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

Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. HAALAND) 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 beginners 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.

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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 gentilwoman 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 school, and to former Senator Tom Udall for his years of friendship and mentorship.

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
colleges, 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, and this qualification 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 PRESSLEY 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 servicemembers 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 Inurable 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 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 friendship 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 St. Johns County.

Mr. Schmitt received this honor for his work teaching biology and agriculture at Creekside High School.

As a teacher for more than 15 years, Ms. Pressel worked tirelessly to help students discover 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.

COMMONSENSE SOLUTIONS TO GUN VIOLENCE CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman 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. 1466, 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 un-speakable 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, 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 continued.

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 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 martyr 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 shooting in 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 battle-field.

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.

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 long-standing 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 sexual slavery with the promise of easy and safe passage to the U.S.

Does the Gentleman 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 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 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; 8,500 bottles being shipped to Freestone County, Texas; and 8,500 bottles being shipped to Leon 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.

COMMENORATING 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 what was 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

Hon. Nancy Pelosi,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: A short time from now, I will be sworn in as the 68th 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 proud New Mexican.

As a volunteer, activist, and organizer for more than twenty years, it was my proudest moment to be 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 deeply humbling.

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: Effectively 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 3rd 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 2(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.

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. FINDING.

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 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 were injured.

(5) 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 physical medal with a plaque that lists the other law enforcement agencies that participated in protecting the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021.

(C) SIMILARITY.—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 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 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 with 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 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 a "man who always tried 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 ran 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 cosponsors 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 Capitol 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 Song of St. Francis 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 an instrument of your 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, McSally, for helping.

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, 1988, 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.

Mr. Speaker, I honor those 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.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS).

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 inscription 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 of the 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 responsible for indispensible 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.

Congressional Gold Medals are well deserved for the Metropolitan Police, the Metropolitan Police Departments and other law enforcement agencies on January 6 by voting “yes” to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yes and nays are ordered. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

PPFA 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 reads 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 “PPFA Extention Act of 2021.”

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


(b) FUNDING.—Section 1102(b)(1) of the CARES Act (Public Law 116-191), as amended by section 332 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 EF- FECTS.

(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 gentleman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Chair. 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 H.R. 1799.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman 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 prove 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. Seeking to increase 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 are leading this bill that some participating holders 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 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 ecosystem, including local chambers of commerce, retail and other business owner 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 their work to further extend the program multiple times, including last year. Without that money, we would have lost thousands more of the 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 and how to 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 rate will prevent all loans that are currently in the pipeline from being processed.

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 hardworking American 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 thank Chairwoman Velázquez, 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 expanded benefits 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 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 Mr. Luetkemeyer and his team to address the 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 VELAZQUEZ, 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 to firms under $50,000, an 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: 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 would pass, but now it wants to know how the loan amounts were initially calculated for sole proprietors.

Thanks to President Biden’s actions, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support H.R. 1799, the PPP Extension Act of 2021. I yield such time as she may consume to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. Hagedorn).

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.

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 VELAZQUEZ for their leadership on the Small Business Committee. I look forward to working with all of them to strengthen small businesses across the country.

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.

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

Ms. VELAZQUEZ. 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, Governor Newsom 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. VELAZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentleman 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 an active and vital tool for small businesses across the country and throughout New York’s 22nd Congressional District.

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 get 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, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

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

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

Mr. HAGEDORN. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairwoman VELAZQUEZ, 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. VELAZQUEZ. 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 for her leadership on this important issue.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ for her sincere efforts and for her leadership on this important issue.

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

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

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

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

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 purposes.
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.
(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 professionals;

(E) child development professionals;

(F) mental health professionals;

(G) pediatric emergency medicine physicians;

(H) 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 on improving the understanding of 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) developing 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 education of individuals required by law to report suspected child abuse and neglect have contributed to the inability of a State to respond effectively to serious cases of child abuse or neglect;

(G) 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;

(H) the number of unsubstantiated reports that return as more serious cases of child abuse or neglect;

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

(J) 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 in the previous year, and income in previous year;

(K) the extent to which reports of suspected or known instances of child abuse or neglect involving 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

(L) 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 ‘‘(1) PROMOTING A HIGH-QUALITY WORKFORCE . . .’’ and inserting ‘‘(1) PREVENTION SERVICES . . .’’;

(C) by striking paragraph (3); and

(D) 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.

(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); and

(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; and

(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. 106.技报STANDARDS OF THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

Section 106 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5107) 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) 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 includes—

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

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

(iii) 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;

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

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

(vi) 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 in the previous year, and income in previous year;

(vii) the extent to which reports of suspected or known instances of child abuse or neglect involving 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

(viii) 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) 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); and

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

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

(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; and

(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.’’;
“(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, domestic 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 indicators 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 and improve relationships among child, mental health, education (including early learning and care programs as appropriate), and child welfare agencies and providers.

“(10) AVOIDING CHILD SAFETY DUE TO THE SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER OF A PARENT OR CAREGIVER.—The Secretary may award grants under this subsection to entities to carry out programs or strategies 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 operations of the national, toll-free telephone hotline to provide information and assistance to youth victims of child abuse or neglect, parents, caregivers, mandated reporters, and community members, including through alternative modalities for communications (such as texting or chat services) with such victims and other information sharers.

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

(C) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant under 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 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 modalities of abuse reporting by persons with hearing impairments and disabilities;

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

(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 assistance 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.—

(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)(2); 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.

(3) CONCURRENT GRANTS.—The Secretary may only award a concurrent 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 section (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 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 who is in imminent danger or where immediate 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 developmental 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 reponding to parent and family needs, which shall include—

(A) family-oriented efforts that emphasize child assessment and follow up casework on child abuse and neglect, 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, public and private school professionals, parents, and others engaged in the prevention, intervention, and treatment of child abuse and neglect, which shall include education on—
(B) approaches to family-oriented prevention, intervention, and treatment of child abuse and neglect;

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

(D) the relationship between child abuse and domestic violence, and support for non-abusive partners;

(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 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 un substantiated, 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 assessment, referrals, neglect-fatality 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 states, tribes, and systems 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.

(II) 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:

(a) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a State shall submit to the Secretary a State plan that—

(i) identifies the cases requiring prompt responses;

(ii) identifies the cases requiring real-time case monitoring that tracks assessment, referrals, neglect-fatality case reviews, and progress toward parent and child goals; and

(iii) specifies the criteria used to determine whether a case is substantiated or false, except that nothing in this subsection shall be construed as precluding the use of resources to substantiate reported cases of child abuse or neglect.

(b) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a State shall submit to the Secretary a State plan that—

(i) specifies the criteria used to determine whether a case is substantiated or false, except that nothing in this subsection shall be construed as precluding the use of resources to substantiate reported cases of child abuse or neglect.

(2) STATE PLAN.—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:

(a) COORDINATION.—Each 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—

(I) 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 laws, or has in effect and is operating a statewide program, relating to child abuse and neglect that includes—

(1) 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 requiring instances of child abuse and neglect be reported to the well-being and safety of children; and

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

(V) provisions and procedures requiring that in every case involving 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 be made available to—

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

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

(III) child abuse citizen review panels;

(iv) 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;

(v) provisions or classes of individuals or entities statutorily authorized by the State to receive such information pursuant to a legitimate State or Federal interest;

(vi) provisions and procedures requiring that in every case involving a victim of child abuse or neglect who has been, or is likely to be, a ward of the State, such individual, or any other child in the family, have access to such information in order to carry out its responsibilities under law to protect children from child abuse and neglect;

(III) the establishment of citizen review panels in accordance with subsection (c); and

(vi) provisions and procedures to require that a representative of the child protective services agency shall, at the time of contact with the individual subject to a child abuse or neglect investigation, advise the individual of the complaints or allegations against the individual, and that such advice shall be consistent with laws protecting the rights of the informant;

(vii) 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) that specify the criteria for an individual who disagrees 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 law to protect 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) the establishment of citizen review panels in accordance with subsection (c); and

(xiii) 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 employment or for background checks in cases determined to be unsubstantiated or false, except that nothing in this section shall prevent State child protective services agencies from using such records or information to determine the likelihood of future incidents of child abuse and neglect from intake through final disposition;

(xiv) 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 1711(a)(1) of title 18, United States Code), if the offense had occurred in the special maritime

(III) the establishment of citizen review panels in accordance with subsection (c); and

(iv) provisions and procedures to require that a representative of the child protective services agency shall, at the time of contact with the individual subject to a child abuse or neglect investigation, advise the individual of the complaints or allegations against the individual, and that such advice shall be consistent with laws protecting the rights of the informant;
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 State law but for the fact that the defendant was under 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 had, 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 have failed to register with a sex offender registry under section 113(a) of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 12713(a)); and

(2) an assurance that the State has in place procedures and mechanisms under clause (xvi) of paragraph (1) for 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 (or protective services system to pursue any legal remedies, including the authority to initiate legal proceedings in a court of the State) to take such measures as necessary to prevent the withholding of medically indicated treatment from infants with disabilities who have life-threatening conditions; and

(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. 670 et seq.) and meeting 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, mental health 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 withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal drug exposure, or a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, including a requirement that health care providers, in any facility or care of such infants notify the child protective welfare service system of the occurrence of such condition in such infants, except that—

(ii) child protective services shall undertake an investigation only when the findings of such investigation warrant such investigation; and

(iii) 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 committed;

(i) the development of a multi-disciplinary plan of care for the infant or toddler and making the use of such a plan of care and any associated services available to the infant; or

(ii) the State has appropriate role in identifying, and providing comprehensive services for children who are sex trafficking victims, in coordination with law enforcement, judicial entities, 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)(v) and receive professional development relating to performing such responsibilities in a manner specific to their profession and workplace;

(xii) policies and procedures encouraging the appropriate involvement of families in decisions 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 child 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. 5106(b)) is amended—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking “(3)” and inserting “(4)”; and

(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)(II) of paragraph (2)”;

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

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) PUBLIC ACCESS TO COURT PROCEEDINGS.—Nothing in paragraph (2) shall be construed to limit the right of a court 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(a)(18) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106(a)(18)) is amended—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking “Definitions” and inserting “Definitions”;

(B) by striking “this subsection” and all that follows through “means an act” and inserting the following: “this subsection, the term “fatality” means an act”. 

(C) by striking “;” 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. 5106c(c)) is amended—
(1) by redesignating subsections (a), (b), and (c) as subsections (a), (b), and (c), respectively;
(2) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:
(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 goes undetected; and
(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;
(ii) the efficacy of applicable State laws and the role such laws play in deterring or preventing incidences of child sexual abuse;
(iii) 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; and
(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) within 6 months of the date on which the Secretary 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 MARRITAL AGE OF CONSENT; STUDY AND REPORT ON 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:
(i) 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.
(ii) Data describing how providers’ experiences with scaling treatments that reduce the trauma resulting from child abuse and neglect and reduce the risk of revictimization.
(iii) 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 policies and scalable treatments that reduce the trauma resulting from child abuse and neglect and reduce the risk of revictimization.

(d) STUDY AND REPORT ON MARRITAL 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) REPORT.—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 and 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 services providers. 

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

(C) Police officers and law enforcement personnel. 

(D) Clergy, including Christian Science practitioners, except where prohibited on account of denominational 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 or 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 the scheduled program, activity, or service, accepts responsibility for a child. 

(2) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of the Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, the Secretary shall— 

(A) require all States, in a manner consistent with Indian tribal communities, to submit to the Secretary a written statement about such standards and practices. 

(B) include in such reports information 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 and representatives of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, shall submit to the Secretary a report containing the findings of the study and recommendations under subparagraph (A). 

(2) DATA COLLECTION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(A) submit to the Comptroller General a report containing the findings of the study and recommendations under subsection (B). 

(B) submit to Congress a report containing the findings of the study and recommendations under subsection (B). 

(3) REPORT OF TRIBAL FUNDS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a report containing the findings of the study and recommendations under subsection (B). 

(4) REPORT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Attorney General a report containing the findings of the study and recommendations under subsection (B). 

(5) REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Department of Health and Human Services a report containing the findings of the study and recommendations under subsection (B). 

(6) REPORT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services a report containing the findings of the study and recommendations under subsection (B). 

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

(8) 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 under paragraph (1) that allows State entities responsible for maintaining child abuse and neglect registries to communicate information across State lines. 

(b) Development of an Electronic Interstate Data Exchange System.—

(C) develop policies and governance standards that—

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

(2) specify criteria 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.

(2) 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. 

(3) PILOT PROGRAM.—

(A) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop and implement a pilot program to generate recommendations for the full integration of the electronic interstate data exchange system. 

(B) COMPLETION.—Not later than 30 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall complete the pilot program described in paragraph (A). 

(4) 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.

(5) ELIGIBILITY.—

(A) USE OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall take such actions as may be necessary to ensure that a State is eligible for receipt of funds under section 106, each State shall—

(i) implement an 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

(ii) 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 electronic interstate data exchange system of such State provides procedural due process protections with respect to protecting individual rights and interests. 

(C) I NTEGRATION.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall not disseminate or share data from the electronic interstate data exchange system, unless the State to which such data pertains provides such information to the Secretary of Health and Human Services.
"(8) REPORT.—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 containing 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 such recommendations from the pilot program described in paragraph (4); and

(C) by striking ‘‘Committee on Education and the Workforce’’ each place it appears and inserting ‘‘Committee on Education and Labor’’;

(2) in section 106(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. 1603(a))’’ and inserting ‘‘(31 U.S.C. 1291)a’’.

(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(a)(1) 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 (1), by striking ‘‘section 106(b)(2)(B)(iii)’’ and inserting ‘‘section 106(b)(2)(D)(ii)’’; and

(ii) in clause (2), by striking ‘‘section 106(b)(2)(B)(iii)’’ and inserting ‘‘section 106(b)(2)(D)(ii)’’;

(c) in subparagraph (D)—

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

(ii) in clause (ii), by striking ‘‘section 106(b)(2)(B)(iii)’’ and inserting ‘‘section 106(b)(2)(D)(ii)’’;

(d) in paragraph (3), by striking ‘‘section 106(b)(2)(B)(iii)’’ and inserting ‘‘section 106(b)(2)(D)(ii)’’;

(3) in section 107(f), by striking ‘‘(42 U.S.C. 1603(a))’’ and inserting ‘‘(31 U.S.C. 1291)’’; and

(e) in section 110(b), by striking ‘‘(42 U.S.C. 5116)’’ and inserting ‘‘(31 U.S.C. 1291)’’; and

(f) in section 114, by striking ‘‘(42 U.S.C. 5106(a)(11))’’ and inserting ‘‘(31 U.S.C. 1291)’’; and

(g) in section 116, by striking ‘‘(42 U.S.C. 5104(b)(5))’’ and inserting ‘‘(31 U.S.C. 1291)’’; and


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 establishment of children, families, and communities that are the lead entity (referred to in this title as the ‘‘lead entity’’) under section 202(1) for the following purposes:

(A) 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, family resilience, science, social connections, time-limited and need-based concrete support, and social and emotional development of children, that—

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

(ii) build upon existing strengths;

(iii) offer assistance to families; and

(iv) provide early, comprehensive support for parents;

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

(C) increase family stability;

(D) 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

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

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

(b) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall make grants under this title on a formula basis to the lead entity referred to in subparagraph (A) as the lead entity, which shall carry out the purposes of this title.

(1) General Provisions—

(A) in paragraph (a) of subsection (4), by striking ‘‘and report on marital age of’’;

(2) Maximum Funding—

(A) in paragraph (a) of subsection (4), by striking ‘‘and report on marital age of’’;

(B) in paragraph (a) of subsection (4), by striking ‘‘and report on marital age of’’.

(c) GRANT PROVISIONS.

(1) Amount of Grant—

(A) in paragraph (a) of subsection (4), by striking ‘‘and report on marital age of’’;

(2) Duration of Grant—

(A) in paragraph (a) of subsection (4), by striking ‘‘and report on marital age of’’;

(3) Grant Limitation—

(A) in paragraph (a) of subsection (4), by striking ‘‘and report on marital age of’’;

(4) Continued Eligibility—

(A) in paragraph (a) of subsection (4), by striking ‘‘and report on marital age of’’;

(5) Priority—

(A) in paragraph (a) of subsection (4), by striking ‘‘and report on marital age of’’;

(6) Authorization of Appropriations—

(A) in paragraph (a) of subsection (4), by striking ‘‘and report on marital age of’’;

(7) Definitions—

(A) in paragraph (a) of subsection (4), by striking ‘‘and report on marital age of’’.

(d) USE OF FUNDS.

(1) General—

(A) in paragraph (a) of subsection (4), by striking ‘‘and report on marital age of’’;

(2) Limitations—

(A) in paragraph (a) of subsection (4), by striking ‘‘and report on marital age of’’;

(3) Authorization of Appropriations—

(A) in paragraph (a) of subsection (4), by striking ‘‘and report on marital age of’’;

(4) Definitions—

(A) in paragraph (a) of subsection (4), by striking ‘‘and report on marital age of’’. apex.
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 neglect prevention.

(8) To the extent practicable—

(A) promoting the development and implementation of a statewide systems-building strategy with the underpinned needs identified in the information 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;

(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 demonstrated ongoing meaningful involvement of parents who are or have been consumers of preventative supports, including the involvement of parents of diverse races and ethnicities, 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;"

and

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

"(2) in paragraph (3)—

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

"(D) the Governor of the State 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;";

and

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

"(E) will take into consideration access for diverse populations and 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 title 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 a State under such subsection for fiscal year 2021, the Secretary shall reserve 1 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. 5116a) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "specified by the Secretary as essential in carrying out section 202 and types of information specified by the Secretary as essential in carrying out such section" and inserting "the requirements of section 202, including";

(2) by striking paragraph (2), as so redesignated, and inserting the following:

"(2) in paragraph (3), 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 to strengthen and support families";

(3) in paragraph (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 to strengthen and support families";

(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 to prevent child abuse and neglect;"

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

"(6) a description of the State's capacity and expertise in accomplishing the desired outcomes for such efforts;";

(7) by redesigning paragraph (12) as paragraph (15);

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

"(7) a description of the process and criteria the lead entity will use to select community constituencies 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:

"(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, regardless of whether such efforts;"

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

"(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

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

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

"(13) 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. 5116c) 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) promotes the development and enhancement of, or connecting families to, core services that include—

(A) parenting support and parent education (including services that support parents and other caregivers support children’s development;)

(B) parent leadership skills development programs that promote personal and professional 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. 9301 et seq.);

(vi) nutrition programs, including the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children established under 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 socio-economic mobility programs; and

(viii) services and supports to meet the needs of families with children or caregivers with disabilities and 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 and in the development, operation, and expansion of networks where appropriate.

(9) In a manner consistent with the needs of the State and community—

(1) demonstrates the ability to form collaborations across a range of services or initiatives and the commitment to engage in long-term strategic development for community-based family strengthening services as well as provide on-going problem solving support;

(2) develop or enhance existing place-based family strengthening services, other parenting support and services, and connections and coordinating 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.

(2) LOCAL CONSIDERATION.—In awarding grants, the lead entity shall consider, consistent with the needs of the State and community—

"(1) demonstrates the ability to form collaborations across a range of services or initiatives and the commitment to engage in long-term strategic development for community-based family strengthening services as well as provide on-going problem solving support;

(2) develop or enhance existing place-based family strengthening services, other parenting support and services, and connections and coordinating 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—

(1) demonstrates the ability to form collaborations across a range of services or initiatives and the commitment to engage in long-term strategic development for community-based family strengthening services as well as provide on-going problem solving support;

(2) develop or enhance existing place-based family strengthening services, other parenting support and services, and connections and coordinating 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.

(1) demonstrates the ability to form collaborations across a range of services or initiatives and the commitment to engage in long-term strategic development for community-based family strengthening services as well as provide on-going problem solving support;
TITLE III—ADOPTION OPPORTUNITIES

SEC. 201. PURPOSE.
Section 201 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 5111 et seq.) 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) by—

(A) striking “(b) PURPOSE.”;

(B) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “sexual and gender minority youth’” after “older children, minorit

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) TREATMENT ACT (42 U.S.C. 5116 et seq.), as amended—

(A) An examination of how many families

(B) an adoption by a public or private agency of a child for whom the amount appropriated under

(C) by adding the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date specified in subsection (b)(1), the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall complete a study, in consultation with States and local agencies that provide child welfare services;

“(2) GUIDANCE TO STATES.—The study required under paragraph (1) shall include—

“(A) education materials related to pre-

“(B) guidance on appropriate pre-adoption

“(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.—

SECTION 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. 302. 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 of the use of unregulated custody transfers in instances where adoptive families do not complete all necessary steps to finalize adoptions. This creates additional trauma and instability for children.

“(2) Some children experience trauma, and the disruption and placement in an unregulated custody transfer creates additional trauma and instability for children.

“(3) A child adopted through unregulated custody transfers, including of adopted children, that include—

“(A) abuse or neglect;

“(B) contact with unsafe adults or youth; and

“(C) exposure to unsafe or isolated environments.

“(4) 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 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.

“(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 and therefore do not conduct assessments on the child’s safety and well-being in such place-

“(7) Such caregivers also may not have complete records with respect to such child, including the child’s birth, medical, or immi-

“(8) A child adopted through intercountry adoption may be at risk of not acquiring United States citizenship if an unregulated custody transfer because the adoptive parents complete all necessary steps to finalize the adoption of such child.

“(9) Engaging in, or offering to engage in, unregulated custody transfers 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 Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall carry out a study by striking “CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS AND DECLARATION OF PURPOSE” and inserting “PURPOSE”;

“(2) by striking subsection (a); and

“(3) in subsection (b) by—

“(A) striking “(b) PURPOSE.”;

“(B) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “sexual and gender minority youth’” after “older children, minorit

“(C) in paragraph (1), by inserting “services and, after “post–legal adoption”;

“(D) in section 203(b)(9).

SECTION 303. INFORMATION AND SERVICES.

The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 5111 et seq.) is amended by—

“(a) the following:

“(B) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “sexual and gender minority youth’” after “older children, minorit

“(C) in paragraph (1), by inserting “services and, after “post–legal adoption”;

“(D) in section 203(b)(9).
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 parents, 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 also investing in child protective services. It is essential that this legislation includes important protections for parents and faith-based providers of care to families represented on the committee, I urge my colleagues from Virginia.

Mr. 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 our children experience the wonderful 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.

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 our children experience the wonderful 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.

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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.
Madam Speaker, the need to pass this bill 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 maltreatment. 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 keep up with 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 a grant program for a national child abuse hotline, and increases funding for research. 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 a moral imperative and 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 to prevent child abuse, 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 others 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.

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 bringing this bill to the floor.

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.

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 known.
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 would like 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 from New York. 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 Mr. NADLER from New York.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to restate their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 1651.

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)(i) of the CARES Act (11 U.S.C. 1129 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 COVID–19” and inserting “the COVID–19 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, as 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.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to restate 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 included in the December 2020 COVID relief package. This extension will provide 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 promised 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.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.
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 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. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I thank 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 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.

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 bankruptcies and our families, and I urge its passage.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, my colleagues will support this urgently needed bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question was taken.

The text of the bill is as follows:

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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 reads the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

V C O C A F I X T O S U S T A I N T H E C R I M E V I C T I M S F U N D A C T O F 2 0 2 1

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.

As Mr. ISSA said, this is bipartisan legislation. I am proud to introduce this legislation along with Chairman NADLER to support our small businesses and our families, and I urge its passage.

As Mr. NADLER said, 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 yeas have it.

Mrs. GREENE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, 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.

SEC. 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 VICTIM COMPENSATION.—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”;

(B) in paragraph (5)(B), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(D) by inserting after paragraph (2) 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 of all extensions beyond that period may be granted at the discretion of the Attorney General”;

(b) CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION.—Section 1404 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 2022 and inserting “60 percent” in fiscal years 2021 and 2022”;

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking “seven-tenths” and inserting “75 percent”;

(C) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (4); and

(D) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph:

“(5) For the purposes of calculating amounts awarded in the previous fiscal year pursuant to 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
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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

(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 probation or parole violators 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. 20153(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 crime 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. 20153(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 under 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.

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 in H.R. 1672.

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 expand Federal 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 funds 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 bond, bail, penalties, and special assessments collected for 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 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 remedi-ation for the damage. 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 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 legislation, but when money is diverted and at times 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 made a commitment, a bipartisan commitment, that money, which is taxpayer-funded. Instead, they are paid out of the Crime Victims Fund, or CVF, which is funded, in turn, through Federal criminal fines, forfeited bond, bail, penalties, and special assessments collected for 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.

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This bipartisan 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. 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 who in their own home were killed by an intruder who, after entering the home, ordered them to kneel and then murdered them. The intruder went on to kill four children. It is a story of a violent crime, domestic violence.

Further drastic cuts to VOCA funding are expected as the non-taxpayer-funded pool from which these grants originated, the Crime Victims Fund, is running dry.

I am delighted to be an original cosponsor of the House Resolution that I am privileged to introduce, introduced by Chairman ADLER, 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 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 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 non-prosecution agreements go into the Crime Victims Fund instead of into the Treasury. It is common sense. Victims are outring 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) stated that 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 pandemic 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 provide 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 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.
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, 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 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 common-sense 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 heed’s 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(a) 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. 1630, Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2021; Providing for consideration of H.R. 1868, Preventing Paygo Sequestration; Providing for consideration of H.R. 17, The Deadline for the Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment; and for other purposes.
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 on block cards 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. 1603) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for temporary protected conditions for nonimmigrant workers performing agricultural labor or services, 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. The previous question shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 1620) 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 and amended, 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. 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. 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 Budget or their designees; and (2) one motion to recommit. 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. 1603) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for temporary protected 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 bill 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. 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 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 adopted. All points of order against provisions in the joint resolution are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution and 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 gentleman from California is recognized for 1 hour.

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 gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mrs. TORRES. 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 an bloc authority to Chairman NADLER.

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. 1620 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 20,000.

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.

It 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, including those who are 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 full, “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 VAWA to ensure women’s rights are 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, fighting the fires, and doing it all without proper PPE, the price you pay to feed your family would go way up.

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE March 16, 2021
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 millions of 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 farmworkers the ability 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 we cannot legislate is 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 Refugee 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 when it is passed 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 tax cuts and suspect 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 this bill.

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 20 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 unfounded fear of bureaucrats at risk. The bill is not an approach to law enforcement. The one thing standing in our way right now is an inside-the-beltway term called “PAYGO.” If we don’t address the rule of law already require equal protection for all Americans.

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 people 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. 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.
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. Madam Speaker?

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 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 when women 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 those bills, 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 legalizes 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, that are not male 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 do harm. 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. Madam Speaker, let the RECORD show that Oklahoma’s Fourth District has 146,168 eligible Medicare beneficiaries that will be harmed if H.R. 1686 does not pass.

Mrs. TORRES. Madam Speaker, none of this was ever designed to do harm. Two years ago, we made that mistake.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD on 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, 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.

“ar was a victim when I was 13, a victim when I was 14 and a victim when I was 34,” she said.

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 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 Tribe. "And maybe it’ll go away, you know, the next generation, it won’t happen again. But it continued.

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 conditions. Only 10 tribes have implemented the three-year sentencing enhancement.

Fort Berthold is one of them.

When the law took effect, there were no attorneys, no one with a law degree in the court system.

Smith was forced 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 Indian Affairs (BIA) and U.S. attorneys and tribal prosecutors are federally mandated to work with the tribes to investigate and prosecute "major crimes," which include sexual assault.

"So if you have a rape 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. attorney’s 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 investigative 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 cases that were 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 for reservation, even though we open it up to off-reservation people," he said. "There’s no houses for sale. No houses for rent. Nothing to do to live.

Constant turnover and understaffing can lead to an undertrained 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, a 1.6 million-acre Badlands region, is home to the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation, and the Three Affiliated Tribes.

Driving around the remote reservation, council member Monica Mayer pointed to a multimillion-dollar housing project that she said will stimulate economic, business and other activities.

"You know, you have enhanced sentencing. The court system is 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 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.

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 Chief Kurt Alme and Monica Mayer of the Ogila 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 count," she said. "Maybe that part of that is on me, too. I should know this by now."

Her Many Horses said she finished the case file over a year ago, 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 in the process of reducing the number of investigators 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 thus 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—when she was 14. Her case made it into federal court law.

The defendant pleaded guilty in 1995. He was sentenced to three years’ probation and released the same day.

Twila Szymanski is the deputy court administrator for the Fort Peck Tribal Court. “Justice wasn’t served, in my opinion," she said. "I was back up 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 courtroom. 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 her assistant judge in the election this month.

“When the system has failed you time and time again, you don’t feel empowered. ’’ Deen said, and that seems like a disconnect between this moment of ’Me Too’ and the reality of Indian 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. RONTHENTHALER), 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 program to allow computer-generated, machine-generated, artificial intelligence algorithms to decide which children will be separated from their parents at the border. This bill would also authorize the use of taxpayer-funded abortions for illegal immigrants.

I heard that right. This bill does nothing to enforce our immigration laws or secure our borders.

“Yet the system has failed you time and time again, you don’t feel empowered.”

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 on the contrary, this surge is directly the result of the Biden administration’s decision to halt the border wall construction, to reintroduce 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 is devoid of 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 efforts 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. 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.

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 late-comer on the plus side, how can you disregard States that said, ’We have changed our minds’?”

If Democrats want to test the long-standing bipartisan agreement on limiting taxpayer-funded abortions, they should follow Justice Ginsburg’s guidance and let the process over, just as our Founders intended.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on the rule and vote “no” on H.R. 6.

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 bill.

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 the ERA as 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 implications of the ERA 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 restricted abortion.'

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, science 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 late-comers, plus, a number of states have withdrawn their ratification. So, if you count a late-comer on the plus side, how can you disregard states that said ‘we’ve changed our minds?’

Five states—Idaho, Kentucky, Nebraska, Tennessee, and Wyoming—voted to rescind 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 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—establishing a 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 sponsored 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 re-introduced 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.

Equal Rights Amendment. 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 led by 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 House to be the third state to ratify the ERA. 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. 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 court 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’s Equal Rights Amendment, blocked 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 (20%) for U.S. adults—excluding majorities of women, men, Republicans and Democrats—favored adding the ERA to the Constitution.

‘Allen 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 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 form 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. 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. And 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 and economic policies that work for all. In short, the new reality of 2021 is 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.

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For a handout. They’re not asking for unem-
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There are 13 in Columbus, 79 in Ohio and
get a tax ID number and file, the IRS cer-
are not eligible for Social Security numbers.
9-digit number, the same length as a Social
people working in the United States without
It can only help your situation in the
cause it could result in the federal govern-
``There’s no real debate about less-skilled
A 2010 report from another Washington,
However, suggests that while U.S.-citizen
Costly when they’re young, those costs are
The mere act of filing taxes could be seen
as a risk for undocumented immigrants
because it could result in the federal govern-
ment pursing legal action to return the
migrants to their home country. But Rodri-
guez-Bell said she hasn’t seen any such nega-
tive consequences.
``The IRS is a separate department, so it’s
not something where we’ve ever seen infor-
mation exchanged between the IRS and, say,
ICE, she said, referring to Immigration and
Customs Enforcement. ``This is not some-
thing 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 Tax-
payer 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 all, undocumented immigrants who
get a tax ID number and file, the IRS cer-
tifies 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 Serv-
ces 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 pas-
sional about letting people know that they
pay taxes.
``Imagine if more people knew this," he
said. "These are not people asking for a
handout. They’re not asking for unem-
ployment. They’re not asking for any bene-
fits. 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 security—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 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 $3,157, which made a big difference
in their lives, Beltran said, possibly paying
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three U.S.-born children.
The couple made $56,369 in 2020 and got
a refund of $3,157, which made a big difference
in their lives, Beltran said, possibly paying
for five months of their rent. If they had So-
Social Security numbers, they could’ve gotten
$6,900 in estimated tax payments in 2020 to
help support their family, Beltran said.
``They contribute to all of our communities," he said. ``They pay the school sys-
tem from their taxes. They pay for the roads from their taxes, and they spend money they
make in the grocery stores and movie thea-
ters 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 $25,784 last year, pay-
ing $1,708 in estimated taxes to sup-
port his six children—four of whom have De-
ferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)
status, allowing them to work and go to
school legally. Two of whom were born in
the United States.
Nicole, who owns a painting business with
her undocumented immigrant husband,
Arturo, both on Friday, March 12, 2021. Undocumented immigrants
pay taxes and own businesses that employ
people and help the local economy.
Arturo and 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
that’s generation by this company.
More than likely, their 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 busi-
ness. So, with the help of a friend, they
started their own business six years ago and
now support themselves and their four chil-
dren.
``He comes from nothing in Mexico. His
parents didn’t have a lot, and he has just a
middle school, almost high school education," Nic-
cole said, of her husband, "It was really im-
portant 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
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, mil-
gions of immigrants faced uncertainty as
the Trump administration pursued aggressive
immigration policies. With pas-
sage of H.R. 6, we are beginning a new
chapter in our Nation’s immigration policy.
Madam Speaker, reserve the bal-
ence of my time.
Mrs. FISCHBACH. Madam Speaker, I
yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New
York (Mr. KATKO).
Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I was
happy to see the response of 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 bor-
der, and keeping the border secure.
Madam Speaker, yesterday, I visited the
northern border, and what I saw was
unacceptable, full stop. I witnessed the
dangerous and rapidly growing im-
pacts of Biden’s border crisis.
I spoke to Border Patrol agents on
the front line of the crisis and wit-
nessed 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 relieving border restric-
tions.
Our Border Patrol agents are
underresourced and overwhelmed. They
have been put in an untenable situa-
tion, with little regard for their health
or safety.
The Department of Homeland Security
Secretary Mayorkas recently an-
nounced the Department would begin
allocating FEMA resources. FEMA is
the agency that is in charge of over-
seeing the pandemic and delivering
vaccines to our American citizens. He
has determined resources away from Amer-
ican 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 plan-
ing being done to ensure migrants are
not released by the Federal Govern-
ment at the border if they are COVID–19
positive. Thousands have been re-
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 pan-
demic, it is the Department’s job to en-
sure it doesn’t release anyone who is
COVID-19 positive. For this reason, I
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 pan-
demic, it is the Department’s job to en-
sure 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 indi-
vidual released from CBP or ICE cus-
tody tests negative for COVID-19.
This 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, Presi-
dent Biden’s knee-jerk reversal of pro-
ductive, effective border security poli-
cies 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 undone 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 is a stark difference of the previous administration and their lack of commitment to deal with ten- der-age children and many other issues that could help inform this conversation moving forward.

I will also briefly discuss the current status of the immigration laws that Congress passed long ago.

As difficult as the border situation is now, we are addressing it. We have acted and we will continue to do so.

That is our job. We are making progress and we are taking the right steps. It will take time and we will not waver in our commitment to succeed.

We will 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, to protect 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 in 2019, 2020, and before then as well. Since April 2020, the number of encounters at the southwest border has been steadily increasing. Border Patrol agents and civilians 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 individuals 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 COVID–19. Individuals who arrive to that border 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. The Trump administration used this authority to its full extent and for the first time in history, the 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 currently being expelled to Mexico. 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 are working with community-based 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 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 a legal guardian is considered under the law to be an unaccompanied child. We are encountering six- and seven-year-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 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 process is complete. We provide a safe haven for unaccompanied children 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 child then goes through immigration proceedings where they are able to present a claim for relief under the law.

The Border Patrol facilities have become overcrowded. In less than two months, Customs and Border Protection stood-up an additional facility in Donna, Texas to process unaccompanied children. We are standing up additional facilities in Texas and Arizona to shelter unaccompanied children and families. We are working with Mexico to increase its expelled families. We partnered with community-based organizations to test and quarantine families who have not had the COVID–19 vaccine and are under the age of 18. 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 of the migrant families. We have developed additional facilities to provide testing, local transportation, immigration document assistance, orientation, travel coordination in the interior, and mechanisms to support the oversight of the migrant families that are not expelled.

Working with Mexico and international organizations, we built additional facilities for 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. The Biden administration is continuing forward for a system that is safe, orderly, and fair.

To protect our own workforce, we launched Operation Vacinate 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 are 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 500 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 established a lawful pathway for children to come to the United States without having to take the dangerous journey. Under this program, children are 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 asylum agreement and a civil settlement agreement with potential sponsors—typically a parent or close relative—from coming forward to care for a child when they are released into their country of origin. These are short-term solutions to address the surge of unaccompanied children.

Long-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 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 improved processing 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 safeguards for immigration judges and enhancing access to counsel.

President Biden laid out a vision of a “multi-program approach to safeguarding our immigration system.” 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 long-term solutions to irregular migration from countries in our hemisphere that are suffering worsening conditions. This is powerful 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 trust and unwavering dedication of our workforce.

I came to this country as an infant, brought by parents who cherished 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.

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 are closed. The administration’s lax immigration policies have allowed aliens to be released into our community without COVID-19 testing.

Dr. MILLER-MEEKS’ changes to this legislation are vital to protecting Americans from the spread of COVID-19.

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Dr. MILLER-MEEKS’ changes to this legislation are vital to protecting Americans from the spread of COVID-19.
everyone—everyone, not just the rich—they 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, knowing 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 farmers 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 for the American people.

Madam Speaker, I urge a “yes” vote on the rule and the previous question.

The procedural vote previously referred to by Mrs. FISCHBACH is as follows:

**AMENDMENT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 233**

At the end of the resolution, 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. 1868) to require a diagnostic test for COVID–19 to prevent across-the-board direct spending cuts, 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. 1604) 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. 1606) to prevent across-the-board direct spending cuts, and for other purposes; and waiving the previous question on the resolution.

**RECESS**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of Rule X, 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.

**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. 1897, 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. 1862) 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. 1604) 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. 1606) to prevent across-the-board direct spending cuts, and for other purposes; and waiving 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:

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**NAYS—200**

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**YEARS—212**

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**CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE**

March 16, 2021
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. FICHEBA. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

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 (TX)
Auchincloss
Axne
Barbara
Beatty
Bera (Aguilar)
Begert
Bentz
Baxley
Berkley
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (OH)
Bishop (Wa)
Bishop (WV)
Bishop (WY)
Bolton
Bonner
Brown (AL)
Brown (CA)
Brownley
Brown (CT)
Brown (MD)
Brown (MA)
Brown (NE)
Broun
Buchanan
Buchanan
Buchanan
Burchett
Burns
Calvert
Cammack
Carter
Carter (TX)
Carter (Wa)
Carter (WV)
Casada
Cassidy
Castrillon
Catron
Cave
Cecil
Cedaro
Cedaro (TX)
Celore
Celorico
Celore (NM)
Cecil
Cecil (CA)
Cecil (KY)
Cecil (WV)
Cecil (Kan)
Cecil (OK)
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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. 1790) 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 gentleman 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]

**YEARS—415**

Adams
Burchett
Cueimir

Aderholt
Burgess
Curts

Agner
Butgers
Davis (KS)

Allen
Bustos
Davidson

Alford
Butterfield
Davis, Danny K.

Amodei
Caldwell
Davis, Rodney

Arrington
Camack
Dean

Ascensio
Carabajal
DelFazio

Azne
Cardenas
DelLauro

Babin
Carl
DelBene

Baird
Carson
Delgado

Banks
Carter (GA)
Demings

Bart
Carter (TX)
DeSaulnier

Barr
Cardwell
DeSaulnier

Barragan
Case
Desjarlais

Bass
Castor (FL)
Dial-Burhan

Beatty
Castor (TX)
Dingell

Beatty (NY)
Cate
Dittert

Bereket
Cawthorn
Doggett

Berman
Chabot
Donalds

Beyer
Cheney
Doe, Michael

Bice
Chu
Duncan

Biggs
Cicilline
Dunn

Bilirakis
Clark (MA)
DuPont

Bishop (GA)
Cleaver
Emerger

Bishop (NC)
Clint
Ecobar

Blumenauer
Cloud
Ehoo

Blunt
Clyburn
Epstein

Boehner
Clay
Espe

Bonamici
Coghen
Evans

Bost
Cole
Fallon

Bowen
Connelly
Ferguson

Boyle, Brendan
Conover
Fischer

Brooks
Costa
Fitpatrick

Brown
Courtney
Fleischmann

Brownley
Crenshaw
Fletcher

Buchanan
Crawford
Fortenberry

Buck
Crenshaw
Foster

Budd
Crow
Frankel, Lois

DeSaulnier
Cervando
Garriott

DeSoto
Cocker
Garriott (IL)

DeSoto
Codina
Garriott (TX)

DeSoto
Conyers
Garriott (VA)

Delaney
Connolly
Farrington

DeLauro
Conyers
Farrar

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Connolly
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Derleth
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Mr. KELLY of Mississippi changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mosses, CAWTHORN, PALMER, and CARTER of Georgia changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds 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

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:

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 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 right thing is to get corrected in what he is thinking.

RECOGNIZING VINCENT SPERANZA, 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION PARATROOPER

(Mr. ROONEY 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. 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 troopers find a beer during the Battle of the Bulge.

Cheers to many more years, my friend.

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 vital 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 and Georgia, 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 Lazaratto 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.

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 vital in safeguarding women and children from abuse, anguish, and violence, and has resulted in the saving of millions of lives.

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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.

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.

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. 1652, 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.

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-2019-0069; FRL-10016-23-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-2019-0061; 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 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 National Ambient Air Quality Standard Including the 2016 OIL and Natural Gas Control Techniques Guidelines [EPA-R05-OAR-2020-0238; FRL-10016-88-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-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 Safe Safer Swings for Infant Swings [Docket No.: CPSC-2013-0025] (RIN: 1515-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 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. 2901 note; Public Law 109-174, Sec. 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. 2901 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; FF08ED2020 FXES11300000000 212] (RIN: 1018-BD59) received January 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-AS50) 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. 1395-o(b)(1)(c); Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 331, title XVIII, Sec. 180(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:
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 Transportation and Infrastructure.

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 Ways and Means, and Financial Services.

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; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. CARBAJAL (for himself and Mr. LAMALFA):
H.R. 1898. A bill to amend the FAST Act to provide for the acquisition of land to protect, enhance, and prioritize the conservation and wise management of natural resources in the Capitol River Basin; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. GIFFTH:
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 any list I chemicals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BERGMAN (for himself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):
H.R. 1900. A bill to amend title I of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to reauthorize the National Science Foundation; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. BOWMAN (for himself and Mr. CLEAVANS):
H.R. 1901. A bill to authorize 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 Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BORDIGA (for himself, Mr. DEFAZIO, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):
H.R. 1902. A bill to amend title V of the United States Code, to eliminate the use of official time by Federal employees 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.

By Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina (for himself, Mr. ISSA, Mr. BROOKS, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. PERRY, Mr. Wilson of South Carolina, Mr. MANN, Mr. BANKS, Mr. GOHMER, Mr. McClintock, and Mrs. Lesko):
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:
H.R. 1904. A bill to authorize animal tests 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. 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; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BROWN of California (for himself, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. KAPLAN, Mr. ROSE, Mr. BARBAGALLO, Mr. VILA, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. GARZA of Texas, Mr. McGovern, and Mr. BUMBAUER, Mr. NAPOLITANO, Mr. Torres of New York, Mrs. NORTON, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. CORREA, Mr. SOTO, Mr. Johnson of Georgia, Mrs. DELAURDE, Ms. MENG, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. KRANNA, Mr. RUSH, Mr. JONES, Ms. McCOLLUM, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CARRAJAL, Mr. BALDWIN of California, Ms. LEHR of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. JENNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CARDENAS, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. NEWMAN, Mr. GREGG, Mrs. DEGETTE, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. DEAN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. Cicilline, Ms. SANCHEZ, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. DELAURDE, Mr. FALLONE, Mr. CHI, 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 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 provide that the requirements of certain institutional financial assistance; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. KELLY of Mississippi (for himself, Mr. CICILLINE, and Mr. STARK):
H.R. 1913. A bill to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to products of Uzbekistan; to the Committees on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DEFAZIO (for himself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NORTON, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. CORREA, Mr. SOTO, Mr. Johnson of Georgia, Mrs. DELAURDE, Ms. MENG, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. KRANNA, Mr. RUSH, Mr. JONES, Ms. McCOLLUM, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CARRAJAL, Mr. BALDWIN of California, Ms. LEHR of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. JENNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CARDENAS, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. NEWMAN, Mr. GREGG, Mrs. DEGETTE, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. DEAN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. Cicilline, Ms. SANCHEZ, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. DELAURDE, Mr. FALLONE, Mr. CHI, and Mr. SUOZZI):
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.
Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. WILD, Mr. SUOZI, Mr. DUTCH, Mr. NORTON, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. BLUNT ROCHFORD, Mr. FUGATT, Mr. KENNEDY of New Jersey, Mr. PELLMUTTER, Mr. CROW, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. FISHBEIN of Illinois, Mr. Frelinghuysen, Mr. PARKER of New York, Mr. PLAIB, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. PASCHER, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. BEATTY, Mr. VELA, Mr. COOPER, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. FROST, Mr. YOUNG, MR. MENG, MS. PORTER, MS. SCANLON, MR. RISCHELTHALER, MR. VAN DREW, MS. TIMMONS, MR. CRAIG, MR. NUSSE, MS. HURSHE, MR. EMILY, MR. LAMB, MR. COLE, MR. JOYCE OF PENNSYLVANIA, MS. SIRES, MR. PALAZZO, MR. GRAVES OF LOUISIANA, MR. YANKUS, MR. BISHOP OF GEORGIA, MRS. RADERWAGEN, MR. KILDLEE, MR. BUTTERFIELD, MR. TONKO, MR. STIVIUS, MS. ROSS, MR. LEVIN OF MICHIGAN, MS. HOULAHAN, MRS. NAPOLITANO, MR. RASKIN, MR. MCKENNEY, MR. MCGOVERN, MR. MORELLE, MS. BASS, MS. BONAMICI, MS. CLARKE OF NEW YORK, MS. LEE OF CALIFORNIA, MR. RUTHFORD, MS. SANCHEZ, MR. CONNOLLY, MS. LAWRENCE, MR. MCKINLEY, MR. FIFTH, MR. CAROLINA, MR. GARAMENDI, MS. VILAZQUEZ, MR. ADERHOLT, MS. KELLY OF ILLINOIS, MS. JONES, MR. PHILLIPS, MS. O’MARA, MR. ABERCROMBIE, MR. GREGGS, MR. LAWSON OF FLORIDA, MR. RUSI, 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. KANNA, MRS. HARTZLER, MR. BUSH, MR. BOST, SR., MR. SHOUPE, MR. TAYLOR, MR. BRENDAN F. BOYLE OF PENNSYLVANIA, MR. GUEST, MR. SIMPSON, MR. O’HALLERAN, MS. MOORE OF WISCONSIN, MR. BAHN, MS. TITTUS, MS. JOHNSON OF TEXAS, MR. POCAN, MR. KRISHNAMOORTHI, MR. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY OF NEW YORK, MS. DELBENE, MR. RYAN, MR. STTWART, MR. HAEGDORN, MS. JAYAPAL, MR. EMMER, AND MR. MOORE OF UTAH);

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. GARAMENDI (for himself, MR. HARDER OF CALIFORNIA, MR. PANETTA, MR. AUCINCHILOS, MS. BARRAGAN, MR. BLUMENAUER, MR. BRENDAN F. BOYLE OF PENNSYLVANIA, MR. CARDENAS, MR. CASTRO OF TEXAS, MS. CHU, MR. CICILLINE, MR. COHEN, MR. CORREA, MS. COSTA, MS. DEAN, MR. DEFRANCO, MR. DINGELSE, MR. ESPAILLAT, MR. GALLEDO, MS. GARCIA OF TEXAS, MR. VICENTE GONZALEZ OF TEXAS, MR. GREEN OF TEXAS, MR. GRIJALVA, MR. HOFFMAN, MR. JACKSON, MR. KELLY, MR. KIND, MS. LEE OF CALIFORNIA, MR. LEVIN OF CALIFORNIA, MR. LIEU, MR. LOFREEN, MR. LOWENTHAL, MS. MATSU, MS. MCCOLLUM, MR. MCGOVERN, MRS. NAPOLITANO, MS. NORTON, MS. OMAR, MS. POGNER, MR. POCAN, MS. PRESSLEY, MR. RUSH, MS. SANCHEZ, MS. SCHOWSKY, MR. SCHIFF, MS. SCHRIER, MS. SIRES, MR. SMITH OF WASHINGTON, MR. SOTO, MR. SUOZI, MR. SWALWELL, MR. TROYAN OF CALIFORNIA, MRS. TORRES OF CALIFORNIA, MRS. TRAHAN, MR. VARGAS, MS. VEJA, MRS. WATSON COLEMAN, MR. WELCH, OF CALIFORNIA, AND MR. MARTHA). H.R. 1918. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to treat attendance at an institution of higher education as the same 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 agency accountability and improve the efficiency of major rules in accomplishing the purposes of the Federal Register, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. ANDERSON OF CALIFORNIA (for himself, MR. KIM OF CALIFORNIA, MR. KAMENY, MR. BERG, MR. SMITH OF CALIFORNIA, MR. GROSS, MR. LAWSON OF FLORIDA, MR. BUSH, 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. KANNA, MRS. HARTZLER, MR. BUSH, MR. BOST, SR., MR. SHOUPE, MR. TAYLOR, MR. BRENDAN F. BOYLE OF PENNSYLVANIA, MR. GUEST, MR. SIMPSON, MR. O’HALLERAN, MS. MOORE OF WISCONSIN, MR. BAHN, MS. TITTUS, MS. JOHNSON OF TEXAS, MR. POCAN, MR. KRISHNAMOORTHI, MR. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY OF NEW YORK, MS. DELBENE, MR. RYAN, MR. STTWART, MR. HAEGDORN, MS. JAYAPAL, MR. EMMER, AND MR. MOORE OF UTAH);

H.R. 1920. 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 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. MCAULIFFE). H.R. 1921. A bill to modify eligibility requirements for certain Federal student aid, and make technical and conforming amendments to the Federal Student Aid Act; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY OF NEW YORK (for herself and MR. COMER). H.R. 1929. A bill to amend title 44, United States Code, to require the President to make and preserve records, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Ms. MATSU (for herself, MR. TAKANO, MS. CHU, MS. RUCK, MS. MENN, MS. LEE OF CALIFORNIA, MR. RASKIN, MR. SMITH OF WASHINGTON, MS. NORTON, MR. KAHLEL, MR. MCGOVERN, MS. POITER, MS. BLUMENAUER, MR. SUOZI, MS. ESROO, MS. SAN NICOLAS, MR. KANNA, MRS. NAPOLITANO, MR. LOWENTHAL, MR. ROB CHAMBER OF CALIFORNIA, MR. GOMEZ, MR. CASTRO OF TEXAS, MS. OMAR, MR. GARAMENDI, MR. KILMER, MR. BEBA, 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 ties between Japanese Americans and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. McBATH (for herself and MR. DELBENE). 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. SAINES) - 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 Mrs. PERRY) - H.R. 1934. A bill to direct the Federal Government to provide assistance and technical expertise to enhance the representation and leadership of United States at national 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. BROOKE) - 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. NEGUÈS - 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. LATNER, Mrs. MCCAIN, Mr. CALVERT, Mrs. GAULT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. TIMMONS, Ms. MACE, and Mr. WIEHER 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 multiple times in 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. WENSTEIN of Florida, and Mr. GUESE) - H.R. 1940. A bill to establish a public buildings public-private partnership pilot program for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. RAIDENWAGEN (for herself, Mr. SABLAN, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLON, and Mr. SAN NICOLAS) - H.R. 1941. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to require certain naturalization requirements for United States nationals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. RICE of South Carolina (for himself and Ms. MACE) - H.R. 1942. A bill to extend Federal recognition to the Pee Dee Indian Tribe of McColl, 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 Concho Apache Tribe of Arizona, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. TANAKO (for himself, Bishop of Georgia, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. BROWN, Ms. BROWNLEE, Mr. CARRAJAL, Mr. CARDENAS, Ms. CHU, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COWEN, Mr. RIUANA, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. EVANS, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas (for himself), Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. NORTON, Ms. JACOBS of California, Mr. KAHLE, Mr. KAPRU, Mr. KHNNA, Mr. KHNNA, Mrs. KISISELAMOTHIRI, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. LAMB, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LER of California, Mr. LEW of New York, Mrs. LUCIA, Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MIRVAN, Ms. NEWMAN, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PONGEE, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. RUSH, Ms. SCHAUKWYCK, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. TIGHE, Mr. ZIPER, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. SWALWELL, Miss TITUS, Mr. TRONE, Mrs. VARJAS, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. DUMBAUER, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. OSAR, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. RYAN, Mr. ZACH NIEUWENDIJK, Mr. DEFAZIO, and Mrs. GARCÍA of Illinois) - H.R. 1945. 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. THOMPSON of California (for himself, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CARRAJAL, Mr. COSTA, Ms. DESAULNIER, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MAXINE of California, Ms. LOPEZ, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. NAPOLITANO, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. ROTHALDALL, and Mr. RICE of California) - H.R. 1946. A bill to amend 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. 1947. 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. 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, Mr. CAPPETTA, Mr. HASINGS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. PRESSLY, Mr. LAWRENCE, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mrs. BRATTT, Mr. SMITH, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CARSON, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. MEERK, Ms. BLUNT ROCHETTE, Mr. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. MOORE of Florida, Mr. PLASKETT, Ms. SCALION, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. JONES, and Mr. TORRES of New York) - H. Res. 231. 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. O’MARA, 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. 226. A resolution supporting the demands of civil society 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.

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):


By Ms. LOFGREN:

H. Res. 227. 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. 227. 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-CORTÉZ (for herself, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. GOMEZ, and Mr. MEeks):

H. Res. 228. A resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh’s independence; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. PALONE, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. RILIKARIS, Mr. VALADAO, Ms. TITUS, Mr. COSTA, Mr. KANNA, Mr. CICILLINE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. MURAKAMI, Mr. SHEARMA, Mr. BEYER, Ms. SCALON, Mr. KRISHNA MOORTHY, Mr. LANGOVIN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. PORTER, Ms. CLARK of California, Mr. SANTOS, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. ESZOO, Mr. Sires, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. LIU, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Ms. O’MARA, Ms. SANCHEZ, 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 State, local, and Federal policymakers, and that funding for K-12 schools under the American Rescue Plan and State vaccination programs and 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. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. ALLRED, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. BEATTY, Mr. MEeks, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. PERSLEY, Mr. COHEN, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. NORTON, Mr. 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 Representa-
tives, the following statements are sub-
mitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitu-
tion to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. GIMENEZ:


Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution

By Ms. MILLER-MEEKS:


Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation 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. KIM of New Jersey:


Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. CARBAJAL:


Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Con-
stitution

By Mr. CARBAJAL:

H. Res. 239. H.R. 1907.

Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. GRIFFITHT:


Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation 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:


Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. BIGGS:


Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this joint resolution is derived is provided in Article I, 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:


Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation 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. Res. 244. H.R. 1912.

Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:

The bill is enacted pursuant to the powers granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CHABOT:

H. Res. 245. H.R. 1913.

Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this joint resolution is derived is provided in Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution, which grants Congress the power to provide for the ‘‘general Welfare of the United States.’’

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas:

H. Res. 246. H.R. 1914.

Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:

The bill is enacted pursuant to the powers granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DeFAZIO:


Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:

The bill is enacted pursuant to the powers granted to Congress under Article I, Clause 3, Clause 18 of the Constitution.

By Ms. ESZOO:


Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:

The bill is enacted pursuant to the powers granted to Congress under Article I, Clause 3, Clause 18 of the Constitution.

By Mr. DeFAZIO:

H. Res. 249. H.R. 1917.

Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:

The bill is enacted pursuant to the powers granted to Congress under Article I, Clause 3, Clause 18 of the Constitution.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

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

By Mrs. McBATH:

H.R. 192.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana:

H.R. 1920.

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

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

By Mr. HICE of Georgia:

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 by 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 I, Section 8, Clause 1 (General Welfare Clause) and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 (Necessary and Proper Clause).

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 I, 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. SATSUI:

H.R. 1931.
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

March 16, 2021

SCANLON, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. MPUME, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. SARLAN, 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. RADWAGEN, Ms. WEXTON, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 1809: Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. CARDENAS, 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. 1830: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.

H.R. 1832: Ms. SLOTEIN, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. WALBERG, Mrs. BOBBERT, Mr. KILMER, Ms. TLAIB, and Mr. LEVIN of Michigan.

H.R. 1834: Ms. CHU, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. LEWIS 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. PHILLIPS.

H.R. 1835: Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma and Mr. BURGESS.

H.R. 1831: 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. DEGETTE, Mr. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. HOYER, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H. Con. Res. 19: Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. CORREA, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H. Res. 225: Mr. B LUMENAUER and Mr. KHANNA.

H. Res. 231: Ms. MCCOLLUM and Mrs. ROGERS 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. 1868, 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.
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.

Pledged 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. 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 over 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,
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 help support 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—you know, it is—perhaps, a lifetime ambition. You can imagine the challenges, 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.

Now, 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 I want 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. In particular 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 battled through it, and 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, and it took me about an hour to go and an hour and a half on two buses to get to his 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? You are a huge 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 RES- TAURANTS 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 that 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 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.

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 get relief. It will allow 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 colleague 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 PRESIDENT. 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 PRESIDENT. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Recognize the minority leader.

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 in legislation, the Senate becomes a majoritarian institution like the House, much more subject to the whims of short-term electoral change. No Senator would likely 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 majoritarian tradition that is that 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 require deliberation, to force cooperation, and to ensure that Federal laws 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 look 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 might say today that we 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—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 harder.

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 believe the tax discourages the kinds of investments that people need to 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 demands that money. In that case, the death tax shouldn’t 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, 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 happens 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 part of that. 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 relief, 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 owned 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. And one more family farm or business lost is one more family farm or business lost.

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.

The Farm Bureau reports that over the past 10 years, the value of farmland has more than doubled. In 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, when the Federal Government claims 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 because that big debt, that big tax, that big obligation to pay taxes to help support our government, but there should be a limit to how many times the government demands that money. In that case, the death tax shouldn’t be a taxable event.

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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 more than doubled. In 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, when the Federal Government claims 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
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 of South Carolina addressed the floor of the 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 we combined the Senate’s history with the filibuster, we would think of the Senate in the entire year. Now, consider the number of times we brought an amendment to the floor of this great so-called debating society, 29 amendments during the course of a year—an aberration that I don’t think that doesn’t count a vote-arama, which is an aberration that I don’t think the Senate in the previous five decades. 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. And 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 stop the filibuster just by 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 is not a vote-arama, that 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 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 stranding 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 in this 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 say: 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 majoritarian reconciliation 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 used in the extraordinary that dominates the actual business of the Senate as this has done for so many years.

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 capitals, 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 are 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 even one vaccine. The 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 of 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 yet to be seen in the United States, 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 better yet to make in the near future.

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 the 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.

Second, during this pandemic, 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. I have been a strong supporter of that initiative. I also 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 see the distinctive 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. They 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 cast shadows on us. It is also 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 and serious 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 local areas. It asked her carriers to come to my State of Illinois to help deal with 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 labor union and has represented other carriers to come to my State of Illinois to help deliver a huge backlog of undelivered mail. He also called for mail carriers to help deliver Chicago’s mail on Sundays.

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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 did not know where their packages were—a good 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.

One month later, in the middle of a pandemic that turned postal deliveries
March 16, 2021

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

S1537

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 the 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 ready for presidential 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 it.

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, 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 had 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 remain a right hand 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 President’s Office’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 small businesses, and restaurants out of business.

We are so pleased that there is, as we say in Minnesota, a lighthouse that we are looking to. I was up in Duluth on Sunday night, 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 same is true in our city. 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 CONYNN 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. And with the March 16 deadline approaching, we need 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 Small Business survive this pandemic.

We need to get this done.

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 successfully helped small restaurants take out repeated loans. They are hanging in there, and we need to have their backs.

Mr. President, today, I rise to speak in support of Xavier Becerra’s nomination— to be Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS).

We need to have a fresh perspective on 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.

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’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 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 summed 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 and affordable, something 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 to preserve and expand 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 enforced violations against drug manufacturers’ anti-competitive 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 40 State attorneys general who successfully petitioned 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 right to be able to choose that for ourselves, 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 Medical 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 tenacity and resolve 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 his nomination, so he 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, and those in key industries hit hardest by 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 all 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 loans and grants 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, and created the 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 billion 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 more than 10.6 million 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 small businesses and create 285 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 target 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 support 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.

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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.

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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.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 80, nays 18, as follows:

(Rollcall Vote No. 120 Ex.)

[Not Voting—2]

Baldwin
Barrasso
Bennet
Blumenthal
Blunt
Booher
Brown
Burr
Cantwell
Capito
Cardin
Carper
Cassidy
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Coons
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Cortez Masto
Cramer
Duckworth

SANDERS
Schatz
Shelby
Sinema
Smith
Stabenow

SULLIVAN
Tester
Tillis
Toomey
Van Hollen
Warner

WARNock
Whitehouse
Wicker
Wyden
Young

NAYs—18

Berkley
Boozman
Braun
Cromer
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DAINES
Hagerty
Hawley
Kennedy
Lee
Risch

Tribet

NOT VOTING—2

Hirono
Lummis

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas are 80, the nays are 18.

The motion is agreed to.

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(Rollcall Vote No. 120 Ex.)

[Not Voting—2]
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, API, 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 who provide for their children.

For Senators who watched any of Ms. Tai’s nomination hearing before the committee, you will know that Ms. Tai will be a voice 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 tariffs for her top trade staff. 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. Ms. Tai 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. That means that, in all, unless we 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 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 workers 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
Barasso Hargetz Portman
Bennet Scowen Reed
Blumenthal Howen Romney
Bunt Hyde-Smith Rosen
Booker Rounds Rounds
Brown Johnson Sanders
Burr Kaine Schatz
Casswell Kelly Schumer
Capito King Shaheen
Carper Lankford Sinema
Casey Leahy Smith
Cassidy Lujan Stabenow
Collins Manchin Sullivan
Coons Marchay Tester
Corryn Marshall Thune
Cruz Mccollum Tillis
Cramer Menendez Toomey
Dickerson Merkley Van Hollen
Durbin Moran Warner
Ernst Markowski Warnock
Feinstein Murphy Warren
Fischer Murray Whitehouse
Gillibrand Osoff 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 Young

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 Katherine C. Tai, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, by yeas and nays.

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
Barasso Hargetz Reed
Bennet Hassan Rosen
Blackburn Hawley Rounds
Blumenthal Heinrich Sanders
Bunt Hickelnioper Schatz
Boozman Hyde-Smith Rosen
Braun Iloho Rounds
Brown Johnson Schatz
Burr Kaine Rubio
Casswell Kelly Sanders
Capito Kennedy Schumer
Carper Klobuchar Sinema
Casey Lankford Smith
Cassidy Leaky Sullivan
Collins Lujan Stabenow
Coons Lujan Tester
Corryn Manchin Thune
Cruz Mccollum Tillis
Daines Marshall Toomey
Dickerson Merkley Tuberville
Crapo Menendez Van Hollen
Crzan Murphy Warnock
Feinstein Ossoff Whitehouse
Fischer Padilla Wicker
Gillibrand Paul Wyden
Graham Peters Young

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS).

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?

Mr. SCOTT. 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. As 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 jumpstart 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 small part because of her efforts.

Members of my own staff are grateful for the opportunity to work with Katherine to secure history’s first U.S.-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement, which notably passed Congress with overwhelming bipartisan support, in no small part because of her efforts.

Members of my own staff are grateful for the opportunity to work with Katherine to secure history’s first U.S.-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement, which notably passed Congress with overwhelming bipartisan support, in no small part because of her efforts.
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 for the position of 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 working in trade in a bipartisan fashion, and a keen understanding of the role Congress can play alongside the executive branch in the promotion of free trade and its benefits to working people in a country where, in just one generation, a daughter of immigrants and the first woman of color to be nominated for the position of U.S. Trade Rep, Katherine often cites her parents, also both public servants, as her inspiration.

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 will arise in the years to come. I believe that 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 budgeted 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.

Speaking of 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 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, stating 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 start by listening to the families 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 “disruptive and 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 Supreme Court called “assaulting core free speech.”

He argued that, in 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 me?

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 advance 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 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 screech 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 for the record.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum be rescinded. I do so ordered.

ELECTION SECURITY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, about 1 year ago today, Congress was in the midst of a demanding and serious challenge: responding 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, 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 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 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, it is at the State and local level 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 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. In my State, 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.

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, as it harps, 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; it is does create limitless opportunities for fraud. Every single ballot cast illegally or due to fraud comes 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 reasonable requirements 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 Madeleine Albright II. 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 certificate of naturalization, 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 make language 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 misses 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, their 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 matching the employee donation, instead of the tax payers, 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 tax payers will wind up coughing up $1,200. Well, there’s no better use of 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 would directly interfere with the ability 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, we don’t have 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.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I take this time to update 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 needed to be held 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, that 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. The way he spoke of Black Lives Matter and other groups, including Black churchgoers and Boy Scout leaders, made me wonder if he has been reading the news.

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 first time 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 US 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 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.

Sadly.

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; not look suspicious; 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.

That is his 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 thinking of 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]?

And I am wondering what is reaching out late on Saturday evening, but I needed to share this with you.

Keith.

To read these painful words both broke my heart and bled my blood.

Thousands of people of color serve in the US Capitol workforce. They are legislative staffers like Keith and Capitol Police officers and maintenance workers, cafeteria staff, and so much more.

But I don’t 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. 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.”

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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 on 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 about 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 the people 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 process 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 coming in 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. They said that and are still saying that and are saying: 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 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 saying: 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 construction and have it come down, you can.

But on the day of January 20, construction was halted. In this particular area, there are 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 dug 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 push 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 literally an invitation to say: You can build everything except close the gates. That is at the very heart of the Biden team stops before what even the technology is there. So, literally, the $1.6 billion was paused—that $1.6 billion that goes to simply closing the gates and installing the technology. That is what remains. This is nonsensical.

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 the border.

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 that 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 billion 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 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 to me. How the real world works is that if it sits 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 President, 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 like, “We’re not 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, “We 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.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor to talk about President Biden’s runaway spending proposal.

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 and 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 not what the American people need 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 said yesterday was 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 this was what the coronavirus relief was: 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 “ideology” rather than a bill. 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 payroll to all of the most powerful people in the Democratic Party: $85 billion to union pension plans, irresponsibly run; $30 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.

This was never a coronavirus relief bill. They used the coronavirus to cover the payroll to all of the most powerful people in the Democratic Party: $85 billion to union pension plans, irresponsibly run; $30 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, 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 be 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 means less tax revenue over 50 years for 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, DC.

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 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 tax breaks. 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 allowed us 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 the American people didn't vote for this radical agenda, and it is a radical agenda. 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-earned money of America are going to be stuck with the bill. Cost 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 estimates, President Biden’s healthcare plan would cost about an additional $2.25 trillion. These are astronomically large figures. His housing plan would cost $600 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 charge of the United States. 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.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, we welcome a million immigrants every year. We welcome them because they come here, abiding by our laws, and we need immigrants. We have been welcoming new immigrants 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. The Biden administration has undermined 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 migrant referrals in February after they arrive in the United States has increased by 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 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 episodes. 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 outrage and threatening to leave the 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 families to take 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 new phenomena that we have just in 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 positive.

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 at 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 in stead 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 junior senator from Ohio, Mr. PORTMAN, is on the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). The junior senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) is on the floor. The junior senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) is on the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDENT. 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 on the other side 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 biggest challenges we have. So to be able to get good-paying benefits for those who are looking to return to work, 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 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 have been 60 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—6 centers 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 is 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 wealthiest or the upper echelons of 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 growing economic opportunities.

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 were pre-COVID, 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 continued, and some 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. And it is really important 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 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 make 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 to mind what we have in the skilled gap. So we have the skills gap and we have the 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 is one of those things that is holding us back. We found 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 key 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, 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 these schools all over Ohio myself, 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 the skills that enable 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 Ohio 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 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 in high school 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 create 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 course, but it was $5,000. It cost $5,000 to get a CDL. And even though these students would be making $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 10 guys—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 well for those few 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 peanuts. 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 decided to go to college and she decided rather be a welder. By the way, these welders are highly sought after by the energy industry and others.

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 very good 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 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 getting $6,000 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 vote. They paid a certain $2,000 or $3,000 a year for 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, how to 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 work 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 support is it is one 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—those are 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 me be sure that we work together to get this legislation 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 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 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 request 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 Vice Chairman, the ranking majority member, or if no majority member is present, the ranking minority member present, shall preside.

2.4. Except as 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, unless a majority of the present 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 for the proxy system.

2.6. Whenever the Committee by roll call votes any measure or matter, the report of the Committee upon such measure or matter shall include the names 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 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 the majority of the Committee is actually present and a majority concurs.

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.

4.4. Views shall 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.

4.5. Routine, non-legislative matters 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 of 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 10 calendar days prior to, or on the same day as, the confirmation hearing 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 Committee has filed a response to the Committee's background questionnaire and financial disclosure statement unless the time limit is waived by a majority vote of the Committee.

RULE 4. 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 may be issued 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, 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 members of the Committee. 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 and may be administered by any member of the Committee.
8.3. Questioning.—Committee questioning of witnesses shall be conducted by members of the Committee or 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 financial disclosure statement unless the time limit is waived by unanimous consent of the Committee.
   (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) Rule of Counsel for Witness. There shall be no direct or cross-examination by counsel for the witness for the witness may submit any question in writing to the Committee and request the Committee to propound such question to the witness' client or to any other witness. The counsel for the witness also may suggest the preparation of other evidence or the calling of other witnesses. The Committee may use or dispose of recommendations or suggestions as it deems appropriate.
8.5. Statements by Witnesses.—Witnesses may make brief and relevant statements at the beginning and end 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 desired 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 inadmissible or inconsistent 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 that it 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 add or subtract substance of the testimony. Any questions arising with respect to such corrections shall be decided by the Chairman. Upon request, the Committee shall provide a witness with copies of 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 in the presence of the Committee. A person who believes that testimony or other evidence presented at a public hearing, or any comment made by a member of the Committee, or any statement by 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 contempt proceedings shall be authorized except as is necessary for the conduct of Committee business, and as provided by these Rules. All classified documents or material removed from offices for such authorized purposes must be returned to the Committee's SCIF for overnight storage.

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 Senate's Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF). Copying, duplicating, or removing from the Committee offices of such documents and other material prohibited except as is necessary for the conduct of Committee business, and as provided by these Rules. All classified documents or material may be removed from 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 in an executive session of the Committee; (3) the work product of a Committee member; (4) improperly identified or released by a Committee staff member or representative of a Committee 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 materials in Rule 10.3. All Committee sensitive documents and materials shall be stored in a manner to protect against unauthorized disclosure.

9.4. Committee staff 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 of, and security procedures, of a document control and accountability registry which will number and identify all classified papers and other classified materials in the custody 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 information 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 accessible only by a written request signed by 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 parties to whom classified information was disclosed by the Committee to the members of the Senate receiving such information.

9.6. Access to classified information supplied to the Committee shall be limited to those Committee members with appropriate security clearances 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, in whole or in part, or by way of summary, shall reproduce any classified or committee sensitive papers, materials, briefings, testimony, or other information 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, 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 agree to meet a need-to-know standard for the 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. Any classified or 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 S. Res. 400, the Chairman and Vice Chairman shall notify the Majority Leader and Minority Leader.

9.9. No member of the Committee makes any written or oral presentation 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. No member of the Committee shall be permitted to leave the Committee at closed meetings of the Committee shall be kept at a minimum and shall be limited to persons with appropriate security clearances (or need-to-know) who have been cleared for the information under consideration for the execution of their official duties. The Security Director of the Committee may require that only members of the Senate 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 that party. 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, the Committee staff, or the any other person engaged by contract or otherwise to perform services for or at the request of the Committee. To the maximum extent permitted by law, the Staff Director and Minority Staff Director acting on their behalf.

10.2. The appointment of Committee staff shall be approved by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly, or, at the initiative of either or both, by a majority of the Committee staff. The appointment of Committee staff shall be approved by the Committee staff. The appointment of Committee staff to any classified information or regular access to the Committee's 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 works for the Committee staff shall be performed, and Committee staff personnel shall provide the Committee with full and complete information, including security and control of classified documents and material, shall be administered under the supervision of the Committee staff and the Committee. The duties of the Committee staff shall be performed exclusively on intelligence oversight issues for the Committee. The Minority Staff Director and the Minority Staff Director shall be informed regarding all matters and shall have access to all material in the possession of the Committee.

10.4. The Committee staff shall assist the Committee in the conduct of oversight projects that may 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 designated to staff 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 applicable auditing standards.

10.5. 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, to the extent practicable, the Committee shall rely on departments and agencies with intelligence functions. The audit element shall conduct audits and oversight projects that may 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 designated to staff 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 applicable auditing standards.

10.6. The workplace of the Committee shall be free from 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 the members of the Committee prior to any Committee meeting to assist the Committee members in preparation for such meeting and to determine any matter which the Committee members 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 in the course of its work on matters to be considered at the meeting.

11.2. The Staff Director and Minority Staff Director may request that the Chairman and the Vice Chairman the testimony, papers, and other materials to be presented
to the Committee at any meeting. The deter-
mination whether such testimony, papers, and other materials shall be presented in
open or executive session shall be made pur-
suant to the Standing 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

11.2.1. The Clerk of the Committee shall maintain a list for the information of each Committee member showing the mea-
ures introduced and referred to the Com-
mittee and the status of such measures; nominally 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.

12.1. 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 there-
on.

RULE 13. COMMITTEE TRAVEL

No member of the Committee or Commit-
tee Staff shall travel on Committee busi-
ness 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 Con-
gress 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 to waive your previous reference to myself as chairman of the Select Committee on Ethics and for Senator JAMES LANKEFORD, vice chairman of the com-
mittee, that the rules of procedure of the Select Committee on Ethics, which were adopted February 23, 1976, and re-
november 1999, be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for the 117th Congres-
s. There being no objection, the mate-
rial was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

RUL ES OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

PART I: ORGANIC AUTHORITY

SUBPART A—R. RES. 338 AS AMENDED

S. Res. 328, 88th Cong., 2d Sess. (1964)

Resolved, That (a) there is hereby estab-
lished a permanent select committee of the Senate to be known as the Select Committee on Ethics (referred to hereinafter as the “Se-
lect Committee”) consisting of six Members of the Senate, of whom three shall be se-
lected from members of the majority party and three 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 XV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the office of a Senator as a member or chairman of the Select Com-
mittee shall not be taken into account.

(b) Vacancies in the membership of the Select Committee shall be filled by the appoint-
ment of the remaining Members 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.

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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 on the basis of a preliminary inquiry, that there is substantial credible evidence which provides substantial cause for the Select Committee to conclude that the matter is within the jurisdiction of the Select Committee has occurred.

(c) (1) No adjudicatory review of conduct of a Member or officer of the Senate may be conducted:

(A) report, resolution, or recommendation relating thereto, 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, interpretive ruling, or advisory opinion maybe made without an affirmative vote of a majority of the Members of the Select Committee voting.

(d) The Select Committee receives a sworn complaint or 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 is the subject of 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 adventent, technical, or other wise of a de minimis nature, the Select Committee may dismiss the matter, or if the Select Committee determines that a violation is in adventent, technical, or other wise of a de minimis nature, the Select Committee may dismiss the matter, that a violation has occurred; and 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 the Senate, as soon as practicable, the results of such adjudicatory review, including 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 finding of a violation, appeal such 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 to 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 entertained only if such appeal shall be limited to 10 hours, which shall be divided equally between, and controlled by, those favoring and those opposing the appeal.

(3) 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.

(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 be applied, the enforcement 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 prior to the effective date of the applicable provision of the Code.

(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 recommendations as to any legislative measures which in its judgment are necessary for the effective discharge of its duties.

SEC. 3. (a) The Select Committee is authorized to (1) make such expenditures; (2) hold public 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 or depositions; (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 clerical, and other assistants and consultants as it deems advisable; and (8) 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) 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) for services to the Select Committee. A 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 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 utilize the services and the services of the staff of such other committee or subcommittee whenever the chairman of the Select Committee determines that such action is necessary and appropriate.

(d) Subpoenas may be authorized by-(A) the Select Committee; or

(B) the chairman and vice chairman, acting jointly.

(e) No such subpoena shall be issued or signed by the chairman and the vice chairman and may be served by any person designated by the chairman and vice chairman. The chairman or the Select Committee may administer oaths to witnesses.

(f) The Select Committee shall prescribe and publish such regulations as it feels are necessary to implement the Senate Code of Official Conduct.

(g) 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.

(h) 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.

(i) The Select Committee shall 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.

(j) 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.

(k) Any advisory opinion rendered by the Select Committee under paragraphs (3) and 3 of subsection (a) may be relied upon in the specific transaction or activity with respect to which such advisory opinion is rendered.

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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 requested.

(7) Any advisory opinion issued in response to a request under paragraph (3) or (4) shall be printed in the Congressional Record with appropriate procedure to ensure the privacy of the individual concerned. The Select Committee shall, to the extent practicable, before rendering an advisory opinion, provide any individual or entity 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.

(b) A brief description of a waiver granted under paragraph (2) [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.

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 Leader 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 99–30—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, advice, assistance, advice and counsel, through advisory opinions or consultations, in connection with the mailing or transportation 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 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 provisions. The Select Committee shall prescribe regulations governing the proper use of the franking privilege under those sections by persons such as

(b) To assure that issued by any person with the select committee that a violation of any section of title 39, United States 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 be submitted simultaneously to the select committee. The select committee, if it determines there is reasonable justifica-

tion for the complaint, shall conduct an investigation of the matter, including an investigation of reports and statements filed by such complainant with respect to the matter, and make such inquiry as it deems necessary. The committee shall afford to the person who is the subject of the complaint due notice and, if it determines that there is substance to such complaint and 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 issuance 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 enforce 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 or proceeding directly or indirectly 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 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 procedures provided in 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 proceedings, 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, 8, 9 SUBSECTION OF 9, 10, 11 CONGRESS, PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE SEC. 8. *(c) 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 for national security reasons by procedures and which the select committee, pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) of this section, has determined should not be disclosed, shall be made public except by a Member, officer, employee of the Senate except in a closed session of the Senate 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 subparagraph (A) available to any employee of the select 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 receive 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 of the 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 employee or officer.

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 of the Senate, including a consultant, contractor, or agent of the Senate; and

‘‘(B) an employee as defined in section 2106 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 or agreement with the United States or any agency, department, or establishment thereof, including, in the case of an organization performing services for foreign government, such services involved in the performance of such services;

‘‘(c) an individual employed by, or occupying an office or position in, the government of any foreign state, 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) a foreign government or its instrumentalities, including any foreign national, State, local, and municipal government; and

‘‘(B) a foreign organization whose membership is composed of any unit of foreign government described in subparagraph (A); and

‘‘(C) a 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 defined in regulations prescribed, or by amendment of this section and regulations prescribed, by the Administrator of General Services, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to reflect changes in the cost of living, including an adjustment for the immediately preceding 3-year period;

‘(B) regulations of an employing agency may define ‘minimal value’ for its employees to be the retail 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), (c)(3), 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, as those responsibilities (other than responsibilities involving approval of the employing agency) specified in subsections (c)(2)(A), (c)(3), 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 entity in which an employee is employed, for other legislative branch employees and for executive branch employees.

‘(b) An employee may not—

‘(1) 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 the gift is not likely to cause either a disfavor 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, lodging, and subsistence) 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, an employee shall—

‘(A) deposit the gift for disposal with his employing agency; or

‘(B) subject to the approval of the employing agency, deposit the gift with an agency for official use. Within 30 days after terminating official use of a gift under paragraph (2), 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 subsection (e)(2).

‘(3) When an employee deposits a gift of more than minimal value for disposal or for official use, that employee shall forward to the Administrator of General Services, within 30 days after accepting travel or travel expenses as provided in paragraph (1), a statement of the travel expenses accepted in accordance with specific instructions of the employing agency, the employee shall file a statement with the Secretary of State of gifts del or her employing agency; and

‘(4) In transmitting such listings for the purposes of paragraphs (A) and (B) 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.

‘(d) The Congress consents to the acceptance of a gift or decoration in recognition of active field service in time of combat operations or awarded for outstanding or especially 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, forwarded 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 in accordance with this subsection shall be returned to 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, except that the sale may be made 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 the United States, (ii) a State, territory, or possession of the United States, or a political subdivision of the foregoing, (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 tax under section 501(a) of such Code. Any such gift or decoration not disposed of as provided in the preceding sentence may be transferred 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 90 days after the request of the Commission, return a gift of decoration to the Commission and the Commission may dispose of such gift or decoration in such manner as the Commission determines. However, the Secretary of State shall be notified of the Commission's decision whether or not to dispose of such gift or decoration, and such notification shall be made within one year of the date of acceptance of the gift.

‘(3) The Congress consents to the acceptance, retaining, and wearing by an employee of a decoration tendered in recognition of a military service in time of combat operations or awarded for outstanding or especially meritorious performance.

‘(4) In transmitting such listings for the purposes of paragraphs (A) and (B) 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.

‘(f) (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.

‘(g) (1) The Attorney General may bring a civil action in any district court of the United States against any person who knowingly solicits or accepts a gift from a foreign government and the name and position of the individual who presented the gift;

‘(2) the date of acceptance of the gift, the estimated retail value of the gift, the name and position of the individual who presented the gift;

‘(D) 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) the estimated retail value of the gift, the date of acceptance of the gift, and the circumstances justifying acceptance; and

‘(5) disposition or current location of the gift.

‘(h) To the extent practicable, a listing under subsection (f) shall include the name, position, and title of the employee; and

‘(i) 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.

‘(j) The provisions of this section do not apply to gifts 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

RULE 1: GENERAL PROCEDURES

(a) OFFICERS: In the absence of the Chair-
the Vice Chairman or, in the Vice Chairman’s absence, a Committee member designated by the Chairman.

(b) PROCEDURAL RULES: The specific 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. The first subparagraph of this paragraph shall be decided by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, subject to reversal by a vote of a majority of the Committee.

(ii) HEARINGS ANNOUNCEMENTS: The Committee shall make public announcement of the date, place and subject matter of any hearing at least one week before the commencement of that hearing, and shall publish such announcement in the Congressional Record. If the Committee determines for good cause to commence a hearing at an earlier date, such notice will be given at the earliest possible time.

(iii) 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 Chairman and Vice Chairman. On the motion of any member, and with the approval of a majority of the Committee members present, other individuals may be admitted to a Committee meeting for a specific period or purpose.

(b) RECORD OF TESTIMONY AND COMMITTEE ACTION: An accurate stenographic or transcript 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 the use of the witness by his or her 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 COMPLAINANT PROCEEDINGS.

(1) All testimony and action taken in executive session shall be kept secret and shall not be released by the Committee to any individual or group, whether governmental or otherwise, 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, witnesses, and the staff 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 provided by law. (See Rule 8 on Procedures for Handling Committee Sensitive and Classified Materials.)

(2) 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, whether any of its activities or proceedings may be released to any individual or group whether governmental or private, without the authorization of the Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Committee, except as otherwise provided by law, or as otherwise directed by the Chairman, unless otherwise determined by the Committee. The Committee shall in the first instance be determined by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, in the absence of the other, with the approval of the majority of the Committee.

(i) 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, whether any of its activities or proceedings may be released to any individual or group whether governmental or private, without the authorization of the Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Committee, except as otherwise provided by law, or as otherwise directed by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, unless otherwise determined by the Committee. The Committee shall in the first instance be determined by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, in the absence of the other, with the approval of the majority of the Committee.

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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) the conduct of any other person about whom the staff member has confidential information.

(iv) Require on a reimbursable basis or otherwise the services of any outside counsel, 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 directed to participate in a Committee proceeding in other circumstances not listed above.

(ii) Petition for 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 annulled 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 (a), 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 in writing 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) 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 a quorum.

(n) Approval of blind trusts and foreign travel requests between sessions and during extended recesses.

(1) Any member may, for the purpose of establishing a quorum.

(ii) Approval of blind trusts: (A) the staff member’s own conduct; (B) the conduct of any employee that the staff member has supervised, that was filed by the staff member.

(iii) Foreign travel requests: any staff member who has, or whose staff member has, engaged in improper conduct which may reflect upon the Senate. Such complaints or allegations or information reported to the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, or a Committee staff member.

(b) Source of complaint: Allegation, or information.

(1) Any member may require that the record be held open for the vote of absentees or recorded proxy votes if the absent Committee member has been informed in writing 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.

(ii) Approval of blind trusts and foreign travel requests between sessions and during extended recesses.

(1) Any member may, for the purpose of establishing a quorum.

(ii) Approval of blind trusts: (A) the staff member’s own conduct; (B) the conduct of any employee that the staff member has supervised, that was filed by the staff member.

(iii) Foreign travel requests: any staff member who has, or whose staff member has, engaged in improper conduct which may reflect upon the Senate. Such complaints or allegations or information reported to the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, or a Committee staff member.

(c) Source of complaint: Allegation, or information.

(1) Any member may require that the record be held open for the vote of absentees or recorded proxy votes if the absent Committee member has been informed in writing 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.

(ii) Approval of blind trusts and foreign travel requests between sessions and during extended recesses.

(1) Any member may, for the purpose of establishing a quorum.

(ii) Approval of blind trusts: (A) the staff member’s own conduct; (B) the conduct of any employee that the staff member has supervised, that was filed by the staff member.

(iii) Foreign travel requests: any staff member who has, or whose staff member has, engaged in improper conduct which may reflect upon the Senate. Such complaints or allegations or information reported to the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, or a Committee staff member.

(d) Source of complaint: Allegation, or information.

(1) Any member may require that the record be held open for the vote of absentees or recorded proxy votes if the absent Committee member has been informed in writing 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.

(ii) Approval of blind trusts and foreign travel requests between sessions and during extended recesses.

(1) Any member may, for the purpose of establishing a quorum.

(ii) Approval of blind trusts: (A) the staff member’s own conduct; (B) the conduct of any employee that the staff member has supervised, that was filed by the staff member.

(iii) Foreign travel requests: any staff member who has, or whose staff member has, engaged in improper conduct which may reflect upon the Senate. Such complaints or allegations or information reported to the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, or a Committee staff member.

(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.

(1) Scope of preliminary inquiry: (a) 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.

(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.

(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.

(ii) Opportunity for response: A preliminary inquiry may include an opportunity for any known respondent or his or her designated representative either in writing, in oral or written, or to respond orally to questions from the Committee. Such an oral or written statement shall be transcribed and given to the person providing the statement or answers.

(e) Status reports: The Committee shall periodically receive Committee staff updates and recommendations, as appropriate.

(f) 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 no substantial credible evidence and, in such case, the Committee shall dismiss the matter. The 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 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 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 such substantial credible evidence which provides 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 there is such substantial credible evidence which provides substantial cause for the Committee to conclude that a violation within the jurisdiction of the Committee has occurred. An adjudicatory review shall be conducted by outside counsel as authorized by section 3(b)(1) of the Ethics in Government Act. 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, or engage in any appropriate inquiries, procedures, or processes prescribed by the full Senate, but the Committee shall be subject to the provisions of paragraph (b) of this rule relating to appeal, by a unanimous vote of the Committee, and shall be confidential.

(c) NOTICE TO RESPONDENT: The Committee shall give written notice to any known respondent that misconduct 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 to present evidence that would recommend disciplinary action against that respondent to the Senate or before it imposes an order of restitution or reprimand (not requiring discipline, by the affirmative recorded vote of not less than four members of the Committee), or both, pursuant to subsection (g)(1)(i), (ii), or (iii), or both, pursuant to subsection (g)(2)(ii) or (iii), or both, pursuant to subsection (g)(2)(iii) (i) in the case of a Member of the Committee, or (ii) in the case of any other person, or both, pursuant to subsection (g)(2)(i), (ii), or (iii), or both, pursuant to subsection (g)(2)(ii) or (iii), or both, pursuant to subsection (g)(2)(ii) or (iii), or both, pursuant to subsection (g)(2)(i), (ii), or (iii).

(e) PROGRESS REPORTS TO COMMITTEE: The Committee staff or outside counsel shall periodically report to the Committee on 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 be considered as part 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: (i) In the case of a Member, a 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 person who is the subject of a recommendation, if any, shall be informed of the right of appeal pursuant to subsection (g)(2) with respect to the conduct or estimate of the adverse action. (2) Any person whose name is mentioned or who is specifically mentioned in the Committee’s report to the Senate shall be accorded a hearing before the Committee, or, at its discretion, in an appropriate time, as determined by the Committee, to prepare for the hearing and to employ counsel if desired.

(i) 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 report of any action taken or recommended by the Committee before the date of that witness’s scheduled appearance, except as specifically authorized by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting separately.

(j) Any witness desiring to read a prepared or written statement in executive or public hearing 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.

(k)no practicable, each witness shall be permitted to present an oral opening statement, if he or she desires to do so.

(l) 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 him or her reputation may—

(1) Request to appear personally before the Committee to testify in his or her own behalf;

(2) File a sworn statement of facts relevant to the subject of the hearing. Such request and such statement shall be submitted to the Committee for its consideration and action.

(3) CONDUCT OF WITNESSES AND OTHER ATTENDEES: The Presiding Officer may exclude any witness whose conduct is in any way improperly conducive to the prosecution of the hearing. The Committee, by majority vote, may recommend to the Senate that the offender be cited for contempt of Congress.

(4) ADJUDICATORY HEARING PROCEDURES: (1) NOTICE OF HEARINGS: A copy of the public announcement of an adjudicatory hearing shall be furnished together with a copy of these Rules to all witnesses at the time that they

(2) RULE 5: PROCEDURES FOR HEARINGS: (a) RIGHT TO HEARING: The Committee may not consider any preliminary inquiry, adjudicatory review, or other proceeding. The Committee shall accord a respondent an opportunity for a hearing or for 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 shall accord a respondent an opportunity for a hearing or for disciplinary action against that respondent to the Senate or before it imposes an order of restitution or reprimand. (See Rule 4[d].)

(d) 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 him or her reputation may—

(1) Request to appear personally before the Committee to testify in his or her own behalf;

(2) File a sworn statement of facts relevant to the subject of the hearing. Such request and such statement shall be submitted to the Committee for its consideration and action.

(3) CONDUCT OF WITNESSES AND OTHER ATTENDEES: The Presiding Officer may exclude any witness whose conduct is in any way improperly conducive to the prosecution of the hearing. The Committee, by majority vote, may recommend to the Senate that the offender be cited for contempt of Congress.

(4) ADJUDICATORY HEARING PROCE-
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: (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 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 any of the provisions of this paragraph, the Committee, by majority vote, may recommend to the Senate that the offender be (i) removed from the Committee, (ii) the member who is the offender, or (iii) the member designated 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, acting jointly.
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 other means of communication 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 of the Committee, or the Committee, 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 produces materials 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 transcript 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 or, if the Committee does not have a chief clerk, 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 the statement 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 a 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 wilfully swears falsely to a sworn complaint or any other sworn statement to the Committee does so under penalty of perjury. The Chairman may refer any such case to the Attorney General for prosecution.

(c) LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS: The Committee shall recommend to the Senate by the recorded vote of not less than four members of the Senate that legislation be enacted to prohibit conduct prohibited by the 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 determine whether such legislation is necessary or desirable to ensure proper standards of conduct by Members, officers, or employees of the Senate. The Committee may make 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: Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, no adjudicatory review shall be initiated of any alleged violation of any law, rule, or regulation which was not in effect at the time the alleged violation occurred. No provisions of the Senate Code of Official Conduct, or any act, relationship, or transaction which occurred prior to the effective date of the applicable provision of the Code, may have occurred, it shall report such possible violation to the Committee or its staff.

(2) 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 a 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 8: PROCEDURE 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; or as otherwise specifically referred to the Committee on Ethics into such allegations or conduct; or to the investigative techniques and procedures of the Select Committee on Ethics; or to other information as may be necessary to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of Committee Sensitive materials shall be in writing and shall be given to each Committee staff member and shall be hand delivered to the Select Committee’s offices in secure filing safes. Reprisals or materials. Classified materials shall be further segregated in the Committee’s offices in secure filing safes. Removal from the Committee’s offices of such materials, as except as necessary for use in, or preparation for, interviews or Committee meetings, or as otherwise specifically approved by the Chairman or Vice Chairman, acting jointly, 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 prior approval of 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 specifically designated by the member, for the member’s or designated staff member’s examination. A member of the Committee who has possession of Committee Sensitive or classified documents or materials is prohibited from making any unauthorized disclosure of Committee Sensitive or classified documents or materials. A 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 develop and implement programs and procedures necessary to prevent the unauthorized disclosure to the Committee’s offices in secure filing safes. Reprisals or materials. Classified materials shall be further segregated in the Committee’s offices in secure filing safes. Removal from the Committee’s offices of such materials, as except as necessary for use in, or preparation for, interviews or Committee meetings, or as otherwise specifically approved by the Chairman or Vice Chairman, acting jointly, 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 prior approval of 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 specifically designated by the member, for the member’s or designated staff member’s examination. A member of the Committee who has possession of Committee Sensitive or classified documents or materials is prohibited from making any unauthorized disclosure of Committee Sensitive or classified documents or materials.

(2) The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee shall adopt such procedures as may be necessary to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of information as classified under the authority of Executive Order 11832 requiring protection of such information or material from unauthorized disclosure. The Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly, shall have access to 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 authorized by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly, shall have access to classified information in the Committee’s possession.

(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, publish, reveal, make known 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 after such tenure, any testimony given before the Select Committee on Ethics in executive session (including the name of any witness who appeared at the hearing), 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 testimony 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 in a need-to-know basis 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 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 non-disclosure 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 authorize broadcasting or coverage being 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 in any form such as broadcasting, television, still photography, or by 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: the Committee, and reporting media using mechanical recording, filming, or broadcasting apparatus shall position their equipment so as not to interfere with the seating arrangement or the hearing or meeting of the Committee members and staff, or with the orderly process of the meeting or hearing.

(d) 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.

(e) Personnel providing coverage by the television and radio media shall be currently accredited to the Radio and Television Correspondents' Gallery Committee of Press Photographers' Gallery Committee of Professionalbroadcasting.

(f) Personnel providing coverage by still photography shall be currently accredited by the Press Photographers’ Gallery Committee of the Senate.

(g) 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, rule, or regulation of the Senate 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 request by any employee of the Senate concerning the application of any law, the 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 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 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 Members or officers of the Senate;

(B) when the Committee determines that comments from interested parties would be of assistance in rendering an advisory opinion.

(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 agree, or (B) either requests that it be taken directly to the Committee, 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, and interpreted opinions may at any time revise, withdraw, or elaborate on advisory opinions.

(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 relevant facts are the same in such a transaction or activity, or the advice renders the result of such act, 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 interpretation 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) ADOPTION OF 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) any request that be taken to the Committee, in which case the ruling 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 a satisfaction that his or her conduct was in good faith rendered 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 render 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 MAILING FRANK

(a) AUTHORITY TO RECEIVE COMPLAINTS: The Committee is directed by section 6(b) of Public Law 95–191 to receive and dispose of complaints that a violation of the use of the mailing frank, or is about to occur by a Member or officer of the Senate or by a surviving spouse of a Member. As such complaints will be processed in accordance with the provisions of these Rules, except as provided in paragraph (b).

(b) DISPOSITION OF COMPLAINTS: The Committee may respond to any such complaint by requiring restitution of the cost of the mailing, pursuant to the franking statute, or if it finds that the franking violation was the result of a mistake, the

(2) Any complaint disposed of by restitution that is made after the Committee has formally commenced an adjudicatory review, shall be summarized, the disposition, in a report to the Senate, as appropriate.

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(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 INTERPRETATION RULES: Requests for advisory opinions or interpretative rulings involving frivolous questions shall be processed in accordance with Rules 10 and 11.

RULE XVII: 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 10(h) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, as amended (Rule XXXIV), relating to the filing of financial disclosure reports, 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 5 of Rule XLI relating to applicability of any of the provisions of the Code of Official Conduct to an employee of the Senate or diem basis;

(b) REQUESTS FOR WAIVERS: A request for a waiver under paragraph (a) must be directed to the Chairman of the Committee 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 12(f) of Rule XXXVII of the Standing Rules of the Senate) should be included on 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 the exception of a 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) AVAILABILITY OF 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, by the office of the staff director or outside counsel.

(e) NOTICE OF SUMMONS TO TESTIFY: A written notice of the proposed change has been provided each member of the Committee. Notice of the proposed change has been provided each member of the Committee.

(f) 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.

RULE XVIII: COMMITTEE STAFF

(1) 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 fees in connection with service as a member of the staff, or provide advice or counsel to an employer, or committee of the Senate, or any person employed by the officer or employee of the Senate, 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, documentation, 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 member recommended by a special counsel, for the purposes of a particular preliminary inquiry, an 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 it 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.

(c) DISMISSAL OF STAFF: A staff member may be dismissed for cause or, upon order of the Committee, the staff director or outside counsel shall immediately notify the Senate of the dismissal.

(d) STAFF WORKS FOR COMMITTEE AS A WHOLE: All staff employed by the Committee 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 relating to the person or his or her employment with the Committee.

RULE XVI: 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 Orders of the Senate, may be modified, amended, or suspended on 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 proposal 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) Senate Resolution 338, 98th 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.

(b) 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.

(c) Public Law 93–191 relating to the use of the mail franking privilege by Senators, officers of the Senate, and surviving spouses of Senators.

(d) Senate Resolution 400, 94th Congress, Section 8, relating to unauthorized disclosure of classified information in the performance of the Select Committee on Intelligence.

(e) Public Law 95–105, Section 515, relating to the receipt and disposition of foreign gifts and contributions received by members, officers and employees and their spouses or dependents.

(f) Preamble to Senate Resolution 266, 90th Congress, 2d Session, March 22, 1968, and


(g) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, no body shall be an adjudicatory body if the committee initiates 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 occurred prior to the effective date of the Senate Code of Official Conduct if the alleged violation occurred while such rule or...
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 HAAHLAND

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 reestablish 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, a herculean task, and one without precedent. 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 AMBIGUITIES 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 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:

### 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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Years</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2021–2025</th>
<th>2021–2030</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Aggregates: Spending</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget Authority</td>
<td>5,803,131</td>
<td>15,888,915</td>
<td>35,563,764</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outlays</td>
<td>5,882,815</td>
<td>15,998,815</td>
<td>35,671,024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjustment: Revenue</td>
<td>25,380</td>
<td>25,487</td>
<td>5,524</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revised Aggregates: Budget Authority</td>
<td>5,776,796</td>
<td>15,863,428</td>
<td>35,499,646</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outlays</td>
<td>5,867,600</td>
<td>15,974,319</td>
<td>35,626,548</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revised Balance:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiscal Year 2021</td>
<td>1,192,670</td>
<td>1,069,230</td>
<td>1,965,588</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiscal Years 2021–2025</td>
<td>19,045</td>
<td>18,847</td>
<td>12,164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiscal Years 2021–2030</td>
<td>19,045</td>
<td>18,847</td>
<td>12,164</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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 2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Years</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2021–2025</th>
<th>2021–2030</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Aggregates:</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td>2,503,907</td>
<td>15,284,591</td>
<td>35,074,542</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adjustment: Revenue</td>
<td>24,782,572</td>
<td>15,301,678</td>
<td>35,080,066</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revised Aggregates:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td>2,528,689</td>
<td>15,526,269</td>
<td>35,154,608</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Years</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2021–2025</th>
<th>2021–2030</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Allocation: Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Budget Authority</td>
<td>240,315</td>
<td>831,670</td>
<td>1,562,654</td>
</tr>
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<td>Outlays</td>
<td>202,027</td>
<td>733,208</td>
<td>1,388,412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjustment: Revenue</td>
<td>22,647</td>
<td>22,712</td>
<td>22,712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revised Allocation: Budget Authority</td>
<td>262,917</td>
<td>854,582</td>
<td>1,585,366</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2021–2025</th>
<th>2021–2030</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Outlays</strong></td>
<td>220.850</td>
<td>755.756</td>
<td>1,411.124</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Current Allocation</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Budget Authority</strong></td>
<td>–463.909</td>
<td>–378.485</td>
<td>–269.169</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Outlays</strong></td>
<td>–10.918</td>
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<td><strong>Adjustments</strong></td>
<td>92.731</td>
<td>92.731</td>
<td>92.731</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Outlays</strong></td>
<td>81.770</td>
<td>81.770</td>
<td>81.770</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Revised Allocation</strong></td>
<td>–371.678</td>
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<td>–176.938</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Outlays</strong></td>
<td>21.626</td>
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<td><strong>Indian Affairs</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Budget Authority</strong></td>
<td>314.473</td>
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<td><strong>Outlays</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Outlays</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Finance</strong></td>
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<td>14,655.178</td>
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<td><strong>Budget Authority</strong></td>
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<td>34,246.494</td>
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<td><strong>Outlays</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Outlays</strong></td>
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<td>35,460.026</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Budget Authority</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Outlays</strong></td>
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<td>244.258</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Adjustments</strong></td>
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<td>304.695</td>
<td>304.614</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Outlays</strong></td>
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<td>303.942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>573.311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Outlays</strong></td>
<td>304.695</td>
<td>437.066</td>
<td>573.311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Budget Authority</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Outlays</strong></td>
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<td>573.311</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Outlays</strong></td>
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<td>437.066</td>
<td>573.311</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Indian Affairs</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Budget Authority</strong></td>
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<td>17.080</td>
<td>17.080</td>
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<td><strong>Outlays</strong></td>
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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 co-founder 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 School Sweepstakes 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 law.

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, EC-619. A communication from the Direc-

ec-620. A communication from the Direc-
motor of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmit-
motor, pursuant to law, the report of a rule en-
titled “Quinalofop-ethyl; Pesticide Tolerances” (FRL No. 10020-34-OCSP) received in the Of-
ec-621. A communication from the Direc-
E-622. A communication from the Direc-
motor of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmit-
motor, pursuant to law, the report of a rule en-
titled “Picarbutrazox; Pesticide Tolerances” (FRL No. 10003-99-OCSP) received in the Of-
ec-623. A communication from the Direc-
E-624. A communication from the Direc-
motor of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, trans-
motor, pursuant to law, the report of a rule en-
titled “Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality State Implementation Plans; California; Plumas County; State Airport 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.

E-625. A communication from the Direc-
motor of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, trans-
motor, pursuant to law, the report of a rule en-
titled “Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality State Implementation Plans; Certain Chemical Substances (99-B)” (FRL No. 10016-51-OCSP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 9, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

E-626. A communication from the Direc-
motor 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 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 11, 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 “Air Plan Approval; Georgia: Non-Interference Demonstration and Maintenance Plan for the Removal of Transmission Control Measures in the Atlantic Area” (FRL No. 10019–92–Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 11, 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; Arizona: Final County Air Quality Control District Plan Approval (RIN:1625–AA00)” received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 9, 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 Fuel 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. 10020–90–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 “Promulgation of State Air Quality Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; State of Maryland: Control of Emissions from Existing Sewage Sludge Incinerators; Notice of Approval of Plan” (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 “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 copies of the treaty and background statements of international agreements other than treaties (List 2021–0040–2021–0043); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.


EC–635. A communication from the Yeoman of the Office, 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” (GRIN1625–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 of the Office, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Security Zone: Ohio River, Near Elizabeth, Ohio” (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 Mr. CASEY) S. 752. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an election to expense certain qualified sound recording costs over a 15-year period chargeable to capital account; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Sen. KOIN) S. 753. A bill to reauthorize the Highlands Conservation Act, to authorize States to use funds from that Act for administrative purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Ms. ERNST, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Ms. HANSA, Mr. VANNOLLEN, Mr. MARKY, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. SHAHREH, Mr. WITEHOUSE, Ms. KLOUCHAR, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. WARRICK, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HIRONO, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) S. 754. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to encourage State Medicaid programs to provide mobile crisis intervention services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. CASEY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. SANDERS) S. 761. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to encourage State Medicaid programs to provide 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. VANNOLLEN, Mr. MARKY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COONS, Mrs. SHAHREH, Mr. KAIN, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. REED) S. 756. 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, Ms. SMITH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. PAUL, and Mr. BROWN) S. 760. A bill to require recipients of Federal funds to disclose information relating to programs, projects, or activities carried out using the Federal credit program of the Department of Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. COTTON, Ms. 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 authorize a 2-year period in which credit unions may capitalize on Federal credit programs, 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. HANSA, Mr. VANNOLLEN, Mr. MARKY, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. SHAHREH, Mr. WITEHOUSE, Ms. KLOUCHAR, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. WARRICK, 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, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. SANDERS) S. 764. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to criminalize corporate complicity in domestic 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 Finance.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. VANNOLLEN, Mr. MARKY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COONS, Mrs. SHAHREH, Mr. KAIN, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. REED) S. 756. 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. MARKY, and Mr. VANNOLLEN) S. 760. 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 Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MARKY, and Mr. VANNOLLEN) S. 760. 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 Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Mr. CASEY) 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.
S. 767. A bill to amend the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act to modify the exemptions from certain disclosure requirements; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. BROWN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. KAINES, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 767. 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. 767. 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, Mr. WARNEN, 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. BALDWIN, Mr. LANDFORD, and Mr. CARPENTER):

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. CAPITTO, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 773. A bill to enable certain hospitals that wish to participate in or apply for the drug discount program under section 340B of the Public Health Service Act prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency to temporarily establish 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. HAYES, Mr. HAYLEY, Mr. BURRE, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. MORAN, Ms. CAPITTO, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. CREAMER, 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 misdemeanor convictions and, for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. LANDRY):

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, Mr. COTTON, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. 777. 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. SHALALA, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. DUCKWORTH, Mr. KAINES, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. SMITH, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. Lujan, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. WARNEN, 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. SCHAKowsky):

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. CORYN (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. ERNST, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. KING, Mrs. SHAHRAHAN, 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. CORNYN (for herself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. ERNST, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. KING, Mrs. SHAHRAHAN, and Ms. STABENOW):

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.

S. 788. A bill providing for implementation to support peace initiatives for implementation to support peace initiatives on the island of Ireland; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

S. 789. A bill providing for the protection of the children of victims of human trafficking; to the Committee on Appropriations.

S. 800. A bill to provide for the establishment of a National Truth and Reconciliation Commission; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

S. 377. A bill to provide for the establishment of a National Truth and Reconciliation Commission; to the Committee on Appropriations.

S. 96. 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. 107. A bill to provide for the establishment of a National Truth and Reconciliation Commission; to the Committee on Appropriations.

S. 138. A bill to create the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency; to the Committee on Appropriations.

S. 278. A bill to provide for the establishment of a National Truth and Reconciliation Commission; to the Committee on Appropriations.

S. 377. A bill to provide for the establishment of a National Truth and Reconciliation Commission; to the Committee on Appropriations.

S. 408. A bill to provide for the establishment of a National Truth and Reconciliation Commission; to the Committee on Appropriations.

S. 408. A bill to provide for the establishment of a National Truth and Reconciliation Commission; to the Committee on Appropriations.

S. 408. A bill to provide for the establishment of a National Truth and Reconciliation Commission; to the Committee on Appropriations.
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. Bennett), 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. 677

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, gift 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. 655

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. 97, 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 creative production.

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 an 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 (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 section and be eligible for such program 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(4)(i) of the Public Health Service Act; or

(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(4)(i) 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 requirement under subparagraph (O) of such section 340B(4)(i), 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(4)(i) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256b(4)(i)).

(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 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, for the third year in a row, Social Work Month is themed “Social Workers Are Essential”;

Whereas the heroic contributions social workers have made to the United States, including the work social workers have done to help 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, sex, 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 social work 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 millions of people, 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 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:
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 most basic human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Whereas, from 1959 until his death in 2016, dictator Fidel Castro, who promised to implement the Cuban people's will against tyranny, systematically violated the human rights of the people, curtailed freedom of the press, arbitrarily imprisoned and killed an untold number of nonviolent political protestors, or expropriated 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 up to 18 months, subjected to harsh and inhumane treatment, and later sentenced with the firing squad, or were imprisoned for 8 hours with limited oxygen.

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 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 in a 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, in March 1962, as the trial of the captured fighters approached, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross referred to Fidel Castro, asking that the provisions of Article 3 of the Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, done at Geneva, June 27, 1949, be fully respected 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, not only forgetting their beloved homeland.

Whereas, on December 29, 1962, President John Fitzgerald Kennedy was presented with the banana boat 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. 389) 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 offenders.

Whereas the Cuban people continue to struggle and demand respect for democratic values, civil liberties, freedom, and justice.

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes 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 act with 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;

(4) recognizes that many veterans of the Bay of Pigs operation settled across the United States to become productive members of the American society, 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

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”; and

Whereas the goals of the Good Friday Agreement were to bring a new era of de-voiled government and democracy to Northern Ireland, end violence, and ensure peace for the people 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 insti-tutions offers 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, creating an open border on the island of Ireland (in this preamble referred to as the “Northern Ire-land Protocol”), are intended to protect the peace achieved under the Good Friday Agree-ment;

Whereas, despite the historic progress of the Good Friday Agreement and subsequent agreements, including the Stormont House Agreement agreed to in December 2014, im-portant issues remain unresolved in North-ern Ireland, including the Bill of Rights, securing justice for all victims of violence, including state-sponsored violence, and reducing sectarian divisions and pro-moting reconciliation;

Whereas section 6 of the Good Friday Agreement (“Rights, Safeguards and Equal-ity of Opportunity”) recognizes “the impor-tance of respect, understanding and toler-ance in relation to linguistic diversity” as part of “the cultural wealth of the island of Ireland” and declares the Government of the United Kingdom, the Government of Ireland for the return in January 2020 to a power-sharing government, and the protocol to that agreement on Northern 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 is-land 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 Eu-ropean Union to support peace on the island of Ireland and promote the implementation and commitments of the Good Friday Agree-ment, also known as the “Belfast Agreement”;

(2) expresses support for the full implementa-tion of the Good Friday Agreement and subsequent agreements, including the Stormont House Agreement agreed to in December 2014, as well as the protocol to that agreement 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”), are intended to protect the peace achieved under the Good Friday Agree-ment;

(3) congratulates all parties in Northern Ireland for the return in January 2020 to a power-sharing government;

(4) calls on all parties in Northern Ireland to work collectively to ensure the implementa-tion of all commitments of the Good Friday Agreement and subsequent agreements so that all of the institutions of the Good Fri-day Agreement can operate successfully and sustainably and that ongoing political chal- lenges can be overcome;

(5) calls for continuing attention and ac-tion to resolve the injustices of past vio-lence, including state-sponsored violence;

(6) supports the passage of a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland that would allow the people on the island of Ireland to self-deter-mine their future as provided for in the Good Friday Agreement;

(7) encourages renewed attention to edu-cational and cultural efforts that will ensure the rich language, literature, and arts of
Northern Ireland endure and are not diminished;
(3) 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, and soldiers missing in action from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq; 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, and soldiers missing in action from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq; and
(5) 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, and soldiers missing in action from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq; and
(6) 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, and soldiers missing in action from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq; and
(7) 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, and soldiers missing in action from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq; and
(8) 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, and soldiers missing in action from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq; and
(9) 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, and soldiers missing in action from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq; and

S1574

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE
March 16, 2021

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 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 Wednesday, March 17, 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 bill 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.

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.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate March 16, 2021:

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LESLEY 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 FONZENE, 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.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

JANIE SIMMS HIPPI, 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 FONZENE, 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.

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 short-changed 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 on behalf of the people of Tennessee to honor and celebrate the life and accomplishments of Dr. Badie Ibrahim Naddy of Columbia, Tennessee. Dr. 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 LÉGER FERNANDEZ
OF NEW MEXICO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Ms. LÉGER 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 block grants 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

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

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.
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 Ileoma Uyanwure, 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 Dyu, MD, Douglas Dale Van Mannel, 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 Vang Mae, DO, Douglas Dale Van Mannel, MD, Lucas S. Van Oeveren, MD, Andrew Dean Van Osdl, 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 Vegle, DO, Robert E. VanDemark, Jr., MD, Michael Vanden Bosch, MD, Antoinette Vander Pol, MD, Eric Alan Vandez Woude, MD, Ashley Jo VanDyke, DO, Sandra L. VanGerpen, MD, William C. VanNess, III, MD, Christopher Sean Varo, MD, Zoltan Varga, MD, Francisco Meza Vargas, DO, Tejaswin Vasasemtly, MD, Peter Vasconcellos, DO, Kevin J. Vaska, MD, Peter John Vasquez, MD, Collin Wayne Vaughn, MD, Kelly Vaughn-Whitney, MD, Jill Quinrin Vecchio, MD, Arthur B. Vegh, MD, Sara Beth Veldman, MD, Jared Lee Velgersdyk, MD, Wilfredo G. Velora, Jr., MD, Michael Vener, MD, Ramesh Venkataaraman, MD, Juan Pablo Vera Gomez, MD, Mark Thomas Vercel, DO, William N. Vereen, DO, Vishal Vermani, MD, Michael Richard Verneris, MD, Walter Benson Vermon, MD, Eric Gale Verwiebe, MD, Joshua Joseph Verzilli, MD, Ann Vieira, MD, Lisa Elizabeth Vianna, DO, Robert David Vivich, MD, Martin G. Vick, MD, Ernst Emanuel Vieux, MD, Tamara Vik, MD, Joseph V. Villa, MD, Anna Maria Villalobos, MD, Mary Lee Villanueva, MD, Daniel Brennan Vine, MD, Lisa C. Viola, DO, Jessica Lynn Visscher, MD, Jonathan Joseph Vitale, DO, Daniel Silcheuk Vitantonio, MD, Oscar Andres Viteri Molina, MD, Dale Elizabeth Vizzcarra, MD, Rodney T. Vizcarra, MD, David Leo Vlach, MD, Thuy-Lieu Thi Vo, MD, Joseph Charles Vogel, MD, H. Bruce Vogel, MD, Vincent Vogt, MD, Frederick Vogt Jr., MD, Charles Virgil Voigt, MD, Keith A. Vollstedt, MD, Lawrence T. Volz, MD, Tiffany Ann Von Wald, MD, Peter E. Vandrau, MD, Jack Vonk, MD, Galen Neil Vonk, MD, Loren N. Vorlicky, MD, Christopher John Vosopoulos, 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, Konstantin Vural, MD, Elisaveta Vavpola, MD, Godfrey Oduor Wabwire, MD, David Michael Wachs, MD, Keith L. Waddell, MD, Beau Elliot Waddell, MD, Ranju Bala Wadhwa, MD, Shawn Jeffery Eric Wadsworth, DO, Michael G. Wadzinski, MD, John Francis Wagner, MD, David Van Wagner, MD, Rick J. Wagner, MD, KayLyn J. Wagner, MD, Andrew James Wagner, MD, James Allen Wagner, DO, Amy Lynne Wagoner, MD, Naomi Wahl, MD, David Charles WAhorn, MD, Aaron Noble Waite, MD, Richard A. Wake, MD, James S. Waldner, 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 Dartagnon Walker, DO, Bairn Michael Walker, MD, Victoria Walker, MD, Patrick L. Walker, MD, Timothy L. Walker, MD, Caryn M. Wallace, MD, James W. Wallace, MD, Adam Nathan Wallace, MD, Eiron James Wallace, MD, William C. Walrur Jr., MD, Melvin L. Wallinga, MD, Patrick M Walsh, MD, Cora Maj Walsh, MD, William Frederick Wall, MD, Clifford Tavoy Wall, DO, Clifford Tauto Wang, MD, Katherine Wang, MD, Heeyoun Paul Wang, MD, Christopher E. Wangness, MD, Michelle Rae Wanna, MD, Brad Allen Ward, MD, David Isum Ward, MD, Kevin Christopher Ward, DO, Tibor Thomas Wani, MD, Michael Paul Warhol, MD, Katherine Irene Warner, DO, Beth Boudien Warren, MD, Merritt Gregg Warren, MD, Chetan Jiwan Wasekar, MD, Paul Scot Wasmeller, MD, Stephen Edward Wasmeller, 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 Weathersbee, MD, Chidinma Wellman, 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 Weekley, MD, Mary M. Wegner, MD, Antonios Wehbeh, MD, Julie Lynn Weigandt, MD, John August Weigel, MD, Kevin Weiland, MD, Edwin Fredrick Weiler Jr, MD, Florian Wolfgang Anton Weilke, MD, Donna Weinacht, MD, Robin S. Weiner, MD, Candice Natalie Weier-Johnson, MD, Melissa N. Weis, MD, An- thony William Welte, MD, Lawrence Welte, MD, Steven Joe Weiser, MD, Dustin James Welton, MD, Mary Musa Weis, MD, Christine Louise Welker, MD, Bryan J. Wellman, MD, Lawrence Raymond Wellman, MD, Alvin Francis Wells, MD, Stanley Dale Wells, MD, Gary L. Welsh, MD, Randy L. Welte, MD, Fang Wen, MD, Liangping Wen, MD, Christopher James Wengen, MD, Robert S. Wengen, MD, Thomas J. Wente, DO, Clinton J. Wenzet, MD, Jennifer Lynn Wenzell, DO, Betsy Jane Wernli, MD, Matthew Christian Werpy, DO, Roger W. Wheet, MD, Akil Y. Welzel, MD, Aditya David R. West, MD, Paul W. West, MD, Hemi Denonc Westbrooke, MD, Brian Thomas Westerhus, MD, Thomas Westover, MD, Gilbert Westreich, MD, Wayne A. Wetzberger, 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 Whibitbeck, MD, Scott Stuart White, MD, Jessica Renee White, MD, James R. White, MD, Thomas C. White, MD, Charles R. White, MD, DO, Lisa Ann White, MD, David Karl White, MD, Anthony Paul Whitol, DO, Courtney Wade Whitney, DO, David B. Whitney, MD, Laura Ann Whittington, DO, Kevin D. Whittle, MD, Jason W. Wickersham, MD, Jenna Lyn Wixture, DO, Matthew C. Wierder, 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 Wilcockson, 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 Ann Wilson, DO, Christopher Daniel 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 Winer, 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 Wiinarski, DO, Philip F. Wilmans, MD, Jennifer Anne Wilson, 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 Wittmann, MD, Lara Marie Wiziecki, DO, Jes- sica Rae Woelfel, MD, Randal Francis Wojciechosi, DO, Michael Lawrence Wolak, MD, Michael J. Wolf, MD, Robert Anthony Wolfe, MD, David G. Wolf, MD, Danny A. Wolfram, 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, Peyysal W. Worthington, MD, John Wos, DO, Kristine Kay Wren, MD, Darin L. Wright, MD, Kenneth J. Wright, MD, Paul L. Wright, MD, Matthew William Wright, MD, Mi- chael Hill Wright, MD, Kent Douglas Wright, MD, Amanda Elizabeth Wright, MD, James Henri Wudel, MD, Christopher Alan Wilson, DO, James F. Wunder, MD, Daniel Jay Wunder, MD, Jason Theodore Wurth, MD, Joseph Wyatt, MD, Qingmei Xie, MD, Chencheng Xie, MD, Yisuuke Yahagi, MD, Rajkumar Varasagama, MD, Scott Mehl, DO, Yma Soss Yassell Yassa, MD, Terry Yeager, MD, Charles C. Yelverton, MD, Xiyan Yi, MD, Douglas Bin Yin, MD, Suzanne Michelle Yoder, MD, Estelle Sukyung Yoo, MD, Min Chong Yoo, MD, Myung Jae Yoo, MD, Hee Sang Yoon, DO, John Aaron Yost, MD, Angela Christel Young, MD, David Matthew Young, MD, James W. Young, DO, Vassilia D. Young, MD, Roger Young, MD, Bradley Nels Younggren, MD, Adel Younoszai,


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 taught 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 KATCO
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Mr. KATCO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a lifetime of service to our nation and to the community in which he lived. Mr. Gordon “Gordie” Lane was a man of integrity, honor, and dedication. He served his country with distinction, first as a Marine in Vietnam and later as a dedicated public servant.

Gordie was born in Syracuse, New York, on October 31, 1934, and attended Syracuse University, where he earned a degree in business administration. After serving in the Vietnam War, he returned to New York and became involved in community service and advocacy. He was a tireless advocate for veterans and their families, working to ensure that they received the healthcare and recognition they deserved.

In his role as superintendent of the Syracuse City School District, Gordie worked to improve the quality of education for all students. He was a strong advocate for equal opportunities for all students, regardless of their background or circumstances.

After retiring from his role as superintendent, Gordie continued to serve his community as a member of the Syracuse Police Department and as a volunteer for many local organizations. He was a dedicated leader and mentor to many individuals.

Gordie was a respected member of his community and a beloved figure to all who knew him. He was a true example of the values of dedication, service, and integrity that we should all strive to emulate.

In recognition of his life, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in honoring the legacy 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.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. GORDON “GORDIE” LANE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Mr. KATCO. 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, retired 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 them. Gordie was 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, and the 225th anniversary of 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 central to the formation of our Constitution. 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 neighbors.
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 are just as relevant to 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 unprecedented 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 2011, 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—since 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 numerous 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 reporters and editors of the daily 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 Hubert Ford, Robert 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 the past 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 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 Cannon House Office Building doing such things as restoring the “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 of 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 meet- ings on Capitol Hill for political and policy organiza- tions 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 democ- racy. Steve Livengood proudly claims that the United States government serves as the best example of government for all of mankind. 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 vic- tims’ lack of self-confidence and their ability to avoid returning to abusive partners. In re- sponse to this discovery, she developed a pro- gram to help these women own their power and start living for themselves again. Her pro- gram 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 sup- porters help women realize that their past is nothing to be ashamed of, but rather, an op- portunity to create a brighter and healthier fu- ture. While there is so much more we must do to prevent domestic violence, I am grateful for leaders like Dana, her passion and perseverance 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. ALICE L. HASTINGS
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, this chamber recently passed H.R. 1, the “For the People Act,” significant legislation making it easier for American citizens to vote in U.S. elections, to increase transparency and accountability in our election process. The White House also recently announced a new execu- tive order to assist this effort. These are posi- tive 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 legis- latures 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 Hel- sinki Commission, I have supported the posi- tive steps that need to be taken 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 pan- demic, and a German parliamentarian re- ported on its findings on February 26. He did not point fingers at us and accuse. He men- tioned 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 extremely unlikely that the OSCE election observation could be steered in support of any particular agenda other than better elections. I therefore want to commend to my col- leagues the full OSCE Final report “United States of America General Elections, 3 No- vember 2020, ODIHR Limited Election Observa- tion Mission”, which can be found at https:// www.osce.org/files/documents/777/477823.2.pdf. It offers an important perspec- tive 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 coun- tries on a regular basis.

The issues raised in the report are the same issues we Americans debate here in Wash- ington, in our state capitals and through the media. I take the conclusions and rec- ommendations, 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 legisla- tors should read this report; indeed, I rec- ommend it to any American who cares about our 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 “authori- ties should review existing measures to further reduce the number of unregistered voters, in- cluding 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 equitable for all vot- ers.” It also makes specific recommendations regarding specific groups of American citizens. We do not need to agree about every con- clusion and recommendation in this report to take it seriously. It is a contribution to our de- bate about the 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 numer- ous 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, pro- viding the expertise that comes with our expe- rience. If we are to encourage govern- ments to take this effort seriously and imple- ment recommendations, we need to set the example ourselves. Unfortunately, several U.S. states greatly restrict or even prohibit international observation. This is something we must change as we face mid- term 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 occa- sion 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 certifi- cate in order to join the war effort at the Wil- low Run Bomber Plant in Ypsilanti Township. Jean was originally hired as a welder but be- came a riveter, working on the center wing of the B-24 and sometimes slipping notes into the wings for servicemen 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 gen- eration of working women.

She came to meet her first husband Mos- cow Lambert after a man at a bus stop at Wil- low Run had broken his glasses and asked for assistance in writing to his son who was serv- ing 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. To- gether, 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 Rosie’s 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 2019, she was named the 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 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 two terms 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 administrative 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 outstanding 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. Sharmon 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 Mallins 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 Sharer earned silver in air rifle.

Coach Harry Mallins 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.
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.

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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 hard-working 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.

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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 humble 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 Southwestern Pennsylvania. In 1966, he joined the 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 the Southwest Virginia District; 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.

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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 earned an associate degree in Industrial Electricity in 1978.

In 1991, Commander Beeman joined the U.S. Navy Reserve Seabees, 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.
Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I reintroduce the bipartisan “Student Loan Refinancing and Recalulation 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 Recalulation 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 Recalulation Act” and to work to address this crisis facing so many Americans.


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.


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 the 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, telecommunications, 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 Hispanics 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 alumnas 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 Hispanics 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.
Tuesday, March 16, 2021

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
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — DAILY DIGEST


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.

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.

Additional Cosponsors: Pages H1410–13

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. 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)

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Tlaib to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Recess: The House recessed at 12:19 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m.
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. 1686) 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 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

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 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, 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 Judiciary 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. 656, 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.

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 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.


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.

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Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
10 a.m., Wednesday, March 17

**House Chamber**


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**Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue**

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