1(f).

(f) PRESIDING OFFICER: The Chairman shall preside over the hearings, or in his absence the Vice Chairman. If the Vice Chairman is also absent, a Committee member designated by the Chairman shall preside. If an oath or affirmation is required, it shall be administered to a witness by the Presiding Officer, or in his absence, by any Committee member.

(g) WITNESSES:

(1) A subpoena or other request to testify shall be served on a witness sufficiently in advance of his or her scheduled appearance to allow the witness a reasonable period of time, as determined by the Committee, to prepare for the hearing and to employ counsel if desired.

(2) The Committee may, by recorded vote of not less than four members of the Committee, rule that no member of the Committee or staff or outside counsel shall make public the name of any witness subpoenaed by the Committee before the date of that witness's scheduled appearance, except as specifically authorized by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly.

(3) Any witness desiring to read a prepared or written statement in executive or public hearings shall file a copy of such statement with the Committee at least two working days in advance of the hearing at which the statement is to be presented. The Chairman and Vice Chairman shall determine whether such statements may be read or placed in the record of the hearing.

(4) Insofar as practicable, each witness shall be permitted to present a brief oral opening statement, if he or she desires to do so.

(h) RIGHT TO TESTIFY: Any person whose name is mentioned or who is specifically identified or otherwise referred to in testimony or in statements made by a Committee member, staff member or outside counsel, or any witness, and who reasonably believes that the statement tends to adversely affect his or her reputation may—

(1) Request to appear personally before the Committee to testify in his or her own behalf; or

(2) File a sworn statement of facts relevant to the testimony or other evidence or statement of which he or she complained. Such request and such statement shall be submitted to the Committee for its consideration and action.

(i) CONDUCT OF WITNESSES AND OTHER ATTENDEES: The Presiding Officer may punish any breaches of order and decorum by censure and exclusion from the hearings. The Committee, by majority vote, may recommend to the Senate that the offender be cited for contempt of Congress.

(j) ADJUDICATORY HEARING PROCEDURES:

(1) NOTICE OF HEARINGS: A copy of the public announcement of an adjudicatory hearing, required by paragraph (e), shall be furnished together with a copy of these Rules to all witnesses at the time that they

are subpoenaed or otherwise summoned to testify.

(2) PREPARATION FOR ADJUDICATORY HEARINGS:

(A) At least five working days prior to the commencement of an adjudicatory hearing, the Committee shall provide the following information and documents to the respondent, if any:

(i) a list of proposed witnesses to be called at the hearing;

(ii) copies of all documents expected to be introduced as exhibits at the hearing; and

(iii) a brief statement as to the nature of the testimony expected to be given by each witness to be called at the hearing.

(B) At least two working days prior to the commencement of an adjudicatory hearing, the respondent, if any, shall provide the information and documents described in divisions (i), (ii) and (iii) of subparagraph (A) to the Committee.

(C) At the discretion of the Committee, the information and documents to be exchanged under this paragraph shall be subject to an appropriate agreement limiting access and disclosure.

(D) If a respondent refuses to provide the information and documents to the Committee (see (A) and (B) of this subparagraph), or if a respondent or other individual violates an agreement limiting access and disclosure, the Committee, by majority vote, may recommend to the Senate that the offender be cited for contempt of Congress.

(3) SWEARING OF WITNESSES: All witnesses who testify at adjudicatory hearings shall be sworn unless the Presiding Officer, for good cause, decides that a witness does not have to be sworn.

(4) RIGHT TO COUNSEL: Any witness at an adjudicatory hearing may be accompanied by counsel of his or her own choosing, who shall be permitted to advise the witness of his or her legal rights during the testimony.

(5) RIGHT TO CROSS-EXAMINE AND CALL WITNESSES:

(A) In adjudicatory hearings, any respondent and any other person who obtains the permission of the Committee, may personally or through counsel cross-examine witnesses called by the Committee and may call witnesses in his or her own behalf.

(B) A respondent may apply to the Committee for the issuance of subpoenas for the appearance of witnesses or the production of documents on his or her behalf. An application shall be approved upon a concise showing by the respondent that the proposed testimony or evidence is relevant and appropriate, as determined by the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

(C) With respect to witnesses called by a respondent, or other individual given permission by the Committee, each such witness shall first be examined by the party who called the witness or by that party's counsel.

(D) At least one working day before a witness's scheduled appearance, a witness or a witness's counsel may submit to the Committee written questions proposed to be asked of that witness. If the Committee determines that it is necessary, such questions may be asked by any member of the Committee, or by any Committee staff member if directed by a Committee member. The witness or witness's counsel may also submit additional sworn testimony for the record within twenty-four hours after the last day that the witness has testified. The insertion of such testimony in that day's record is subject to the approval of the Chairman and Vice Chairman acting jointly within five days after the testimony is received.

(6) ADMISSIBILITY OF EVIDENCE:

(A) The object of the hearing shall be to ascertain the truth. Any evidence that may be relevant and probative shall be admissible unless privileged under the Federal Rules of Evidence. Rules of evidence shall not be applied strictly, but the Presiding Officer shall exclude irrelevant or unduly repetitious testimony. Objections going only to the weight that should be given evidence will not justify its exclusion.

(B) The Presiding Officer shall rule upon any question of the admissibility of testimony or other evidence presented to the Committee. Such rulings shall be final unless reversed or modified by a recorded vote of not less than four members of the Committee before the recess of that day's hearings.

(C) Notwithstanding paragraphs (A) and (B), in any matter before the Committee involving allegations of sexual discrimination, including sexual harassment, or sexual misconduct, b a Member, officer, or employee within the jurisdiction of the Committee, the Committee shall be guided by the standards and procedures of Rule 412 of the Federal Rules of Evidence, except that the Committee may admit evidence subject to the provisions of this paragraph only upon a determination of not less than four members of the full Committee that the interests of justice require that such evidence be admitted.

(7) SUPPLEMENTARY HEARING PROCEDURES: The Committee may adopt any additional special hearing procedures that it deems necessary or appropriate to a particular adjudicatory hearing. Copies of such supplementary procedures shall be furnished to witnesses and respondents, and shall be made available upon request to any member of the public.

(k) TRANSCRIPTS:

(1) An accurate stenographic or recorded transcript shall be made of all public and executive hearings. Any member of the Committee, Committee staff member, outside counsel retained by the Committee, or witness may examine a copy of the transcript retained by the Committee of his or her own remarks and may suggest to the official reporter any typographical or transcription errors. If the reporter declines to make the requested corrections, the member, staff member, outside counsel or witness may request a ruling by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly. Any member or witness shall return the transcript with suggested corrections to the Committee offices within five working days after receipt of the transcript, or as soon thereafter as is practicable. If the testimony was given in executive session, the member or witness may only inspect the transcript at a location determined by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly. Any questions arising with respect to the processing and correction of transcripts shall be decided by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly.

(2) Except for the record of a hearing which is closed to the public, each transcript shall be printed as soon as is practicable after receipt of the corrected version. The Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly, may order the transcript of a hearing to be printed without the corrections of a member or witness if they determine that such member or witness has been afforded a reasonable time to correct such transcript and such transcript has not been returned within such time.

(3) The Committee shall furnish each witness, at no cost, one transcript copy of that witness's testimony given at a public hearing. If the testimony was given in executive session, then a transcript copy shall be provided upon request, subject to appropriate conditions and restrictions prescribed by the Chairman and Vice Chairman. If any individual violates such conditions and restrictions, the Committee may recommend by majority vote that he or she be cited for contempt of Congress.

RULE 6: SUBPOENAS AND DEPOSITIONS

(a) SUBPOENAS:

(1) AUTHORIZATION FOR ISSUANCE: Subpoenas for the attendance and testimony of witnesses at depositions or hearings, and subpoenas for the production of documents and tangible things at depositions, hearings, or other times and places designated therein, may be authorized for issuance by either (A) a majority vote of the Committee, or (B) the Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly, at any time during a preliminary inquiry, adjudicatory review, or other proceeding.

(2) SIGNATURE AND SERVICE: All subpoenas shall be signed by the Chairman or the Vice Chairman and may be served by any person eighteen years of age or older, who is designated by the Chairman or Vice Chairman. Each subpoena shall be served with a copy of the Rules of the Committee and a brief statement of the purpose of the Committee's proceeding.

(3) WITHDRAWAL OF SUBPOENA: The Committee, by recorded vote of not less than four members of the Committee, may withdraw any subpoena authorized for issuance by it or authorized for issuance by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly. The Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly, may withdraw any subpoena authorized for issuance by them.

(b) DEPOSITIONS:

(1) PERSONS AUTHORIZED TO TAKE DEPOSITIONS: Depositions may be taken by any member of the Committee designated by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly, or by any other person designated by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly, including outside counsel, Committee staff, other employees ofthe Senate, or government employees detailed to the Committee.

(2) DEPOSITION NOTICES: Notices for the taking of depositions shall be authorized by the Committee, or the Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly, and issued by the Chairman, Vice Chairman, or a Committee staff member or outside counsel designated by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly. Depositions may be taken at any time during a preliminary inquiry, adjudicatory review or other proceeding. Deposition notices shall specify a time and place for examination. Unless otherwise specified, the deposition shall be in private, and the testimony taken and documents produced shall be deemed for the purpose of these rules to have been received in a closed or executive session of the Committee. The Committee shall not initiate procedures leading to criminal or civil enforcement proceedings for a witness's failure to appear, or to testify, or to produce documents, unless the deposition notice was accompanied by a subpoena authorized for issuance by the Committee, or the Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly.

(3) COUNSEL AT DEPOSITIONS: Witnesses may be accompanied at a deposition by counsel to advise them of their rights.

(4) DEPOSITION PROCEDURE: Witnesses at depositions shall be examined upon oath administered by an individual authorized by law to administer oaths, or administered by any member of the Committee if one is present. Questions maybe propounded by any person or persons who are authorized to take depositions for the Committee. If a witness objects to a question and refuses to testify, or refuses to produce a document, any member of the Committee who is present may rule on the objection and, if the objection is overruled, direct the witness to answer the question or produce the document. If no member of the Committee is present, the individual who has been designated by the

Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly, to take the deposition may proceed with the deposition, or may, at that time or at a subsequent time, seek a ruling by telephone or otherwise on the objection from the Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Committee, who may refer the matter to the Committee or rule on the objection. If the Chairman or Vice Chairman, or the Committee upon referral, overrules the objection, the Chairman, Vice Chairman, or the Committee as the case may be, may direct the witness to answer the question or produce the document. The Committee shall not initiate procedures leading to civil or criminal enforcement unless the witness refuses to testify or produce documents after having been directed to do so.

(5) FILING OF DEPOSITIONS: Deposition testimony shall be transcribed or electronically recorded. If the deposition is transcribed, the individual administering the oath shall certify on the transcript that the witness was duly sworn in his or her presence and the transcriber shall certify that the transcript is a true record of the testimony. The transcript with these certifications shall be filed with the chief clerk of the Committee, and the witness shall be furnished with access to a copy at the Committee's offices for review. Upon inspecting the transcript, within a time limit set by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly, a witness may request in writing changes in the transcript to correct errors in transcription. The witness may also bring to the attention of the Committee errors of fact in the witness's testimony by submitting a sworn statement about those facts with a request that it be attached to the transcript. The Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly, may rule on the witness's request, and the changes or attachments allowed shall be certified by the Committee's chief clerk. If the witness fails to make any request under this paragraph within the time limit set, this fact shall be noted by the Committee's chief clerk. Any person authorized by the Committee may stipulate with the witness to changes in this procedure.

RULE 7: VIOLATIONS OF LAW; PERJURY; LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS; EDUCATIONAL MANDATE; AND APPLICABLE RULES AND STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

(a) VIOLATIONS OF LAW: Whenever the Committee determines by the recorded vote of not less than four members of the full Committee that there is reason to believe that a violation of law, including the provision of false information to the Committee, may have occurred, it shall report such possible violation to the proper Federal and state authorities.

(b) PERJURY: Any person who knowingly and willfully swears falsely to a sworn complaint or any other sworn statement to the Committee does so under penalty of perjury. The Committee may refer any such case to the Attorney General for prosecution.

(c) LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS: The Committee shall recommend to the Senate by report or resolution such additional rules, regulations, or other legislative measures as it determines to be necessary or desirable to ensure proper standards of conduct by Members, officers, or employees of the Senate. The Committee may conduct such inquiries as it deems necessary to prepare such a report or resolution, including the holding of hearings in public or executive session and the use of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses or the production of materials. The Committee may make legislative recommendations as a result of its findings in a preliminary inquiry, adjudicatory review, or other proceeding.

(d) Educational Mandate: The Committee shall develop and implement programs and materials designed to educate Members, officers, and employees about the laws, rules, regulations, and standards of conduct applicable to such individuals in the performance of their duties.

(e) APPLICABLE RULES AND STANDARDS OF CONDUCT:

(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, no adjudicatory review shall be initiated of any alleged violation of any law, the Senate Code of Official Conduct, rule, or regulation which was not in effect at the time the alleged violation occurred. No provisions of the Senate Code of Official Conduct shall apply to or require disclosure of any act, relationship, or transaction which occurred prior to the effective date of the applicable provision of the Code.

(2) The Committee may initiate an adjudicatory review of any alleged violation of a rule or law which was in effect prior to the enactment of the Senate Code of Official Conduct if the alleged violation occurred while such rule or law was in effect and the violation was not a matter resolved on the merits by the predecessor Committee.

RULE 8: PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING COMMITTEE SENSITIVE AND CLASSIFIED MATERIALS

(a) PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING COMMITTEE SENSITIVE MATERIALS:

(1) Committee Sensitive information or material is information or material in the possession of the Select Committee on Ethics which pertains to illegal or improper conduct by a present or former Member, officer, or employee of the Senate; to allegations or accusations of such conduct; to any resulting preliminary inquiry, adjudicatory review or other proceeding by the Select Committee on Ethics into such allegations or conduct; to the investigative techniques and procedures of the Select Committee on Ethics; or to other information or material designated by the staff director, or outside counsel designated by the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

(2) The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee shall establish such procedures as may be necessary to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of Committee Sensitive information in the possession of the Committee or its staff. Procedures for protecting Committee Sensitive materials shall be in writing and shall be given to each Committee staff member.

(b) PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING CLASSIFIED MATERIALS:

(1) Classified information or material is information or material which is specifically designated as classified under the authority of Executive Order 11652 requiring protection of such information or material from unauthorized disclosure in order to prevent damage to the United States.

(2) The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee shall establish such procedures as may be necessary to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of classified information in the possession of the Committee or its staff. Procedures for handling such information shall be in writing and a copy of the procedures shall be given to each staff member cleared for access to classified information.

(3) Each member of the Committee shall have access to classified material in the Committee's possession. Only Committee staff members with appropriate security clearances and a need-to-know, as approved by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly, shall have access to classified information in the Committee's possession.

(c) PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING COMMITTEE SENSITIVE AND CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS:

(1) Committee Sensitive documents and materials shall be stored in the Committee's offices, with appropriate safeguards for maintaining the security of such documents or materials. Classified documents and materials shall be further segregated in the Committee's offices in secure filing safes. Removal from the Committee offices of such documents or materials is prohibited except as necessary for use in, or preparation for, interviews or Committee meetings, including the taking of testimony, or as otherwise specifically approved by the staff director or by outside counsel designated by the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

(2) Each member of the Committee shall have access to all materials in the Committee's possession. The staffs of members shall not have access to Committee Sensitive or classified documents and materials without the specific approval in each instance of the Chairman, and Vice Chairman, acting jointly. Members may examine such materials in the Committee's offices. If necessary, requested materials may be hand delivered by a member of the Committee staff to the member of the Committee, or to a staff person(s) specifically designated by the member, for the Member's or designated staffer's examination. A member of the Committee who has possession of Committee Sensitive documents or materials shall take appropriate safeguards for maintaining the security of such documents or materials in the possession of the Member or his or her designated staffer.

(3) Committee Sensitive documents that are provided to a Member of the Senate in connection with a complaint that has been filed against the Member shall be hand delivered to the Member or to the Member's Chief of Staff or Administrative Assistant. Committee Sensitive documents that are provided to a Member of the Senate who is the subject of a preliminary inquiry, adjudicatory review, or other proceeding, shall be hand delivered to the Member or to his or her specifically designated representative.

(4) Any Member of the Senate who is not a member of the Committee and who seeks access to any Committee Sensitive or classified documents or materials, other than documents or materials which are matters of public record, shall request access in writing. The Committee shall decide by majority vote whether to make documents or materials available. If access is granted, the Member shall not disclose the information except as authorized by the Committee.

(5) Whenever the Committee makes Committee Sensitive or classified documents or materials available to any Member of the Senate who is not a member of the Committee, or to a staff person of a Committee member in response to a specific request to the Chairman and Vice Chairman, a written record shall be made identifying the Member of the Senate requesting such documents or materials and describing what was made available and to whom.

(d) NON-DISCLOSURE POLICY AND AGREEMENT:

(1) Except as provided in the last sentence of this paragraph, no member of the Select Committee on Ethics, its staff or any person engaged by contract or otherwise to perform services for the Select Committee on Ethics shall release, divulge, publish, reveal by writing, word, conduct, or disclose in any way, in whole, or in part, or by way of summary, during tenure with the Select Committee on Ethics or anytime thereafter, any testimony given before the Select Committee on Ethics in executive session (including the name of any witness who appeared or was called to appear in executive session), any classified or Committee Sensitive information, document or material,

received or generated by the Select Committee on Ethics or any classified or Committee Sensitive information which may come into the possession of such person during tenure with the Select Committee on Ethics or its staff. Such information, documents, or material may be released to an official of the executive branch properly cleared for access with a need-to-know, for any purpose or in connection with any proceeding, judicial or otherwise, as authorized by the Select Committee on Ethics, or in the event of termination of the Select Committee on Ethics, in such a manner as may be determined by its successor or by the Senate.

(2) No member of the Select Committee on Ethics staff or any person engaged by contract or otherwise to perform services for the Select Committee on Ethics, shall be granted access to classified or Committee Sensitive information or material in the possession of the Select Committee on Ethics unless and until such person agrees in writing, as a condition of employment, to the nondisclosure policy. The agreement shall become effective when signed by the Chairman and Vice Chairman on behalf of the Committee.

RULE 9: BROADCASTING AND NEWS COVERAGE OF COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

(a) Whenever any hearing or meeting of the Committee is open to the public, the Committee shall permit that hearing or meeting to be covered in whole or in part, by television broadcast, radio broadcast, still photography, or by any other methods of coverage, unless the Committee decides by recorded vote of not less than four members of the Committee that such coverage is not appropriate at a particular hearing or meeting.

(b) Any witness served with a subpoena by the Committee may request not to be photographed at any hearing or to give evidence or testimony while the broadcasting, reproduction, or coverage of that hearing, by radio, television, still photography, or other methods is occurring. At the request of any such witness who does not wish to be subjected to radio, television, still photography, or other methods of coverage, and subject to the approval of the Committee, all lenses shall be covered and all microphones used for coverage turned off.

(c) If coverage is permitted, it shall be in accordance with the following requirements:21(1) Photographers and reporters using mechanical recording, filming, or broadcasting apparatus shall position their equipment so as not to interfere with the seating, vision, and hearing of the Committee members and staff, or with the orderly process of the meeting or hearing.

(2) If the television or radio coverage of the hearing or meeting is to be presented to the public as live coverage, the coverage shall be conducted and presented without commercial sponsorship.

(3) Personnel providing coverage by the television and radio media shall be currently accredited to the Radio and Television Correspondents' Galleries.

(4) Personnel providing coverage by still photography shall be currently accredited to the Press Photographers' Gallery Committee of Press Photographers.

(5) Personnel providing coverage by the television and radio media and by still photography shall conduct themselves and the coverage activities in an orderly and unobtrusive manner.

RULE 10: PROCEDURES FOR ADVISORY OPINIONS

(a) WHEN ADVISORY OPINIONS ARE RENDERED:

(1) The Committee shall render an advisory opinion, in writing within a reasonable time, in response to a written request by a Member or officer of the Senate or a candidate for nomination for election, or election to the Senate, concerning the application of any law, the Senate Code of Official Conduct, or any rule or regulation of the Senate within the Committee's jurisdiction, to a specific factual situation pertinent to the conduct or proposed conduct of the person seeking the advisory opinion.

(2) The Committee may issue an advisory opinion in writing within a reasonable time in response to a written request by any employee of the Senate concerning the application of any law, the Senate Code of Official Conduct, or any rule or regulation of the Senate within the Committee's jurisdiction, to a specific factual situation pertinent to the conduct or proposed conduct of the person seeking the advisory opinion.

(b) FORM OF REQUEST: A request for an advisory opinion shall be directed in writing to the Chairman of the Committee and shall include a complete and accurate statement of the specific factual situation with respect to which the request is made as well as the specific question or questions which the requestor wishes the Committee to address.

(c) OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMENT:

(1) The Committee will provide an opportunity for any interested party to comment on a request for an advisory opinion—

(A) which requires an interpretation on a significant question of first impression that will affect more than a few individuals; or

(B) when the Committee determines that comments from interested parties would be of assistance.

(2) Notice of any such request for an advisory opinion shall be published in the Congressional Record, with appropriate deletions to insure confidentiality, and interested parties will be asked to submit their comments in writing to the Committee within ten days.

(3) All relevant comments received on a timely basis will be considered.

(d) ISSUANCE OF AN ADVISORY OPINION:

(1) The Committee staff shall prepare a proposed advisory opinion in draft form which will first be reviewed and approved by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly, and will be presented to the Committee for final action. If (A) the Chairman and Vice Chairman cannot agree, or (B) either the Chairman or Vice Chairman requests that it be taken directly to the Committee, then the proposed advisory opinion shall be referred to the Committee for its decision.

(2) An advisory opinion shall be issued only by the affirmative recorded vote of a majority of the members voting.

(3) Each advisory opinion issued by the Committee shall be promptly transmitted for publication in the Congressional Record after appropriate deletions are made to insure confidentiality. The Committee may at any time revise, withdraw, or elaborate on any advisory opinion.

(e) RELIANCE ON ADVISORY OPINIONS:

(1) Any advisory opinion issued by the Committee under Senate Resolution 338, 88th Congress, as amended, and the rules may be relied upon by—

(A) Any person involved in the specific transaction or activity with respect to which such advisory opinion is rendered if the request for such advisory opinion included a complete and accurate statement of the specific factual situation; and

(B) any person involved in any specific transaction or activity which is indistinguishable in all its material aspects from the transaction or activity with respect to which such advisory opinion is rendered.

(2) Any person who relies upon any provision or finding of an advisory opinion in accordance with the provisions of Senate Resolution 338, 88th Congress, as amended, and of the rules, and who acts in good faith in accordance with the provisions and findings of such advisory opinion shall not, as a result of any such act, be subject to any sanction by the Senate.

RULE 11: PROCEDURES FOR INTERPRETATIVE RULINGS

(a) BASIS FOR INTERPRETATIVE RULINGS: Senate Resolution 338, 88th Congress, as amended, authorizes the Committee to issue interpretative rulings explaining and clarifying the application of any law, the Code of Official Conduct, or any rule or regulation of the Senate within its jurisdiction. The Committee also may issue such rulings clarifying or explaining any rule or regulation of the Select Committee on Ethics.

(b) REQUEST FOR RULING: A request for such a ruling must be directed in writing to the Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Committee.

(c)ADOPTIONOF RULING:

(1) The Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly, shall issue a written interpretative ruling in response to any such request, unless—

(A) they cannot agree,

(B) it requires an interpretation of a significant question of first impression, or

(C) either requests that it be taken to the Committee, in which event the request shall be directed to the Committee for a ruling.

(2) A ruling on any request taken to the Committee under subparagraph (1) shall be adopted by a majority of the members voting and the ruling shall then be issued by the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

(d) PUBLICATION OF RULINGS: The Committee will publish in the Congressional Record, after making appropriate deletions to ensure confidentiality, any interpretative rulings issued under this Rule which the Committee determines may be of assistance or guidance to other Members, officers or employees. The Committee may at any time revise, withdraw, or elaborate on interpretative rulings.

(e) RELIANCE ON RULINGS: Whenever an individual can demonstrate to the Committee's satisfaction that his or her conduct was in good faith reliance on an interpretative ruling issued in accordance with this Rule, the Committee will not recommend sanctions to the Senate as a result of such conduct.

(f) RULINGS BY COMMITTEE STAFF: The Committee staff is not authorized to make rulings or give advice, orally or in writing, which binds the Committee in any way.

RULE 12: PROCEDURES FOR COMPLAINTS INVOLVING IMPROPER USE OF THE MAILINGFRANK

(a) AUTHORITY TO RECEIVE COMPLAINTS: The Committee is directed by section 6(b) of Public Law 93—191 to receive and dispose of complaints that a violation of the use of the mailing frank has occurred or is about to occur by a Member or officer of the Senate or by a surviving spouse of a Member. All such complaints will be processed in accordance with the provisions of these Rules, except as provided in paragraph (b).

(b) DISPOSITIONOF COMPLAINTS:

(1) The Committee may dispose of any such complaint by requiring restitution of the cost of the mailing, pursuant to the franking statute, if it finds that the franking violation was the result of a mistake.

(2) Any complaint disposed of by restitution that is made after the Committee has formally commenced an adjudicatory review, must be summarized, together with the disposition, in a report to the Senate, as appropriate.

(3) If a complaint is disposed of by restitution, the complainant, if any, shall be notified of the disposition in writing.

(c) ADVISORY OPINIONS AND INTERPRETATIVE RULINGS: Requests for advisory opinions or interpretative rulings involving franking questions shall be processed in accordance with Rules 10 and 11.

RULE 13: PROCEDURES FOR WAIVERS

(A) AUTHORITY FOR WAIVERS: The Committee is authorized to grant a waiver under the following provisions of the Standing Rules of the Senate:

(1) Section 101(h) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, as amended (Rule XXXIV), relating to the filing of financial disclosure reports by individuals who are expected to perform or who have performed the duties of their offices or positions for less than one hundred and thirty days in a calendar year;

(2) Section 102(a)(2)(D) of the Ethics in Government Act, as amended (Rule XXXIV),relating to the reporting of gifts;

(3) Paragraph 1 of Rule XXXV relating to acceptance of gifts; or

(4) Paragraph 5 of Rule XLI relating to applicability of any of the provisions of the Code of Official Conduct to an employee of the Senate hired on a per diem basis.

(b) REQUESTS FOR WAIVERS: A request for a waiver under paragraph (a) must be directed to the Chairman or Vice Chairman in writing and must specify the nature of the waiver being sought and explain in detail the facts alleged to justify a waiver. In the case of a request submitted by an employee, the views of his or her supervisor (as determined under paragraph 12of Rule XXXVII of the Standing Rules of the Senate) should be included with the waiver request.

(c) RULING: The Committee shall rule on a waiver request by recorded vote with a majority of those voting affirming the decision. With respect to an individual's request for a waiver in connection with the acceptance or reporting the value of gifts on the occasion of the individual's marriage, the Chairman and the Vice Chairman, acting jointly, may rule on the waiver.

(d) AVAILABILITYOF WAIVER DETERMINATIONS: A brief description of any waiver granted by the Committee, with appropriate deletions to ensure confidentiality, shall be made available for review upon request in the Committee office. Waivers granted by the Committee pursuant to the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, as amended, may only be granted pursuant to a publicly available request as required by the Act.

RULE 14: DEFINITION OF ''OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE''

(a) As used in the applicable resolutions and in these rules and procedures, the term ''officer or employee of the Senate'' means:

(1) An elected officer of the Senate who is not a Member of the Senate;

(2) An employee of the Senate, any committee or subcommittee of the Senate, or any Member of the Senate;

(3) The Legislative Counsel of the Senate or any employee of his office;

(4) An Official Reporter of Debates of the Senate and any person employed by the Official Reporters of Debates of the Senate in connection with the performance of their official duties;

(5) A member of the Capitol Police force whose compensation is disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate;

(6) An employee of the Vice President, if such employee's compensation is disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate;

(7) An employee of a joint committee of the Congress whose compensation is disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate;

(8) An officer or employee of any department or agency of the Federal Government whose services are being utilized on a full-time and continuing basis by a Member, officer, employee, or committee of the Senate in accordance with Rule XLI(3) of the Standing Rules of the Senate; and

(9) Any other individual whose full-times services are utilized for more than ninety days in a calendar year by a Member, officer, employee, or committee of the Senate in the conduct of official duties in accordance with Rule XLI(4) of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

RULE 15: COMMITTEE STAFF

(a) COMMITTEE POLICY:

(1) The staff is to be assembled and retained as a permanent, professional, nonpartisan staff.

(2) Each member of the staff shall be professional and demonstrably qualified for the position for which he or she is hired.

(3) The staff as a whole and each member of the staff shall perform all official duties in a nonpartisan manner.

(4) No member of the staff shall engage in any partisan political activity directly affecting any congressional or presidential election.

(5) No member of the staff or outside counsel may accept public speaking engagements or write for publication on any subject that is in any way related to his or her employment or duties with the Committee without specific advance permission from the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

(6) No member of the staff may make public, without Committee approval, any Committee Sensitive or classified information, documents, or other material obtained during the course of his or her employment with the Committee.

(b) APPOINTMENT OF STAFF:

(1) The appointment of all staff members shall be approved by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly.

(2) The Committee may determine by majority vote that it is necessary to retain staff members, including a staff recommended by a special counsel, for the purpose of a particular preliminary inquiry, adjudicatory review, or other proceeding. Such staff shall be retained only for the duration of that particular undertaking.

(3) The Committee is authorized to retain and compensate counsel not employed by the Senate (or by any department or agency of the Executive Branch of the Government) whenever the Committee determines that the retention of outside counsel is necessary or appropriate for any action regarding any complaint or allegation, preliminary inquiry, adjudicatory review, or other proceeding, which in the determination of the Committee, is more appropriately conducted by counsel not employed by the Government of the United States as a regular employee. The Committee shall retain and compensate outside counsel to conduct any adjudicatory review undertaken after a preliminary inquiry, unless the Committee determines that the use of outside counsel is not appropriate in the particular case.

(c) DISMISSAL OF STAFF: A staff member may not be removed for partisan, political reasons, or merely as a consequence of the rotation of the Committee membership. The Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly, shall approve the dismissal of any staff member.

(d) STAFF WORKS FOR COMMITTEE AS WHOLE: All staff employed by the Committee or housed in Committee offices shall work for the Committee as a whole, under the general direction of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, and the immediate direction of the staff director or outside counsel.

(e) NOTICE OF SUMMONS TO TESTIFY: Each member of the Committee staff or outside counsel shall immediately notify the Committee in the event that he or she is called upon by a properly constituted authority to testify or provide confidential information obtained as a result of and during his or her employment with the Committee.

RULE 16: CHANGES IN SUPPLEMENTARY PROCEDURAL RULES

(a) ADOPTION OF CHANGES IN SUPPLEMENTARY RULES: The Rules of the Committee, other than rules established by statute, or by the Standing Rules and Standing Orders of the Senate, may be modified, amended, or suspended at any time, pursuant to a recorded vote of not less than four members of the full Committee taken at a meeting called with due notice when prior written notice of the proposed change has been provided each member of the Committee.

(b) PUBLICATION: Any amendments adopted to the Rules of this Committee shall be published in the Congressional Record in accordance with Rule XXVI(2) of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

PART III—SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION

Following are sources of the subject matter jurisdiction of the Select Committee:

(a) The Senate Code of Official Conduct approved by the Senate in Title I of S. Res. 110, 95th Congress, April 1, 1977, as amended, and stated in Rules 34 through 43 of the Standing Rules of the Senate;

(b) Senate Resolution 338, 88th Congress, as amended, which states, among others, the duties to receive complaints and investigate allegations of improper conduct which may reflect on the Senate, violations of law, violations of the Senate Code of Official Conduct and violations of rules and regulations of the Senate; recommend disciplinary action; and recommend additional Senate Rules or regulations to insure proper standards of conduct;

(c) Residual portions of Standing Rules 41, 42, 43 and 44 of the Senate as they existed on the day prior to the amendments made by Title I of S. Res. 110;

(d) Public Law 93–191 relating to the use of the mail franking privilege by Senators, officers of the Senate; and surviving spouses of Senators;

(e) Senate Resolution 400, 94th Congress, Section 8, relating to unauthorized disclosure of classified intelligence information in the possession of the Select Committee on Intelligence;

(f) Public Law 95–105, Section 515, relating to the receipt and disposition of foreign gifts and decorations received by Senate members, officers and employees and their spouses or dependents;

(g) Preamble to Senate Resolution 266, 90th Congress, 2d Session, March 22, 1968; and

(h) The Code of Ethics for Government Service, H. Con. Res. 175, 85th Congress, 2d Session, July 11, 1958 (72 Stat. B12). Except that S. Res. 338, as amended by Section 202 of S. Res. 110 (April 2, 1977), and as amended by Section 3 of S. Res. 222 (1999), provides:

(g) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, no adjudicatory review shall be initiated of any alleged violation of any law, the Senate Code of Official Conduct, rule, or regulation which was not in effect at the time the alleged violation occurred. No provisions of the Senate Code of Official Conduct shall apply to or require disclosure of any act, relationship, or transaction which occurred prior to the effective date of the applicable provision of the Code. The Select Committee may initiate an adjudicatory review of any alleged violation of a rule or law which was in effect prior to the enactment of the Senate Code of Official Conduct if the alleged violation occurred while such rule or

law was in effect and the violation was not a matter resolved on the merits by the predecessor Select Committee.

APPENDIX A—OPEN AND CLOSED MEETINGS

Paragraphs 5(b) to (d) of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate reads as follows:

(b) Each meeting of a standing, select, or special committee of the Senate, or any subcommittee thereof, including meetings to conduct hearings, shall be open to the public, except that a meeting or series of meetings by a committee or a subcommittee thereof on the same subject for a period of no more than fourteen calendar days may be closed to the public on a motion made and seconded to go into closed session to discuss only whether the matters enumerated in classes (1) through (6) would require the meeting to be closed followed immediately by a record vote in open session by a majority of the members of the committee or subcommittee when it is determined that the matters to be discussed or the testimony to be taken at such meeting or meetings—

(1) will disclose matters necessary to be kept secret in the interests of national defense or the confidential conduct of the foreign relations of the United States;

(2) will relate solely to matters of committee staff personnel or internal staff management or procedure;

(3) will tend to charge an individual with crime or misconduct, to disgrace or injure the professional standing of an individual, or otherwise to expose an individual to public contempt or obloquy, or will represent a clearly unwarranted invasion of the privacy of an individual;

(4) will disclose the identity of any informer or law enforcement agent or will disclose any information relating to the investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense that is required to be kept secret in the interests of effective law enforcement;

(5) will disclose information relating to the trade secrets or financial or commercial information pertaining specifically to a given person if—

(A) an Act of Congress requires the information to be kept confidential by Government officers and employees; or

(B) the information has been obtained by the Government on a confidential basis, other than through an application by such person for a specific Government financial or other benefit, and is required to be kept secret in order to prevent undue injury to the competitive position of such person; or

(6) may divulge matters required to be kept confidential under other provisions of law or Government regulations.

(c) Whenever any hearing conducted by any such committee or subcommittee is open to the public, that hearing may be broadcast by radio or television, or both, under such rules as the committee or subcommittee may adopt.

(d) Whenever disorder arises during a committee meeting that is open to the public, or any demonstration of approval or disapproval is indulged in by any person in attendance at any such meeting, it shall be the duty of the Chair to enforce order on his own initiative and without any point of order being made by a Senator. When the Chair finds it necessary to maintain order, he shall have the power to clear the room, and the committee may act in closed session for so long as there is doubt of the assurance of order.

APPENDIX B—''SUPERVISORS'' DEFINED

Paragraph 12 of Rule XXXVII of the Standing Rules of the Senate reads as follows:

For purposes of this rule—

(a) a Senator or the Vice President is the supervisor of his administrative, clerical, or other assistants;

(b) a Senator who is the chairman of a committee is the supervisor of the professional, clerical, or other assistants to the committee except that minority staff members shall be under the supervision of the ranking minority Senator on the committee;

(c) a Senator who is a chairman of a subcommittee which has its own staff and financial authorization is the supervisor of the professional, clerical, or other assistants to the subcommittee except that minority staff members shall be under the supervision of the ranking minority Senator on the subcommittee;

(d) the President pro tempore is the supervisor of the Secretary of the Senate, Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper, the Chaplain, the Legislative Counsel, and the employees of the Office of the Legislative Counsel;

(e) the Secretary of the Senate is the supervisor of the employees of his office;

(f) the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper is the supervisor of the employees of his office;

(g) the Majority and Minority Leaders and the Majority and Minority Whips are the supervisors of the research, clerical, and other assistants assigned to their respective offices;

(h) the Majority Leader is the supervisor of the Secretary for the Majority and the Secretary for the Majority is the supervisor of the employees of his office; and

(i) the Minority Leader is the supervisor of the Secretary for the Minority and the Secretary for the Minority is the supervisor of the employees of his office.

REVISIONS—RULES OF PROCEDURE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Date revised	Amendment
December 1989	Allows for a reduced quorum to take testimony except during an adjudicatory hearing.
February 1993	Adopted, under Admissibility of Evidence, paragraph (C), Rule 412 of the Federal Rules of Evidence.
May 1993	Corrected the following grammatical errors in the publication: page 2 section (d)(1) change paragraph 11 to paragraph 12; page 14 section (k)(B) change paragraph 11 to paragraph 12; page 15 section (5) change to ''Whenever a member of the Committee is ineligible . . .''
April 1997	Amends Rule 9(c) Procedures for Handling Committee Sensitive and Classified Documents: (1) Strike ''Committee Sensitive and classified documents and materials shall be segregated in secure filing safes.'' Insert ''Committee Sensitive documents and materials shall be stored in the Committee's offices, with appropriate safeguards for maintaining the security of such documents or materials. Classified documents and materials shall be further segregated in the Committee's offices in secure filing safes.'' (2) Strike ''If necessary, requested materials may be taken by a member of the Committee staff to the office of a member of the Committee for his or her examination, but the Committee staff member shall remain with the Committee Sensitive or classified documents or materials at all times except as specifically authorized by the Chairman or Vice Chairman.'' Insert ''If necessary, requested materials may be hand delivered by a member of the Committee staff to the member of the Committee, or to a staff person(s) specifically designated by the member, for the member's or designated staffer's examination. A member of the Committee who has possession of Committee Sensitive documents or materials shall take appropriate safeguards for maintaining the security of such documents or materials in the possession of the member or his or her designated staffer. (3) Committee Sensitive documents that are provided to a Member of the Senate in connection with a complaint that has been filed against the Member shall be hand delivered to the Member or to the Member's Chief of Staff or Administrative Assistant. Committee Sensitive documents that are provided to a Member of the Senate who is the subject of a preliminary inquiry, an initial review, or an investigation, shall be hand delivered to the Member or to his or her specifically designated representative. (4) [Renumbered] (5) [Renumbered] Amends Committee Rule 14 by adding the following sentence to paragraph (c). ''The Committee shall rule on a waiver request by recorded vote, with a majority of those voting affirming the decision. With respect to an individual's request for a waiver in connection with the acceptance or reporting the value of gifts on the occasion of the individual's marriage, the Chairman and the Vice Chairman, acting jointly, may rule on the waiver.''
November 1999	Extensively amends the Supplementary Procedural Rules to reflect changes to the Committee charter as agreed to by S. Res. 222 [''Senate Ethics Procedure Reform Resolution of 1999''].

CONFIRMATION OF MERRICK BRIAN GARLAND

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I voted against the nomination of Merrick Garland to be Attorney General because President Biden's campaign promises included permitting the Department of Justice to take unilateral and unconstitutional actions to infringe upon Second Amendment rights. Gun control advocacy groups applaud these promises and encourage even more executive actions to erode the right to keep and bear firearms. Absent an explicit promise from Judge Garland to respect the Second Amendment, my oath to defend the Constitution prevented me from voting to confirm him as Attorney General.

CONFIRMATION OF DEBRA ANNE HAALAND

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, we urgently need a qualified and effective leader ready to protect our natural resources, conserve public lands, and collaborate with our Tribal nations. President Biden's nominee to lead the Department of the Interior is just the person for the job, Congresswoman Debra Haaland. She will quickly restore confidence in the Department and reaffirm its mission to manage and conserve our public land and do its part to confront climate change.

Congresswoman Haaland would be the first Native American Cabinet Secretary, and she is no stranger to breaking barriers. Haaland was one of the first two Native women elected to Congress in 2018. Prior to her congressional tenure, Haaland was the first Chairwoman elected to the Laguna Development Corporation Board of Directors and the first Native woman elected to lead a State party, as chairwoman of the New Mexico Democratic Party. She brought her progressive values of sustainability and environmental protection to each of her positions, and I believe she will do the same for the Department of the Interior.

During her tenure as vice chair of the House Committee on Natural Resources, Haaland led legislative efforts, like the ANTIQUITIES Act and the 30x30 Resolution, to protect and conserve our national monuments, public lands, and oceans. Additionally, the Congresswoman has prioritized environmental justice and Tribal inclusion throughout her career. She introduced

the Environmental Justice in Recreational Permitting Act to increase access to public lands for all communities and fight environmental injustice. Given the Department's history of failing to engage with indigenous communities while enacting harmful public lands policies, Haaland will bring a new era of equity and inclusion to the Department of the Interior.

Last Congress, I worked to enact the Chesapeake WILD Act, which authorizes up to $15 million annually for a new grant program managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to do fish and wildlife habitat restoration in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. I look forward to working with Haaland to see that this program is fully funded and well implemented.

The Department of the Interior manages over 500 million acres of public land, and Haaland's record shows she is prepared to take on this role. For these reasons, I support Debra Haaland's nomination for Secretary of the Interior.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021—BUDGETARY REVISIONS

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, section 3001 of S. Con. Res. 5, the fiscal year 2021 congressional budget resolution, allows the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee to revise the allocations, aggregates, and levels in the budget resolution for legislation considered under the resolution's reconciliation instructions.

I find that Senate Amendment No. 1378 fulfills the conditions found in section 3001 of S. Con. Res. 5. Accordingly, I am revising the allocations for the reconciled committees and other enforceable budgetary levels to account for the budgetary effects of the amendment.

I ask unanimous consent that the accompanying tables, which provide details about the adjustments, be printed in the RECORD.

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

REVISION TO ALLOCATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

[Pursuant to Section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and Section 3001 of S. Con. Res. 5, The Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2021]

[$ in billions]

	2021	2021–2025	2021–2030
Current Allocation:			
Finance			
Budget Authority	3,999.794	15,895.555	35,570.404
Outlays	3,917.581	15,824.663	35,477.120
Adjustments:			
Budget Authority	−6.335	−6,640	−6,640
Outlays	−6.335	−6.640	−6,640
Revised Allocation:			
Budget Authority	3,993.459	15,888.915	35,563,764
Outlays	3,911.246	15,818.023	35,470.480

BUDGET AGGREGATES—BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAYS

[Section 3001 of S. Con. Res. 5, The Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2021]

[$ in billions]

	2021
Current Aggregates:	
Spending:	
Budget Authority	5,803.131
Outlays	5,882.835
Adjustment:	
Budget Authority	−6.335
Outlays	−6.335
Revised Aggregates:	
Budget Authority	5,796.796
Outlays	5,876.500

BUDGET AGGREGATES—REVENUES

[Pursuant to Section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and Section 3001 of S. Con. Res. 5, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2021]

[$ in billions]

	2021	2021–2025	2021–2030
Current Aggregates:			
Revenue	2,503.907	15,284.591	35,074.542
Adjustment:			
Revenue	−25.380	25.487	5.524
Revised Aggregates:			
Revenue	2,478.527	15,310.078	35,080.066

PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARD FOR THE SENATE

[Pursuant to Section 4106 of H. Con. Res. 71, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2018]

[$ in billions]

	Balances
Starting Balance:	
Fiscal Year 2021	1,173.825
Fiscal Years 2021–2025	1,890.373
Fiscal Years 2021–2030	1,881.752
Adjustments:	
Fiscal Year 2021	19.045
Fiscal Years 2021–2025	18.847
Fiscal Years 2021–2030	−12.164
Revised Balance:	
Fiscal Year 2021	1,192.870
Fiscal Years 2021–2025	1,909.220
Fiscal Years 2021–2030	1,869.588

BUDGETARY REVISIONS

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, section 3001 of S. Con. Res. 5, the fiscal year 2021 congressional budget resolution, allows the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee to revise the allocations, aggregates, and levels in the budget resolution for legislation considered under the resolution's reconciliation instructions.

I find that H.R. 1319, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, as passed by the Senate, meets the conditions found in section 3001 of S. Con. Res. 5. Accordingly, I am revising the allocations for the reconciled committees and other enforceable budgetary levels to account for the budgetary effects of the bill. This adjustment reflects the estimate of the bill provided by the Congressional Budget Office on March 10, 2021.

This adjustment supersedes the adjustments I previously made for the processing of S. Amdts. 891 and 1378 to H.R. 1319 on March 5, 2021.

I ask unanimous consent that the accompanying tables, which provide details about the adjustments, be printed in the RECORD.

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

BUDGET AGGREGATES—BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAYS

[Pursuant to Section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and Section 3001 of S. Con. Res. 5, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2021]

[$ in billions]

	2021
Current Aggregates:	
Spending:	
Budget Authority	5,868.572
Outlays	5,998.437
Adjustment:	
Budget Authority	−82.275
Outlays	−150.829
Revised Aggregates:	
Budget Authority	5,786.297
Outlays	5,847.608

Note: The adjustment for budget authority and outlays represents the difference between 2021 amounts assumed in the budget resolution for fiscal year 2021 and amounts included in H.R. 1319, as passed by the Senate.

[Pursuant to Section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and Section 3001 of S. Con. Res. 5, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2021]

[$ in billions]

	2021	2021–2025	2021–2030
Current Aggregates:			
Revenue	2,523.057	15,314.642	35,075.136
Adjustment:			
Revenue	−59.847	−87.702	−27.320
Revised Aggregates:			
Revenue	2,463.210	15,226.940	35,047.816

Note: The adjustment for revenues represents the difference between revenues assumed in the budget resolution for budget reconciliation and the revenue impact of H.R. 1319, as passed by the Senate. The total reduction in on-budget revenues resulting from H.R. 1319, as passed by the Senate, is $75.517 billion in 2021, $120.218 billion over five years, and $59.912 billion over ten years.

REVISION TO ALLOCATION TO SENATE COMMITTEES

[Pursuant to Section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and Section 3001 of S. Con. Res. 5, The Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2021]

[$ in billions]

	2021	2021–2025	2021–2030
Current Allocation:			
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:			
Budget Authority	240.315	831.870	1,562.654
Outlays	202.027	733.208	1,388.412
Adjustments:			
Budget Authority	22.602	22.712	22.712
Outlays	18.823	22.548	22.712
Revised Allocation:			
Budget Authority	262.917	854.582	1,585.366

REVISION TO ALLOCATION TO SENATE COMMITTEES—Continued

[Pursuant to Section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and Section 3001 of S. Con. Res. 5, The Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2021]

[$ in billions]

	2021	2021–2025	2021–2030
Outlays	220.850	755.756	1,411.124
Current Allocation:			
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:			
Budget Authority	−463.909	−378.485	−269.169
Outlays	−10.918	3.158	6.455
Adjustments:			
Budget Authority	92.231	92.231	92.231
Outlays	32.544	87.170	88.820
Revised Allocation:			
Budget Authority	−371.678	−286.254	−176.938
Outlays	21.626	90.328	95.275
Current Allocation:			
Commerce, Science, and Transportation:			
Budget Authority	345.609	417.066	507.766
Outlays	314.473	381.777	449.022
Adjustments:			
Budget Authority	35.882	35.762	36.162
Outlays	22.427	35.696	35.155
Revised Allocation:			
Budget Authority	381.491	452.828	542.928
Outlays	336.900	417.473	484.177
Current Allocation:			
Environment and Public Works:			
Budget Authority	68.678	264.412	510.612
Outlays	21.964	34.852	55.646
Adjustments:			
Budget Authority	3.205	3.205	3.205
Outlays	0.812	3.005	3.205
Revised Allocation:			
Budget Authority	71.883	267.617	513.817
Outlays	22.776	37.857	58.851
Finance:			
Budget Authority	2,993.294	14,655.178	34,329.717
Outlays	2,980.805	14,587.196	34,246.494
Adjustments:			
Budget Authority	986.027	1,221.714	1,224.539
Outlays	898.024	1,217.884	1,213.532
Revised Allocation:			
Budget Authority	3,979.321	15,876.892	35,554.256
Outlays	3,878.829	15,805.080	35,460.026
Current Allocation:			
Foreign Relations:			
Budget Authority	51.566	229.018	447.704
Outlays	41,156	215.099	433.745
Adjustments:			
Budget Authority	10.000	10.000	10.000
Outlays	1.159	9.248	9.526
Revised Allocation:			
Budget Authority	61.566	239.018	457.704
Outlays	42.315	224.347	443.271
Current Allocation:			
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:			
Budget Authority	17.289	132.371	268.697
Outlays	27.594	121.193	244.258
Adjustments:			
Budget Authority	304.708	304.695	304.614
Outlays	40.725	287.224	303.942
Revised Allocation:			
Budget Authority	321.997	437.066	573.311
Outlays	68.319	408.417	548.200
Current Allocation:			
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:			
Budget Authority	155.755	816.524	1,737.240
Outlays	154.534	809.992	1,720.393
Adjustments:			
Budget Authority	53.647	53.689	53.713
Outlays	12.558	42.248	50.542
Revised Allocation:			
Budget Authority	209.402	870.213	1,790.953
Outlays	167.092	852.240	1,770.935
Current Allocation:			
Indian Affairs:			
Budget Authority	0.873	2.868	5.004
Outlays	0.968	3.180	4.987
Adjustments:			
Budget Authority	8.804	8.804	8.804
Outlays	1.976	8.186	8.579
Revised Allocation:			
Budget Authority	9.677	11.672	13.808
Outlays	2.944	11.366	13.566
Current Allocation:			
Small Business and Entrepreneurship:			
Budget Authority	−144.559	−144.559	−144.559
Outlays	1.941	2.146	2.146
Adjustments:			
Budget Authority	53.600	53.600	53.600
Outlays	48.550	49.940	49.940
Revised Allocation:			
Budget Authority	−90.959	−90.959	−90.959
Outlays	50.491	52.086	52.086
Current Allocation:			
Veterans' Affairs			
Budget Authority	135.958	726.288	1,581.379
Outlays	136.349	727.702	1,583.336
Adjustments:			
Budget Authority	17.080	17.080	17.080
Outlays	10.510	16.642	16.668
Revised Allocation:			
Budget Authority	153.038	743.368	1,598.459
Outlays	146.859	744.344	1,819.031
Current Allocation:			
Unassigned:			
Budget Authority	662.249	−4,019.387	−11,161.327
Outlays	189.750	−4.045.408	−11,073.561
Adjustments:			
Budget Authority	−82.275	−2.286	−30.469
Outlays	−150.829	−9.932	−53.598
Revised Allocation:			
Budget Authority	579.974	−4,021.673	−11,191.796

REVISION TO ALLOCATION TO SENATE COMMITTEES—Continued

[Pursuant to Section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and Section 3001 of S. Con. Res. 5, The Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2021]

[$ in billions]

	2021	2021–2025	2021–2030
Outlays	38.921	−4,055.340	−11,127.159

Note: The total adjustment amount for reconciled committees is $1,825.660 billion in budget authority and $1,802.621 billion in outlays over ten years.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARD FOR THE SENATE

[Pursuant to Section 4106 of H. Con. Res. 71, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2018]

[$ in billions]

	Balances
Starting Balance:	
Fiscal Year 2021	0
Fiscal Years 2021–2025	0
Fiscal Years 2021–2030	0
Adjustments:	
Fiscal Year 2021	1,163.625
Fiscal Years 2021–2025	1,900.009
Fiscal Years 2021–2030	1,862.533
Revised Balance:	
Fiscal Year 2021	1,163.625
Fiscal Years 2021–2025	1,900.009
Fiscal Years 2021–2030	1,862.533

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING NORTH DAKOTA'S DELEGATES TO THE SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM

● Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, one of the outstanding programs offered in the U.S. Senate recognizes the best of America's high school juniors and seniors. Since 1963, the U.S. Senate Youth Program has selected two students from each State who rank high academically, excel in leadership and volunteerism, and have a passion for public service. They also receive a $10,000 college scholarship.

These young delegates have come to Washington, DC, every spring for a week of education and tours highlighting all three branches of government. This year's 59th annual Washington Week gathering last week was conducted in a virtual online format, and I know it was a memorable experience for the 104 student delegates from across the Nation who attended.

As one of the eight Senators serving on the Senate Youth Program's Advisory Committee, I congratulate all who were selected to be delegates this year. I had the recent opportunity to have an online conversation with North Dakota's two delegates, Athalia Haughton and Micah Schlittenhardt.

Athalia is a junior at Century High School in Bismarck and is the local chair and State programs director of the High School Democrats of America. She is an AP Scholar with honor, a student council representative, student congress member, and is the cofounder and president of Student Advocates of North Dakota. She was a semifinalist in State debate, nationally qualified in the Lincoln Douglas debate, is a two-time State qualifier in speech, a One Act Play State champion, and was a member of the first-ever North Dakota team to become a World Schools Debate national qualifier. She crafts blankets for local immigrants, volunteers at Heaven's Helpers soup kitchen, and raises money for the Alzheimer's Association. Athalia has prepared testimony advocating for international cultural diversity classes in North Dakota public schools and is passionate about reducing the stigma surrounding mental health, especially for students. After graduation, Athalia intends to attend Howard University to pursue political science and law degrees. She would like to become a politician and a policy writer at either a State or national level.

Micah, a senior at Legacy High School in Bismarck, is president of the North Dakota Association of Student Councils. She ranks first in her class of 320 students, is an AP Scholar, and a Presidential Citizenship Award recipient. She is president of the Legacy Concert Choir and a member of the National Honor Society and the Bismarck-Mandan Student Chamber. She is involved in varsity cheerleading, All-State Jazz Choir, Central Dakota Children's Choir, and Academic Allstate. She has been an advocate for Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's awareness and support within her community and has partnered with a locally-owned bakery to pioneer an annual fundraiser to raise money for respite care. She has been recognized as the 2021 Distinguished Young Woman of North Dakota and Miss North Dakota's Outstanding Teen 2018. After graduation, Micah plans to attend the University of Mary in Bismarck to study philosophy. She would like to study abroad in Vatican City and eventually pursue a career in academia.

I congratulate both Athalia and Micah for this honor and welcome them to an alumni group of Senate Youth Program delegates, which is 5,500 individuals strong. Many of them have gone on to distinguish themselves in every area of public service. I fully expect that we will hear much more about Athalia and Micah in the future as they continue to excel in academic and professional arenas throughout their lives.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

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–619. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fluindapyr; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL No. 10019–19–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 11, 2021; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–620. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Quizalofop ethyl; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL No. 10020–34–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 11, 2021; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–621. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Picarbutrazox; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL No. 10019–99–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 11, 2021; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–622. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Texas: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revision'' (FRL No. 10019–76–Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 9, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–623. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Ohio; Base Year Emission Inventories and Emissions Statement Rule Certification for the 2015 Ozone Standard'' (FRL No. 10020–89–Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 9, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–624. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality State Implementation Plans; California; Plumas County; Moderate Area Plan for the 2012 PM2.5 NAAQS'' (FRL No. 10020–36–Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 9, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–625. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (20–4.B)'' (FRL No. 10016–51–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 9, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–626. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,

Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Georgia; Non-Interference Demonstration and Maintenance Plan Revision for the Removal of Transportation Control Measures in the Atlantic Area'' (FRL No. 10019–92–Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 9, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–627. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Determination to Defer Sanctions; Arizona; Pinal County Air Quality Control District'' (FRL No. 10020–94–Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 9, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–628. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Kansas; Removal of Kansas City, Kansas Reid Vapor Pressure Fuel Requirement'' (FRL No. 10021–10–Region 7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 11, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–629. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Missouri; Missouri Reid Vapor Pressure Requirement'' (FRL No. 10021–11–Region 7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 11, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–630. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Washington: Inspection and Maintenance Program; Correction'' (FRL No. 10020–98–Region 10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 11, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–631. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of State Air Quality Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; State of Maryland; Control of Emissions from Existing Sewage Sludge Incineration Units; Correction'' (FRL No. 10020–90–Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 11, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–632. A communication from the Chairman, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''March 2021 Report to the Congress: Medicare Payment Policy''; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–633. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2021–0040–2021–0043); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–634. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 23–592, ''Non-Public Student Educational Continuity Temporary Amendment Act of 2021'' ; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–635. A communication from the Yeoman First Class Petty Officer, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Security Zone; Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, Horry County, South Carolina'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2021–0130)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 11, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–636. A communication from the Yeoman First Class Petty Officer, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Security Zone; Ohio River, New Richmond, Ohio'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2021–0098)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 11, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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 Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 752. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an election to expense certain qualified sound recording costs otherwise chargeable to capital account; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 753. A bill to reauthorize the Highlands Conservation Act, to authorize States to use funds from that Act for administrative purposes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Ms. ERNST, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARSHALL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. PETERS, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. GRAHAM, Ms. SMITH, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. DAINES, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. REED):

S. 754. A bill to provide health insurance benefits for outpatient and inpatient items and services related to the diagnosis and treatment of a congenital anomaly or birth defect; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. HYDE-SMITH:

S. 755. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to provide additional assistance for public water systems damaged by Winter Storms Uri and Viola, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 756. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to ensure that preexisting condition exclusions with respect to enrollment in health insurance coverage and group health plans continue to be prohibited; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WARNER:

S. 757. A bill to amend the Black Lung Benefits Act to ease the benefits process for survivors of miners whose deaths were due to pneumoconiosis; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. INHOFE):

S. 758. A bill to support financing of affordable and reliable energy projects by international financial institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 759. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the credit for production of refined coal; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. PAUL, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 760. A bill to require recipients of Federal funds to disclose information relating to programs, projects, or activities carried out using the Federal funds; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. COTTON, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 761. A bill to require the publication of fossil-fuel powered travel by the President, the Vice President, and political appointees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 762. A bill to provide the National Credit Union Administration Board flexibility to increase Federal credit union loan maturities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HIRONO, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 763. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect more victims of domestic violence by preventing their abusers from possessing or receiving firearms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. CASEY, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 764. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to encourage State Medicaid programs to provide community-based mobile crisis intervention services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. REED):

S. 765. A bill to improve United States consideration of, and strategic support for, programs to prevent and respond to gender-based violence from the onset of humanitarian emergencies and to build the capacity of humanitarian actors to address the immediate and long-term challenges resulting from such violence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 766. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an above-the-line deduction for attorney fees and costs in connection with consumer claim awards; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BROWN,

Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. WARREN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 767. A bill to amend the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act of 1975 to modify the exemptions from certain disclosure requirements; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO:

S. 768. A bill to amend section 5303 of title 49, United States Code, to consider housing in metropolitan transportation planning, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. KAINE, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 769. A bill to authorize funds to prevent housing discrimination through the use of nationwide testing, to increase funds for the Fair Housing Initiatives Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 770. A bill to authorize for a grant program for handgun licensing programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 771. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify authorities relating to the collective bargaining of employees in the Veterans Health Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. CARPER):

S. 772. A bill to clarify responsibilities related to unaccompanied alien children, to provide additional protections and tracking mechanisms for such children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 773. A bill to enable certain hospitals that were participating in or applied for the drug discount program under section 340B of the Public Health Service Act prior to the COVID–19 public health emergency to temporarily maintain eligibility for such program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. BURR, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. COTTON, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 774. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to punish criminal offenses targeting law enforcement officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 775. A bill to require institutions of higher education to disclose hazing-related misconduct, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 776. A bill for the relief of Rebecca Trimble; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. COTTON, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. LEE, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. 777. A bill to prohibit taxpayer-funded gender reassignment medical interventions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. 778. A bill to amend chapter 110 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit gender reassignment medical interventions on minors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. SMITH, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. WARREN, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 779. A bill to provide that certain rules and guidance related to waivers for State innovation under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act shall have no force or effect; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 780. A bill to provide for the admission of the State of Puerto Rico into the Union; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. ERNST, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. KING, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 781. A bill to provide for the continuation of paid parental leave for members of the Armed Services in the event of the death of the child; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. TOOMEY):

S. 782. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to modernize Federal nursing home protections and to enhance care quality and transparency for nursing home residents and their families; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 783. A bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2021, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. Res. 115. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Social Work Month and World Social Work Day on March 16, 2021; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. Res. 116. A resolution commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Bay of Pigs operation and remembering the members of Brigada de Asalto 2506 (Assault Brigade 2506); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. REED):

S. Res. 117. A resolution expressing support for the full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, or the Belfast Agreement, and subsequent agreements and arrangements for implementation to support peace on the island of Ireland; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BLUNT, and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. Res. 118. A resolution honoring Army chaplain Emil J. Kapaun; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 96

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 96, a bill to provide for the long-term improvement of public school facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 107

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 107, a bill to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act to allow the interstate sale of State-inspected meat and poultry, and for other purposes.

S. 138

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 138, a bill to waive certain pay limitations for Department of Agriculture and Department of the Interior employees engaged in emergency wildland fire suppression activities, and for other purposes.

S. 278

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 278, a bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to provide assistance for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and socially disadvantaged groups, and for other purposes.

S. 377

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 377, a bill to promote and protect from discrimination living organ donors.

S. 408

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 408, a bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to publish guidance for States on strategies for maternal care providers participating in the Medicaid program to reduce maternal mortality and severe morbidity with respect to individuals receiving medical assistance under such program.

S. 452

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 452, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Willie O'Ree, in recognition of his extraordinary contributions and commitment to hockey, inclusion, and recreational opportunity.

S. 480

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) were added as cosponsors of S. 480, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the deduction for qualified business income.

S. 506

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 506, a bill to establish the Clean School Bus Grant Program, and for other purposes.

S. 563

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 563, 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 discount window lending programs, and for other purposes.

S. 586

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 586, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to combat the opioid crisis by promoting access to non-opioid treatments in the hospital outpatient setting.

S. 608

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 608, a bill to help small business broadband providers keep customers connected.

S. 617

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 617, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the estate and generation-skipping transfer taxes, and for other purposes.

S. 623

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. 623, a bill to make daylight saving time permanent, and for other purposes.

S. 625

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 625, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to eliminate the enrollment fee requirement for TRICARE Select for members of the Armed Forces who retired before January 1, 2018.

S. 665

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 665, a bill to allow Federal funds appropriated for kindergarten through grade 12 education to follow the student.

S. 723

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 723, a bill to amend the Small Business Act and the CARES Act to extend the covered period for the paycheck protection program, and for other purposes.

S. 730

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) were added as cosponsors of S. 730, a bill to amend title VI of the Social Security Act to remove the prohibition on States and territories against lowering their taxes.

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 730, supra.

S. 743

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 743, a bill to amend title VI of the Social Security Act to remove the prohibition on States and territories against lowering their taxes.

S.J. RES. 10

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 10, a joint resolution to repeal the authorizations for use of military force against Iraq, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 34

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 34, a resolution recognizing the 200th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating democracy in Greece and the United States.

S. RES. 87

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 87, a resolution recognizing that the United States needs a Marshall Plan for Moms in order to revitalize and restore mothers in the workforce.

S. RES. 97

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 97, a resolution calling on the Government of Ethiopia, the Tigray People's Liberation Front, and other belligerents to cease all hostilities, protect human rights, allow unfettered humanitarian access, and cooperate with independent investigations of credible atrocity allegations pertaining to the conflict in the Tigray Region of Ethiopia.

S. RES. 103

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 103, a resolution condemning military aggression and use of force by the Chinese Coast Guard against peaceful foreign vessels that purportedly violate the unlawful maritime sovereignty of China.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 752. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an election to expense certain qualified sound recording costs otherwise chargeable to capital account; to the Committee on Finance.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of the ''Help Independent Tracks Succeed (HITS) Act,'' which Senator BLACKBURN and I introduced today. Representatives LINDA SANCHEZ (D-CA) and RON ESTES (R–KS) have introduced companion legislation in the House of Representatives.

Since the start of the COVID–19 pandemic, I have consistently heard from independent musicians and producers in California who have lost a large percentage of their incomes due to concerts, festivals, and other events being cancelled.

With many live performance stages and venues across the Nation closed for months as a result of the pandemic, independent musicians and music makers such as technicians and creators have suffered significant loss of income.

According to a survey by the Copyright Alliance, 88 percent of creators have lost income due to the coronavirus pandemic, which is more than double the national average. Approximately half of survey respondents had lost 90 percent or more of their income.

Our bill would provide some relief to music creators by allowing independent musicians, technicians, and music producers to deduct the cost of producing new musical recordings, putting them on a level playing field with other arts productions.

The U.S. Tax Code allows film, television, and theater productions to fully deduct production expenses in the year they are incurred.

However, recording artists are not given the same treatment, and are forced instead to amortize their production expenses over a number of years.

The HITS Act would allow qualified sound recording producers to deduct 100% of recording production expenses—up to $150,000—in the year they are incurred, rather than in later years.

Because this change would simply accelerate a tax deduction that already exists, the bill's expected cost would be minimal.

In addition, because the deduction would be capped at $150,000 per production, our legislation would benefit smaller, independent musicians and music producers rather than large companies.

The coronavirus pandemic has had a dramatic impact on music creators around the Nation. Our bill would help create parity between musical creators and other creative producers, stimulate the economy, and get music makers back to work.

I hope my colleagues will join me in support of this bill. Thank you, Mr. President, and I yield the floor.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 773. A bill to enable certain hospitals that were participating in or applied for the drug discount program under section 340B of the Public Health Service Act prior to the COVID–19 public health emergency to temporarily maintain eligibility for such program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 773

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

SECTION 1. ELIGIBILITY EXCEPTION FOR THE DRUG DISCOUNT PROGRAM DUE TO THE COVID–19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a hospital described in subsection (b) that, for an applicable calendar quarter, otherwise meets the requirements for being a covered entity under subparagraph (L), (M), or (O) of subsection (a)(4) of section 340B of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256b) and is in compliance with all other requirements of the program under such section, but that, for such calendar quarter, does not meet the applicable requirement for the disproportionate share adjustment percentage described in subsection (c), shall be deemed a covered entity under such respective subparagraph for such applicable calendar quarter.

(b) HOSPITALS.—A hospital described in this subsection is—

(1) an entity that, on the day before the first day of the COVID–19 public health emergency, was a covered entity described in subparagraph (L), (M), or (O) of subsection (a)(4) of section 340B of the Public Health Service Act participating in the drug discount program under such section; or

(2) an entity that—

(A) prior to the COVID–19 public health emergency, submitted an application for participation in such program as a covered entity described in subparagraph (L), (M), or (O) of section 340B(a)(4) of the Public Health Service Act;

(B) prior to or during such emergency, was approved for such participation; and

(C) during such emergency, began participating in such program.

(c) APPLICABLE REQUIREMENT FOR DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE ADJUSTMENT PERCENTAGE.—The applicable requirement for the disproportionate share adjustment percentage described in this subsection is—

(1) in the case of a hospital described in subsection (a) that otherwise meets the requirements under subparagraph (L) or (M) of section 340B(a)(4) of the Public Health Service Act, the requirement under subparagraph (L)(ii) of such section; and

(2) in the case of a hospital described in subsection (a) that otherwise meets the requirements under subparagraph (O) of such section 340B(a)(4), the requirement with respect to the disproportionate share adjustment percentage described in such subparagraph (O).

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPLICABLE CALENDAR QUARTER.—The term ''applicable calendar quarter'' means a calendar quarter for which eligibility for the drug discount program under section 340B of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256b) is based on a cost reporting period for which the COVID–19 public health emergency is in effect for all or part of such cost reporting period.

(2) COVERED ENTITY.—The term ''covered entity'' has the meaning given such term in section 340B(a)(4) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256b(a)(4)).

(3) COVID–19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.—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.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 115—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF SOCIAL WORK MONTH AND WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY ON MARCH 16, 2021

Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Ms. SINEMA) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 115

Whereas, for decades, social workers have dedicated their work to improving human well-being and enhancing the basic needs of all people, especially the most vulnerable;

Whereas the theme for Social Work Month 2021, ''Social Workers Are Essential'', embodies the heroic contributions social workers have made to the United States, including the work social workers have done to heal the United States during the COVID–19 pandemic, racial unrest, economic uncertainty, and political divisiveness;

Whereas social workers have always been present to help in times of crisis, including by—

(1) helping people overcome issues such as death and grief; and

(2) helping people and communities recover from natural disasters, including fires, hurricanes, and earthquakes;

Whereas social workers have helped the United States live up to its value of equality by successfully advocating for equal rights for all people, no matter their race, sexual identity, gender, gender expression, culture, or religion;

Whereas the social work profession is one of the fastest growing professions in the United States, with nearly 800,000 people expected to be employed as social workers by 2028;

Whereas social workers work in all parts of society to empower people to live to their fullest potential;

Whereas school social workers have worked with families and schools throughout the COVID–19 pandemic to ensure students reach their full academic and personal potential;

Whereas social workers play a crucial role in the United States health care system and have played a key role in the response of the United States to the COVID–19 pandemic, including by helping individuals, families, and communities cope with the epidemic;

Whereas, for generations, social workers have advocated for positive changes that have made the United States a better place to live, including by—

(1) urging policymakers to adopt the minimum wage;

(2) improving workplace safety; and

(3) enacting social safety net programs that help ameliorate hunger, homelessness, and poverty;

Whereas social workers, one of the largest groups of mental health care providers in the United States, work daily to help people, whether in person or remotely, overcome substance use disorders and mental illnesses, including depression and anxiety; and

Whereas social workers stand ready to assist the United States in overcoming present and future challenges, including by—

(1) providing sufficient access to mental health and social care services;

(2) ensuring that all individuals in the United States can meet their basic human needs; and

(3) advancing racial equity and the dignity of all individuals: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Social Work Month and World Social Work Day on March 16, 2021;

(2) acknowledges the diligent efforts of individuals and groups who promote the importance of social work and observe Social Work Month and World Social Work Day;

(3) encourages individuals to engage in appropriate ceremonies and activities to promote further awareness of the life-changing role that social workers play; and

(4) recognizes with gratitude the contributions of the millions of caring individuals who have chosen to serve their communities through social work.

SENATE RESOLUTION 116—COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BAY OF PIGS OPERATION AND REMEMBERING THE MEMBERS OF BRIGADA DE ASALTO 2506 (ASSAULT BRIGADE 2506)

Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 116

Whereas April 17, 2021, marks the 60th anniversary of the first day of the Bay of Pigs operation, an event held dear in the hearts of many who long for the return of freedom, democracy, and justice to Cuba;

Whereas the Communist dictatorship in Cuba that resulted from the January 1, 1959, revolution in Cuba has systematically denied the Cuban people their most basic human rights and fundamental freedoms;

Whereas, from 1959 until his death in 2016, dictator Fidel Castro, who promised to implement a revolution against tyranny, systematically violated the human rights of the Cuban people, curtailed freedom of the press, arbitrarily imprisoned and killed an untold number of members of the political opposition in Cuba, and confiscated the properties of citizens of Cuba and the United States;

Whereas the men and women participating in the Bay of Pigs operation assumed the title of Brigada de Asalto 2506 (Assault Brigade 2506), which was named after the serial number (2506) of Carlos Rodriguez Santana, a founding member of the brigade who died during training exercises in September 1960;

Whereas Assault Brigade 2506 consisted of individuals, primarily Cuban exiles in the United States, from diverse backgrounds, including doctors, nurses, engineers, architects, priests, cooks, musicians, actors, business owners, barbers, bankers, construction workers, office clerks, students, pilots, and many other individuals representing different sectors in Cuba;

Whereas, on April 17, 1961, approximately 1,400 individuals selflessly volunteered to free the Cuban people from tyranny;

Whereas, in the ensuing days, and in the course of a battle against the Cuban military, which was superior in manpower and firepower, more than 100 men lost their lives;

Whereas the events of April 17 through April 20, 1961, ended with the capture and imprisonment of 1,204 members or more than 75 percent of Assault Brigade 2506;

Whereas a large number of the 1,204 captured members of Assault Brigade 2506 were imprisoned in deplorable conditions for close to 18 months, subjected to harsh and inhumane treatment, and later sentenced without due process to 30 years of imprisonment;

Whereas, in September 1961, the Cuban regime executed 5 members of Assault Brigade 2506 who had been captured during the operation;

Whereas 67 members of Assault Brigade 2506 died in combat, including 4 American pilots and 10 Cuban pilots and navigators, 10 members died while trying to flee Cuba on a fishing boat that drifted in the Gulf of Mexico for almost 15 days, 10 members died while being transported to prison by their Cuban captors inside a sealed truck with limited oxygen, 9 members were executed by firing squads, and 3 members died while in prison due to lack of medical attention;

Whereas one of the most heinous acts relating to the operation was ordered by then Captain Osmany Cienfuegos, who forced nearly 100 male prisoners into a closed trailer in which they were transported for 8 hours with limited oxygen;

Whereas the Cuban regime is a party to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, which require the humane treatment of prisoners of war;

Whereas, in March 1962, as the trial of the captured fighters approached, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) appealed to Cuban dictator Fidel Castro, asking that the provisions of Article 3 of the Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, done at Geneva August 12, 1949, be fully applied, and for permission to visit the prisoners, but all the requests went unanswered;

Whereas the 1,113 members of Assault Brigade 2506 who finally returned to the United States after the operation have made significant and valuable contributions to the United States, while never forgetting their beloved homeland;

Whereas, on December 29, 1962, President John Fitzgerald Kennedy was presented with the banner of Assault Brigade 2506 that had reached the shores of Cuba during the operation, and the President pledged, ''I can assure you that this flag will be returned to this brigade in a free Havana.'';

Whereas, on April 24, 1986, a joint resolution (Public Law 99–279; 100 Stat. 398) was approved ''Commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Bay of Pigs invasion to liberate Cuba from Communist tyranny.'';

Whereas Cuba's authoritarian regime continues to arbitrarily detain thousands of critics, activists, and opponents; and

Whereas the Cuban people continue to struggle and demand respect for democratic values, civil liberties, freedom, and justice: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) remembers and pays tribute to the brave and courageous members of Brigada de Asalto 2506 (Assault Brigade 2506), both living and deceased;

(2) calls on the Government of the United States to continue to support policies that promote the respect for democratic principles, civil liberties, freedom, and justice in Cuba, in a manner consistent with the aspirations of the Cuban people;

(3) recognizes that individual members of Assault Brigade 2506 later joined the United States Armed Forces and fought in the Vietnam war; and

(4) recognizes that many veterans of the Bay of Pigs operation settled across the United States to become productive members of the society of the United States, including public officials and industry leaders.

SENATE RESOLUTION 117—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT, OR THE BELFAST AGREEMENT, AND SUBSEQUENT AGREEMENTS AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION TO SUPPORT PEACE ON THE ISLAND OF IRELAND

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. REED) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 117

Whereas, on April 10, 1998, the Government of Ireland and the Government of the United Kingdom signed the Good Friday Agreement, also known as the ''Belfast Agreement'';

Whereas the goals of the Good Friday Agreement were to bring a new era of devolved government and democracy to Northern Ireland, end violence, and ensure peace for the people of the island of Ireland;

Whereas the successful negotiation of the Good Friday Agreement stands as a historic and groundbreaking success that has proven critical to the decades of relative peace that have followed;

Whereas the return to power sharing in 2020 after the collapse of power-sharing institutions in 2017 creates new opportunities for strengthening peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland;

Whereas the agreement between the United Kingdom and the European Union on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union, and the protocol to that agreement on Northern Ireland preserving an open border on the island of Ireland (in this preamble referred to as the ''Northern Ireland Protocol''), are intended to protect the peace forged under the Good Friday Agreement;

Whereas, despite the historic progress of the Good Friday Agreement and subsequent agreements, including the Stormont House Agreement agreed to in December 2014, important issues remain unresolved in Northern Ireland, including the passage of a Bill of Rights, securing justice for all victims of violence, including state-sponsored violence, and reducing sectarian divisions and promoting reconciliation;

Whereas section 6 of the Good Friday Agreement (''Rights, Safeguards and Equality of Opportunity'') recognizes ''the importance of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to linguistic diversity'' as part of ''the cultural wealth of the island of Ireland'' and declares the Government of the United Kingdom will seek ways to encourage the use of and education in the Irish language and provide opportunities for Irish language arts;

Whereas the reintroduction of barriers, checkpoints, or personnel on the island of Ireland, also known as a ''hard border'', including through the invocation of Article 16 of the Northern Ireland Protocol, would threaten the successes of the Good Friday Agreement;

Whereas the United States Congress played a prominent role in support of negotiations of the Good Friday Agreement and has taken a leading role in promoting peace on the island of Ireland more broadly; and

Whereas Congress greatly values the close relationships the United States shares with both the United Kingdom and Ireland and stands steadfastly committed to supporting the peaceful resolution of any and all political challenges in Northern Ireland: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) urges the United Kingdom and the European Union to support peace on the island of Ireland and the principles, objectives, and commitments of the Good Friday Agreement, also known as the ''Belfast Agreement'';

(2) expresses support for the full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement and subsequent agreements, including the Stormont House Agreement agreed to in December 2014, as well as the protocol on Northern Ireland to the agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union (in this resolution referred to as the ''Northern Ireland Protocol'');

(3) congratulates all parties in Northern Ireland for the return in January 2020 to a power-sharing agreement;

(4) urges all parties in Northern Ireland to work collectively to ensure the implementation of all commitments of the Good Friday Agreement and subsequent agreements so that all of the institutions of the Good Friday Agreement can operate successfully and sustainably and that ongoing political challenges can be overcome;

(5) calls for continuing attention and action to resolve the injustices of past violence, including state-sponsored violence;

(6) supports the passage of a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland and the right of all the people on the island of Ireland to self-determine their future as provided for in the Good Friday Agreement;

(7) encourages renewed attention to educational and cultural efforts that will ensure the rich language, literature, and arts of

Northern Ireland endure and are not diminished;

(8) expresses support for the Northern Ireland Protocol and its full implementation, which ensures through international agreement that no ''hard border'' will be reintroduced on the island of Ireland; and

(9) will insist that any new or amended trade agreements and other bilateral agreements between the Government of the United States and the Government of the United Kingdom take into account, as relevant, conditions requiring that obligations under the Good Friday Agreement be met.

SENATE RESOLUTION 118—HONORING ARMY CHAPLAIN EMIL J. KAPAUN

Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BLUNT, and Mr. HAWLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 118

Whereas Chaplain (Captain) Emil J. Kapaun was born to parents of German-Bohemian ancestry in the rural farming community of Pilsen, Kansas on April 20, 1916;

Whereas Chaplain Kapaun studied classics and philosophy and graduated from Conception College in Conception, Missouri in June 1936 and Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri in 1940;

Whereas Chaplain Kapaun was ordained a Catholic priest of the Diocese of Wichita in 1940;

Whereas Chaplain Kapaun was appointed auxiliary chaplain in 1943 at the Herington Army Airfield near Herington, Kansas;

Whereas, in 1944, Chaplain Kapaun entered the Army Chaplain Corps and, following Army Chaplaincy School at Fort Devens, Massachusetts, and a post at Camp Wheeler Georgia, Chaplain Kapaun served the troops in World War II in the Burma and India Theater until 1946;

Whereas, in 1948, Chaplain Kapaun returned to active duty in the Army Chaplain Corps;

Whereas Chaplain Kapaun mobilized in support of the Korean conflict in 1950, and served as a chaplain with the 1st Cavalry Division in Japan and Korea;

Whereas Chaplain Kapaun was taken as a prisoner of war by Chinese forces on November 2, 1950, during the Battle of Unsan;

Whereas during the fight, which started on November 1, 1950, Chaplain Kapaun moved repeatedly under enemy direct fire to rescue wounded soldiers outside the perimeter of his battalion and successfully—

(1) negotiated with the enemy for the safety of wounded soldiers of the United States;

(2) knocked aside the rifle of a Chinese soldier who was about to execute Staff Sergeant Herbert Miller; and

(3) rejected multiple opportunities for escape and instead volunteered to stay and care for the wounded;

Whereas, during the time Chaplain Kapaun spent in captivity, Chaplain Kapaun frequently risked his life by sneaking around the camp after dark, foraging for food, building fires, caring for the sick, and encouraging his fellow soldiers to sustain their faith and their humanity, and Chaplain Kapaun risked punishment by leading prayers and spiritual services for the other prisoners of war;

Whereas Chaplain Kapaun died of illness and maltreatment on May 23, 1951;

Whereas, in 1953, Chaplain Kapaun's surviving fellow prisoners of war were released and began to share stories of the role of Chaplain Kapaun in their survival;

Whereas, in 1956, Chaplain Kapaun Memorial High School (now known as Kapaun Mt. Carmel Catholic High School) was opened and named after Chaplain Kapaun;

Whereas, in 1993, Pope John Paul II declared Chaplain Kapaun a Servant of God, the first stage on the path to canonization and the Holy See continues investigations into possible canonization;

Whereas, in 2013, President Barack Obama posthumously awarded Chaplain Kapaun the Medal of Honor;

Whereas, upon bestowing the highest award for valor in the United States military, President Obama stated that Chaplain Kapaun was ''an American soldier who didn't fire a gun, but who wielded the mightiest weapon of all: the love for his brothers so powerful that he was willing to die so that they might live'';

Whereas, in addition to the Medal of Honor, Chaplain Kapaun has been awarded the—

(1) Distinguished Service Cross;

(2) Bronze Star Medal with ''V'' Device;

(3) Legion of Merit;

(4) Prisoner of War Medal;

(5) Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with 1 Bronze Service Star for Central Burma Campaign;

(6) World War II Victory Medal;

(7) Army of Occupation Medal with Japan Clasp;

(8) Korean Service Medal with 2 Bronze Service Stars;

(9) National Defense Service Medal; and

(10) United Nations Service Medal;

Whereas there are more than 7,800 service members who served in the Korean War who remain unaccounted for;

Whereas, in 1956, 867 sets of unidentified remains were interred as Unknowns at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, Hawaii;

Whereas, in 2019, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency began disinterring 652 sets of unknown Korean War remains at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific; and

Whereas, in 2021, the remains of Chaplain Kapaun were exhumed from the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific and identified using dental records and DNA: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors and recognizes Chaplain (Captain) Emil J. Kapaun for—

(A) his heroic service to the United States of America and the United States Army;

(B) his heroism, patriotism, and selfless service; and

(C) the extraordinary courage, conviction, and faith with which he provided comfort and reassurance to his fellow soldiers;

(2) expresses condolences to the family of Chaplain Emil Kapaun;

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of Chaplain Emil Kapaun; and

(4) will never cease in the task of recovering and remembering all prisoners of war and soldiers missing in action from World War II, the Korean conflict, the Vietnam era, hostilities during the Cold War, the Persian Gulf War, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn, Operation Inherent Resolve, and other contingency operations taking place in the Middle East since September 11, 2001.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I have 6 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

HONORING ARMY CHAPLAIN EMIL J. KAPAUN

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 118, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 118) honoring Army chaplain Emil J. Kapaun.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. PETERS. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, 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 PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 118) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2021

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it recess until 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 17; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the nomination of Katherine Tai to be Trade Representative; and finally, that the postcloture debate time with respect to the Tai nomination expire at 11:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. PETERS. For the information of Senators, we expect two rollcall votes during Wednesday's session of the Senate in relation to the Tai and Becerra nominations.

RECESS UNTIL 10:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it recess under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:53 p.m., recessed until Wednesday, March 17, 2021, at 10:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

JANIE SIMMS HIPP, OF ARKANSAS, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, VICE STEPHEN ALEXANDER VADEN.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LESLIE B. KIERNAN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, VICE PETER B. DAVIDSON.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

CHRISTOPHER CHARLES FONZONE, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE, VICE JASON KLITENIC, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TODD SUNHWAE KIM, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, VICE JEFFREY BOSSERT CLARK.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate March 16, 2021:

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

ISABELLA CASILLAS GUZMAN, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD HOUSING EQUITY ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the National Guard Housing Equity Act, which would codify into law a new National Guard Bureau (Bureau) policy on housing allowances.

Under federal law, National Guard members who are deployed on active duty for 30 days or less receive the Basic Allowance for Housing Reserve Component (BAH-RC). National Guard members who are deployed on active duty for 31 days or longer receive the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH). BAH-RC is less than BAH. This can lead to unfair results.

For example, when District of Columbia National Guard members were deployed to respond to protests in the District last summer, they were originally deployed on orders for less than 30 days, but ended up serving for over 30 consecutive days. However, they only received BAH-RC.

After I raised this issue with the Bureau, the Bureau informed me that it would change the policy to allow a National Guard member who served over 30 consecutive days, no matter the length of their initial deployment orders, to receive BAH. This bill would codify this new policy into law.

This bill would ensure National Guard members receive the full benefits to which they are entitled and ensure that they are not shortchanged because of guesswork on how long a deployment might last.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING JOSEPH A. TORMALA

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Joseph A. Tormala, who was recently appointed as a National Americanism Officer for the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Through his tireless work ethic and devotion to the common good, Joe has become an indispensable part of the state of Michigan.

A native Yooper, Joe served honorably in the U.S. Marine Corps through seven overseas deployments between 1983 and 2004 during the Cold War, Gulf War, and Liberation of Iraq, where he was wounded. His devotion to service continued upon his return home to Michigan, where he has been active as a member and leader of Veterans Service Organizations, including the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH). Formed in 1932, the MOPH is composed entirely of men and women who have received the Purple Heart award while serving in the Armed Forces. Their Americanism Program works with schools, churches, and other organizations to promote U.S. history and love for our country. In his role as a National Americanism Officer, Joe will help carry out this mission—ensuring future generations always remember the sacrifices made by our men and women in uniform.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of my constituents, I ask you to join me in recognizing Joe Tormala for his appointment as National Americanism Officer for the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such a selfless leader. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Joe all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. BADIE IBRAHIM NADDY

HON. MARK E. GREEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and accomplishments of Dr. Badie Ibrahim Naddy of Columbia, Tennessee.

Badie Ibrahim Naddy grew up in Amman, Jordan and attended the American University of Beirut in Lebanon before coming to the United States as a young man to study as a Fulbright Scholar. He became a Fulbright Scholar (a program that had only recently been established) to pursue his master's degree at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas.

Continuing his graduate education at Kansas State, he went on to earn a Ph.D. in Chemistry. A few years after receiving his doctorate, Dr. Naddy briefly left the United States to serve as the Director of the Analysis Laboratory for the Jordanian government in the mid-1960s.

Dr. Naddy was able to realize his passion for teaching when he returned in 1967 to work as the first chemistry instructor at Tennessee's first community college, Columbia State Community College (CSCC). Over the next 42 years, Dr. Naddy became an American citizen, taught over 5,000 students during his tenure, and built a reputation for being an outstanding instructor who brought out the best in his students and challenged them to learn. He is the proud father of three sons, all of whom have earned doctoral degrees and achieved success in the medical field.

In retirement, Dr. Naddy has been an active philanthropist constantly seeking to aid those in need and create opportunity. Whether using his personal funds to create the STEM Endowment Scholarship and Veterans Endowment Scholarship at CSCC or purchasing UV lights for Maury Regional Emergency Medical Service to disinfect ambulances during the pandemic, Dr. Naddy exemplifies the spirit of the Volunteer State.

Without question, Dr. Naddy is a true scholar who has dedicated his life to the betterment of others. His life is a testament to the power of the American Dream, and I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging this great American's tireless commitment to educational excellence and helping his community.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Tribes, Pueblos, and Nations in New Mexico, the 574 federally recognized Tribes across the country, and the Native Hawaiian community to highlight the American Rescue Plan's life-saving support for Tribal Nations, including through the Tribal Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Fund. This monumental bill will, among other support, provide $20 billion of desperately needed assistance to Tribal governments throughout the United States, and uphold the federal government's longstanding trust responsibility.

Many of these communities suffered disproportionately during the pandemic. American Indian and Alaskan Native people were twice as likely to die from COVID–19 compared to white Americans. Long-standing failures in public funding, infrastructure, housing, and access to health care in Indian Country contributed to this crisis of equity.

I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for securing dedicated Coronavirus Relief Funds for Tribes under the CARES Act last Congress. However, the lack of Tribal consultation and narrow rulemaking during the previous administration severely delayed and prevented many Tribal nations from receiving the help that they needed, when they needed it. This was most apparent by the roadblocks that prevented Tribes from effectively utilizing their economic recovery funds under the CARES Act to make up for the devastating loss of critical governmental revenues given that they lack traditional tax bases enjoyed by state and local governments.

As the Chair of the Subcommittee on Indigenous Peoples of the United States, I'm proud that we secured the largest one-time investment in Native communities in our nation's history in the American Rescue Plan. Importantly, Congress intended to distribute this aid flexibly, allowing Tribes to help their struggling small businesses, address health and economic issues, and preserve their language and culture.

That is why it is so important that the Biden Administration is committed to engage in robust Tribal consultation so that they can distribute these funds in a timely, flexible, and

equitable manner. I applaud this commitment. It is our responsibility to not only pass legislation that provides life-saving funds for these communities, but also follow through so aid gets to those who need it as quickly as possible. I look forward to working closely with Secretary-designate Deb Haaland and other administration officials to make this happen.

RECOGNIZING THE FRONTLINE HEALTHCARE WORKERS OF SOUTH DAKOTA

HON. DUSTY JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 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 these South Dakota heroes are James Philip Utz, MD, Munachim Ifeoma Uyanwune, MD, Anthony M. Vaca, MD, Lalit Kumar Vadlamani, MD, Verle Valentine, MD, Clayton Gerald Van Balen, MD, Michelle L. Van Beek, MD, Scott Donovan Van Dam, MD, Katherine Marie Van Demark, MD, Robert Eugene Van Demark III, MD, Peter Van Eerden, MD, Jacqueline C. Van Egeraat, MD, John M. Van Erdewyk, MD, Nicolas Jon Van Es, MD, Shawn D. Van Gerpen, MD, Anthony J. Van Goor, MD, Carilyn L. Van Kalsbeek, MD, Scott G. Van Keulen, MD, Russell Aaron Van Maele, DO, Douglas Dale Van Marel, MD, Lucas S. Van Oeveren, MD, Andrew Dean Van Osdol, MD, Nanci J. Van Peursem, MD, Andrew Gerard Van Vugt, MD, Kanya Vanadurongvan, MD, Chardonnay Julia Vance, MD, Rebecca S. Vande Kop, MD, Sharon Vande Vegte, DO, Robert E. VanDemark, Jr., MD, Michael Vanden Bosch, MD, Antoinette Vander Pol, MD, Eric Alan Vander Woude, MD, Ashley Jo VanDyke, DO, Sandra L. VanGerpen, MD, William C. VanNess, III, MD, Christopher Sean Vara, MD, Zoltan Varga, MD, Luciano Meza Vargas, MD, Tejaswini Vasamsetty, MD, Peter Vasconcellos, DO, Kevin J. Vaska, MD, Peter John Vasquez, MD, Collin Wayne Vaughn, MD, Kelly Vaughn-Whitley, MD, Jill Quirin Vecchio, MD, Arthur B. Vegh, MD, Sara Beth Veldman, MD, Jared Lee Velgersdyk, MD, Wilfredo G. Veloira, Jr., MD, Michael Vener, MD, Ramesh Venkataraman, MD, Juan Pablo Vera Gomez, MD, Mark Thomas Vercel, DO, William N. Vereen, DO, Vishal Verma, MD, Michael Richard Verneris, MD, Walter Benson Vernon, MD, Eric Gale Verwiebe, MD, Joshua Joseph Vetter, DO, Wendy Ann Vetter, DO, Lisa Elizabeth Vianna, DO, Robert David Vichich, MD, Martin G. Vick, MD, Ernst Emanuel Vieux, MD, Tamara Vik, MD, Joseph S. Villa, MD, Anna Marie Villalobos, MD, Mary Lee Villanueva, MD, Daniel Brennan Vine, MD, Lisa C. Viola, DO, Jessica Lynn Visser, MD, Jonathan Joseph Vitale, DO, Daniel Silcheuk Vitantonio, MD, Oscar Andres Viteri Molina, MD, Dale Elizabeth Vizcarra, MD, Rodney T. Vizcarra, MD, David Leo Vlach, MD, Thuy-Lieu Thi Vo, MD, Joseph Charles Vogel, MD, H. Bruce Vogt, MD, Martin Vincent Vogt, MD, Fred Harold Vohr Jr., MD, Charles Virgil Voigt, MD, Keith A. Vollstedt, MD, Lawrence T. Volz, MD, Tiffany Ann Von Wald, MD, Peter E. Vanderau, MD, Jack Vonk, MD, Galen Neil Vonk, MD, Loren N. Vorlicky, MD, Christopher John Voscopoulos, MD, Steven Thomas Vosler, MD, Robert M. Vosler, MD, Mark A. Vossler, MD, Keith William Vrbicky, MD, Jake Vrdoljak, MD, Thomas H. Vreeland, MD, Kalyan Chakravarthy Vunnamadala, MD, Shawn Michael Vuong, MD, Aditya Vuppala, MD, Godfrey Oduor Wabwire, MD, David Michael Wachs, MD, Heith L. Waddell, MD, Beau Elliot Waddell, MD, Ranju Bala Wadhwa, MD, Shawn Jeffery Eric Wadsworth, DO, Michael G. Wadzinski, MD, John Francis Wagener, MD, David Van Wagner, MD, Rick J. Wagner, MD, KayeLyn J. Wagner, MD, Andrew James Wagner, MD, James Allen Wagner, DO, Amy Lynne Wagoner, MD, Naomi Wahl, MD, David Charles Wahoff, MD, Aaron Noble Waite, MD, Richard A. Wake, MD, James S. Walder, MD, Douglas Alan Waldman, MD, Randall James Waldner, MD, Dale Lee Waldner, MD, Carolyn Mary Waldo, MD, Jim F. Walery, MD, Priyanka Kim Wali, MD, Paul Lance D'artagnon Walker, DO, Bairn Michael Walker, MD, Victoria Walker, MD, Patrick D. Walker, MD, Timothy L. Walker, MD, Caryn M. Wallace, MD, James W. Wallace, MD, Adam Nathan Wallace, MD, Elron James Wallace, MD, William C. Waller Jr., MD, Melvin L. Wallinga, MD, Patrick M Walsh, MD, Cora Maj Walsh, MD, William Frederick Waltz, MD, Matthew David Walvick, DO, Clifford Tau Wang, MD, Katherine Wang, MD, Heeyoung Paul Wang, MD, Christopher E. Wangsness, MD, Michelle Rae Wanna, MD, Brad Allen Ward, MD, David Isum Ward, MD, Kevin Christopher Ward, DO, Tibor Thomas Warganich, MD, Peter Joseph Warhol, MD.

Katherine Irene Warner, DO, Beth Boulden Warren, MD, Merritt Gregg Warren, MD, Chetan Jiwan Wasekar, MD, Paul Scot Wasemiller, MD, Stephen Edward Wasemiller, MD, James Allen Washburn, MD, Thomas Michael Waterbury, MD, Timothy R. Waterman, MD, Casey Nicole Watkins, MD, Mary E. Watson, MD, Eric S. Watson, MD, Kendra Danielle Watson, MD, Bruce A. Watt, MD, Tim J. Watt, MD, Jonathan David Watts, MD, Derek Clifford Wayman, MD, Jacob Matthew Weasel, MD, Jay Edward Weatherill, MD, Cynthia A. Weaver, MD, Terry Dean Weaver, MD, Jennifer Lynn Webb, DO, James A. Webb, MD, Crispin J. Webb, MD, Scott A. Weber, DO, Jan Christine Weber, MD, William Michael Webster, MD, James Mathew Weekly, MD, Mary M Wegner, MD, Antonios Wehbeh, MD, Julie Lynn Weigandt, MD, John August Weigelt, MD, Kevin Weiland, MD, Edwin Fredrick Weiler Jr, MD, Florian Wolfgang Anton Weilke, MD, Donna Weinacht, MD, Robin S. Weiner, MD, Candice Natalie Weiner-Johnson, MD, Melissa N Weis, MD, Annette Weis-McNulty, MD, Laurie Weisensee, MD, Steven Joe Weiser, MD, Dustin James Weiss, MD, Christin Louise Weller, MD, Bryan J. Wellman, MD, Lawrence Raymond Wellman, MD, Alvin Francis Wells, MD, Stanley Dale Wells, MD, Gary L. Welsh, MD, Randal L. Welter, MD, Fang Wen, MD, Liangping Weng, MD, Christopher James Wenger, MD, Robert S. Wenger, MD, Thomas J. Wente, DO, Clinton J. Wentz, MD, Jennifer Lynn Wenzell, DO, Betsy Jane Wernli, MD, Matthew Christian Werpy, DO, Roger W. Werth, MD, Alvin E. Wessel, Jr., MD, David R. West, MD, Paul West, MD, Heloise Demoin Westbrook, MD, Brian Thomas Westerhuis, MD, Thomas Westover, MD, Gilbert Westreich, MD, Wayne A. Wetzbarger, MD, Megan Lynn Wetzel, MD, Lesta Dell Seger Whalen, MD, Katherine Jean Whaley, MD, David John Whaley, MD, Kirke H. Wheeler, MD, Tamara Sue Wheeler, MD, Mark E. Wheeler, MD, Matthew Gail Whitbeck, MD, Scott Stuart White, MD, Jessica Renee White, MD, James R White, MD, Thomas C. White, MD, Ty A. White, MD, Jay Warren White, DO, Lisa Ann White, MD, David Karl White, MD, Anthony Paul Whitlow, DO, Courtney Wade Whitney, DO, David B. Whitney, MD, Laura Ann Whittington, DO, Kevin D. Whittle, MD, Jason W. Wickersham, MD, Jenna Lynn Wickersham, DO, Matthew Julian Wideroff, MD, Gregory L Wiedel, MD, Stephanie Marie Wieman, MD, Daryl Ray Wierda, MD, Sandra Kay Wiita, MD, Ranjith Wijeratne, MD, Dennis Michael Wilcox, MD, Kirk Lewis Wilcox, MD, Stephen Nelson Wilcox, MD, Kim Levi Wilde, MD, James Wilde, MD, Michael C. Wilde, MD, Russell Alan Wilke, MD, Mark Steven Wilke, MD, John Robert Willcockson, MD, Randall Leroy Williams, MD, Wilbert Williams Jr., MD, Donovan Dewayne Williams, MD, William Marion Williams III, MD, Jamie Catherine Williams, MD, Jennifer Michelle Williams, DO, Sally Anne Williams, DO, Candyce Dietra Williams, MD, Holly Lynn Williams, MD, Brian Keith Williams, MD, Jennifer Elaine Williamson, MD, April K. Willman, MD, Brian G. Willoughby, MD, Michael L. Willson, MD, Andrew Nathan Wilner, MD, Joy Denise Wilson, MD, Jeffrey Power Wilson, MD, Brian Alan Wilson, DO, David Joseph Wilson, MD, Kathy E. Wimmer, MD, Thein Htike Win, MD, Matthew Keith Wingate, MD, Amy Lee Wingert, MD, Donald Joseph Wingert, MD, Jon M. Wingert, MD, Steven Sebastian Winiarski, DO, Philip F. Winskunas, MD, Jennifer Anne Winter, MD, Emily June Winterton, MD, Curt A. Wischmeier, MD, Jamie Rose Wiseman, MD, David W. Withrow, MD, Matthew N. Witte, MD, Gregory P. Wittenberg, MD, William James Wittman, MD, Lara Marie Wiziecki, DO, Jessica Rae Woelfel, MD, Randal Francis Wojciehoski, DO, Michael Lawrence Wolak, MD, Michael J. Wolf, MD, Robert Anthony Wolfe, MD, David G. Wolff, MD, Danny A. Wolfgram, MD, Joel Scott Wolinsky, MD, Michael L. Wolpert, MD, Karl Lee Womer, MD, Allison Liberty Wood, MD, Angela Joy Wood, MD.

Nicole Joanne Woodley, MD, Robert James Woodruff, MD, Christy Anne Woodruff, MD, Suzanne Linnea Woodward, MD, William Boyd Woodward Jr., MD, Kimberly D. Woolhiser, MD, Peysaf W Worthalter, MD, Edward John Wos, DO, Kristine Kay Wren, MD, Darin L. Wright, MD, Kenneth J. Wright, MD, Paul L. Wright, MD, Matthew William Wright, MD, Michael Hill Wright, MD, Kent Douglas Wright, MD, Amanda Elizabeth Wright, MD, James Herman Wudel, MD, Corey A. Wulf, MD, James F. Wunder, MD, Daniel Jay Wunder, MD, Jason Theodore Wurth, MD, Joseph Wyatt, MD, Qingmei Xie, MD, Chencheng Xie, MD, Yusuke Yahagi, MD, Rajkumar Yarlagadda, MD, Scott Merrill Yarosh, MD, Youssef Yassa Yassa, MD, Terry Yeager, MD, Charles C. Yelverton, MD, Xiyan Yi, MD, Douglas Bin Yim, MD, Suzanne Michelle Yoder, MD, Estelle Sukyung Yoo, MD, Min Chong Yoo, MD, Myung Jae Yoo, MD, Hee Jae Yoon, MD, Ji Yoon Yoon, MD, Robert Aaron Yost, MD, Ayesha Younas, MD, David Matthew Young, MD, James W. Young, DO, Vassilia D. Young, MD, Roger Young, MD, Bradley Nels Younggren, MD, Adel Younoszai,

MD, Khalil Amin Yousef, MD, John C. Yu, MD, Grace E. Yuh, MD, Rex Chin-Wei Yung, MD, Michael Orin Yung, MD, Lisa L. Zacher, MD, Martin Zadnik, MD, Mohammed Zahra, MD, Edward J. Zajac, Jr., MD, Steven Mark Zak, MD, Sajad Zalzala, MD, Alla O. Zamulko, MD, Monte F. Zarlingo, MD, James Zauche, MD, William Read Zavitz, MD, Joshua Charles Zawacki, DO, David W. Zeigler, MD, Candace N. Zeigler, MD, Cynthia Barrett Romp Zelis, MD, Boris Alexander Zelle, MD, Joseph A. Zenel, Jr., MD, Navid Aliyari Zenooz, MD, Zhi G. Zhang, MD, Carol M. Zielike, MD, Christopher Daniel Zill, MD, Edward Doyle Zimmerman, MD, Rodney Leon Zimmerman, MD, Todd A. Zimprich, MD, Amad Zineldine, MD, Sara Lynn Zoelle, MD, Timothy M. Zoellner, MD, Samuel Max Zollicker, MD, Sarah Zubkov, MD, Vernon Edmond Zurick, MD, Aaron M. Zylstra, MD, Simon William Appel, Brian John Baldwin, Pamela Bard, Mark D. Benton, Velda Boke, Lou Ann Bubbers, Bob Coolidge, Genevieve Jo Crow, Matthew Culberson, Jacques Gilbert Dupret, Mark Steven Dykstra, Robert Eddy, Gene Patrick Eiring, Audra Rae Evans, Kye Daniel Gabbert, Lynn Gauer, Clarence Duane Gilstad, Samantha Jean Grisak, Jeff Haberstroh, Marty Hansen, Debbie K. Hansen, Theresa M. Hanzlik, Nichelle Hawk-Hagen, Chris Hermes, Harlan Hilleson, Nick Dale Jackson, Jill James, Brian Jurgens, Holly Keller, Percy Killsplenty, Terry Kissner, Nancy Klunder, Joshua Robert Kusser, Scott R. Larson, Rebecca Ann Leslie, Benjamin Ross Meyer, Thomas E. Miles, Christopher Misselt, Michael Montanio, John Robert Murphy, Kimberly Nagel, Katherine Ellen O'Brien, Dawn R. Oakley, Bonnie D. Peterson, Debra J. Powell, Mark Raderschadt, Cathy K Reinert, Brian Ring, Mike Sanger, Dustin Allen Schumacher, Linda Smith, Janie Stevens, Amy Stilwell, Jacqueline Marjean Stilwell, Randy Stombaugh, Gwen Stombaugh, Harold Tiger, Paula Lynn Tronvold, Ronald Eugene Underhill, Patrick James Urbaniak, Brandi N. Vansickle, Scott Waliser, Marlajean Waters, Adam Paul Weisz, Debra Rana Wheaton, Anna Wieringa, Michael J. Wiley, Kelly Young, Linda Zafft, Sheri Zens, Tony L. Aas, Justin Daniel Adams, Nicole Lynn Ahlquist, Ruth Airheart, Jeremy Hamad Aleck, Eric Scott Allen, Alta Shaleen Allen, Sarah Elizabeth Allender, Mitchell Allen Aman, Laura Renee Anderson, Anthony William Anderson, Kristopher Michael Anderson, Ryan Lee Anderson, Major James Anderson, Matthew Kenneth Anderson, Nolan Anderson, Jacob Paul Archer, James Atchison, Lazer Axelman, Derek Daniel Axelsen, Dalton David Axelsen, Jaselle Lynn Babich, Andrew E. Baier, Casey Lynn Baker, James Douglas Baker, Todd Balzer, Michael T. Bartling, Robert Earl Bass Jr, Vanessa Anne Batie, Garry Bauer, Gretchen Judith Baumgarn, Jesse James Bean, Lisa Bean, Gregory Michael Beaner, Joseph Edward Bearfield, Anthony Alan Beaty.

Baptiste B. Beauvais, Harley Marie Beck, Nathan Ryan Becker, Paula Beckler, Andrea Marie Beckman, Cassandra Rose Beckwith, Chuck Bell, Colton Edward Belmore, Guy Lowell Bennett, Katheryn Benton, Chad Michael Berg, Jennifer Danette Berg, Colby John Bettles, Benjamin Hunter Beyer, Michael Kent Bielmaier, Andrew Binder, Landon Alan Binfet, Bruce A Blatchford, Adam Glenn Bloom, Steven Ray Blume, Tiffany Marie Boehmer, Jonathan D. Bohlen, Brennen James Bollinger, Terry Bottjen, Kasey Joel Boucher, Danielle Ann Bradley, Kelsey Jean Bradley, Alycia Marie Brantz-Miller, Troy Breitag, Ripley Karen Bresson, Taylor Matthew Broek, Carrie Lynn Brood, Brenda Lorraine Brown, Ashley R. Brown, Janel Marie Brown, Christopher Michael Brubaker, Mason Christain Bruns, Nicholas Marque Buckley, Mark Bukovich, Raymond Wayne Burbine, Guy Burdick, Michael Gerard Bureau Jr, Joshua Joel Burke, Jaclyn Nicole Burke, James Eugene Bussell, Joshua Alan Butler, Jenica Diane Butts, Glenn Arthur Cacaro, Matthew Ryan Callahan, Deborah Jo Cameron, Christopher Jess Cardenas, Barbara Jeanne Carl, Brandon Arwood Carlson, Jans Paul Carlson, Ronald Carlson, Nicholas Carlson, Cy Karl Cass, Stuart Lee Cauthon, Michele Renee Cavalieri, Taylor Cole Cavender, Ronna Lisa Chappell, Kathleen Chesney, Scott Christensen, Renae Carol Christensen, Jon Elton Christie, Cassandra Renee Christy, Rachel Marie Clark, Shawn Michael Clark, Mike Clauson, Chad James Cody, Kathie Kae Cole, Cedric Lewis Coleman, Derek Adam Collins, Craig Comes, Mark M Conboy, Colin Patrick Conklin, Jacki Conlon, Thomas Patrick Conmay III, Neal Macy Conyers, Jeffrey William Cook, Ashley Beth Cooper, Troy Cowman, Brian Scott Crooks, Jason Dale Crumb, Jason Culberson, Jolene T. Cunningham, Matthew Larry James Curley, Patrick Vernon Currie, Elizabeth Ann Daggett, Jordon Ray Dahme, Zachary Alan Dalrymple, Timothy M. Daly, Stephanie Renee Dame, Alan Lyn David, Jerry Davidson, Joshua Ryan Davis, Tara Ann Davis, William Harris Day, Alexander Mark Defea, Joe Degen, Michael Deitschman, Gordon S. Dekkenga, Nancy K. Delker, Joseph John Denison, Joshua Alan Devaney, Carter Trent Deyo, Harlan Dirksen, Travis Dockter, Lawrence Patrick Dodson, Carla Carrillo, Paula Carroll, Candace Carroll, Gabrielle Casanova, Jessica Casjens, Lee Castillo, Roberta Caswell, Carny Catlin, Adele Ceroll, Katy Charging Cloud, Kathleen Chase, Sharlene Chastain, Heather Chastain, Sally Chau, Jennifer Chau Johansen, Devon Chaulk, Ashley Chaussee, Raven Chilarski, Nikki Chladek, Dustina Chord, Evelyn Christensen, Gina Christenson, Rebecca Christenson, Katie Christman, Christine Christofferson, Shayla Claeys, Elizabeth Claffey, Joya Clairmont, Jacqueline Clark, Alicia Clark, Kyla Clark, Macey Claussen, Lydia Claymore, Gail Clayton, Miranda Clements, April Cline, Linda Coats, Shannon Cobb, Jessica Cokayne-Naylor, Kacy Coldsmith, Kayla Cole, Kathie Cole, Abby Cole, Laura Cole, Molly Coleman, Heidi Coller, Rosemary Collins, Carrie Collins, Melissa Collins, Marissa Collins, Victoria Collins, Rayanne Collins, Payton Comes, Debra Compson, Janet Compton, Megan Compton, Kelsey Conatser, Bertha Conde, Hope Conn, Kelly Conrad, Lindsey Contreras Castillo, Wendy Cook, Linda Cook-Boernke, Donna Cooper, Jenny Cooper, Bridgett Cooper, Stephanie Corbin, Christy Corneliuson, Sue Corth, Cheryl Costello, Charles Coughenour, Fletcher Cox, Kathy Coxwell, Heidi Coyle, Amy Craft, Stacy Craig, Helen Crawford, Barbara Crawford, Kelsey Crawford, Mary Creek, Gayann Cressy, Samantha Crews, Renaemariel Cripps, Valeria Cross, Constance Crossan, Tamera Crow, Linda Cruse, Jennefer Cruse, Amy Cruz, Melissa Cuggino, Sylvia Cuka, John Cumella, Amber Cummings, Carol Currence, Leeann Currey, Jethel Curry, Becky Dachtler, Vicki Daggett, Amy Dahlgren, Nicole Dahms, Patrina Dailey, Robin Dailey, Renae Dale, Destiny Dale, Angela Dalton, Gary Dalton, Kimberly Daly, Lacie Daly.

Cindy Dammer, Jasmine Dargatz, Ashley David, Michele Davies, Dezarae Davis, Amanda Davis, Melinda Davis, Carsa Davis, Brittany Davis, Brenda Davis, Dawn Davis, Katy Davis, Lisa Dawdy, Lisa Dawley, Alisa Day, LuKasey Dean, Donna Dean-Putnam, Semhar Debesay, Maura Deboer, Becky DeBoer, Autumn Deering, Nicole DeFries, Lacey DeGeest, Julie Deis, Angela Deitschman, Mackenzie DeJong, Jessica DeJong, Shelly Deknikker, Rhonda Dell, Crystal Delph, Jayne Dembek, Angie DeNeire, Katie DeNeui, Mahlia Derby, Karen Devine, Stephanie Devine, Vince Devlin, Jaime DeVries, Mary DeVries, Dixie DeWaard, Victoria Dhooge, Catherine Dice, Ali Dickson, Renae Dienert, Jennifer Dietterle, Chelsea Dighton, Katherin Dillon, Sarah Dimmick, Janelle Dinges, Marie Dingong, Jodi Dittbenner, Alyssa Dixon, Diann Dobbs, Dena Dobesh, Celia Dobrenski, Abby Doering, Lisa Dohn, Tammy Dolejsi, Brianna Dolney, Shelby Dolphin, Julie Dominguez, Tara Donahue, Kathy Donaldson, Christine Donovan, McKenzie Doto, Kelly Douglas, Kelly Douglas, Penny Dover, Denise Dowling, Natasha Drebert, Heidi Dreeszen, Diane Drefs, Kathleen Dreis, Michele Drewes, Karlie Drewes, Syndee Droppers, Haile DuBry, Pete Ducheneaux, Rebecca Dudley, Trisha Dueker, Rachael Duenwald, Tina Dummer, Sabrina Duncan, Sidney Dunker, Jamie Dunn, Shanna Dunnam, April Duran, Julieann Dutcher, Kailey Dye, Mona Dykhouse, Carmen Dykstra, Carol Dykstra, Beverly Dyslin, Brittany Eachen, Kariena Eaglefeather, Genevieve Eagleman, Kate EagleStaff, Heidi Earley Stonearrow, Aiyana Earnest, Karen Easterwood, Joann Ebbesen, Julie Ebeling, Kylie Eberhart, Casey Eberle, Maureen Ebmeier, Kiley Eckenrod, Kelsey Eckhart, Rachel Eckhoff, Kimberly Edblom, Audra Edelen, Thyme Edoff, Ashley Edwards, Darcy Edwards, Morgan Eggert, Jill Eggert, Sharon Egleston, Shirley Ehnes, Pamela Eichstadt, Samantha Eitreim, Elizabeth Ekeren, Wendy Ekroth, Kaitlin Ellefson, Susan Elliott, Julie Ellis, Robyn Emery, Harley Emke, Marie Engbrecht, Lori Engel, Teagan Engel, Renee Engelland, Catrina Engesser, Julie Englehart, Connie Engwicht, Kandence Entringer, Crystal Enwiller, Erica Erickson, Brittany Erickson, Sophia Erickson, Kayla Emesti, Barbara Erpenbach, Yolanda Escalante, Amy Esh, Hannah Espland, Courtney Estes, Toni Evans, Maria Evans, Jessica Evans, Evin Evans, Cherise Evans, Kendra Evans, Brooke Even, Chelsey Ewalt, Deborah Eye, James Farr, Stephanie Farrokhi, Melinda Farsdale, Cynthia Faulds, Janet Fauth-Bitz, Rolene Feather Earring, Faith Featherstone, Alexa Feldhaus, Pamela Fercho, Tiffany Fernandez, Ariana Ferreira, Amber Fetter, Barbara Feuerhelm, Haley Fevold, Holly Fick, Katherine Fideler, Veroschka Fiegler, Ana Filipovic, Deanna Finch, Lyla Finck, Paula Fischer, Sharon Fischer, Don Fischer, Tracy Fischer, Rahwa Fissiha, Nyla Fixsen, Kaci Flaa, Walter Flagg, Christal Flannery, Catherine Fleischhacker, Rosella Fleming, Brooke Fleming, Violet Fleury, Sara Fleury, Kassee Florea, Jesika Floyd, Barbara Flynn, Bailey Fodness, Lyndee Fogelman, Alexis Folk, Brooke Fontana, Teresa Forbes, Debra Forde, Dianne Forseth, Donna Foss, Faith Fossen, Taylor Fossum, Jessica Foster, LeeAnn Foster, Lauren Fowler, Patricia Fox, Shelbi Fox,

Kathleen Fraasch, Haleigh Francis, Justin Frank, Andrea Franks, Alyssa Frantz, Dylan Fredericksen, Tonya Fredrickson, Georgina Freeman, Jill Freerks, Nicole Frensko, Brenda Frick, Pamela Friede, Julie Friman, Alyssa Friman, Robert Friske, Terese Frost, Keysha Fryer, Laura Fuchs, Chelsea Fuhrer, Justin Fuller, Constance Gaddy, Julie Gaede, Ronald Galvan, Ashley Gambers, Denise Gamble, Chelsey Ganser, Shawna Gardner, Josephine Garneaux, Michelle Garner, Sara Garreau, Kaitlyn Garrison, Katie Garry, Tawni Garry, Judy Gaspar, Elizabeth Gasper, Harold Gaston Jr., Katherine Gaub, Deborah Gboeah, Susanne Geary, Theresa Geary, Autumn Gebeke, Shannon Geddes.

Kelly Gederos, Samantha Geditz, Cheryl Geditz, Jessica Geditz, Breyanna Geerdes, Loni Geffre, Kimberly Gehm, Debra Gehrke, Peggy Geiger, Darcie Gentry, Cynthia George, Shannon George, Elaine George, Nancy Geraets, Shelley Gerard, Paige Gerber, Karen Gerdes, Rhonda Gerhard, Karen Gerstenecker, Brenda Gertsema, Lisa Gette, Rachael Getz, Devon Geuke, Susan Gibson, Daren Gibson, Lori Gibson, Lilli Giessler, Lois Gilbert, Danielle Gilbertson, Jane Gilbery, Natalya Gile, Tina Gimpel, JoAna Ginalias, Lilian Giron, Kathryn Gittings, Alexis Glanzer, Jody Glayzer, Paige Gloe, Barbara Goeden, Vicki Goedtke, Terra Goehring, Serenity Goembel, Jordan Goens, Vickie Goertzen, Abby Gogolin, Gregory Goheen, Connie Goldade, Rachael Goldade, Julia Gonzalez, Michelle Gonzalez-Peralta, Bernadette Good Shield, Rachelle Goodman, Jocelyn Goodman, Deena Goodrich, Kristina Goodwin, Sabrina Goodwin, Karen Gortmaker, Lynn Gottlob, Julie Gottsleben, Kathryn Gottsleben, Rhonda Gourley, Julaine Graham, Carol Graham, Carol Graham, Jennifer Grandpre, Dawn Grant, Chelsey Granum, Megan Grass, Connie Grassel, D'Kera Grassrope, Sandra Gray, Michele Gray, Serena Gray, Desirae Gray, Brenda Graybill, Bridget Green, Miriam Green, Deanna Gregg, Pamela Greiner, Dorothy Griep, Megan Grieser, Tehya Griffith, Kelsey Grijalva-Mendez, Amanda Grimes, Leone Grismer, Rachel Groethe, Jilene Gruenewald, Desiree Grueschow, Moni Gubka, Mackenzie Guerdet, Brandy Guerue, Margaret Guinard, Kelly Gullikson, Karen Gunderson, Jennifer Gunn, Cheri Guse, Stephanie Gutierrez, M'Kenzi Guy, Karla Guyer, Jenny Haan, Kristine Haas, Marlys Haase, Charity Haddican, Juli Hagen, Brooklyn Hagen, Tessa Hagen, Jenine Haggerty, Carol Hagseth, Kelly Hague, Julie Hahler, Diane Hahn, Marilyn Haiar, Rebecca Haisch, Jean Hajek, Tiffany Hales, Arlette Hall, Karen Hall, Jody Hall, Karla Hall, Kimberly Hall, Brandie Halling, Larissa Halls, Alissa Halse, Carrie Halstead, Emily Halstead, Mahayla Halstead, Theona Halverson, Brittany Halvorson, Sarah Hamann, Nayeli Hamann, Ashley Hancock, Kristen Handley, Karla Hanisch, Laurie Hanisch, Jordan Hanley, Amanda Hannasch, Angela Hannasch, Angela Hansen, Debbie Hansen, Tracy Hansen, Darian Hansen, Lindsay Hansen, Sandra Hanson, Elizabeth Hanson, Amber Hanson, Jena Hanson, Jennifer Haper, Cindy Haraldson, Rachelle Hardesty, Jessica Hardwick, Stephanie Hardwick, Doris Harms, Wendy Harper, Megan Harris, Debra Harris, Merla Harrison, Alison Harry, Michelle Harstad, Jessica Hart, Alissa Harte, Shawntel Harte, Debra Hartman, Lexi Hartness, Kristin Hartog, Linda Harty, Julia Harvey, Marlee Hattervig, Tamora Hatton, Amber Hatwan, Kristine Hauck, Trudy Hauge, Deidra Hauge, Samantha Haugen, Stephanie Haukos, Amanda Haumschild, Dawn Hawes, Kimberly Hawk Eagle, Tammy Hawkins, Carisa Hayes, Dee Hayward, Justine Heath, Ashley Heaton, Courtney Heezen, Caitlin Heffern, Mary Jo Hehn, Lindsey Heidt, Crystal Heier, Gladys Heikes, Tiaunna Heiman, Monica Hein, Michael Hein, Teryl Hein, Tiffany Heinemann, Angela Heinen, Sandra Heinrich, Karley Heirigs, Cassandra Heise, Aimee Heiser, Trisha Heiskell, Rosanne Heitkamp, Lacey Helkenn, Marisa Helkenn, Katherine Heller, Cindy Helling, Judith Hellman, John Hellmann, Olivia Hellwinckel-Rice, Abbey Helmer, Frances Hemenway, Marla Henderson, Mindy Henderson, Lori Hendrickson, Travis Hendrickson, Brittany Henley, Kailee Henseler, Theresia Herding, Kathleen Herding, Julie Hericks, MeLynn Herke, Sharon Herman, Darci Herman, Cheryl Hermanson, Amanda Hernandez, Loreta Hernandez, Crystal Herreid, Samantha Herrold, Dawn Herron, Jayme Hershman, Gail Herting, Peggy Hervi, Tammy Heser, Mary Hesla, Veronica Hess, Teresa Hessman, Logan Hetland, Tara Hettinger, Debra Hicks, Taylor Hickson, Gemmelynn Hidalgo, Hanna Hieronimus, Candy Higaki, Sheri Higgins, Betheny Highland, Janet Hight, Lori Hill, Shaylee Hill, Brianna Hill, Anitra Hill, Debbie Hillberg, Kathleen Weston, Nicholas Schaefers, Simone Rernleitner, Audrey Smeins, and Debra Matthiesen.

Over the past year they have faced challenges 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 weather the storms that come our way.

I couldn't be more thankful to represent the incredible people across South Dakota and all over the nation who work hard each day, not for fame, not for recognition or for money, but for the betterment of their communities. This is what makes America strong. I am grateful for the opportunity to recognize these hard-working individuals.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. GORDON ''GORDIE'' LANE

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Gordon ''Gordie'' Lane, who passed away on February 23, 2021. In my district in Central New York, Gordie was a proud and tireless veterans advocate who spent decades working to ensure local veterans and their families received the healthcare and recognition they deserve.

Gordie was a lifelong Syracuse resident, retiree of the Syracuse Police Department, and proud U.S. Marine Corps Veteran who served in Vietnam. After returning home from Vietnam, Gordie became acutely aware of the unique hardships facing many of his fellow veterans and the lack of support services available. To provide assistance and guidance, Gordie became a founding member of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter No. 103, an organization that works to promote the general welfare of local Vietnam Veterans and provides support to those attempting to access benefits or services they are due. As a member of the organization, and later as its president, Gordie worked tirelessly with local officials, law enforcement, and veterans' hospitals to bolster access to critical resources and care for local veterans. Over the years, I had the distinct honor of working personally with Gordie and have partnered with him on a number of efforts to support our veterans community.

In addition to his tireless work to address the needs of local veterans, Gordie also passionately worked to recognize their service. Notably, in 1984 Gordie acted as a driving force behind the creation of a local Korea-Vietnam Memorial to commemorate those who served. Today, this memorial serves as a lasting reminder of the great contributions and sacrifices made by local Vietnam and Korean veterans in Central New York.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in honoring the life of Mr. Gordon ''Gordie'' Lane. Through his many years of advocacy, Gordie has undoubtedly made a positive impact in the lives of hundreds of local veterans. I ask my colleagues to keep him and his family in mind as we celebrate his life.

IN RECOGNITION OF LIBERTY DAY 2021

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Liberty Day, a celebration of our rights and liberties as Americans which are rooted in the cherished documents that gave birth to our nation, the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution. Today, March 16th, marks the 270th birthday of the Father of our Constitution, James Madison, making this year's Liberty Day particularly noteworthy.

In 2000, Congress passed a resolution that Liberty Day should be celebrated each year as a remembrance of both the freedom that Americans were given in the Declaration of Independence and the extraordinary rights and liberties that Americans were given in their Constitution. The American experiment is unique in history, creating a republic of people united by a set of values, not by blood or land. Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness bind Americans together, not our race or ethnicity.

In addition to serving as the Fourth President of the United States, James Madison was crucial to the formation of our country. President Madison authored the Virginia Plan, the model and basis for the United States Constitution. Later, during the 1st Congress of the United States, President Madison introduced the Bill of Rights, whereupon the first ten amendments of the Constitution were adopted. His other contributions, such as authoring many of the Federalist Papers, also deserve our recognition. Due to his essential role in the creation of our nation, Congress designated March 16th, Madison's birthday, as Liberty Day.

In celebration of Liberty Day, I would encourage all Americans to read, learn, and discuss the Constitution with their friends and

family. After doing so consider contacting your Representative, Senators, and President to share your views. All elected officials, whether they serve at the federal, state, or local level, should look to the Constitution as they go about their duty of governing this great nation.

The revered documents that gave birth to our nation always deserve our celebration, but the 270th birthday of James Madison makes today especially significant. To mark this historic occasion, I encourage Americans to take today to learn about our nation's history and its founding documents. Therefore, Madam Speaker, I ask that you rise with me to celebrate Liberty Day.

IN HONOR OF FRANCINE GREGORY

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Francine Gregory, who is being honored for her efforts as the Veterans of Foreign War (VFW) New Hampshire State President over the past year. VFW works to ensure that all veterans are congratulated and recognized for their service and sacrifice on behalf of our nation. Despite serving under precedented circumstances, President Gregory ensured VFW could continue fulfilling its mission of supporting New Hampshire's veterans during the COVID–19 pandemic.

Born and raised in Jaffrey, President Gregory currently lives in Rindge, where she is a devoted mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother who is deeply committed to supporting veterans in her community. Her father, Sylvio Edward, served in the United States Army during World War II. Her father's service informed President Gregory's own passion for giving back to veterans and their families.

Since 1999, President Gregory has been involved with VFW Auxiliary Post 5613 in Jaffrey. Over the years, she has served in leadership roles at Post 5613 and District 5 before taking on a statewide leadership as Department Guard in 2015. Since then, she has risen through the ranks of VFW–NH, culminating with her service as State President this past year.

In addition to her service as State President, President Gregory remains the Secretary for Auxiliary Post 5613. Beyond her involvement with VFW, she has had a long career across several sectors—in 1992, she also became an LNA and began serving her community as a provider of home health care and community services.

Devoted to her community and her family, President Gregory also served as a Girl Scout leader for 12 years and today, as she embarks on semi-retired life, she finds no greater joy than spending with, and celebrating the accomplishments of, her beautiful family.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I want to thank Francine Gregory for her longstanding devotion to our state and our Veterans. I congratulate her on a successful term as State President and thank her for all that she has done, and will continue to do, to support Granite State veterans.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF SHERIFF SCOTT STRAIT

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the service of Sheriff Scott Strait, who recently retired after serving the people of Mackinac County for nearly 35 years. Through his selflessness and devotion to the common good, Scott has become an indispensable part of the state of Michigan.

After graduating from Lake Superior State University, Scott began his work at the Mackinac County Sheriff's Office on April 28, 1986. In his service he worked tirelessly to improve the lives of those in Mackinac County and across Michigan. He also continued his professional growth while working full time, earning his Master of Public Administration from Northern Michigan University in 2001. Scott has been an active leader throughout the state, serving on multiple statewide boards and councils including the Board of Directors for the Michigan Sheriffs Association. He also served as President of the Association in 2013 and previously sat on the outreach committee of the National Sheriffs Association. He has been honored for his selflessness on multiple occasions, including earning the rank of Master Sheriff in 2019 and being named Sheriff of the Year in October of 2020. Scott's tireless dedication to the public good touched the lives of countless Michiganders, and the impact of his work cannot be overstated.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of my constituents, I ask you to join me in honoring the service of Scott Strait. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such a selfless leader. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Scott all the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE LIVENGOOD FOR 25 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE U.S. CAPITOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HON. HALEY M. STEVENS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the contributions of Steve Livengood to the U.S. Capitol Historical Society and his decades of service educating the public about the history of this institution.

Congress chartered the United States Capitol Historical Society (USCHS) to ''foster and increase an informed patriotism'' in our nation's citizenry. Steve Livengood is a leader in executing that important mission. Those across the Congressional community and around the country have benefited from Steve's expertise. For a quarter-century, Steve provided continuing education and talks about the Capitol and Congress, giving briefings before every Presidential Inauguration, as well as offering background information and perspective to tourism professionals and the press. Additionally, Steve is considered the go-to expert on Capitol Ghosts and is one of the few people to publicly admit that he has seen the ghost of John Quincy Adams in Statuary Hall.

Since 1996, Steve has served as a full-time Capitol tour guide, volunteer coordinator, and director of other public programs for USCHS. He led tours for notable entertainers such as Harrison Ford, Robert Duvall, and Martha Stewart; foreign dignitaries like the Attorney General of Italy, the President of Hungary, and at least one current crowned head of a prominent European country. Steve also guided tours for titans of industry such as the President of The Ford Motor Company, Indra Nooyi, President of PepsiCo, and several hedge-fund managers through the halls of the Capitol. When the Capitol was closed to public tours after the 9/11 attack, Steve organized the first regular public tours around the Capitol grounds to allow visitors an opportunity for a guided interpretive tour despite the building's closure.

Steve's contributions to USCHS extend far beyond leading tours. He served as the co-organizer of the We the People Constitution Tour program for DC Public School students, which helps Washington middle schoolers experience the Constitution as embodied in the buildings and work of their city. Furthermore, Steve wrote the We the People Constitution Tour Program's Capitol script and personally led tours for upwards of ten thousand students over roughly fifteen years. When COVID–19 closed the Capitol to visitors, Steve helped to develop the Society's virtual learning series exploring the history of the Capitol and the Capitol Hill neighborhood—a series now attended by Congressional staff and alumni, as well as history buffs from around the country.

Steve became a member of USCHS in 1973 and participated in many of their programs over the following two decades. His involvement increased dramatically in 1993 when he began serving as a USCHS volunteer tour guide. Fondly remembering the tours he'd given as a college student, Steve quickly became one of the most active tour volunteers for the Society. As the Society grew, Steve jumped at the opportunity to take a tour program position. Steve became the Society's first employee dedicated solely to organizing the tour program, later taking on such additional responsibilities as sales of USCHS calendars to Members' offices in the House and Senate.

Steve Livengood's passion for the Capitol began when he was just twelve and his parents tasked him with planning an educational vacation. Over the next two years, he arranged for his family to visit Washington, D.C. During the trip Steve became so enamored with the city that he chose D.C. as his college home, attending American University to study Political Science and Government.

While enrolled at American University, Steve leveraged a Kansas connection into volunteering with his Congressman Joe Skubitz. He spent Saturday mornings working on the second floor of the Cannon House Office Building doing such things as rubberstamping ''From the Office of Congressman Joe Skubitz, Kansas 5th District'' on copies of the official Capitol guidebooks to be distributed to constituents and other visitors.

During spring break, the staff offered Steve a paid opportunity. From 1965 until his graduation in 1968, Steve worked part-time in Mr. Skubitz's office and full time during the summer of 1967. His favorite task was giving tours

of the Capitol building for constituents and visitors.

After a short, involuntary tour in Southeast Asia, Steve ventured to Emory University where he received a Master's in recent social history. Along with his studies, he served as Speaker in the Emory University Student Legislature and student body Vice President.

Steve returned to Washington in 1973 for his dissertation research, titled ''Scandals in the 1938 Senate Elections and the Passage of the Hatch Act.'' Steve worked for various groups organizing many programs and meetings on Capitol Hill for political and policy organizations before he came to work for the Society. Steve Livengood dedicated his career to the belief that the United States Capitol is the Temple of Democracy for the world, and that Congress is the most important example of how to implement a representative democracy. Steve Livengood proudly claims that the United States government serves as the best example of government for all of humankind. We salute his 25 years of service to the U.S. Capitol Historical Society, and look forward to many more years of tours and public history lessons.

RECOGNIZING DANA BRISTOL-SMITH AS CONSTITUENT OF THE MONTH

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Oceanside resident and Executive Director of Leap to Success Dana Bristol-Smith, as my March Constituent of the Month. March is Women's History Month, a chance to celebrate and pay tribute to women and all the ways they have made profound impacts on our nation. While we use this opportunity to commemorate phenomenal women of the past and present, I am honored to include Dana in the celebrations, a woman who has dedicated her life to uplifting women every single day right here in my district.

Dana started her Leap to Success Women's Leadership program in 2008 after learning of the correlation between domestic violence victims' lack of self-confidence and their ability to avoid returning to abusive partners. In response to this discovery, she developed a program to help these women own their power and start living for themselves again. Her program brought immense success and joy from the participating women, and from then on, she made it her mission to expand Leap to Success to as many women as she can.

With helpful guidance and an environment full of encouragement and love, Dana's goal is for women who may be in abusive situations to discover the courage to find their voice, own their worth, and feel empowered to move forward in life. Dana's community of supporters help women realize that their past is nothing to be ashamed of, but rather, an opportunity to create a brighter and healthier future. While there is so much more we must do to prevent domestic violence, I am grateful for leaders like Dana whose passion and heart creates hope and inspiration for women. I am honored to recognize her as my Constituent of the Month.

U.S. ELECTION PRACTICES: AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, this chamber recently passed H.R. I, the ''For the People Act,'' significant legislation making it easier for American citizens to vote in U.S. elections and improve transparency and accountability in our election process. The White House also recently announced a new executive order to assist this effort. These are positive developments that I welcome and support, but, as we all know, not everything regarding the conduct of elections can be done at the federal level. Unfortunately, many state legislatures are now undertaking efforts that would make it more difficult for eligible Americans to participate in the electoral process and vote.

As Chair and in the leadership of the Helsinki Commission, I have supported the positive steps we are trying to take on this issue, yet I remain deeply concerned about those who want to move our country backward.

Perhaps it would help our debate to look at the conduct of the 2020 U.S. elections from an international perspective, including the conduct of elections in conformity with international commitments first proposed and advocated by the United States more than 30 years ago.

The United States has been one of five countries thus far where the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has observed elections during the unprecedented challenges of the pandemic, and a German parliamentarian reported on its findings on February 26. He did not point fingers at us and accuse. He mentioned the positive as well as the negative. He is clearly a friend who cares, as most of the OSCE observers undoubtedly were.

As a previous election observer in the OSCE region, I can also attest, that the code of conduct makes it is extremely unlikely that the OSCE election observation could be steered in support of any particular agenda other than better democracy.

I therefore want to commend to my colleagues the full OSCE Final report ''United States of America General Elections, 3 November 2020, ODIHR Limited Election Observation Mission'', which can be found at https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/7/7/477823_2.pdf. It offers an important perspective on our elections from persons who rightly care about the process, not the result. They have observed not only our elections since 2002 but elections in dozens of other countries on a regular basis.

The issues raised in the report are the same issues we Americans debate here in Washington, in our state capitals and through the media. I take the conclusions and recommendations, including criticisms, in this election observation report seriously. It serves as a helpful guide on what next steps we should take to improve our electoral system. I believe our election officials and state legislators should read this report; indeed, I recommend it to any American who cares about his or her country. It is a broad snapshot of our entire, complex electoral system.

Several of the priority recommendations in the report deal with voting rights and voter identification. Specifically, it says that ''authorities should review existing measures to further reduce the number of unregistered voters, including addressing burdensome procedures and obstacles faced by disadvantaged groups.'' It also says that ''states should make every effort to ensure that voter identification requirements are equally accessible to all voters.'' It also makes specific recommendations regarding specific groups of American citizens.

We do not need to agree about every conclusion and recommendation in this report to take it seriously. It is a contribution to our debates from a unique perspective. Moreover, our acceptance of international observation serves a useful function in our foreign policy. OSCE election observation has encouraged practices giving voters a real choice in numerous other countries, many of which were once repressive, one-party communist states but are now our friends and even, in some cases, allies. The United States initiated this effort with the OSCE and contributes significantly to election observation missions elsewhere, providing the expertise that comes with our experience. If we are to encourage other governments to take this effort seriously and implement recommendations, we need to set the example ourselves. Unfortunately, several U.S. states greatly restrict or even prohibit international observation. This is something which must change as we prepare for midterm elections in 2022 and general elections in 2024.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 95TH BIRTHDAY OF JEAN ZARANKO

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jean Zaranko on the occasion of her 95th birthday. Mrs. Zaranko was born on June 10, 1926. She was raised in Taylor Township, Michigan. She completed school up to 8th grade and then worked as an elevator operator at the Griswold Building in Downtown Detroit but felt like she needed to do something more for her country during World War II.

At the age of 17 she altered her birth certificate in order to join the war effort at the Willow Run Bomber Plant in Ypsilanti Township. Jean was originally hired as a welder but became a riveter, working on the center wing of the B–24 and sometimes slipping notes into the wings for servicemembers to find. As a Rosie the Riveter, Jean's hard work, grit, and patriotism not only sustained the American war effort, but paved a path for the next generation of working women.

She came to meet her first husband Moscow Lambert after a man at a bus stop at Willow Run had broken his glasses and asked for assistance in writing to his son who was serving overseas. This began a two-year affair, constantly exchanging calls and letters until they finally met one day at the Train Depot in Detroit where he proposed to her that day. Together, they had four sons and were married for nine years before Moscow passed away due to an accident at the steel plant where he worked. She later married Mr. Zaranko and they were together for 52 years.

A proud Rosie, even now she has remained an active member of our community. She feels

that she is here to give her time and efforts to others when they need it and is God's tool to help others. Her lifelong commitment to service reminds us all of the impact that the Rosies have had on our state and nation.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating Jean Zaranko on her 95th birthday. I join with her family, including twenty grandchildren and twenty-one great grandchildren, and friends in extending my best and warmest wishes to her on this special day. I am proud to honor her life, her accomplishments, and her invaluable contributions to our nation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RENA ANN GEORGE

HON. TOM O'HALLERAN

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Rena Ann George, a beloved resident of Winslow, Arizona, who passed away last month.

In 2019, my staff and I had the privilege of visiting Rena and her husband, Herbert, at their home in Winslow. During this visit, I spoke with Rena and Herbert about the impacts they experienced over the past four decades as a result of their forced relocation following the 1974 Navajo-Hopi Land Settlement Act.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to meet with the George family, learn about their life, and see some of Rena's beautiful arts and crafts.

Throughout her life, Rena dedicated herself wholeheartedly to her family, her many communities, and her arts and crafts business.

Her kindness, warmth, and hard work have made a profound impact on her community and her loved ones.

Pat and I are keeping Rena's family, friends, and the entire Winslow community in our prayers as we mourn her passing.

IN HONOR OF MRS. CORDELIA LEWIS-BURKS

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Mr. CARSON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor my mentor and friend, Mrs. Cordelia Lewis-Burks, a remarkable Hoosier who has dedicated her life to the service of others. Throughout her career, Ms. Cordelia has fought tirelessly for inclusion, equality, and justice through the election of qualified diverse individuals.

Ms. Cordelia discovered a love of politics from an early age, inspired by her father who was a pastor in West Virginia. Recognizing the importance of policy as a means to help her community, she engaged in political efforts as a young woman after moving to Chicago by volunteering for a local Congressional campaign.

In 1959, Ms. Cordelia moved to Indiana where she worked as a licensed practical nurse for two decades before accepting an internship with the A. Philip Randolph Institute. She next embarked on a career with the senior constituency group of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL–CIO). Ms. Cordelia continued her work with unions for many years. In 1989, she served as chief lobbyist for the Indiana branch of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Union (AFSCME), and then as the Director of Politics and Legislation until 2005.

Ms. Cordelia served as a precinct committeewoman in the 7th Congressional District of Indiana for forty years, promoting the importance of voting. She has worked on local and national campaigns, including Bill Clinton's 1996 presidential campaign and Barack Obama's 2004 Illinois senate campaign. On March 20, 2021 she will end her 15 year tenure as the Vice-Chair for the Indiana Democratic Party.

Ms. Cordelia has been honored as one of the City of Indianapolis's 100 most influential Black citizens and has received Indiana's highest honor, the Sagamore of the Wabash Award. She is also a recipient of the Rosa Parks award, Rosa Parks Trail Blazer Award, as well as the Sojourner Truth Award.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the outstanding achievements and remarkable life of an Indiana treasure, Mrs. Cordelia Lewis-Burks and extend our best wishes for her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF GERRY PELISSERO

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the service of Gerry Pelissero, who recently retired after serving the people of Gogebic County as the clerk of court and register of deeds for more than two decades. Through his tireless work ethic and devotion to the common good, Gerry has become an indispensable part of the state of Michigan.

A U.P. native, Gerry graduated from Bessemer's A.D. Johnston High School in 1977. After studying broadcasting at the Brown Institute in Minneapolis, Gerry returned to Gogebic County to become a radio personality and sports director at WUPM in Ironwood. Following his career in radio, Gerry worked as an agent with Prudential Financial for 11 years before deciding to run for county clerk in January of 2000. He would go on to win the election and serve five terms in office as clerk of court and register of deeds for Gogebic County. In this role, Gerry oversaw the modernization of the clerk's office—moving from phone calls and faxes to email and other digital technology. His dedication and leadership allowed the county's functions—including the courts and administrating elections—to run smoothly, and the impact of his work cannot be overstated.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of my constituents, I ask you to join me in honoring the career and service of Gerry Pelissero. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such a selfless leader. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Gerry all the best in his future endeavors.

WELCOMING THE MS. ARKANSAS SENIOR AMERICA PAGEANT

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the work of the Ms. Arkansas Senior America Pageant in the State of Arkansas and welcome the competitors to my hometown of Hot Springs.

The Ms. Senior America Pageant seeks to improve the lives of seniors and those around them by advocating for personal growth through continuing higher education and community service. Celebrating "the Age of Elegance," this pageant seeks to promote the value of our senior citizens' experience and wisdom, while choosing someone who represents the dignity, beauty, and contributions of the elderly to our communities.

I thank the reigning Ms. Arkansas Senior America and Fourth District native, Ms. Sharon Morgan Tahaney, for her service in the last year. After years of writing and speaking on leadership, Ms. Tahaney now represents the State of Arkansas with grace. I believe she was right when she said that "there are no limits in life based on age, just on attitude." She, along with an organization led by Ms. Pattie Genovese, is working hard to expand this year's State competition in hopes of providing a larger platform for senior ladies to share their wisdom, experiences, and knowledge.

I take this time today to celebrate the work of this organization and its leaders and welcome them all to Hot Springs. It is my hope that our nation will derive from them a beautiful example of perseverance, hard work, and service.

IN HONOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY RIFLE TEAM

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Coach Harry Mullins and the members of the University of Kentucky Rifle Team on winning the 2021 NCAA Rifle National Championship. This is the third national title for the outstanding program, located in Lexington, Kentucky.

The Wildcats were undefeated and ranked number one in the country last season when the COVID–19 pandemic caused the NCAA Championships to be canceled. These impressive student-athletes stayed focused throughout the 2021 season and earned the championship on March 13 in Columbus, Ohio. Mary Tucker, named Most Outstanding Performer at the event, earned gold in both the smallbore and air rifle. Teammate Will Shaner earned silver in air rifle.

Coach Harry Mullins has led the Rifle Team at the University of Kentucky since 1987. I thank him for his leadership and his dedication to these student-athletes. He has built an excellent program of which all Kentuckians can be proud.

Congratulations to Coach Mullins, the staff, and the members of the Rifle Team on winning the 2021 NCAA Rifle National Championship.

CELEBRATING THE 91ST BIRTHDAY OF GERALD L. POTTER SR.

HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Madam Speaker, I rise with immense pride to celebrate the 91st birthday of my grandfather, Gerald L. Potter Sr.

Gerald is a resident of Allegheny Township in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. As a veteran, Gerald served in the United States Air Force and as a reservist at the 911th Airlift Wing in southwestern Pennsylvania. During his military service, he met his wife of fifty years, my grandmother Eleen M. Potter, a lieutenant in the Air Force Nursing Corps. Continuing his dedication to service, Gerald attended the West Penn Hospital School of Nursing and graduated in their first male class. My grandfather's service and mentorship played a critical role throughout my childhood, during my service in the United States Navy, and his example continues to guide my work on behalf of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District.

Madam Speaker, Gerald L. Potter Sr. has lived a life of distinction and remains an incredible presence in my life, our family and friends, and his community. It is with great joy that I wish him a happy 91st birthday.

IN RECOGNITION OF ERIKA DYER'S SERVICE TO VIRGINIA'S FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Erika Dyer, and her dedicated service to Virginia's First Congressional District. After eight months with my D.C. office, Erika will be leaving this week to pursue a new position.

Erika has been an invaluable asset to my D.C. Staff, serving as my Communications Director. Erika joined the team during the COVID–19 pandemic, and she was immediately committed to delivering timely and understandable information and resources to constituents in Virginia's First Congressional District. Erika is extremely talented and hardworking and is consistently finding new and innovative ways to effectively communicate with constituents. Erika is also a friend to all and is always willing to be a resource for other staff.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Erika for her hard work and dedication not only to the office, but to all constituents in Virginia's First District. Erika has a bright future ahead and I wish her the best in her career.

HONORING GEORGE HARVEY SR.

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor George Harvey Sr. of Radford, Virginia, who passed away on February 24, 2021 at the age of 92. Mr. Harvey's life was a true American success story, in which he rose from hard beginnings to great accomplishments in business and then drew upon them to give back to his community.

Mr. Harvey was born on May 31, 1928 in Mann, West Virginia. His family moved to a farm in Montgomery County, Virginia in 1932. As a child, he walked two miles to attend school. When attending Auburn High School, he had to walk two miles to catch the bus, and if his responsibilities of milking the farm's cows delayed him from catching the bus, he had to walk five miles more to school.

After graduating from Auburn in 1945, Mr. Harvey joined the United States Air Corps and was deployed to Fairbanks, Alaska. He passed on the chance to attend West Point and opted instead to return home to Southwest Virginia. He enrolled in National Business College in Roanoke, majoring in Business and Accounting.

Mr. Harvey began his career by operating a gas station, followed by a Texaco Oil Distributing Business and a used car dealership. In 1957, he became a General Motors Chevrolet dealer in Christiansburg. The next year, he bought an Oldsmobile dealership, and in 1959, he purchased a Chevrolet-Oldsmobile-Cadillac franchise in Radford. His business grew through the decades, earning him millions and providing jobs to many in the region. In 1989, it added a Pontiac-Buick dealership as well. He took the obligations that came with wealth and job creation seriously. According to the Roanoke Times, he said in 2009 that the number he was proudest of was zero, which was the number of employees he had laid off over the then-50-year history of Harvey's Chevrolet Cadillac Buick.

Many local organizations and causes benefited from Mr. Harvey's support. At Radford University, he was the second president of the foundation and the chairman of the Business and Economics Department, driving the creation of a certified School of Business. He was chairman of the board at Radford Community Hospital, now Carilion New River Valley Medical Center.

Other roles he held in the community included president of the Chamber of Commerce; Vice President of First & Merchants National Bank in Radford; past president of the New River Dealers Association, Kiwanis Club and Retail Merchants Association; past chairman of United Fund and the Michelle ''Petie'' Lineberry Heart Recipient Fund Drive; past vice president of the Southwest Virginia Health Services; board member of the Virginia automobile Dealers Association, the Commonwealth Dealers Life Insurance Association, and Saint Albans Psychiatric Hospital; and Elder and member of The Presbyterian Church of Radford.

Mr. Harvey's survivors include his wife of 61 years, Juanita Kirk Harvey, five children, and grandchildren. I would like to offer my condolences to them on the loss of this great businessman and community leader.

IN HONOR OF DARWIN BEEMAN

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Darwin Beeman, who is being honored for his work as the Veterans of Foreign War (VFW) New Hampshire State Commander over the past year. VFW works to ensure that all veterans are recognized for their service and sacrifice on behalf of our nation. Despite facing unprecedented circumstances due to the COVID–19 pandemic, Commander Beeman worked tirelessly to ensure that our state's veterans remained supported and connected to the community during these challenging times.

Raised in Barrington, Commander Beeman graduated from Spaulding High School in 1976, before attending New Hampshire Vocational Technical College, where he gained an associate degree in Industrial Electricity in 1978.

In 1991, Commander Beeman joined the U.S. Navy Reserve Seabee's, serving honorably for nearly 22 years. During his service, he deployed to Iraq in 2005 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and again from 2008 to 2009 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Commander Beeman earned many accolades during his decades of service, including the Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal (x3), Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Navy Good Conduct Medal, Naval Reserve Meritorious Service Medal (x5), National Defense Service Medal (x2), Iraq Campaign Medal with Bronze Star & Eagle, Globe & Anchor, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Bronze Hour Glass and ''M'' Device, Armed Forces Reserve Medal (x2), Navy Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Navy & Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbon (x2), Expert Rifleman Medal, and Expert Pistol Shoot Medal.

While deployed to Iraq in 2005, Commander Beeman joined the VFW and, upon his return, joined Post 8497 in Charlestown, NH in 2006. He later served as District 2 Commander for a decade before serving in leadership roles at the state level, culminating in his current role over the past year.

Commander Beeman and his wife, Terry, currently live in Claremont, and are the proud parents of three and grandparents of six.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I want to thank Commander Beeman for his service to our country and his dedication to his fellow veterans. I congratulate him on his successful term as State Commander, and I thank him for all he does to make sure that veterans in our state are remembered and valued.

STUDENT LOAN REFINANCING AND RECALCULATION ACT OF 2021

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I reintroduce the bipartisan ''Student Loan Refinancing and Recalculation Act'' to address the ballooning student loan debt crisis crippling millions of Americans and their families. I thank my bipartisan co-lead Congressman FITZPATRICK (R–PA) and the other original cosponsors for their support.

This legislation would allow students to refinance their federal student loan interest rates, lower future student loan interest rates, eliminate origination fees on student loans, delay student loan interest rate accrual for low-income and middle-class borrowers while they are pursuing their education, and allow for borrowers in medical, veterinary or dental residencies to defer payments until the completion of their professional accreditation program.

With over 45 million Americans burdened by student loan debt, the education debt crisis has reached an epidemic level. The total student loan debt in America has reached nearly $1.7 trillion according to the Federal Reserve.

The need to service these debt loads often prevents graduates from making important purchases like houses or cars, and it also can make people more hesitant to take risks like starting a new business. Cumulatively, this mountain of debt slows down our economy and makes it less entrepreneurial, productive, and vibrant.

Most student loan debt is owed to the federal government, at interest rates of up to 5.30 percent or more for earlier loans. That percentage far exceeds the market rate for most government loans or U.S. Treasury bonds. Americans with student loans should be able to reasonably refinance their debt just as they would for a mortgage or any other consumer loan.

The ''Student Loan Refinancing and Recalculation Act,'' which I have sponsored since the 114th Congress, would relieve some of the debt burden faced by American students and their families, while also ensuring that the federal government is not making a profit on the backs of students.

Madam Speaker, I urge all members of the House to join us in cosponsoring the ''Student Loan Refinancing and Recalculation Act'' and to work to address this crisis facing so many Americans.

THE ONGOING IMPORTANCE OF THE WORK OF THE U.S. HELSINKI COMMISSION IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the work of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission and its continued importance in addressing challenges in our country and abroad. For over four decades, the Helsinki Commission has championed human rights, democracy, and comprehensive security across the 57 North American, European, and Central Asian countries that make up the region of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). As Chair of the Helsinki Commission during the 116th Congress, I worked with my House and Senate colleagues to continue the Commission's longstanding efforts to monitor participating States compliance with the Helsinki Accords.

The importance of election observation in our country and abroad, restorative justice, the safety of journalists, and the global impact of George Floyd's tragic death on racial justice efforts were just some of the issues the Commission addressed last Congress, in addition to our continued focus on Russia, Ukraine, the Balkans and continued democratic development in the region.

As we continue our work of the 117th Congress, I invite you to review the report: ''Retrospective On The 116th Congress'' at https://www.csce.gov/international-impact/retrospective-116th-congress and http://www.csce.gov/sites/helsinkicommission.house.gov/files/116th%20Congress%20Report%20Final. pdf.

This report summarizes the Commission's activities, as well as recommendations critical for the continued promotion of democracy and U.S. national security.

Madam Speaker, I look forward to continuing this critically important work during the 117th Congress.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF BILL SPEER

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Bill Speer, who retired as the publisher and editor of The Alpena News after 42 years in journalism. Through his tireless work ethic and devotion to his community, Bill has become an indispensable part of Northern Michigan.

After graduating from West Virginia University in 1978, Bill began his career in journalism working at The Wheeling Intelligencer, where he was initially responsible for covering local governments and the area's steel and coal industries. His skills as a writer and reporter were recognized quickly, as he was named Ohio Bureau Editor of The Intelligencer just three years later. In 1988, he and his wife Diane moved to Alpena, Michigan, where he would serve as the editor of The Alpena News. As the paper's head, Bill oversaw its transition to new ownership, the move from an evening to a morning publication, an expanded Weekend Edition, and the rise of the internet in modern journalism. Bill's dedication and effective leadership has allowed The Alpena News to thrive today. His commitment to the Alpena community and the state of Michigan touched the lives of countless Michiganders, and the impact of his work cannot be overstated.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of my constituents, I ask you to join me in recognizing the career of Bill Speer. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such a dedicated leader. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Bill all the best in his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF LIBERTY DAY 2021

HON. LAUREN BOEBERT

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Mrs. BOEBERT. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Liberty Day, which falls on the 270th Birthday of the Father of the Constitution, James Madison. Our Founders understood the importance of citizen-led government and the power of ''We the People.'' The spirit of liberty is forever enshrined in the documents that gave birth to our Nation. I am honored to recognize the rights and liberties of the American people protected by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights this Liberty Day.

For the past 21 years, our Nation has celebrated Liberty Day to honor the American liberty recognized by our founding documents. In 2000, Congress passed a resolution designating March 16th, Madison's birthday, as Liberty Day. James Madison's ideas in the Federalist Papers, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights were vital in the founding of our Nation. He served as the Fourth President of the United States and committed his life to affirm Americans' rights to Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.

President Madison's legacy and his vision for our Nation persists through the lives of Americans throughout this great country. I took an oath to my constituents to uphold these values by supporting and defending the Constitution. Today is a great reminder to remember the Constitution as elected officials throughout this great Nation fulfill our duty.

In honor of Liberty Day, I encourage all Americans to learn and celebrate our Nation's history. Our Founders' vision lives on through the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, and Bill of Rights. These documents continue to empower Americans to reap the benefits of our flourishing society rooted in freedom and liberty. I urge all Americans to take the time today to read and study these documents that empower the continuation of American ideas and values. Madam Speaker, I ask that you rise with me to celebrate Liberty Day.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF STELLA PRUSAK

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Stella Prusak on the occasion of her 100th birthday. Her significant contributions to our community is worthy of commendation.

Mrs. Prusak was born in Coldwater, Poland on May 5, 1921 and came to the United States at only six months old. She was raised in Detroit, Michigan and attended St. Hedwig and Condon Schools until 10th grade. At the

age of 15 she went to work in the kitchen at Marygrove College to help out her family. While working, she continued to attend night school taking business classes.

In 1942, Mrs. Prusak went to work with her father on the assembly line at Ford Motor Company in Detroit working on transmissions for aircrafts. The next year, she transferred to a General Motors Plant where she worked as a riveter on the wings of the B–29. As a Rosie the Riveter, Stella's hard work, grit, and patriotism not only sustained the American war effort, but paved a path for the next generation of working women.

After the war, she moved to California for work but before long she returned to Michigan to marry Mr. Walter Prusak and they settled in Allen Park. Together they had three children, two sons and one daughter. A proud Rosie, Mrs. Prusak continued to be a working woman and was employed by Burroughs and many other places as a file clerk. Known by friends for her kindness, generosity, and lucky streak at the casino, she has remained an active member of our community. Her lifelong commitment to service reminds us all of the impact that the Rosies have had on our state and nation.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating Stella Prusak on her 100th birthday. I join with her family and friends in extending my best and warmest wishes to her on this special day. I am proud to honor her life, her accomplishments, and her invaluable contributions to our nation.

THE PASSING OF 46TH FIRST LADY OF INDIANA, SUSAN BAYH

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Mr. CARSON. Madam Speaker, today I rise in remembrance of Susan Bayh, 46th First Lady of Indiana, who passed on February 6, 2021. Susan is survived by her husband, former Indiana Governor and United States Senator Evan Bayh, twin sons Beau and Nick as well as her parents and two siblings.

At 29 years of age, Susan became the 46th First Lady for the State of Indiana and the youngest First Lady of Indiana. She worked tirelessly to support her husband, Evan Bayh, in his work. She also worked hard to advance her own priorities as First Lady, focusing on important causes like combating adult illiteracy.

Professionally, Susan served on the boards for several biotech, telecommucations, and healthcare companies. She was on the board of Trustees for Butler University, on the Dean's Council at Indiana University's Paul H. O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs, and she taught at both Butler University and her alma mater, the University of Southern California. In 1994, Susan was appointed by President Bill Clinton to the International Joint Commission and served for six years.

Susan was a loving wife, married to Evan for more than 36 years, a proud mother of twin sons, Beau and Nick, and a beloved child, sibling, and friend. She will be remembered by Hoosiers for her commitment to our state, and for the barriers she helped break for women throughout her distinguished career. We also commend her courageous fight against the cancer that took her life. I will continue supporting cancer research and advocacy to honor people like Susan Bayh and help save lives in the future.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Susan Bayh. She leaves behind a legacy of outstanding accomplishments, as well as a deep connection with her community and those whose lives she touched.

IN HONOR OF THE 30TH ANNUAL LATINA HISTORY DAY

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, today, I rise with Congresswoman ROYBAL-ALLARD on behalf of California Latinas and the work of Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE) during ''Women's History Month.''

Latina entrepreneurs are a key economic engine for the state, generating $19 billion in revenues and employing over 86,000 individuals in California. Latina-owned businesses fill gaps and serve community needs that other business owners have been unwilling or unable to meet. Their ability to provide culturally relevant services gives them a competitive edge in meeting the demands of a Latinx market with a purchasing power of $1.7 trillion.

Latinas are being elected to public office and appointed to powerful positions. HOPE alumnae serve on the City Councils of California's largest cities: Los Angeles, Fresno, and Riverside. To date 220 have been appointed to serve on over 400 state and local government positions and 400 have served on over 1,200 non-profit boards.

We celebrate contemporary Latinas who continue to build upon the foundation of our ancestors for the betterment of future generations. We challenge each other through HOPE to ensure that Latinas achieve political and economic parity to benefit all communities and the status of all women.

Please join me in celebrating March 12, 2021 as the 30th Annual Latina History Day and, in congratulating Hispanas Organized for Political Equality, HOPE, for their service to the Latinas of this great nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THOMAS P. TIFFANY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Mr. TIFFANY. MADAM Speaker, I was undergoing a medical procedure and was unable to be present for several votes last week. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 64; NAY on Roll Call No. 66; NAY on Roll Call No. 70; and NAY on Roll Call No. 72.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate confirmed the nomination of Isabella Casillas Guzman, of California, to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1531–S1575

Measures Introduced: Thirty-two bills and four resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 752–783, and S. Res. 115–118. **Pages S1569–70**

Measures Passed:

Honoring Army Chaplain Emil J. Kapaun: Senate agreed to S. Res. 118, honoring Army chaplain Emil J. Kapaun. **Page S1571**

Tai Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Katherine C. Tai, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador. **Pages S1541–51**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By a unanimous vote of 98 yeas (Vote No. EX. 122), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S1541**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination at approximately 10:30 a.m., on Wednesday, March 17, 2021; that the post-cloture time expire at 11:30 a.m. **Page S1575**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 81 yeas 17 nays (Vote No. EX. 121), Isabella Casillas Guzman, of California, to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration. **Pages S1531–41, S1575**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 80 yeas to 18 nays (Vote No. EX. 120), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S1539**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Janie Simms Hipp, of Arkansas, to be General Counsel of the Department of Agriculture.

Leslie B. Kiernan, of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the Department of Commerce.

Christopher Charles Fonzone, of Pennsylvania, to be General Counsel of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

Todd Sunhwae Kim, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Attorney General. **Page S1575**

Executive Communications: **Pages S1568–69**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S1570–71**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S1571–74**

Additional Statements: **Page S1568**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S1571**

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—122) **Pages S1539, S1541**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and recessed at 5:53 p.m., until 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 17, 2021. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1575.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing 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, after receiving testimony from Admiral Craig S. Faller, USN, Commander, United States Southern Command, and General Glen VanHerck, USAF, Commander, United States Northern Command and

North American Aerospace Defense Command, both of the Department of Defense.

HOUSING IN AMERICA

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the state of housing in America, after receiving testimony from Christopher Herbert, Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies, Cambridge, Massachusetts; Diane Yentel, National Low Income Housing Coalition, and Edward J. Pinto, AEI Housing Center, both of Washington, D.C.; Nikitra Bailey, Center for Responsible Lending, Durham, North Carolina; and Edward J. DeMarco, Housing Policy Council, Notre Dame, Indiana.

TRANSPORTATION TECHNOLOGIES

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing 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, after receiving testimony from Kelly Speakes-Backman, Acting Assistant Secretary, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy; E. Adam Muellerweiss, Clarios, Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Janvier Desire Nkurunziza, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development Division on International Trade and Commodities, Geneva, Switzerland; Tony Satterthwaite, Cummins Inc., Columbus, Indiana; and Robert Wimmer, Toyota Motor North America, Inc., Gaithersburg, Maryland.

DOMESTIC MANUFACTURING

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the effect of the U.S. tax code on domestic manufacturing, after receiving testimony from George Davis, Intel Corporation, Santa Clara, California; Jonathan Jennings, Ford Motor Company, Dearborn, Michigan; Jay Timmons, National Association of Manufacturers, Washington, D.C.; Michelle Hanlon, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Sloan School of Management, Cambridge; and Donnie Blatt, United Steelworkers, Columbus, Ohio.

NOMINATION

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Julie A. Su, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Labor, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Padilla, testified and answered questions in her own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to consider pending intelligence matters.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

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: 58 public bills, H.R. 1895–1952; and 11 resolutions, H.J. Res. 31; and H. Res. 232, 345–353, were introduced. **Pages H1410–13**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H1414–16**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 233, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1620) to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6) to authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain aliens, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1603) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for terms and conditions for nonimmigrant workers performing agricultural labor or services, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1868) to prevent across-the-board direct spending cuts, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 17) removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment; and for other purposes (H. Rept. 117–12) **Pages H1409–10**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Tlaib to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H1367**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:19 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H1369**

Member Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Haaland, wherein she resigned as Representative for the First Congressional District of New Mexico, effective today, March 16, 2021.

Pages H1370–71

Whole Number of the House: The Chair announced to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentlewoman from New Mexico, Ms. Haaland, the whole number of the House is 430.

Page H1371

Recess: The House recessed at 2:13 p.m. and reconvened at 3:02 p.m. **Page H1371**

Recess: The House recessed at 5:37 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H1404**

Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2021, American Dream and Promise Act of 2021, Amending the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for terms and conditions for nonimmigrant workers performing agricultural labor or services, Preventing across-the-board direct spending cuts, and Removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment—Rule for Consideration: The House agreed to H. Res. 233, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1620) to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6) to authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain aliens; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1603) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for terms and conditions for nonimmigrant workers performing agricultural labor or services; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1868) to prevent across-the-board direct spending cuts; and providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 17) removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment, by a yea-and-nay vote of 212 yeas to 200 nays, Roll No. 78, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 216 yeas to 204 nays, Roll No. 79. Pursuant to section 9 of House Resolution 233, House Resolution 232 is hereby adopted. **Pages H1393–H1407**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

PPP Extension Act of 2021: H.R. 1799, as amended, to amend the Small Business Act and the CARES Act to extend the covered period for the paycheck protection program, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 415 yeas to 3 nays, Roll No. 80; and

Pages H1373–76, H1406

Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act: H.R. 485, to reauthorize the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 345 yeas to 73 nays, Roll No. 81.

Pages H1376–89, H1406–07

Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measures under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

Awarding three congressional gold medals to the United States Capitol Police and those who protected the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021: H.R. 1085, amended, to award three congressional gold medals to the United States Capitol Police and those who protected the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021;

Pages H1371–73

COVID–19 Bankruptcy Relief Extension Act of 2021: H.R. 1651, amended, to amend the CARES Act to extend the sunset for the definition of a small business debtor; and **Pages H1389–90**

VOCA Fix to Sustain the Crime Victims Fund Act of 2021: H.R. 1652, amended, to deposit certain funds into the Crime Victims Fund, to waive matching requirements. **Pages H1390–93**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H1370.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Four yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1404–05, H1405, H1406, and H1407.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 p.m. and adjourned at 9:51 p.m.

Committee Meetings

THE ROLE OF FEMA AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT IN COVID–19 RESPONSE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Homeland Security held a hearing entitled ''The Role of FEMA and Emergency Management in COVID–19 Response''. Testimony was heard from Curtis Brown, State Coordinator, Virginia Department of Emergency Management; Bob Fenton, Senior Official Performing the Duties of Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency; Mark Ghilarducci, Director, Office of Emergency Services, California; Kevin McGowan, Director, Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management, California; and Patrick Sheehan, Director, Tennessee Emergency Management Agency.

DISINFORMATION IN THE GRAY ZONE: OPPORTUNITIES, LIMITATIONS, AND CHALLENGES

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Intelligence and Special Operations held a hearing entitled ''Disinformation in the Gray Zone: Opportunities, Limitations, and Challenges''. Testimony was heard from Christopher Maier, Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense, Special Operations/Low-intensity Conflict, Department of Defense; Neill Tipton, Director of Defense Intelligence (Collections and Special Programs), Department of Defense; and James Sullivan, Defense Intelligence Officer for Cyber, Defense Intelligence Agency.

MILITARY CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE ORGANIZATION REFORM RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE FORT HOOD INDEPENDENT REVIEW COMMITTEE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Military Personnel held a hearing entitled ''Military Criminal Investigative Organization Reform Recommendations from the Fort Hood Independent Review Committee''. Testimony was heard from Christopher Swecker, Chairman, Fort Hood Independent Review Committee; Carrie Ricci, Member, Fort Hood Independent Review Committee; Major General Donna W. Martin, Provost Marshal General and Commanding General, Criminal Investigation Command, U.S. Army; Brigadier General Terry Bullard, Commander (AFOSI/CC), Air Force Office of Special Investigations; Omar Lopez, Director, Naval Criminal Investigative Service; and public witnesses.

THE SPECIAL INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR AFGHANISTAN RECONSTRUCTION'S 2021 HIGH-RISK LIST

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Subcommittee on National Security held a hearing entitled ''The Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction's 2021 High-Risk List''. Testimony was heard from John F. Sopko, Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction.

TO PREVENT ACROSS-THE-BOARD DIRECT SPENDING CUTS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES; THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2021; REMOVING THE DEADLINE FOR THE RATIFICATION OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT; THE AMERICAN DREAM AND PROMISE ACT OF 2021; THE FARM WORKFORCE MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2021

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 1868, to prevent across-the-board direct spending cuts, and for other purposes; H.R. 1620, the ''Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2021''; H.J. Res. 17, removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment; H.R. 6, the ''American Dream and Promise Act of 2021''; and H.R. 1603, the ''Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2021''. The Committee granted, by record vote of 8–3, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 1620, the ''Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act'' of 2021, H.R. 6, the ''American Dream and Promise Act of 2021'', H.R. 1603, the ''Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2021'', H.R. 1868, To prevent across-the-board direct spending cuts, and for other purposes, and H.J. Res. 17, Removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 1620, the ''Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2021'', under a structured rule. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their designees. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117–3, modified by the amendment printed in part A of the Rules Committee report, shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides that following debate, each further amendment printed in part B of the Rules Committee report not earlier considered as part of amendments en bloc pursuant to section 3 shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, may be withdrawn by the proponent at any time before the question is put thereon, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. Section 3 of the rule provides that at any time after debate the chair of the Committee on the Judiciary or his designee may offer amendments en bloc consisting of further amendments printed in part B of the Rules Committee report not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their designees, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in part B of the Rules Committee report or amendments en bloc described in section 3

of the resolution. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 6, the ''American Dream and Promise Act of 2021'', under a closed rule. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their designees. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117–4 shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 1603, the ''Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2021'', under a closed rule. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their designees. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the amendment printed in part C of the Rules Committee report shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 1868, to prevent across-the-board direct spending cuts, and for other purposes, under a closed rule. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget or their designees. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule provides for consideration of H.J. Res. 17, removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment, under a closed rule. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their designees. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the joint resolution. The rule provides that the joint resolution shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the joint resolution. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule provides that House Resolution 232 is hereby adopted. The rule provides that notwithstanding clause 7(a) of rule X, during the 117th Congress, the period described in such clause shall end at midnight on April 22. Testimony was heard from Chairman Yarmuth, Chairman Lofgren, and Representatives Smith of Missouri, Jackson Lee, and McClintock.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2021

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on the Budget: to hold hearings to examine the income and wealth inequality crisis in America, 11 a.m., SH–216.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to examine recent Federal actions to expand broadband, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: with the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Water, to hold joint hearings to examine the challenges facing drinking water and waste water infrastructure projects, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine COVID–19 in the Nation's nursing homes, 10 a.m., WEBEX.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine advancing effective U.S. policy for strategic competition with China in the twenty-first century, 10 a.m., VTC.

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, 9:30 a.m., 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. 671, to require the collection of voluntary feedback on services provided by agencies, S. 693, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for the halt in pension payments for Members of Congress sentenced for certain offenses, S. 658, to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to work with cybersecurity consortia for training, 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. 688, to prohibit contracting with persons that have business operations with the Maduro regime, 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. 664, 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, 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 Post Office'', H.R. 208, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 500 West Main Street, Suite 102 in Tupelo, Mississippi, as the ''Colonel Carlyle 'Smitty' Harris Post Office'', and H.R. 264, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1101 Charlotte Street in Georgetown, South Carolina, as the ''Joseph Hayne Rainey Memorial Post Office Building'', 9:30 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine the Equality Act, focusing on LGBTQ rights, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: to hold hearings to examine the Paycheck Protection Program, focusing on performance, impact, and next steps, 2:30 p.m., SR–301.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Defense, hearing entitled ''Climate Change, National Security, and the Arctic'', 9 a.m., Webex.

Subcommittee on Homeland Security, hearing entitled ''DHS Management Challenges'', 10 a.m., Webex.

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled ''Domestic Manufacturing for a Clean Energy Future'', 1 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Education and Labor, Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment, hearing entitled ''Rising to the Challenge: The Future of Higher Education Post COVID–19'', 1 p.m., Zoom.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''Leading the Way Forward: Biden Administration Actions to Increase COVID–19 Vaccinations'', 10 a.m., Webex.

Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled ''Averting a Crisis: Protecting Access to Health Care in the U.S. Territories'', 1 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Game Stopped? Who Wins and Loses When Short Sellers, Social Media, and Retail Investors Collide, Part II'', 10 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Europe, Energy, the Environment, and Cyber, hearing entitled ''Women Leading the Way: The Democratic Movement in Belarus'', 9:30 a.m., Webex.

Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Global Human Rights, hearing entitled ''Update on COVID–19 in Africa'', 1 p.m., 2172 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Homeland Security, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''The Way Forward on Homeland Security'', 9:30 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, hearing entitled ''From Rescue to Recovery: Building a Thriving and Inclusive Post-Pandemic Economy'', 11 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight, hearing entitled ''Brain Drain: Rebuilding the Federal Scientific Workforce'', 10 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''The Business Case for Climate Solutions'', 11 a.m., 2167 Rayburn and Webex.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Full Committee, organizational meeting, 1 p.m., HVC–304 Hearing Room. This meeting is closed.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 17

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Katherine C. Tai, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation thereon at 11:30 a.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Katherine C. Tai, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Xavier Becerra, of California, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, March 17

House Chamber

Consideration of H.J. Res. 17—Removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment. Consideration of H.R. 1620—Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2021.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Barr, Andy, Ky., E255
Bergman, Jack, Mich., E249, E253, E255, E257
Boebert, Lauren, Colo., E257
Carson, André, Ind., E255, E258
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