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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

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

Holy God, as the week proceeds with so much more left to do, we pray Your divine presence in every debate, every hearing, every meeting, every conversation, and not the least, in every vote.

Given the sheer exhaustion, frenetic schedule, inadequate nourishment of body and soul through which these Members dutifully toil, without Your divine guidance, who is able to govern Your people?

Even as You answered King Solomon's prayer, grant these Your servants discerning hearts in the governance of this country. May they be able to parse out the necessary from the convenient. May they divide Your purpose from their prejudice. Simply, may they be able to distinguish right from wrong.

Unto Your care we commend then today's proceedings that they would prove worthy in Your sight.

We offer this prayer in the strength of Your name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Colorado (Mrs. BOEBERT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. BOEBERT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

RENAME RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is said that a picture is worth a thousand words. This is a picture of a symbol of national shame. It is the Russell Senate Office Building. The Russell Senate Office Building is named after Richard Russell, a racist and a bigot.

For 49 years, taxpayer dollars have gone into this facility. For 49 years, people have had to endure knowing that this facility is named after a bigot.

I believe that it is time for change. It is time to take the name of Richard Russell off this building. We don't have to name it in honor of someone else. Let it revert to the name that it had prior to Richard Russell; it was the Old Senate Office Building.

I ask that we do this, and I am going to write a letter to each and every Senator explaining this and hoping that each and every Senator will at some point decide that a building paid for with taxpayer dollars should not be named in honor of a racist and a bigot.

HONORING HARRY TALBOTT

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

Mrs. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of a western Colorado legend and my dear friend, Harry Talbott of Palisade.

At his 2018 induction into the Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame, Harry remarked:

The world may little remember nor long note what we have done here tonight, but our contributions to Colorado agriculture will live long after we are gone and make it easier for those who come after us.

I am honored and blessed to have known Harry, as is western Colorado.

As the founder of one of Colorado's largest and oldest orchards, Talbott Farms, his contributions to agriculture in Colorado cannot be overstated.

Grown with snowmelt from the Grand Mesa, the Talbott name is synonymous with the best peaches many will ever have the pleasure of experiencing.

Along the way, he employed and mentored countless Coloradans, many of whom remain in agriculture today with farms of their own.

Without Harry and his grandiose vision for Palisade, the Western Slope wouldn't be the place that it is today. He is the giant whose shoulders the community now stands upon.

However, I would be remiss to confine any tribute merely to Harry's business endeavors because they are but a small piece of the man he was.

Harry was the quintessential renaissance man. Harry was a veteran, having served honorably in the United States Army. Harry was a science teacher who invested in the hearts and minds of the children in our communities.

Harry was a pioneer and an icon of Colorado's Third District, a man whose character has been integral to that of the Western Slope.

Harry leaves behind his wife, Bonnie; his children, Bruce, Nathan, Charlie, Dave, and Kathy; as well as numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

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I extend to them my heartfelt condolences and pray that God's holy spirit will comfort them and mend their broken hearts. Today, we honor a life of service.

Harry, we love you.

HONORING KEVIN VALENCIA

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

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Orlando Police Officer Kevin Valencia.

As a former chief in Orlando, I join my brothers and sisters at OPD and Kevin's wife, Meghan, and their two sons in expressing gratitude for his service and in mourning his passing.

In 2018, Officer Valencia responded to a domestic violence call involving a convicted felon armed with a firearm who was holding four children hostage. Upon trying to gain entry and save the children, Kevin was shot and critically wounded. The subject later took the lives of those children.

Kevin fought hard to survive but succumbed to his injuries on March 15 of this year.

We use the word ''hero'' often, and sometimes I think we forget the many heroic actions our men and women in blue perform every day. But Officer Kevin Valencia was a hero in every sense of the word.

On March 15, a part of America died. We are grateful for a life well lived. Courage, pride, and commitment.

RECOGNIZING FRANK BECKMANN

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the upcoming retirement of a legend in Michigan broadcasting, Frank Beckmann.

For the past 48 years, Frank has been a pillar of the WJR airwaves. Frank has been inducted into the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame and Michigan Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame, and he has a list of professional accolades longer than the time we have today.

The Maize and Blue faithful know him as the voice of Michigan football for over three decades. His weekly listeners, the best informed in all of talk radio, know him as a clear and compelling proponent of commonsense values. Nonprofits and charities across the State know his generosity in using his microphone to support many worthy causes. I am blessed to know him as a friend.

Congratulations, Frank, on a long and storied career.

I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Frank Beckmann a wonderful retirement filled with family, lots of golf, and coolers full of fresh Lake Erie walleye.

RESTORING NORMAL RELATIONS WITH CUBA

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge President Biden to move quickly and comprehensively to restore U.S.-Cuban relations.

The last 2 years of the Obama administration saw an explosion of positive change in Cuba. The fledgling Cuban private sector flourished. Innovation, the internet, communications, and political space expanded. And exchanges between our two peoples multiplied.

Official cooperation advanced significantly on law enforcement, antinarcotics, migration, human trafficking, and the environment. Dialogues began on tough topics like economic reform and human rights.

Tragically, these advances were wiped out by President Trump. Today, we need strong, levelheaded leadership capable of rebuilding trust, navigating a return to normal relations, and advancing U.S. interests.

We need to immediately end restrictions on travel; remittances; financial transactions; and educational, scientific, environmental, and cultural exchange.

We must remove Cuba again from the state sponsors of terrorism list and rescind any sanction that impedes the delivery of humanitarian aid.

Let's not make the mistake of moving slowly and incrementally. We need to act now. I call on the Biden administration to make this a priority.

SECURE THE SOUTHERN BORDER

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, there is an undeniable crisis along our southern border, and the most recent numbers we have received are alarming.

Last month, there were over 100,000 illegal immigrants encountered at our border. That is a 173 percent increase from the same time last year and the highest number of encounters in 7 years.

From January to February of this year, we saw a 163 percent increase of family unit encounters, a 61 percent increase in unaccompanied minors, and a 28 percent increase in encounters overall.

This surge is a direct result of the Biden administration's failure to secure our border and enforce our immigration laws.

Now we face a humanitarian crisis. While the President refuses to acknowledge this dire situation, my Democratic colleagues are turning a deaf ear by advancing two bills this week to grant blanket amnesty to millions of illegals. Are you kidding me?

This sends the wrong message that our borders are open and that our laws don't matter, which will only incentivize more illegal immigration. It is time to build a wall, end policies like catch and release, and oppose mass amnesty. We must secure our border.

DREAMERS MUST BE SUPPORTED

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

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, 100 years ago, my father was born in a small medieval village in the mountaintops of southern Italy.

He came to America as a young boy, and in his St. Dominic's High School senior yearbook, he wrote that his goal in life was ''to become a real American.''

Twenty-seven years ago, I served as the young mayor of my hometown of Glen Cove. I addressed the issue of a growing population of new immigrants from Central and South America who gathered on street corners looking for daywork by creating the first dayworker site anywhere on the East Coast of the United States of America.

Today, those same men who gathered on street corners have their own businesses, own their own homes, and their children went to school with my children.

One Dreamer from El Salvador, who graduated high school with my daughter, went on to graduate from college with a degree in biomedical engineering, got a master's in biomedical engineering, and is now pursuing a doctorate in the same subject.

Today, I will support the American Dream and Promise Act, for Mario, for Nelson, and for all the other Dreamers whose goal is, like my father's, to become a real American.

□ 1215

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF FRANK CAGLE

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, Frank Cagle, my close friend and a good Libertarian conservative, passed away after a battle with cancer.

Frank was a brave American who served with the 82nd Airborne during the Vietnam war. Following his service, he attended college and worked for newspapers across the South.

In 1982, Frank came to east Tennessee to work at the Knoxville News Sentinel as a copy editor. His passion was reporting on State and local politics. Frank put his commentary into action, serving as deputy to Knoxville Mayor, Victor Ashe, and working as campaign manager on Congressman Van Hilleary's 2002 bid for Governor.

He later returned to journalism, writing columns and analyzing policy for Knox TN Today, WATE, and back at the Knoxville News Sentinel. Frank

focused his career on delivering unbiased political reporting, and his contributions will leave a long-lasting impression on all of us in east Tennessee.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to celebrate Frank's life and recognize his dedication to our community on the House floor.

Rest in peace, my good friend.

FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, federally qualified health centers are located in neighborhoods, connecting to people where they live and where families today are struggling.

Health centers in my western New York community—Neighborhood Health Center, Community Health Center of Buffalo and Niagara Falls, Jericho Road Health Center, and Evergreen Health Services—are on the front lines in the fight against COVID–19 and the ongoing battle to end health disparities.

This week, I met with several of these health centers, hearing firsthand about the role that telehealth, primary care, outreach, education have in providing better health outcomes.

Today, I am pleased to announce over $3.5 million in resources to help Federal health centers in western New York continue to battle the pandemic and protect our neighborhoods. This funding, provided through the American Rescue Plan, will help support the health center workforce and deliver testing, treatment, and vaccines to help our communities and keep them safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. AGUILAR). Members are reminded to observe decorum when speaking before the House.

INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

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

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I have grave concerns about the current composition of the Intelligence Committee. The Intel Committee handles our Nation's highest secrets. It has access to information that most Members do not see. And unlike standing committees, Members of the majority are appointed by the Speaker only.

That is why Members who are appointed to this important committee must possess the highest level of credibility and character, and it is why no Member should be compromised in any way.

Unfortunately, information that I have seen and that others have seen suggests that not all Members meet this high standard. So earlier this week, I introduced a resolution to restore confidence in the Intel Committee's ability to safeguard our Nation's secrets.

Now, I do not take this action lightly or for political reasons. Frankly, I am surprised that it had to come to this. The Speaker and I received the same classified briefing from the FBI. The details were deeply disturbing. Yet, so far, the allegations, which have not been denied, have gone unaddressed.

As the House considers this question, I hope all Members will reflect on the purpose and responsibilities of the select panel. I want all Members to ask this one question:

Should a Member who can't get a security clearance in the private sector sit on the House Intelligence Committee?

Think about that for one moment.

Should a Member who cannot get a security clearance in the private sector sit on the House Intelligence Committee?

The American people deserve to know that their government is not vulnerable.

Mr. Speaker, by adopting my resolution, we will show that we have our priorities straight. I urge my colleagues to support it.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

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

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, this week, I was so proud to welcome President Joe Biden to our district to see firsthand the impact the American Rescue Plan will have on our community and small businesses in Delaware County, Pennsylvania, and to see the enthusiasm with which his visit was welcomed.

Together, we visited Smith Flooring, a successful, minority-owned small business in Chester that provides good union jobs and is an economic driver in an area that has struggled. The President and I spoke with founders Kristin and James Smith about how the COVID pandemic has impacted their business. The struggling economy has meant leaner times, but they are trying to do right by their employees until things get moving again.

The American Rescue Plan has over $50 billion in aid for small businesses, including over $7 billion for the Paycheck Protection Program. These funds will help small businesses, like Smith Flooring, keep up their payroll, protect jobs, and keep going until the economy is fully open again.

I wanted President Biden to see up close one of the Delco businesses that is the backbone of our economy. Thank you to Smith Flooring for talking with President Biden and me. And equally important, I wanted to thank Congress and President Biden for bringing renewed help and hope to our community with the American Rescue Plan.

NATIONAL RED CROSS MONTH

(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. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize March as National Red Cross Month.

While Red Cross Month has been celebrated since 1943, the Red Cross itself has been making an impact on community health since 1881.

In 1889, Clara Barton led one of the first mobilizations to a national disaster following the Johnstown Flood. This site is in the process of being preserved today and is known as the Clara Barton House.

Perhaps the organization's best-known program, the American Red Cross, established the first nationwide civilian blood donation program in the 1940s.

According to the organization, someone in the United States needs blood every 2 seconds. Less than 38 percent of the U.S. population is eligible to give blood, and only 3 percent of those individuals donate annually. The critical need for blood and the lifesaving potential that comes with a donation cannot be overstated.

The American Red Cross has always been a leader in this effort, and, today, they still provide more than 40 percent of the blood products in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to encourage all healthy Americans to donate blood and plasma. In the wake of the pandemic, it is needed now more than ever.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, this week, House Democrats are building on the progress made under the Biden-Harris administration to reverse the Trump damage and reform our failing system by passing two historic and important bills:

H.R. 6, the American Dream and Promise Act to protect Dreamers, TPS, and DED recipients; and the Farm Workforce Modernization Act to uphold the dignity of workers who feed America.

Americans want solutions on immigration. Voters overwhelmingly support a path to citizenship, reforms to our legal immigration system, smart management of our borders. Just like with the American Rescue Plan, there is strong bipartisan support for immigration reform across the country, just not within this body.

For too long, we have kept our arms closed to people who, under similar circumstances 100 years ago, 30 years ago, would have been given a path to citizenship. But now the doors are closed.

Mr. Speaker, 55,000 Haitians came to this country after the earthquakes.

They are in limbo. Congress must act, and these two overwhelmingly popular, commonsense bills would ensure that immigrants who make America more American can continue to strengthen, enrich, and contribute to our country.

RECOGNIZING REGAN CAPONE

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

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to recognize an outstanding 10-year-old girl from Sea Isle City in south Jersey.

Regan Capone is already an engaged member of her community and frequently fundraises for local charities. Last year, Regan raised over $6,000 for the Love of Linda Cancer Benefit Horse Show. Regan is now raising money for her Uncle Mike's Seafood Polar Bear Run/Walk For Autism.

Aside from fundraising, Regan is a competitive equestrian and competes in the English Circuit of South Jersey. She even made it to the regionals this year. Regan is a dedicated individual who impacts the South Jersey community every day with her selflessness and her desire to raise awareness for the causes that are so close to her heart.

Thank you, Regan. You are truly an American hero for all that you do. God bless you and God bless America.

IMMIGRATION DIVERSITY AND UNITY

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

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, after spending most of my life in the business world, I have seen firsthand how immigrants bring immense contributions to American business. Whether it is a CEO of a Fortune 500 company or the frontline worker who has kept our workers safe during the COVID–19 pandemic, immigrant workers, entrepreneurs, and leaders drive our economy.

Immigrants bring revolutionary new ideas to our country. Immigrants create jobs. Immigrants inspire innovation that pushes us forward as a country, keeping us on the cutting edge of technology and medical advances.

As the Speaker often says, ''diversity is our strength, unity is our power.''

Immigrants bring their diverse experiences and ideas to our country, to our economy, and make it better. Our Nation would be foolish to take them for granted.

HONORING GARY TRUITT

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

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the farm broadcaster, Gary Truitt.

Gary was inducted into the National Association of Farm Broadcasting Hall of Fame for his outstanding work and commitment to delivering informative and insightful news to our Nation's farmers.

I offer my congratulations to Gary for this remarkable achievement and to celebrate his dedicated career. Gary began his farm broadcasting career in 1981, bringing a fresh perspective to the industry. And in only a few years, he began his own news broadcast, which soon dominated Indiana radio.

In 2006, he did it all over again after a corporate sale of his first network, and created Hoosier Ag Today. For more than 33 years, Hoosier farmers have relied on Hoosier Ag Today for the latest news about the condition of the agricultural industry and markets.

Mr. Speaker, it is hard to find someone who puts his whole heart into everything that they do. Gary is one of them. I wish Gary many more years of success.

INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE ALLEGATIONS

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I have rarely heard such pernicious nonsense as we heard from the minority leader a few minutes ago. He accused Mr. SWALWELL of having a Chinese spy or Chinese agent in his campaign. I understand he has introduced a resolution to remove Mr. SWALWELL from his committee for that purpose.

The fact is we all have hundreds of people in our campaigns—hundreds of people.

Can we vouch for any of them? Do we know everybody's associations? Do we know whether someone in the campaign is a spy or a thief, or whatever? Do we do a police investigation, an FBI investigation of every member of our campaigns?

That is absurd. And I think Mr. MCCARTHY ought to be ashamed because he is an experienced campaigner—he knows this—for raising these spurious allegations.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF LYCUROUS LOWRY, PAUL BROOKS, SR., AND MR. WYVIS OXENDINE

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

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to observe the recent, almost simultaneous, passing of three prominent members of the Lumbee Tribe and the citizens of Robeson County, North Carolina: Mr. Lycurous Lowry, Mr. Paul Brooks, Sr., and Mr. Wyvis Oxendine.

These men displayed great fidelity to this important community and our Ninth District of North Carolina throughout their lives.

Mr. Lycurous Lowry dedicated 50 years of his life to Robeson County, serving 41 years as the president of the Robeson County Farm Bureau.

Mr. Paul Brooks, Sr. spent many years as a public servant to Robeson County, including being elected as the fourth chairman of the Lumbee Tribe.

Mr. Wyvis Oxendine leaves behind over 20 years of devotion to his community, which includes stints as a county commissioner, a magistrate, and an educator.

Mr. Speaker, these three men take their leave from us at almost the same time and leave behind an indelible impact on our community. I honor them for all they have done.

□ 1230

RECOGNIZING BRYCE SINCLAIR

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

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bryce Sinclair, a senior at Maine-Endwell High School in New York's 22nd Congressional District. I am honored to announce that Bryce accepted his appointment to join the corps of cadets at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

Bryce was selected among a highly competitive pool of applicants from around the country. Bryce's decision to attend West Point comes as no surprise to those who know him well. He is a young leader with exceptional talent and potential and is already a dedicated member of our community.

I wish to congratulate Bryce on this tremendous honor. I wish him the best as he takes on this venerable challenge to serve our community and our Nation in line with the Army's core values: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, and personal courage.

As the mother of a Naval Academy graduate, the service academies hold a special place in my heart, especially the friendly annual rivalry at the Army/Navy game.

Mr. Speaker, we wish Bryce all the best as he moves closer to his next incredible step in joining the corps of cadets. Good luck, Bryce. And go Army and go Navy.

RECOGNIZING THE PELLA HIGH SCHOOL DUTCH BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I was going to ask for 1 minute yesterday, given that it was St. Patrick's Day and Pella High School Dutch's

color is green, but they are the Pella Dutch, not the Pella Irish.

Last Friday, the Pella High School Dutch of Marion County, Iowa, successfully completed their playoff run by winning the 3A Iowa boys basketball championship.

Capping off a terrific 26–2 season with a 15–1 conference record, the Dutch brought home the State championship for the first time in 18 years.

The achievement of winning a State title itself is something of which the Dutch team and the Pella community should be proud, but these players and their families should be even more proud of their commitment to the game, perseverance, sportsmanship and teamwork that guided them through this incredible season.

For the seniors, I hope you continue to follow your passions, in basketball and elsewhere beyond high school. For the juniors and underclassmen, I wish you the best of luck in the coming years, both on and off the court.

Mr. Speaker, I am thrilled for this team, the coaching staff, fans, and the entire Pella community, and I am honored to represent them in Congress, and speak about them on the House floor.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 18, 2021.

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on March 18, 2021, at 11:08 a.m.:

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 1276.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk.

AMERICAN DREAM AND PROMISE ACT OF 2021

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 233, I call up the bill (H.R. 6) to authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain aliens, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 233, the amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117–4 is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 6

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''American Dream and Promise Act of 2021''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—DREAM ACT OF 2021

Sec. 101. Short title.
Sec. 102. Permanent resident status on a conditional basis for certain long-term residents who entered the united states as children.
Sec. 103. Terms of permanent resident status on a conditional basis.
Sec. 104. Removal of conditional basis of permanent resident status.
Sec. 105. Restoration of State option to determine residency for purposes of higher education benefits.

TITLE II—AMERICAN PROMISE ACT OF 2021

Sec. 201. Short title.
Sec. 202. Adjustment of status for certain nationals of certain countries designated for temporary protected status or deferred enforced departure.
Sec. 203. Clarification.

TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 301. Definitions.
Sec. 302. Submission of biometric and biographic data; background checks.
Sec. 303. Limitation on removal; application and fee exemption; and other conditions on eligible individuals.
Sec. 304. Determination of continuous presence and residence.
Sec. 305. Exemption from numerical limitations.
Sec. 306. Availability of administrative and judicial review.
Sec. 307. Documentation requirements.
Sec. 308. Rule making.
Sec. 309. Confidentiality of information.
Sec. 310. Grant program to assist eligible applicants.
Sec. 311. Provisions affecting eligibility for adjustment of status.
Sec. 312. Supplementary surcharge for appointed counsel.
Sec. 313. Annual report on provisional denial authority.

TITLE I—DREAM ACT OF 2021

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Dream Act of 2021''.

SEC. 102. PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS ON A CONDITIONAL BASIS FOR CERTAIN LONG-TERM RESIDENTS WHO ENTERED THE UNITED STATES AS CHILDREN.

(a) CONDITIONAL BASIS FOR STATUS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and except as provided in section 104(c)(2), an alien shall be considered, at the time of obtaining the status of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence under this section, to have obtained such status on a conditional basis subject to the provisions of this title.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary or the Attorney General shall adjust to the status of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence on a conditional basis, or without the conditional basis as provided in section 104(c)(2), an alien who is inadmissible or deportable from the United States, is subject to a grant of Deferred Enforced Departure, has temporary protected status under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a), or is the son or daughter of an alien admitted as a nonimmigrant under subparagraphs (E)(i), (E)(ii), (H)(i)(b), or (L) of section 101(a)(15) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)) if—

(A) the alien has been continuously physically present in the United States since January 1, 2021;

(B) the alien was 18 years of age or younger on the date on which the alien entered the United States and has continuously resided in the United States since such entry;

(C) the alien—

(i) subject to paragraph (2), is not inadmissible under paragraph (1), (6)(E), (6)(G), (8), or (10) of section 212(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a));

(ii) has not ordered, incited, assisted, or otherwise participated in the persecution of any person on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion; and

(iii) is not barred from adjustment of status under this title based on the criminal and national security grounds described under subsection (c), subject to the provisions of such subsection; and

(D) the alien—

(i) has been admitted to an institution of higher education;

(ii) has been admitted to an area career and technical education school at the postsecondary level;

(iii) in the United States, has obtained—

(I) a high school diploma or a commensurate alternative award from a public or private high school;

(II) a General Education Development credential, a high school equivalency diploma recognized under State law, or another similar State-authorized credential;

(III) a credential or certificate from an area career and technical education school at the secondary level; or

(IV) a recognized postsecondary credential; or

(iv) is enrolled in secondary school or in an education program assisting students in—

(I) obtaining a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent under State law;

(II) passing the General Education Development test, a high school equivalence diploma examination, or other similar State-authorized exam;

(III) obtaining a certificate or credential from an area career and technical education school providing education at the secondary level; or

(IV) obtaining a recognized postsecondary credential.

(2) WAIVER OF GROUNDS OF INADMISSIBILITY.—With respect to any benefit under this title, and in addition to the waivers under subsection (c)(2), the Secretary may waive the grounds of inadmissibility under paragraph (1), (6)(E), (6)(G), or (10)(D) of section 212(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)) for humanitarian purposes, for family unity, or because the waiver is otherwise in the public interest.

(3) APPLICATION FEE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may, subject to an exemption under section 303(c), require an alien applying under this section to pay a reasonable fee that is commensurate with the cost of processing the application but does not exceed $495.00.

(B) SPECIAL PROCEDURES FOR APPLICANTS WITH DACA.—The Secretary shall establish a streamlined procedure for aliens who have been granted DACA and who meet the requirements for renewal (under the terms of the program in effect on January 1, 2017) to apply for adjustment of status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence on a conditional basis under this section, or without the conditional basis as provided in section 104(c)(2). Such procedure shall not include a requirement that the applicant pay a fee, except that the Secretary may require an applicant who meets the requirements for lawful permanent residence without the conditional basis under section 104(c)(2) to pay a fee that is commensurate with the cost of processing the application, subject to the exemption under section 303(c).

(4) BACKGROUND CHECKS.—The Secretary may not grant an alien permanent resident status on a conditional basis under this section until the requirements of section 302 are satisfied.

(5) MILITARY SELECTIVE SERVICE.—An alien applying for permanent resident status on a conditional basis under this section, or without the conditional basis as provided in section 104(c)(2), shall establish that the alien has registered under the Military Selective Service Act (50 U.S.C. 3801 et seq.), if the alien is subject to registration under such Act.

(c) CRIMINAL AND NATIONAL SECURITY BARS.—

(1) GROUNDS OF INELIGIBILITY.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), an alien is ineligible for adjustment of status under this title (whether on a conditional basis or without the conditional basis as provided in section 104(c)(2)) if any of the following apply:

(A) The alien is inadmissible under paragraph (2) or (3) of section 212(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)).

(B) Excluding any offense under State law for which an essential element is the alien's immigration status, and any minor traffic offense, the alien has been convicted of—

(i) any felony offense;

(ii) three or more misdemeanor offenses (excluding simple possession of cannabis or cannabis-related paraphernalia, any offense involving cannabis or cannabis-related paraphernalia which is no longer prosecutable in the State in which the conviction was entered, and any offense involving civil disobedience without violence) not occurring on the same date, and not arising out of the same act, omission, or scheme of misconduct; or

(iii) a misdemeanor offense of domestic violence, unless the alien demonstrates that such crime is related to the alien having been—

(I) a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, child abuse or neglect, abuse or neglect in later life, or human trafficking;

(II) battered or subjected to extreme cruelty; or

(III) a victim of criminal activity described in section 101(a)(15)(U)(iii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(U)(iii)).

(2) WAIVERS FOR CERTAIN MISDEMEANORS.—For humanitarian purposes, family unity, or if otherwise in the public interest, the Secretary may—

(A) waive the grounds of inadmissibility under subparagraphs (A), (C), and (D) of section 212(a)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(2)), unless the conviction forming the basis for inadmissibility would otherwise render the alien ineligible under paragraph (1)(B) (subject to subparagraph (B)); and

(B) for purposes of clauses (ii) and (iii) of paragraph (1)(B), waive consideration of—

(i) one misdemeanor offense if the alien has not been convicted of any offense in the 5-year period preceding the date on which the alien applies for adjustment of status under this title; or

(ii) up to two misdemeanor offenses if the alien has not been convicted of any offense in the 10-year period preceding the date on which the alien applies for adjustment of status under this title.

(3) AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT SECONDARY REVIEW.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding an alien's eligibility for adjustment of status under this title, and subject to the procedures described in this paragraph, the Secretary may, as a matter of non-delegable discretion, provisionally deny an application for adjustment of status (whether on a conditional basis or without the conditional basis as provided in section 104(c)(2)) if the Secretary, based on clear and convincing evidence, which shall include credible law enforcement information, determines that the alien is described in subparagraph (B) or (D).

(B) PUBLIC SAFETY.—An alien is described in this subparagraph if—

(i) excluding simple possession of cannabis or cannabis-related paraphernalia, any offense involving cannabis or cannabis-related paraphernalia which is no longer prosecutable in the State in which the conviction was entered, any offense under State law for which an essential element is the alien's immigration status, any offense involving civil disobedience without violence, and any minor traffic offense, the alien—

(I) has been convicted of a misdemeanor offense punishable by a term of imprisonment of more than 30 days; or

(II) has been adjudicated delinquent in a State or local juvenile court proceeding that resulted in a disposition ordering placement in a secure facility; and

(ii) the alien poses a significant and continuing threat to public safety related to such conviction or adjudication.

(C) PUBLIC SAFETY DETERMINATION.—For purposes of subparagraph (B)(ii), the Secretary shall consider the recency of the conviction or adjudication; the length of any imposed sentence or placement; the nature and seriousness of the conviction or adjudication, including whether the elements of the offense include the unlawful possession or use of a deadly weapon to commit an offense or other conduct intended to cause serious bodily injury; and any mitigating factors pertaining to the alien's role in the commission of the offense.

(D) GANG PARTICIPATION.—An alien is described in this subparagraph if the alien has, within the 5 years immediately preceding the date of the application, knowingly, willfully, and voluntarily participated in offenses committed by a criminal street gang (as described in subsections (a) and (c) of section 521 of title 18, United States Code) with the intent to promote or further the commission of such offenses.

(E) EVIDENTIARY LIMITATION.—For purposes of subparagraph (D), allegations of gang membership obtained from a State or Federal inhouse or local database, or a network of databases used for the purpose of recording and sharing activities of alleged gang members across law enforcement agencies, shall not establish the participation described in such paragraph.

(F) NOTICE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Prior to rendering a discretionary decision under this paragraph, the Secretary shall provide written notice of the intent to provisionally deny the application to the alien (or the alien's counsel of record, if any) by certified mail and, if an electronic mail address is provided, by electronic mail (or other form of electronic communication). Such notice shall—

(I) articulate with specificity all grounds for the preliminary determination, including the evidence relied upon to support the determination; and

(II) provide the alien with not less than 90 days to respond.

(ii) SECOND NOTICE.—Not more than 30 days after the issuance of the notice under clause (i), the Secretary shall provide a second written notice that meets the requirements of such clause.

(iii) NOTICE NOT RECEIVED.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if an applicant provides good cause for not contesting a provisional denial under this paragraph, including a failure to receive notice as required under this subparagraph, the Secretary shall, upon a motion filed by the alien, reopen an application for adjustment of status under this title and allow the applicant an opportunity to respond, consistent with clause (i)(II).

(G) JUDICIAL REVIEW OF A PROVISIONAL DENIAL.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if, after notice and the opportunity to respond under subparagraph (F), the Secretary provisionally denies an application for adjustment of status under this Act, the alien shall have 60 days from the date of the Secretary's determination to seek review of such determination in an appropriate United States district court.

(ii) SCOPE OF REVIEW AND DECISION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, review under paragraph (1) shall be de novo and based solely on the administrative record, except that the applicant shall be given the opportunity to supplement the administrative record and the Secretary shall be given the opportunity to rebut the evidence and arguments raised in such submission. Upon issuing its decision, the court shall remand the matter, with appropriate instructions, to the Department of Homeland Security to render a final decision on the application.

(iii) APPOINTED COUNSEL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an applicant seeking judicial review under clause (i) shall be represented by counsel. Upon the request of the applicant, counsel shall be appointed for the applicant, in accordance with procedures to be established by the Attorney General within 90 days of the date of the enactment of this Act, and shall be funded in accordance with fees collected and deposited in the Immigration Counsel Account under section 312.

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

(A) the term ''felony offense'' means an offense under Federal or State law that is punishable by a maximum term of imprisonment of more than 1 year;

(B) the term ''misdemeanor offense'' means an offense under Federal or State law that is punishable by a term of imprisonment of more than 5 days but not more than 1 year; and

(C) the term ''crime of domestic violence'' means any offense that has as an element the use, attempted use, or threatened use of physical force against a person committed by a current or former spouse of the person, by an individual with whom the person shares a child in common, by an individual who is cohabiting with or has cohabited with the person as a spouse, by an individual similarly situated to a spouse of the person under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction where the offense occurs, or by any other individual against a person who is protected from that individual's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the United States or any State, Indian Tribal government, or unit of local government.

(d) LIMITATION ON REMOVAL OF CERTAIN ALIEN MINORS.—An alien who is 18 years of age or younger and meets the requirements under subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of subsection (b)(1) shall be provided a reasonable opportunity to meet the educational requirements under subparagraph (D) of such subsection. The Attorney General or the Secretary may not commence or continue with removal proceedings against such an alien.

(e) WITHDRAWAL OF APPLICATION.—The Secretary shall, upon receipt of a request to withdraw an application for adjustment of status under this section, cease processing of the application, and close the case. Withdrawal of the application under this subsection shall not prejudice any future application filed by the applicant for any immigration benefit under this title or under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

SEC. 103. TERMS OF PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS ON A CONDITIONAL BASIS.

(a) PERIOD OF STATUS.—Permanent resident status on a conditional basis is—

(1) valid for a period of 10 years, unless such period is extended by the Secretary; and

(2) subject to revocation under subsection (c).

(b) NOTICE OF REQUIREMENTS.—At the time an alien obtains permanent resident status on a conditional basis, the Secretary shall provide notice to the alien regarding the provisions of this title and the requirements to have the conditional basis of such status removed.

(c) REVOCATION OF STATUS.—The Secretary may revoke the permanent resident status on a conditional basis of an alien only if the Secretary—

(1) determines that the alien ceases to meet the requirements under section 102(b)(1)(C); and

(2) prior to the revocation, provides the alien—

(A) notice of the proposed revocation; and

(B) the opportunity for a hearing to provide evidence that the alien meets such requirements or otherwise to contest the proposed revocation.

(d) RETURN TO PREVIOUS IMMIGRATION STATUS.—An alien whose permanent resident status on a conditional basis expires under subsection (a)(1) or is revoked under subsection (c), shall return to the immigration status that the alien had immediately before receiving permanent resident status on a conditional basis.

SEC. 104. REMOVAL OF CONDITIONAL BASIS OF PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS.

(a) ELIGIBILITY FOR REMOVAL OF CONDITIONAL BASIS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary shall remove the conditional basis of an alien's permanent resident status granted under this title and grant the alien status as an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence if the alien—

(A) is described in section 102(b)(1)(C);

(B) has not abandoned the alien's residence in the United States during the period in which the alien has permanent resident status on a conditional basis; and

(C)(i) has obtained a degree from an institution of higher education, or has completed at least 2 years, in good standing, of a program in the United States leading to a bachelor's degree or higher degree or a recognized postsecondary credential from an area career and technical education school providing education at the postsecondary level;

(ii) has served in the Uniformed Services for at least 2 years and, if discharged, received an honorable discharge; or

(iii) demonstrates earned income for periods totaling at least 3 years and at least 75 percent of the time that the alien has had a valid employment authorization, except that, in the case of an alien who was enrolled in an institution of higher education, an area career and technical education school to obtain a recognized postsecondary credential, or an education program described in section 102(b)(1)(D)(iii), the Secretary shall reduce such total 3-year requirement by the total of such periods of enrollment.

(2) HARDSHIP EXCEPTION.—The Secretary shall remove the conditional basis of an alien's permanent resident status and grant the alien status as an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence if the alien—

(A) satisfies the requirements under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1);

(B) demonstrates compelling circumstances for the inability to satisfy the requirements under subparagraph (C) of such paragraph; and

(C) demonstrates that—

(i) the alien has a disability;

(ii) the alien is a full-time caregiver; or

(iii) the removal of the alien from the United States would result in hardship to the alien or the alien's spouse, parent, or child who is a national of the United States or is lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

(3) CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the conditional basis of an alien's permanent resident status granted under this title may not be removed unless the alien demonstrates that the alien satisfies the requirements under section 312(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1423(a)).

(B) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to an alien who is unable to meet the requirements under such section 312(a) due to disability.

(4) APPLICATION FEE.—The Secretary may, subject to an exemption under section 303(c), require aliens applying for removal of the conditional basis of an alien's permanent resident status under this section to pay a reasonable fee that is commensurate with the cost of processing the application.

(5) BACKGROUND CHECKS.—The Secretary may not remove the conditional basis of an alien's permanent resident status until the requirements of section 302 are satisfied.

(b) TREATMENT FOR PURPOSES OF NATURALIZATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of title III of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.), an alien granted permanent resident status on a conditional basis shall be considered to have been admitted to the United States, and be present in the United States, as an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

(2) LIMITATION ON APPLICATION FOR NATURALIZATION.—An alien may not apply for naturalization while the alien is in permanent resident status on a conditional basis.

(c) TIMING OF APPROVAL OF LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An alien granted permanent resident status on a conditional basis under this title may apply to have such conditional basis removed at any time after such alien has met the eligibility requirements set forth in subsection (a).

(2) APPROVAL WITH REGARD TO INITIAL APPLICATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary or the Attorney General shall adjust to the status of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent resident status without conditional basis, any alien who—

(i) demonstrates eligibility for lawful permanent residence status on a conditional basis under section 102(b); and

(ii) subject to the exceptions described in subsections (a)(2) and (a)(3)(B) of this section, already has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (3) of subsection (a) of this section at the time such alien first submits an application for benefits under this title.

(B) BACKGROUND CHECKS.—Subsection (a)(5) shall apply to an alien seeking lawful permanent resident status without conditional basis in an initial application in the same manner as it applies to an alien seeking removal of the conditional basis of an alien's permanent resident status. Section 102(b)(4) shall not be construed to require the Secretary to conduct more than one identical security or law enforcement background check on such an alien.

(C) APPLICATION FEES.—In the case of an alien seeking lawful permanent resident status without conditional basis in an initial application, the alien shall pay the fee required under subsection (a)(4), subject to the exemption allowed under section 303(c), but shall not be required to pay the application fee under section 102(b)(3).

SEC. 105. RESTORATION OF STATE OPTION TO DETERMINE RESIDENCY FOR PURPOSES OF HIGHER EDUCATION BENEFITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 505 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1623) is repealed.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The repeal under subsection (a) shall take effect as if included in the original enactment of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (division C of Public Law 104–208; 110 Stat. 3009–546).

TITLE II—AMERICAN PROMISE ACT OF 2021

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''American Promise Act of 2021''.

SEC. 202. ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS FOR CERTAIN NATIONALS OF CERTAIN COUNTRIES DESIGNATED FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS OR DEFERRED ENFORCED DEPARTURE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary or the Attorney General shall adjust to the status of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, an alien described in subsection (b) if the alien—

(1) applies for such adjustment, including submitting any required documents under section 307, not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act;

(2) has been continuously physically present in the United States for a period of not less than 3 years; and

(3) subject to subsection (c), is not inadmissible under paragraph (1), (2), (3), (6)(D), (6)(E), (6)(F), (6)(G), (8), or (10) of section 212(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)).

(b) ALIENS ELIGIBLE FOR ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—An alien shall be eligible for adjustment of status under this section if the alien is an individual—

(1) who—

(A) is a national of a foreign state (or part thereof) (or in the case of an alien having no nationality, is a person who last habitually resided in such state) with a designation under subsection (b) of section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)) on January 1, 2017, who had or was otherwise eligible for temporary protected status on such date notwithstanding subsections (c)(1)(A)(iv) and (c)(3)(C) of such section; and

(B) has not engaged in conduct since such date that would render the alien ineligible for temporary protected status under section 244(c)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1245a(c)(2)); or

(2) who was eligible for Deferred Enforced Departure as of January 20, 2021 and has not engaged in conduct since that date that would render the alien ineligible for Deferred Enforced Departure.

(c) WAIVER OF GROUNDS OF INADMISSIBILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), with respect to any benefit under this title, and in addition to any waivers that are otherwise available, the Secretary may waive the grounds of inadmissibility under paragraph (1), subparagraphs (A), (C), and (D) of paragraph (2), subparagraphs (D) through (G) of paragraph (6), or paragraph (10)(D) of section 212(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)) for humanitarian purposes, for family unity, or because the waiver is otherwise in the public interest.

(2) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may not waive a ground described in paragraph (1) if such inadmissibility is based on a conviction or convictions, and such conviction or convictions would otherwise render the alien ineligible under section 244(c)(2)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a(c)(2)(B)).

(d) APPLICATION.—

(1) FEE.—The Secretary shall, subject to an exemption under section 303(c), require an alien applying for adjustment of status under this section to pay a reasonable fee that is commensurate with the cost of processing the application, but does not exceed $1,140.

(2) BACKGROUND CHECKS.—The Secretary may not grant an alien permanent resident status on a conditional basis under this section until the requirements of section 302 are satisfied.

(3) WITHDRAWAL OF APPLICATION.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall, upon receipt of a request to withdraw an application for adjustment of status under this section, cease processing of the application and close the case. Withdrawal of the application under this subsection shall not prejudice any future application filed by the applicant for any immigration benefit under this title or under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

SEC. 203. CLARIFICATION.

Section 244(f)(4) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a(f)(4)) is amended by inserting after ''considered'' the following: ''as having been inspected and admitted into the United States, and''.

TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 301. DEFINITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In this Act:

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise specifically provided, any term used in this Act that is used in the immigration laws shall have the

meaning given such term in the immigration laws.

(2) APPROPRIATE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT.—The term ''appropriate United States district court'' means the United States District Court for the District of Columbia or the United States district court with jurisdiction over the alien's principal place of residence.

(3) AREA CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION SCHOOL.—The term ''area career and technical education school'' has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302).

(4) DACA.—The term ''DACA'' means deferred action granted to an alien pursuant to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals policy announced by the Secretary of Homeland Security on June 15, 2012.

(5) DISABILITY.—The term ''disability'' has the meaning given such term in section 3(1) of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12102(1)).

(6) FEDERAL POVERTY LINE.—The term ''Federal poverty line'' has the meaning given such term in section 213A(h) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1183a).

(7) HIGH SCHOOL; SECONDARY SCHOOL.—The terms ''high school'' and ''secondary school'' have the meanings given such terms in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

(8) IMMIGRATION LAWS.—The term ''immigration laws'' has the meaning given such term in section 101(a)(17) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(17)).

(9) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term ''institution of higher education''—

(A) except as provided in subparagraph (B), has the meaning given such term in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002); and

(B) does not include an institution of higher education outside of the United States.

(10) RECOGNIZED POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIAL.—The term ''recognized postsecondary credential'' has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).

(11) SECRETARY.—Except as otherwise specifically provided, the term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(12) UNIFORMED SERVICES.—The term ''Uniformed Services'' has the meaning given the term ''uniformed services'' in section 101(a) of title 10, United States Code.

(b) TREATMENT OF EXPUNGED CONVICTIONS.—For purposes of adjustment of status under this Act, the terms ''convicted'' and ''conviction'', as used in this Act and in sections 212 and 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182, 1254a), do not include a judgment that has been expunged or set aside, that resulted in a rehabilitative disposition, or the equivalent.

SEC. 302. SUBMISSION OF BIOMETRIC AND BIOGRAPHIC DATA; BACKGROUND CHECKS.

(a) SUBMISSION OF BIOMETRIC AND BIOGRAPHIC DATA.—The Secretary may not grant an alien adjustment of status under this Act, on either a conditional or permanent basis, unless the alien submits biometric and biographic data, in accordance with procedures established by the Secretary. The Secretary shall provide an alternative procedure for aliens who are unable to provide such biometric or biographic data because of a physical impairment.

(b) BACKGROUND CHECKS.—The Secretary shall use biometric, biographic, and other data that the Secretary determines appropriate to conduct security and law enforcement background checks and to determine whether there is any criminal, national security, or other factor that would render the alien ineligible for adjustment of status under this Act, on either a conditional or permanent basis. The status of an alien may not be adjusted, on either a conditional or permanent basis, unless security and law enforcement background checks are completed to the satisfaction of the Secretary.

SEC. 303. LIMITATION ON REMOVAL; APPLICATION AND FEE EXEMPTION; AND OTHER CONDITIONS ON ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.

(a) LIMITATION ON REMOVAL.—An alien who appears to be prima facie eligible for relief under this Act shall be given a reasonable opportunity to apply for such relief and may not be removed until, subject to section 306(c)(2), a final decision establishing ineligibility for relief is rendered.

(b) APPLICATION.—An alien present in the United States who has been ordered removed or has been permitted to depart voluntarily from the United States may, notwithstanding such order or permission to depart, apply for adjustment of status under this Act. Such alien shall not be required to file a separate motion to reopen, reconsider, or vacate the order of removal. If the Secretary approves the application, the Secretary shall cancel the order of removal. If the Secretary renders a final administrative decision to deny the application, the order of removal or permission to depart shall be effective and enforceable to the same extent as if the application had not been made, only after all available administrative and judicial remedies have been exhausted.

(c) FEE EXEMPTION.—An applicant may be exempted from paying an application fee required under this Act if the applicant—

(1) is 18 years of age or younger;

(2) received total income, during the 12-month period immediately preceding the date on which the applicant files an application under this Act, that is less than 150 percent of the Federal poverty line;

(3) is in foster care or otherwise lacks any parental or other familial support; or

(4) cannot care for himself or herself because of a serious, chronic disability.

(d) ADVANCE PAROLE.—During the period beginning on the date on which an alien applies for adjustment of status under this Act and ending on the date on which the Secretary makes a final decision regarding such application, the alien shall be eligible to apply for advance parole. Section 101(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(g)) shall not apply to an alien granted advance parole under this Act.

(e) EMPLOYMENT.—An alien whose removal is stayed pursuant to this Act, who may not be placed in removal proceedings pursuant to this Act, or who has pending an application under this Act, shall, upon application to the Secretary, be granted an employment authorization document.

SEC. 304. DETERMINATION OF CONTINUOUS PRESENCE AND RESIDENCE.

(a) EFFECT OF NOTICE TO APPEAR.—Any period of continuous physical presence or continuous residence in the United States of an alien who applies for permanent resident status under this Act (whether on a conditional basis or without the conditional basis as provided in section 104(c)(2)) shall not terminate when the alien is served a notice to appear under section 239(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229(a)).

(b) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN BREAKS IN PRESENCE OR RESIDENCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3), an alien shall be considered to have failed to maintain—

(A) continuous physical presence in the United States under this Act if the alien has departed from the United States for any period exceeding 90 days or for any periods, in the aggregate, exceeding 180 days; and

(B) continuous residence in the United States under this Act if the alien has departed from the United States for any period exceeding 180 days, unless the alien establishes to the satisfaction of the Secretary of Homeland Security that the alien did not in fact abandon residence in the United States during such period.

(2) EXTENSIONS FOR EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES.—The Secretary may extend the time periods described in paragraph (1) for an alien who demonstrates that the failure to timely return to the United States was due to extenuating circumstances beyond the alien's control, including—

(A) the serious illness of the alien;

(B) death or serious illness of a parent, grandparent, sibling, or child of the alien;

(C) processing delays associated with the application process for a visa or other travel document; or

(D) restrictions on international travel due to 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) with respect to COVID–19.

(3) TRAVEL AUTHORIZED BY THE SECRETARY.—Any period of travel outside of the United States by an alien that was authorized by the Secretary may not be counted toward any period of departure from the United States under paragraph (1).

(c) WAIVER OF PHYSICAL PRESENCE.—With respect to aliens who were removed or departed the United States on or after January 20, 2017, and who were continuously physically present in the United States for at least 4 years prior to such removal or departure, the Secretary may, as a matter of discretion, waive the physical presence requirement under section 102(b)(1)(A) or section 202(a)(2) for humanitarian purposes, for family unity, or because a waiver is otherwise in the public interest. The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall establish a procedure for such aliens to apply for relief under section 102 or 202 from outside the United States if they would have been eligible for relief under such section, but for their removal or departure.

SEC. 305. EXEMPTION FROM NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS.

Nothing in this Act or in any other law may be construed to apply a numerical limitation on the number of aliens who may be granted permanent resident status under this Act (whether on a conditional basis, or without the conditional basis as provided in section 104(c)(2)).

SEC. 306. AVAILABILITY OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND JUDICIAL REVIEW.

(a) ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall provide to aliens who have applied for adjustment of status under this Act a process by which an applicant may seek administrative appellate review of a denial of an application for adjustment of status, or a revocation of such status.

(b) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Except as provided in subsection (c), and notwithstanding any other provision of law, an alien may seek judicial review of a denial of an application for adjustment of status, or a revocation of such status, under this Act in an appropriate United States district court.

(c) STAY OF REMOVAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), an alien seeking administrative or judicial review under this Act may not be removed from the United States until a final decision is rendered establishing that the alien is ineligible for adjustment of status under this Act.

(2) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may remove an alien described in paragraph (1) pending judicial review if such removal is based on criminal or national security grounds described in this Act. Such removal shall not affect the alien's right to judicial review under this Act. The Secretary shall promptly return a removed alien if a decision to deny an application for adjustment of status under this Act, or to revoke such status, is reversed.

SEC. 307. DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS.

(a) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING IDENTITY.—An alien's application for permanent resident status under this Act (whether on a conditional basis,

or without the conditional basis as provided in section 104(c)(2)) may include, as evidence of identity, the following:

(1) A passport or national identity document from the alien's country of origin that includes the alien's name and the alien's photograph or fingerprint.

(2) The alien's birth certificate and an identity card that includes the alien's name and photograph.

(3) A school identification card that includes the alien's name and photograph, and school records showing the alien's name and that the alien is or was enrolled at the school.

(4) A Uniformed Services identification card issued by the Department of Defense.

(5) Any immigration or other document issued by the United States Government bearing the alien's name and photograph.

(6) A State-issued identification card bearing the alien's name and photograph.

(7) Any other evidence determined to be credible by the Secretary.

(b) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING ENTRY, CONTINUOUS PHYSICAL PRESENCE, LACK OF ABANDONMENT OF RESIDENCE.—To establish that an alien was 18 years of age or younger on the date on which the alien entered the United States, and has continuously resided in the United States since such entry, as required under section 102(b)(1)(B), that an alien has been continuously physically present in the United States, as required under section 102(b)(1)(A) or 202(a)(2), or that an alien has not abandoned residence in the United States, as required under section 104(a)(1)(B), the alien may submit the following forms of evidence:

(1) Passport entries, including admission stamps on the alien's passport.

(2) Any document from the Department of Justice or the Department of Homeland Security noting the alien's date of entry into the United States.

(3) Records from any educational institution the alien has attended in the United States.

(4) Employment records of the alien that include the employer's name and contact information, or other records demonstrating earned income.

(5) Records of service from the Uniformed Services.

(6) Official records from a religious entity confirming the alien's participation in a religious ceremony.

(7) A birth certificate for a child who was born in the United States.

(8) Hospital or medical records showing medical treatment or hospitalization, the name of the medical facility or physician, and the date of the treatment or hospitalization.

(9) Automobile license receipts or registration.

(10) Deeds, mortgages, or rental agreement contracts.

(11) Rent receipts or utility bills bearing the alien's name or the name of an immediate family member of the alien, and the alien's address.

(12) Tax receipts.

(13) Insurance policies.

(14) Remittance records, including copies of money order receipts sent in or out of the country.

(15) Travel records.

(16) Dated bank transactions.

(17) Two or more sworn affidavits from individuals who are not related to the alien who have direct knowledge of the alien's continuous physical presence in the United States, that contain—

(A) the name, address, and telephone number of the affiant; and

(B) the nature and duration of the relationship between the affiant and the alien.

(18) Any other evidence determined to be credible by the Secretary.

(c) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING ADMISSION TO AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—To establish that an alien has been admitted to an institution of higher education, the alien may submit to the Secretary a document from the institution of higher education certifying that the alien—

(1) has been admitted to the institution; or

(2) is currently enrolled in the institution as a student.

(d) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING RECEIPT OF A DEGREE FROM AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—To establish that an alien has acquired a degree from an institution of higher education in the United States, the alien may submit to the Secretary a diploma or other document from the institution stating that the alien has received such a degree.

(e) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING RECEIPT OF A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA, GENERAL EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CREDENTIAL, OR A RECOGNIZED EQUIVALENT.—To establish that in the United States an alien has earned a high school diploma or a commensurate alternative award from a public or private high school, has obtained the General Education Development credential, or otherwise has satisfied section 102(b)(1)(D)(iii), the alien may submit to the Secretary the following:

(1) A high school diploma, certificate of completion, or other alternate award.

(2) A high school equivalency diploma or certificate recognized under State law.

(3) Evidence that the alien passed a State-authorized exam, including the General Education Development test, in the United States.

(4) Evidence that the alien successfully completed an area career and technical education program, such as a certification, certificate, or similar alternate award.

(5) Evidence that the alien obtained a recognized postsecondary credential.

(6) Any other evidence determined to be credible by the Secretary.

(f) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING ENROLLMENT IN AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM.—To establish that an alien is enrolled in any school or education program described in section 102(b)(1)(D)(iv) or 104(a)(1)(C), the alien may submit school records from the United States school that the alien is currently attending that include—

(1) the name of the school; and

(2) the alien's name, periods of attendance, and current grade or educational level.

(g) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING EXEMPTION FROM APPLICATION FEES.—To establish that an alien is exempt from an application fee under this Act, the alien may submit to the Secretary the following relevant documents:

(1) DOCUMENTS TO ESTABLISH AGE.—To establish that an alien meets an age requirement, the alien may provide proof of identity, as described in subsection (a), that establishes that the alien is 18 years of age or younger.

(2) DOCUMENTS TO ESTABLISH INCOME.—To establish the alien's income, the alien may provide—

(A) employment records or other records of earned income, including records that have been maintained by the Social Security Administration, the Internal Revenue Service, or any other Federal, State, or local government agency;

(B) bank records; or

(C) at least two sworn affidavits from individuals who are not related to the alien and who have direct knowledge of the alien's work and income that contain—

(i) the name, address, and telephone number of the affiant; and

(ii) the nature and duration of the relationship between the affiant and the alien.

(3) DOCUMENTS TO ESTABLISH FOSTER CARE, LACK OF FAMILIAL SUPPORT, OR SERIOUS, CHRONIC DISABILITY.—To establish that the alien is in foster care, lacks parental or familial support, or has a serious, chronic disability, the alien may provide at least two sworn affidavits from individuals who are not related to the alien and who have direct knowledge of the circumstances that contain—

(A) a statement that the alien is in foster care, otherwise lacks any parental or other familiar support, or has a serious, chronic disability, as appropriate;

(B) the name, address, and telephone number of the affiant; and

(C) the nature and duration of the relationship between the affiant and the alien.

(h) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING QUALIFICATION FOR HARDSHIP EXEMPTION.—To establish that an alien satisfies one of the criteria for the hardship exemption set forth in section 104(a)(2)(C), the alien may submit to the Secretary at least two sworn affidavits from individuals who are not related to the alien and who have direct knowledge of the circumstances that warrant the exemption, that contain—

(1) the name, address, and telephone number of the affiant; and

(2) the nature and duration of the relationship between the affiant and the alien.

(i) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING SERVICE IN THE UNIFORMED SERVICES.—To establish that an alien has served in the Uniformed Services for at least 2 years and, if discharged, received an honorable discharge, the alien may submit to the Secretary—

(1) a Department of Defense form DD–214;

(2) a National Guard Report of Separation and Record of Service form 22;

(3) personnel records for such service from the appropriate Uniformed Service; or

(4) health records from the appropriate Uniformed Service.

(j) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING EARNED INCOME.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An alien may satisfy the earned income requirement under section 104(a)(1)(C)(iii) by submitting records that—

(A) establish compliance with such requirement; and

(B) have been maintained by the Social Security Administration, the Internal Revenue Service, or any other Federal, State, or local government agency.

(2) OTHER DOCUMENTS.—An alien who is unable to submit the records described in paragraph (1) may satisfy the earned income requirement by submitting at least two types of reliable documents that provide evidence of employment or other forms of earned income, including—

(A) bank records;

(B) business records;

(C) employer or contractor records;

(D) records of a labor union, day labor center, or organization that assists workers in employment;

(E) sworn affidavits from individuals who are not related to the alien and who have direct knowledge of the alien's work, that contain—

(i) the name, address, and telephone number of the affiant; and

(ii) the nature and duration of the relationship between the affiant and the alien;

(F) remittance records; or

(G) any other evidence determined to be credible by the Secretary.

(k) AUTHORITY TO PROHIBIT USE OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS.—If the Secretary determines, after publication in the Federal Register and an opportunity for public comment, that any document or class of documents does not reliably establish identity or that permanent resident status under this Act (whether on a conditional basis, or without the conditional basis as provided in section 104(c)(2)) is being obtained fraudulently to an unacceptable degree, the Secretary may prohibit or restrict the use of such document or class of documents.

SEC. 308. RULE MAKING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register interim final rules implementing this Act, which shall allow eligible individuals to immediately apply for relief under this Act. Notwithstanding section 553 of title 5, United States Code, the regulation shall be effective, on an interim basis, immediately upon publication, but may be

subject to change and revision after public notice and opportunity for a period of public comment. The Secretary shall finalize such rules not later than 180 days after the date of publication.

(b) PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT.—The requirements under chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, (commonly known as the ''Paperwork Reduction Act'') shall not apply to any action to implement this Act.

SEC. 309. CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not disclose or use information (including information provided during administrative or judicial review) provided in applications filed under this Act or in requests for DACA for the purpose of immigration enforcement.

(b) REFERRALS PROHIBITED.—The Secretary, based solely on information provided in an application for adjustment of status under this Act (including information provided during administrative or judicial review) or an application for DACA, may not refer an applicant to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, or any designee of either such entity.

(c) LIMITED EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b), information provided in an application for adjustment of status under this Act may be shared with Federal security and law enforcement agencies—

(1) for assistance in the consideration of an application for adjustment of status under this Act;

(2) to identify or prevent fraudulent claims;

(3) for national security purposes; or

(4) for the investigation or prosecution of any felony offense not related to immigration status.

(d) PENALTY.—Any person who knowingly uses, publishes, or permits information to be examined in violation of this section shall be fined not more than $10,000.

SEC. 310. GRANT PROGRAM TO ASSIST ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish, within U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, a program to award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible nonprofit organizations that will use the funding to assist eligible applicants under this Act by providing them with the services described in subsection (b).

(b) USE OF FUNDS.—Grant funds awarded under this section shall be used for the design and implementation of programs that provide—

(1) information to the public regarding the eligibility and benefits of permanent resident status under this Act (whether on a conditional basis, or without the conditional basis as provided in section 104(c)(2)), particularly to individuals potentially eligible for such status;

(2) assistance, within the scope of authorized practice of immigration law, to individuals submitting applications for adjustment of status under this Act (whether on a conditional basis, or without the conditional basis as provided in section 104(c)(2)), including—

(A) screening prospective applicants to assess their eligibility for such status;

(B) completing applications and petitions, including providing assistance in obtaining the requisite documents and supporting evidence; and

(C) providing any other assistance that the Secretary or grantee considers useful or necessary to apply for adjustment of status under this Act (whether on a conditional basis, or without the conditional basis as provided in section 104(c)(2)); and

(3) assistance, within the scope of authorized practice of immigration law, and instruction, to individuals—

(A) on the rights and responsibilities of United States citizenship;

(B) in civics and English as a second language;

(C) in preparation for the General Education Development test; and

(D) in applying for adjustment of status and United States citizenship.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) AMOUNTS AUTHORIZED.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2022 through 2032 to carry out this section.

(2) AVAILABILITY.—Any amounts appropriated pursuant to paragraph (1) shall remain available until expended.

SEC. 311. PROVISIONS AFFECTING ELIGIBILITY FOR ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.

An alien's eligibility to be lawfully admitted for permanent residence under this Act (whether on a conditional basis, or without the conditional basis as provided in section 104(c)(2)) shall not preclude the alien from seeking any status under any other provision of law for which the alien may otherwise be eligible.

SEC. 312. SUPPLEMENTARY SURCHARGE FOR APPOINTED COUNSEL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in section 302 and in cases where the applicant is exempt from paying a fee under section 303(c), in any case in which a fee is charged pursuant to this Act, an additional surcharge of $25 shall be imposed and collected for the purpose of providing appointed counsel to applicants seeking judicial review of the Secretary's decision to provisionally deny an application under this Act.

(b) IMMIGRATION COUNSEL ACCOUNT.—There is established in the general fund of the Treasury a separate account which shall be known as the ''Immigration Counsel Account''. Fees collected under subsection (a) shall be deposited into the Immigration Counsel Account and shall remain available until expended for purposes of providing appointed counsel as required under this Act.

(c) REPORT.—At the end of each 2-year period, beginning with the establishment of this account, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a report to the Congress concerning the status of the account, including any balances therein, and recommend any adjustment in the prescribed fee that may be required to ensure that the receipts collected from the fee charged for the succeeding two years equal, as closely as possible, the cost of providing appointed counsel as required under this Act.

SEC. 313. ANNUAL REPORT ON PROVISIONAL DENIAL AUTHORITY.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Congress a report detailing the number of applicants that receive—

(1) a provisional denial under this Act;

(2) a final denial under this Act without seeking judicial review;

(3) a final denial under this Act after seeking judicial review; and

(4) an approval under this Act after seeking judicial review.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill, as amended, shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees.

The gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 6.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2½ minutes.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 6, the American Dream and Promise Act of 2021, is vital legislation that establishes a path to lawful permanent resident, or LPR, status for two critically important populations that are in dire need of protection.

The Dream Act creates an earned path to LPR status for Dreamers, individuals who entered the United States in their youth and who have lived here for most of their lives. Dreamers are part of the fabric of our Nation, aptly demonstrated by their commitment to bettering our country through the pursuit of education, military service, and employment.

It is undeniable that Dreamers enrich our Nation. They are our neighbors and coworkers, they are classmates with our children, and they serve in our military with distinction. They are an essential part of our communities, where they contribute to our thriving economy and make America a stronger, more united, and more diverse Nation.

Similarly, the American Dream and Promise Act provides a path to LPR status for individuals who either held, or were eligible for temporary protective status, TPS, as of January 1, 2017; or deferred enforced departure, DED, as of January 20, 2021.

TPS is a form of humanitarian relief provided to individuals from countries experiencing dangerous conditions and crises. DED is like TPS, but it is derived solely from the President's constitutional powers to conduct foreign relations.

Like Dreamers, TPS and DED recipients are essential to our communities. Many of them have lived in the United States for decades. They make up a significant portion of the workforce in key industries, including construction, food service, and home healthcare. They contribute to the U.S. economy, not only through their work, but also through consumer spending and tax revenue, and they have been particularly essential in serving our country during the COVID–19 pandemic.

I have no doubt that some of my Republican colleagues will stand before us today and use what they claim is a crisis at the border as an excuse not to support this bill. But let's get one thing straight, this legislation is not about the border, this legislation is about finally delivering on our promise to America's Dreamers and others who are equally deserving of our protection.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues, LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ, and YVETTE CLARKE, for their commitment to this important legislation, and to the millions of people this legislation will protect.

I hope that all my colleagues will stand up for them when it truly counts and will support H.R. 6 today.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, there is a crisis at the border. There has been a crisis at the border for weeks. And instead of addressing the crisis, instead of having a hearing in the committee, Democrats have passed bills that defund the police, restrict Americans' Second Amendment liberties, and federalize election law. And not one of those bills—by the way, not one of those bills went through committee.

In fact, the Judiciary Committee—74 days of this Congress, the full Judiciary Committee has yet to have a hearing on anything. We have asked to have a hearing on the border crisis, the real crisis. We asked to have a hearing on cancel culture, the attack on peoples' First Amendment liberties. We asked to have a hearing on conservatorships. No full committee hearing this entire Congress, but they can pass bills to defund the police, restrict Americans' Second Amendment liberties, Federalize election law. And now, while there is a crisis on the border, they bring a bill to the floor that gives amnesty to 3 million illegal aliens.

Seventy-four days of the 117th Congress, the Democrats have taken away the Republicans' right to offer a motion to recommit; they have kicked MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE off a committee; two Democrats wrote a letter trying to cancel ''Fox News,'' ''Newsmax,'' and ''One America News.'' The Democratic chair of the House Administration Committee compiled a dossier on 140 Republican Members, and they are preparing to steal an election from Republican Congresswoman MILLER-MEEKS.

And today, they are going to pass a bill—try to pass a bill which, as I said before, gives amnesty to 3 million illegal immigrants. We have got gang members crossing the border. We have got people whose name is on the terrorist watch list crossing the border. We have got COVID positive illegals crossing the border.

We have had 100,000 encounters with foreigners on the border in February alone. Housing illegal immigrants in the Dallas Convention Center; the administration sending FEMA in to help. Even though they refuse to call the crisis a crisis, they are sending in the disaster agency to help with the situation. If that is not a crisis, frankly, I don't know what one is.

A crisis that President Trump, 2 months ago, told us was coming. I want to read what President Trump said in January. Two months ago, this is what President Trump said: ''If our border security measures are reversed, it will trigger a tidal wave of illegal immigration, a wave like you've never seen before.'' Boy was that accurate.

If our border security measures are reversed. What has the Biden administration done? They placed a moratorium on deportation, they ended the Remain in Mexico program, and they have stopped building the wall. I think that is a reversal. I think that is a reversal of the measures that were put in place. What did it trigger? A tidal wave of illegal immigration, a wave like you have never seen before. It sure did. The tidal wave is here, and the Democrats' answer is amnesty. Wow. Such a deal for the American people. Such a deal for the American taxpayer.

Democrats answer: Defund the police, attack Second Amendment liberties of Americans, federalize election law, try to cancel ''Fox News,'' ''Newsmax,'' ''One America News,'' compile a dossier on Republicans, kick one congresswoman off of her committees, and try to take an election from another, all while they are creating a crisis on the border, and then respond to it all with, what? A bill that gives amnesty to 3 million illegal immigrants. That is what this legislation does today.

Mr. Speaker, I hope we vote ''no.'' I hope we can stop this legislation. This is not what the American people bargained for. This is not common sense, and I hope we defeat this measure.

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD).

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, as a co-author of H.R. 6, I rise in strong support of the American Dream and Promise Act.

I thank Speaker PELOSI for making the American Dream and Promise Act one of the top 10 Democratic priorities in the 117th Congress.

I also thank Congresswoman ZOE LOFGREN and the Judiciary Immigration Subcommittee for their invaluable hard work on this bill.

Today, this House has another opportunity to pass H.R. 6 and, once and for all, end the fear and uncertainty that have plagued the lives of our Nation's Dreamers, who have become an integral part of the fabric of American society.

According to the Center for American Progress, each year Dreamers contribute over $17.3 billion in Federal taxes, nearly $9.7 billion in State and local taxes, and their households have $75 billion in buying power.

Over the course of this deadly corona pandemic, an estimated 202,500 DACA recipients have risked their lives to protect the health and safety of Americans.

Yet, in spite of the critical role they play in our society, over 2.1 million Dreamers live in a state of limbo, doubt, and anxiety of being deported to a country most do not know.

H.R. 6 eliminates the ambiguity in their lives and recognizes the talents and indispensable contributions Dreamers make to our country. While their individual stories may vary, they share the common denominator of embracing and exemplifying American values and love for this country, the only country they call home.

The American Dream and Promise Act has the support of Democrats, Republicans, and Independents, as well as businesses, organized labor, faith groups, educators, health professionals, former cabinet officials, and the majority of the American public.

This unprecedented coalition of support highlights that protecting our Dreamers and providing them with a path to citizenship is not a partisan issue. It is an issue about who we are as Americans, and what is in the best interest of our country.

By passing the American Dream and Promise Act, we will live up to our American values of fairness, justice, and compassion. And these incredible young Dreamers, like generations of immigrants before them, can continue to play their vital role in the well-being our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on the American Dream and Promise Act today.

Mr. Speaker, as a co-author of H.R. 6, I rise in strong support of the Dream and Promise Act.

I thank Speaker PELOSI for making the Dream and Promise Act one of the top ten Democratic priorities in the 117th Congress.

I also thank Congresswoman ZOE LOFGREN and the Judiciary Immigration sub-Committee for their invaluable hard work on this bill.

During the last Congress a similar version of the Dream Act passed the House with bipartisan support. But unfortunately, the Senate failed to take up the bill.

Today this House has another opportunity to pass H.R. 6, and once and for all end the fear and uncertainty that has plagued the lives of our nations Dreamers who have become an integral part of the fabric of our American society.

According to the Center for American Progress, each year Dreamers contribute over $17.3 billion in federal taxes, nearly $9.7 billion in state and local taxes, and their households have $75 billion in buying power.

During this health emergency they also demonstrated the vital role they play in American society.

Over the course of this deadly Corona pandemic, an estimated 202,500 DACA recipients have risked their lives to protect the health and safety of Americans.

Dreamers are amongst the essential workers helping to package and stock our food, the teachers of our children, and the doctors, nurses, and caregivers who daily have sacrificed their lives to save the lives of others.

Yet inspite of the critical role they play in our society, over 2.1 million Dreamers live in a state of limbo, doubt, and anxiety of being deported to a country most do not know.

H.R. 6 eliminates the ambiguity in their lives and recognizes the talents and indispensable contributions Dreamers make to our country.

I have the privilege of representing the 40th Congressional district, home to 24,000 Dreamers—the largest number in any congressional district.

Since I co-authored the original Dream Act twenty years ago, known then as the Student Adjustment Act, I have met many of them and hundreds more, from all over the country, who have traveled to our nation's capital to tell their personal stories of hope, fear, exclusion, and heartbreak.

While their individual stories may vary, they share the common denominator of embracing and exemplifying American values and love for this country, the only country they call home.

They are American in every way, except on paper.

They are Dreamers like Gabriela Cortes who was brought here at age two and will graduate in May with a Bachelor of Science degree. She says the Dream Act gives her hope because quote,'' This is the only way I can fully contribute to my country, the only home I know.''

They are Dreamers like Sheila Salinas Navarro who is a first year PhD student at USC Leonard School of Gerontology. She says, quote, ''We need permanent solutions so that folks like me can contribute to this nation. All I ask is an opportunity to do so.''

And they are Dreamers like Marvin Perez, brought to this country at age five and now attending Glendale Community college. He says he wants the opportunity to continue working on becoming a physician.''

H.R. 6 will give them and all our Dreamers the opportunity to reach their full potential, contribute to their community, and help ensure America remains the strongest and greatest nation in the world.

The Dream and Promise Act has the support of Democrats, Republicans, and Independents, as well as businesses, organized labor, faith groups, educators, health professionals, former Cabinet officials, and majority of the American public.

This unprecedented coalition of support highlights that protecting our Dreamers and providing them with a path to citizenship is not a partisan issue.

It is an issue about who we are as Americans and what is in the best interest of our country.

By passing the Dream and Promise Act, we will live up to our American values of fairness, justice, and compassion. And these incredible young Dreamers like generations of immigrants before them, can continue to play their vital role in the well-being of our nation.

I urge my colleagues to vote yes on the Dream and Promise Act today.

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Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK), who is the ranking member on the Immigration and Citizenship Subcommittee.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, last year, we finally achieved operational control of our southern border for the first time in decades. The Trump administration had made it clear that our border would be enforced, and illegal immigration dropped dramatically.

That all ended on January 20, when Joe Biden issued executive orders to stop deporting illegal immigrants, abandon the border wall, admit anyone claiming to be under 18, and rescinding the Remain in Mexico policy for asylum claims. That message has been heard loud and clear.

The Border Patrol reported more than 100,000 encounters in February alone. Think about that. That is the entire population of South Bend, Indiana, or Green Bay, Wisconsin, in a single month, and it is getting worse.

We are way beyond the debate over whether this is a border crisis. The question now is whether we have a border at all.

What is the Democrats' response? This bill promises a path to citizenship not only for 700,000 DACA recipients but millions more who illegally arrived prior to January 1, were under 19 when they arrived, and have only committed two misdemeanors.

How do they prove they qualify, Mr. Speaker? Under this bill, it means having a friend vouch for you.

Now, we all sympathize with those illegally brought here as young children years ago, and more than 200 Republicans supported legislation in the 115th Congress to give them legal status. But it included measures that secured our border and enforced our laws to discourage another generation of young people being brought here exactly as we are seeing unfold today.

Why are so many children being placed in the hands of Mexican criminal cartels and forced to suffer the 2,000-mile trail of terror to our border? Because it works.

Mr. Speaker, this bill proves the Mexican crime cartels are right: You will be admitted into our country and need only wait for the next amnesty.

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

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, imagine this: You are 17 years old. You have worked hard, and you are the valedictorian of your high school class, the quarterback on the football team. You go down to apply for your driver's license, and you find out for the first time that you were actually not born in the United States and that you are undocumented.

There is no possibility for you to get right with the law, but you did nothing wrong. You don't even remember the place that you were born.

That is the circumstance that tens of thousands of young people find themselves in, and this bill allows those young people to get right with the law—they have done nothing wrong—and go on to become the full Americans that they are except for their paperwork.

It does something else that is important, which is it recognizes that there is a group of people who are here under visas, but because the Senate messed up—that is a term of art—the per country cap bill that this House passed by 365 votes in the last Congress, there is a huge backlog from large countries so long that the dependents of lawful temporary visa holders age out. They have no remedy, just as the other Dreamers. They can't go back to the country they were born in because their parents are legally here. They have no capacity to become the full Americans that they are. This also resolves that problem.

It is distressing to hear the rhetoric about the border. In fact, the uptick at the southern border began last April, and it relates to hurricanes and disorder in three Central American countries.

We need to pay attention to what is going on in those three countries, and that is something the Biden administration is taking steps to do to solve that problem where it starts. I will just note that nobody is escaping from Costa Rica. It is the disorder in three countries that needs to be resolved.

Mr. Speaker, vote ''yes'' on this bill.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS).

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, as we see the ongoing impacts of Biden's inhumane border crisis, I rise in opposition to H.R. 6.

Mr. Speaker, it is irresponsible to be considering this bill today. This bill provides amnesty to millions of those who are illegally in this country. This promise of amnesty is a magnet for aliens attempting to enter the United States today. For at least 35 years, we have seen a direct correlation between promises of amnesty and an increase in illegal border crossing.

The ongoing Biden inhumane border crisis is a direct result of then-candidate and now-President Biden's flawed border policies, including amnesty. That is why I reintroduced the Fund and Complete the Border Wall Act earlier this year and introduced the Stopping Border Surges Act earlier this week.

These bills include real reforms that will have real impacts. Specifically, the Stopping Border Surges Act fixes problems caused by the Flores settlement agreement that prevent DHS from detaining family units for more than 20 days, ensures that unaccompanied alien children are quickly and safely returned to their homes, and promotes increased integrity in the asylum system.

H.R. 6 will cause more problems than it will solve. It has serious flaws that lead to fraud and abuse.

This bill gives the Secretary broad authority to waive grounds of inadmissibility for humanitarian purposes, family unity, or because the waiver is otherwise in the public interest. That means that, under this bill, even convicted criminals will be eligible for amnesty.

If that is not bad enough, under this bill, aliens who were removed from the country by DHS will be allowed to return and get amnesty. Let me repeat that: Aliens who were ordered removed by an immigration judge after receiving due process and were actually removed will be allowed to return and get amnesty.

Last year, USCIS, the agency that administers this amnesty program, almost had to furlough 70 percent of its workforce because the fees it collects do not cover the costs of adjudicating immigration benefits. But this bill actually sets the amnesty fee arbitrarily low and will allow most aliens to obtain a fee waiver. That is a recipe for disaster.

This bill prohibits information from being shared with ICE so that our immigration laws cannot be enforced. Instead of prohibiting information sharing, we should require information sharing.

This bill does nothing to secure the border or close loopholes in our immigration laws that encourage illegal immigration.

Mr. Speaker, I oppose this bill, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL).

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the American Dream and Promise Act.

As an immigrant myself who came to America alone at the age of 16 and who spent a decade in the immigrant rights movement before coming to Congress, I stand with the Dreamers and TPS and DED recipients who have courageously proclaimed ''undocumented and unafraid'' in the streets and Halls of Congress and built this movement for justice.

These Dreamers, TPS, and DED holders have lived in the shadows for too long, doing our Nation's essential work while living a life of uncertainty and fear every day.

Mr. Speaker, Congress—we—right here and right now can change that. We can stand up for our 4.4 million essential community members who have made the United States home. We can legislate what they deserve, which is a roadmap to citizenship and a future of hope, opportunity, and contribution.

Let's stop the hypocrisy of criminalizing immigrants. Let's give recognition and hope today. Vote ''aye'' on the American Dream and Promise Act.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY).

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, a couple of nights ago, I was in Laredo, Texas, doing an interview while overlooking the Rio Grande. My interview was interrupted by a stream of human smugglers and people shouting ''run for the ladders, run for the fences'' coming from the water. Then, some went back across the river.

I went over to a facility where children are being housed right now. They are the people being smuggled by cartels for profit. That is happening right now today. While we sit in here and debate this bill, it is happening right now.

A child is being abused right now by cartels. And this body, the ''people's House,'' is doing nothing—nothing—to address cartels that have ownership of our borders right now.

We are not doing our job. A secure border is pro-immigrant. Instead, what we are doing today is we are going to pass legislation that is a magnet for more trafficking of children. We are going to pass legislation today that empowers cartels. We are going to pass legislation today that is a Band-Aid on a broken system because this body refuses to do its constitutional duty to secure the borders of the United States. That is what we are going to do today.

Meanwhile, nothing is going to improve the life of the little girl sitting in Nuevo Laredo right now being abused under the hands of CDN for the $3,000 or $7,000 to move that little girl across the river while Border Patrol doesn't have the resources to secure the border.

I was down on the river with the guy who is on a 3-mile stretch of the border—one guy—and he can do nothing about that flow while narcotics and fentanyl come across our border.

So, pat ourselves on the back today, Mr. Speaker, for a bill that is going to get passed and headline speeches given about how all this is so great for immigrants. Meanwhile, immigrants today are getting raped, abused, beaten, sold into indentured slavery, and put into human sex trafficking because we refuse to secure the border of the United States. And we will never get a chance to offer an amendment on the floor of this body to do anything about it.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, let us remember that the United States Senate in 2013, with 14 Republicans and the balance of Democrats, well over 60 people, voted for comprehensive immigration reform, as I recall, and, perhaps the chairman can correct me, I believe $47 billion for security. Maybe the staff can shake their head if that was the right number. It was a very substantial number; it might not be the exact number.

On this side of the aisle, we pleaded with the majority to bring a comprehensive immigration bill to the floor. They were in charge. They could have brought whatever security that they wanted. They could have brought comprehensive immigration reform to the floor.

The bills that were brought to the floor bore no relationship, with all due respect, to the Senate-passed bipartisan bill, so we did not achieve comprehensive immigration reform. There was no conference; there was no back-and-forth; and there was no response to that bipartisan bill.

So, I tell my friend from Texas, yes, there is a problem. There is a problem in trafficking, and we need to deal with it.

But I also tell this House that what it ought to know is that the immigration system is broken. I wait for somebody to arise and say: No, it is fine.

Nobody believes it is fine, Mr. Speaker. These bills are not comprehensive immigration reform, but they are supported by the American people because they know that Dreamers, TPS, and DED are adding to this country's value.

Mr. Speaker, for 135 years, America's bright beacon to the world has been that statue that stands in New York Harbor. It lifts her lamp beside the golden door for those who are yearning to breathe free.

My father came through that door. He was 32 years of age in 1934. He came from Denmark. He came for the reason most come, not fleeing, however, from a dangerous land, as some are now doing, but looking for opportunity and a better life. They have come throughout our history from every corner of the world, braving hardship and seeking opportunity, arriving here to build businesses, raise families, and contribute to strengthening communities.

Dreamers have done that. They did not come at their insistence. They came at their parents' insistence or somebody else's insistence, but they are here, and they know America as their home.

Immigrants are a reason why America became the world's most powerful and most prosperous country. For years now, however, our immigration and visa system has been terribly broken, so much so that millions in this country live in fear, holding their breath every day that they could be deported to faraway lands that are not their homes because America is their home.

□ 1300

For Dreamers, it has been their home since their earliest days. And, today, this House is going to take action, as we did last Congress, to help them breathe easier.

The minority leader and I were meeting at the White House some years ago, and then-President Trump said: If you send me a Dreamers bill, I will sign it.

Well, we never sent it. The minority leader and I negotiated, along with others—the administration and Senator DURBIN, the minority leader, and Senator CORNYN. We didn't get there, sadly.

This bill will correct a wrong that has brought fear and uncertainty to so many Americans. Yes, Americans. America is their home and their country. We are talking about patriotic and law-abiding residents, many of whom have been here for decades and are working to build a strong community and serving on the front lines of this pandemic as healthcare professionals, first responders, and essential workers.

We owe them the chance to live without fear of deportation and family separation. There are other problems we ought to talk about and we have talked about. But, certainly, these Dreamers and those with TPS who have been here for a long period of time, and DED, this bill is just for them.

When I say ''just,'' I don't mean solely. I mean justice.

We passed the American Dream and Promise Act last Congress with bipartisan support, and I hope we can do the same today.

I want to thank Representative ROYBAL-ALLARD for her leadership on H.R. 6, and all of those in the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and yourself, Mr. Speaker, for the extraordinary work you have done.

We are also voting, of course, today on another immigration bill this week, H.R. 1603, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act. I rise in support of that as well.

This legislation, offered by Chairwoman LOFGREN, provides a pathway to permanent legal residency to undocumented agricultural workers and their families who are living here and filling a critical economic need from which we benefit, every one of us, every day; and that is the food on our table.

Without that change, workers and their employers will continue to operate under a cloud of uncertainty and instability. These reforms are long overdue, and I want to thank Chairwoman LOFGREN for her work to bring them to the floor.

I hope, as part of broader immigration reform efforts, that we can address the status of seasonal non-agricultural workers on H–2B, who contribute so much to our economy and communities working in landscaping, hospitality, and, in my own State of Maryland, the crab industry.

After the House passes this legislation and H.R. 6, I hope the Senate will move quickly to send them to President Biden for his signature.

The Dream and Promise Act, some 75 percent of Americans are for that. We have been passing legislation that an overwhelming majority of Americans are for, and somehow, the Senate didn't get it or didn't care. Hopefully, this year they will.

If enacted, these two bills would provide a pathway to permanent legal status for some 3 million to 4 million people. They are here. They are among us. They help us. They work with us. They pay taxes. Let's bring them out from under the cloud of being kicked out.

This legislation today is a major achievement and will hasten the moment when 3 million to 4 million immigrants and their families can breathe a little easier, a little freer, knowing they are welcomed and valued here in America, that they are truly a part of this country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support both of these pieces of legislation.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I would just point out that the majority leader is not accurate in what he said. Republicans, 2 years ago, had bills that were much more comprehensive than what the Democrats are bringing to the floor this week. We had a bill that dealt with merit-based immigration, E-Verify, added workers to enforcement border security. It is just not accurate to say our plan was not comprehensive. We had two bills, as the Republican leader mentioned.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY), the Republican leader.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Republican leader of the Judiciary for yielding. He is correct that when the Republicans were in the majority, they brought two bills to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind the gentleman and others, and even the majority leader, that not one Democrat voted for either of those bills. Not one Democrat voted for a bill to move to the Senate. They actually denied the bill from going to the Senate, even if you wanted to change it to become law. That is just a little truth in history.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to say something that President Biden refuses to say. There is a crisis on our southern border. It is a humanitarian crisis. It is a public health crisis, a national security crisis. It is a Biden border crisis, and it is spiraling out of control with no signs of ending.

When candidate Biden told migrants in June to immediately surge to the border, I knew his immigration policies would be bad. But I did not think it would be this bad. I did not think that would mean 13,000 unaccompanied minors in U.S. custody.

I did not think it would mean moving them from border facilities across the country: 1,000 of them went to Midland Texas; 3,000 to Dallas; and, likely, to more cities tomorrow.

I did not think the Biden administration would require COVID tests for American citizens entering the country, but not for illegal immigrants.

I did not think Biden's own DHS Secretary would have to admit that we are ''on pace to encounter more individuals on the southwest border than we have in the last 20 years,'' Mr. Speaker.

I did not think I would hear the President of Mexico refer to our President Joe Biden as the ''migrant President.''

And I did not think it would only take 2 months to create the worst border crisis in the history of America.

But, unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, that is exactly what happened. When I visited the border on Monday, one thing was abundantly clear: This crisis started at midnight on January 20.

Mr. Speaker, it started when President Biden stopped building the wall, even though there are only a few miles left to complete. When he made that decision, he had to pay more money to the contractors to break the contract. It started when he promised to make all 11 million illegal immigrants citizens.

Now, my colleague from Florida (Mr. GIMENEZ) spoke with a family from Honduras about their journey to the border. He asked them how long the trek was. They said it was 22 days. The story of this family is a story we have heard from many and it is not unique.

You see, thousands decided to cross the border now because of President Biden's promises and policies. They listened to him in June when he said: You need to surge the border.

As one migrant family recently told FOX News: Yes, I listened to the news that they were letting people in.

When I was there Monday, I was speaking to the border agents, the American citizens, and the migrants. The number one thing was clear: the crisis at the border is the worst they have ever seen.

When we went to El Paso, we toured the new processing facility. We built it under the last administration. It is huge, 98,000 square feet. And when I asked the chief patrol agent, Chief Chavez said: We built it so large with capacity, we didn't believe it could ever meet capacity.

But that day we marked history. That day they hit capacity: 1,040 people, mostly children unaccompanied.

You know what it meant when you hit capacity?

That meant 120 border agents got pulled off the border to protect us to go into the center. That is what a crisis looks like, even if the administration won't say it.

We also saw overworked Border Patrol agents in the El Paso facility. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank them. What they are being asked to do is extraordinary: the pressure on them, the pressure from the administration not to allow press to see what is happening; the pressure of being over capacity with the number of people there; the pressure to do it under a pandemic. That is what a crisis looks like.

When we sat and talked to the doctor from the medical unit, he told us that approximately 10 percent of every immigrant has COVID, but they are not tested. You see, that is only for American citizens when they reenter. But they are not tested and they are sent to other cities.

And, as many of you know here, you could be tested and you are positive, but the person you have been standing around, put into one unit for a number of days, sleeping very close next to, after you have interacted the entire time in one unit, a closed unit, that you will become positive in the next 5 days. But that is okay because you will be shipped to another city. But that city has been trying to combat this pandemic. Who knows what happens next.

And the most alarming, Mr. Speaker, was when we were briefed in Monument Three in El Paso. They told us that they caught people on the terrorist watch list. I know that the Speaker would be concerned about that. I was alarmed. I questioned further. It is not just people on the terrorist watch list. We found people from other nations, from Iran, from Turkey.

Mr. Speaker, when I went to the press conference right after that, I mentioned that because I think every American—one terrorist is too much in this Nation that could get through. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that you believe that, too.

But Congressman GALLEGO, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Intelligence and Special Operations—and

he also represents a border State—I thought he would tweet arm-in-arm to stop this.

But you know what the gentleman said, Mr. Speaker?

He tweeted on Monday that I was ''either lying or I was wrong'' because he hadn't heard anything about it. I believe he even challenged me because he had such high clearance because he is on Intel.

And Congresswoman ESCOBAR, who represents part of El Paso, I thought the gentlewoman would be very concerned, too, because this is where they are entering, where they caught these people on a terrorist watch list. Not everybody gets put on one. Mr. Speaker, what she said was that I was trying to ''fuel the division'' because I just said that a terrorist was caught coming through.

But, on Tuesday, Axios confirmed that four people matching terrorist watch lists were arrested at the border, three from Yemen and one from Serbia.

Biden's DHS Secretary also confirmed that this indeed happened. I am not sure if their Twitter account is down or if they have been blocked, but I have not heard an apology or a correction. I know Twitter does that to Members of Congress, but I hope they are back on and I will soon get the apology or the acknowledgment of a correction and the respect.

If Members with security clearance haven't heard about the terrorist threats on the border, I suggest they pay closer attention to the classified briefings.

Mr. Speaker, the responsibility for this crisis rests squarely on the shoulders of President Biden. After weeks of claiming they could handle it, his administration is now attempting to blame the growing crisis on the previous President. But nothing could be further from the truth. Words and actions have meanings, and Biden has sent the message that our border is open.

So there is no question that President Biden provoked the problem. The question is: How can we stop it?

Mr. Speaker, when I was there in El Paso, 150 miles of the wall was supposed to be built. But at midnight on January 20, 133 miles had been finished. Instead of finishing the project, they stopped. You could go to the ranch where they took down the old barrier because they were going to put up the new wall, and there is nothing there. It is not just people coming across illegally, but animals move back and forth.

So far, the Biden administration congressional Democrats aren't providing any solutions. Mr. Speaker, we want to solve this problem. That is why I sent a letter to the President 2 weeks ago to sit down. When the President said immigrants should surge to the border, we understood what he meant. So all those who were seeking asylum automatically got in, COVID or not, no tests required.

□ 1315

We saw that the Biden administration told migrants: We aren't saying don't come; just don't come now. You see, that was from the Secretary. Those are really strong words.

But, Mr. Speaker, what moved me the most was speaking to border agents, one who was a father, and one that was a mother, talking about the unaccompanied children. He told me a story of coming upon children, a one-year-old, a three-year-old, and a five-year-old all holding hands. No one in sight for miles away. It is remarkable that they got there.

But the question is: How many didn't make it? How many lives have been lost or abused, simply because they heard a message, or you stopped the PACR program, or you changed from ''remain in Mexico,'' or you stopped finishing the wall that was almost complete?

Mr. Speaker, those who defend the border told me that they have never seen so much fentanyl as they have in the last month. They have never seen the tactics that were used of storming the wall all at once. Just in this one small section, if you looked—it would just go a number of blocks—100 to 200 people a night are apprehended.

We saw last week, with the Democrat's so-called COVID relief bill, $22 billion in healthcare subsidies that illegal immigrants are eligible for, another clear message. But zero dollars are dedicated to helping the men and women patrolling the border.

Mr. Speaker, they need the help. They are stretched so thin. They are stretched so thin, in the middle of COVID, where they are dealing with something where they are not even testing for COVID but they have to interact.

This new facility, 98,000 square feet, is a beautiful facility. It has already met capacity for the first time in history with the new administration. But if you look across into the parking lot, the dirt parking lot, where the border agents have to park, they were moving their cars. They had to put up tents, because the surge is so great. You see, they listened to the words of candidate Biden and they watched the actions of President Biden.

But there is no new money. I know that COVID bill was the—well, we shouldn't call it COVID. It is less than 9 percent for COVID. But, Mr. Speaker, do you realize in that bill, prisoners will get more money than the Border Patrol? Do you realize that they are going to have to use their own operation money that is stretched so thin? So not only can the Border Patrol not be on the border, now they are taking any money for the future to deal with the surge today.

The American people deserve leaders who will work with the seriousness of purpose, what this crisis requires. That is why I wrote a letter to President Biden 2 weeks ago asking to meet about the crisis. Since then, the crisis has only gotten worse, but, unfortunately, the President still hasn't responded. Today, I sent President Biden a second letter offering to relay what we learned at the border, since he refuses to go there. But I believe he would benefit from a hearing of what we saw and heard.

Mr. Speaker, if the President won't go there and the President puts orders to deny the press from learning so the American people can't know, I think it would behoove him to hear from the people who are there.

I also introduced five solutions based on the information from our trip. All of them are rooted in the basic idea that we are both a Nation of immigrants and a Nation of laws.

Mr. Speaker, I know you are proud of your heritage, and I am proud of mine, like every single American. I know how many of us come from immigrant families. I know when you walk into my office, where you have been, Mr. Speaker, you look on my wall and you will see the documents from Ellis Island. April 23 of this year will mark the 100th anniversary of my grandfather, Guido Palladino, coming from Italy as a young child, boarding a ship to come here for a better life.

You see, America believes in immigration, but there is no time to break the law and come illegally. There is a process to come here.

If we implement now these commonsense solutions, it will help to stop the border crisis.

Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, the Biden border crisis is a humanitarian, health, and national security crisis, and it is deteriorating quickly.

To protect our citizens from further harm, our Government must send a clear and united message to the citizens of Mexico and Central America. That message is simple: There is never a right time to break the law and enter the United States illegally.

The time for delay, denial, and distraction is over.

Mr. Speaker, I know you care about this issue. I know you care about what is happening at the border. Mr. Speaker, I ask you, convey that to the President. If he cares as much as you, he will travel there. I know it is tough to travel, but when you have Air Force One—and I know he has got a schedule—it is not far to fly to the border. His own Secretary has said this is the worst it has been in 20 years.

Mr. Speaker, there is not one law that has passed here that created that crisis.

Mr. Speaker, to all your constituents and all of those in America, there are terrorists who have been caught; there are children walking in the desert by themselves; there are cartels making a fortune off the parts and disadvantaging of America.

We are in the middle of a pandemic where people are not being tested but shipped to other cities. This isn't political, Mr. Speaker. This is about this Nation. Join with us on our letter. Let's solve this problem together.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1¼ minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. ESCOBAR).

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, we are here today to talk about our Dreamers, the precious resource we have in our country. But, of course, unfortunately, what we are hearing is as much fear-mongering as possible from our Republican colleagues about immigrants.

My name was mentioned, and the minority leader chose to come into my safe and secure community earlier this week to use my community as a prop, so I need to respond.

In 2019, Mr. Speaker, I led codels to El Paso and brought nearly 20 percent of Congress to my community. I invited everyone. I stood in the well and invited Republicans, Democrats, everyone. Only Democrats took me up on my offer to see the entire picture. Not just law enforcement, but to meet with advocates, attorneys, everyone who makes up the system of immigration on the border. Not a single Republican attended.

Last session, we, as a Congress, passed a number of bills, including supplemental bills, to address what was happening on the border and to address immigration. No Republicans supported our effort.

Last week, when I learned the minority leader was coming into my community, I sent him a letter, invited him to meet with everyone who was available to help give him the full picture. He refused.

Their strategy is the same strategy they have employed with COVID: Do nothing.

We will finally address this. I rise to support our Dreamers and H.R. 6.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Dreamers across the country. These are young people who have lived in the United States for the majority of their lives; they already call the United States home and are citizens in all but name.

The Dream and Promise Act creates a path to citizenship for those who were brought to the United States as children. They're people who have lived their entire lives as members of our communities and just want the opportunity to become citizens of the country where they grew up, go to school, and work. Which makes our communities safer and stronger.

This bill provides strict guidance for earning citizenship and recipients are required to meet the standards and specifications of the program in order to maintain their status.

When a parent makes the harrowing decision to take their child and leave their home behind, it's so that their child might have a better life. Like a lot of our grandparents and great-grandparents, they're coming to the United States for the opportunity to live the American Dream.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I will just point out, I was at the border 2 years ago, the Rio Grande; Mr. ROY was at the border last week; Mr. MCCARTHY was at the border this week. The previous speaker, Mr. Speaker, said that Republicans didn't come when she invited. We have all been down there and seen what goes on. Just this week, we have been down there to see the current crisis.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN).

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, we take up this bill at a time when almost three times as many people are crossing the border as were this time last year.

Under President Obama, it was a bad day if we had 1,000 contacts at the border. Now, we are having 3,000 contacts a day.

These bills are being introduced, advertising that people who come here legally are suckers, and we are going to give preference to people who didn't come here legally.

I would further like to ask that we delay the vote until the Biden administration removes the muzzling of the Border Patrol. We do not really know what is going on at the border, when this most opaque of administrations tells the Border Patrol that they cannot tell the press or Congressmen what is going on.

James Madison must be spinning in his grave. He gave the press freedom, and they refuse to use it.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 45 seconds to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE).

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, Dreamers are American citizens in every sense of the word. For most, America is the only home they have ever known.

Despite what my colleagues on the other side of the aisle argue, Dreamers are not a drain on the country.

Dreamers contribute to our economy by adding an estimated $42 billion to the GDP every year. That is six times more than the cost of DACA.

They participate in our workforce, own small businesses, create jobs, pay taxes, and spend billions of dollars every year on goods and services. Most importantly, they enrich our lives and are valued members of our communities.

When the pandemic hit, over 62,000 Dreamers stepped up and provided life-saving healthcare to all of us. Now, it is our turn to look out for our neighbors, our coworkers, and our friends. They have earned the right to call America home.

H.R. 6 provides a path to citizenship for Dreamers as well as temporary protected status and deferred enforced departure recipients.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes.'' There is nothing more American than the Dream Act.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. VAN DUYNE).

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, the crisis at the border is astounding in its scale, as thousands of illegal immigrants, enabled by drug cartels and human traffickers, enter the country on a daily basis, many of them unaccompanied minors, untested for COVID–19. Yet our colleagues across the aisle accuse us of using this crisis at the border as an excuse. Context matters and policies have consequences.

This is a surge at levels we have never seen before, and it is a direct reaction to the Biden administration dispensing with numerous measures which protected our southern border.

Yet, it is another day of political theater today on the House floor and another set of bills without any real debate.

In addition to the lackluster effort here in Congress, our President needs to enforce our laws. I and 20 of my colleagues from Texas recently urged the Texas Attorney General to hold the President's feet to the fire and enforce the laws, such as Title 42.

The President can use whatever language he wants to to describe what is happening on our southern border, but his reckless policies are creating a disastrous situation for Texans, putting our health and safety in grave jeopardy.

Today could have been an opportunity for real debate and to send a message that this manufactured crisis needs to stop and make true reforms to our immigration system, yet that could not be further from the truth.

It is obvious we have a broken immigration system, but Democrats' flagrant disregard of laws to appease the far left is dangerous and out of touch with the challenges real Americans are facing right now. Ignoring laws, such as Title 42, denying a border crisis, that is not leadership, and Texans know better than to take that sitting down.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this bill.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 45 seconds to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE).

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I had prepared remarks, but I cannot let the minority leader's remarks go unanswered.

Some of my colleagues are aware of this. I was born in Minority Leader MCCARTHY's district, in Bakersfield, California. My parents came to this country 40 years ago as refugees. Because of the incredible freedoms and opportunities that our wonderful country has to offer, we have been able to live the American Dream. How dare he denigrate a majority that is working to ensure that that dream remains secure for thousands of Dreamers.

In his district, in my district, across the United States, young people who live in fear, young people who have known no other country but the United States as their home, that is what this bill is about.

Let's pass H.R. 6. Let's ensure that these Dreamers are treated the way they should be, as Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I stand before you as the son of refugees. My parents came to this country nearly 40 years ago in search of the American Dream. Their ability to offer my sister and I countless freedoms and opportunities and the fact that just one generation removed I can stand in this chamber as a member of Congress, is powerful proof that that dream still exists.

It is our duty to ensure that access to that dream remains attainable, for the 800,000 young Dreamers currently living in the shadows, for immigrants serving our communities on the frontlines of this pandemic—all while living in tremendous uncertainty and fear.

This bill will codify what we already know to be true, that their home is here.

We must pass H.R. 6. We must pursue the dream and the promise that is embedded in our great nation.

I urge all my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the American people are a generous people, instinctively drawn to the idea of amnesty. It is a fine word, ''amnesty.'' It means a general pardon for offenses, an act of forgiveness for past offenses.

Of course, in the immigration arena, amnesty means not only pardon or forgiveness for violating our laws, but also a grant of important rights; ultimately, the privilege of citizenship. Sometimes that important distinction can be overlooked.

□ 1330

But what is particularly despicable in the present legislation is that Democrats exploit that fundamental spirit of generosity by misleading the American people about the scope of the proposed amnesty, its recipients, and its implications.

They would have you believe that this legislation responds to those President Obama dubbed Dreamers. In the gentlewoman from California's description, it is a 17-year-old who worked hard and became a model student and quarterback on the high school football team who doesn't even remember the time before he lived in the United States.

But this bill is not the Dream Act. Rather, it crushes the dreams of American workers. It is not for only 641,000 active DACA recipients. In this bill, Democrats want to provide amnesty for more than 2.9 million illegal immigrants, including even people who entered the United States illegally by January 1, 2021, just over 2 months ago, and all at a time when our unemployment rate is over 6 percent and working Americans are the hardest-pressed by the economic impacts of Democrats' affinity for lockdowns.

This bill also allows dangerous criminals and gang members to gain amnesty benefits, even if they have been convicted of multiple misdemeanors. If this bill is signed into law, adults from Syria, Yemen, Sudan, Somalia, Liberia, and Venezuela will receive amnesty.

This body should be prioritizing relief for American citizens, not illegal immigrants. I urge my colleagues to reject this misleading rhetoric and this dangerous bill.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, the FBI and the Secretary of Homeland Security said the greatest threat to America is domestic terrorism, White racism, white supremacy, not babies who have come here innocently and through no fault of their own.

I rise with great enthusiasm to support H.R. 6 and to join my colleague, Congresswoman ROYBAL-ALLARD, in her work. For two decades, we have stood alongside each other.

The American Dream and Promise Act provides immigrant youth and current or potential holders of temporary protected status or deferred enforced departure the opportunity to become citizens.

This is the very same person. This person, his name is Alonso Guillen. He was a DACA. He died coming to Houston during Hurricane Harvey trying to save lives. Cesar Espinosa, who organized a civil rights organization, is a DACA recipient, and the EMS person who worked with us during Hurricane Harvey, or Liberians on deferred status, and TPS persons.

Let me just say, support this because it is the right thing to do. They are not terrorists. It is not amnesty.

Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Committees on the Judiciary and on Homeland Security, as an original cosponsor of legislation to extend the full promise of America to Dreamers, and a representative of a state on the southern border, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6, the ''American Dream and Promise Act of 2019,'' and the underlying legislation.

The American Dream and Promise Act of 2019 establishes a roadmap to U.S. citizenship for (1) immigrant youth and (2) current or potential holders of (a) temporary protected status (TPS) or (b) deferred enforced departure (DED).

Ensuring a path to earned citizenship is a non-negotiable principle for me and the sine qua non of meaningful immigration reform legislation.

Indeed, providing a path to earned access to citizenship has been a central feature of every comprehensive immigration reform bill I have co-sponsored or sponsored in the Congress since 2007 when I became Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration and introduced the ''Save America Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act, (H.R. 1525),'' which I have reintroduced in each succeeding Congress.

Like H.R. 6, Section 501 of my legislation provides a path to earned legalization status to those undocumented immigrants who have resided in the United States for 5 years and meet other eligibility requirements.

Mr. Speaker, as we stand today on the precipice of passing the American Dream and Promise Act of 2019, I am thinking of the hundreds of thousands of young immigrants whose lives will be changed for the better by keeping our promise to them, so they can realize their dreams and making America better, stronger, and more prosperous.

And at this moment, I am thinking of Alonso Guillen, an heroic DREAMER who lived in my congressional district, and who came to the United States from Mexico as a child and died when his boat capsized while he was rescuing survivors of the flooding caused by Hurricane Harvey in the Houston area.

That is the type of courage, honor, and commitment to service we are talking when we speak of DREAMERS.

Mr. Speaker, Title I of H.R. 6, the Dream Act of 2019, contains provisions regarding relief for immigrant youth.

Title II of the bill, American Promise Act of 2019, contains provisions related to persons eligible Temporary Protected Stats (TPS) or Deferred Enforcement Departure; the third and final title contains general provisions that apply to both Titles I & II).

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 6 because it keeps America's word to the more than 800,000 young people we asked to come out of the shadows and walk proudly and unashamedly as legitimate members of the American community.

The legislation does this by providing conditional permanent resident (CPR) status and a roadmap to lawful permanent resident (LPR) status and, eventually, earned U.S. citizenship for immigrant youth who entered the U.S. before age 18, have four or more years of residency, and graduated from high school (or the equivalent).

H.R. 6 also provides an opportunity to apply for LPR status for people who currently have or who may be eligible for TPS or DED and who have three or more years of residency.

Mr. Speaker, individuals who are eligible for protection under the bill have lived in the United States for much of their lives; the average Dreamer came to the United States at the age of 8, while the average TPS- or OED-eligible person arrived in 1997.

Without permanent protections such as those in H.R. 6, the future of these immigrants, and their families, are at risk in the United States—as well as the fiscal and economic contributions they make.

Passing this legislation is the right thing to do and now is the time to do it; in fact, it is long overdue.

I am mindful also, Mr. Speaker, that in addition to helping restore America's reputation as the most welcoming nation on earth, the legislation the House will pass also positions America to better compete and win in the global economy of the 21st century.

According to expert studies, including one by the Center for American Progress, ending deferred action for childhood arrivals would result in a loss of $460.3 billion from the national GDP over the ensuing decade and would remove an estimated 685,000 workers from the nation's economy and workforce at a time when more, not fewer, workers are desperately needed.

And 10 states, including my home state of Texas, would stand to lose more than $8 billion annually in state GDP.

Mr. Speaker, immigrants eligible for protection under H.R. 6 are part of Texas's social fabric.

Texas is home to 386,300 immigrants who are eligible for protection under the Dream and Promise Act, 112,000 of whom reside in Harris County.

These individuals live with 845,300 family members and among those family members, 178,700 are U.S.-born citizen children.

Dreamers in Texas who are eligible for protection under the bill arrived in the United States at the average age of 8.

TPS- and DED-eligible immigrants in Texas who would be eligible for protection under H.R. 6 have on average lived in the United States since 1996.

Immigrants eligible for the Dream and Promise Act own 43,500 homes in Texas and pay $340,500,000 in annual mortgage payments.

Eligible immigrants in Texas and their households contribute $2,234,800,000 in federal taxes and $1,265,200,000 in state and local taxes each year.

Annually, these households generate $10,519,000,000 in spending power in Texas and help power the national economy.

Mr. Speaker, let me highlight some of the more important provisions of the American Dream and Promise Act.

H.R. 6 helps young persons in the following ways:

1. Extends the length of conditional permanent resident (CPR) status from eight to ten years to give applicants more time to fulfill requirements;

2. Stays the removal of minors who are not yet eligible for relief but may become eligible in the future and who temporarily unenroll from school;

3. Permits people with CPR to obtain legal permanent resident (LPR) status without satisfying the employment, military, or educational tracks if their deportation would cause ''hardship'' to themselves or immediate family members (instead of ''extreme hardship'');

4. Includes apprenticeship programs as a qualifying education to obtain CPR status;

5. Eliminates the costly medical examination for applicants;

6. Establishes a fee ceiling of $495 for immigrant youth applying for CPR status;

7. Clarifies that people with CPR can access professional, commercial, and business licenses;

8. Permits people with CPR who obtain a certificate or credential from an area career and technical education school to obtain LPR status; and

9. Updates the criminal background bars and inadmissibility requirements.

Additionally, H.R. 6 provides LPR status to CPR holders who (1) serve in the uniformed services for two years; (2) complete two years at or obtain a degree from an institution of higher education; or (3) work 75 percent of the time in CPR.

Another important feature of this legislation is that makes it easier for states to provide instate tuition to immigrant students and establishes that CPR-holders are eligible for federal loans, work study, services, and grants.

For persons with TPS or DED status, the American Dream and Promise Act provides much needed relief.

First, H.R. 6 provides LPR status for people with TPS or DED (and those who were eligible but did not apply) who apply within three years from the date of enactment if they (1) had at least three years of continuous residence (as well as residence since the date required the last time that the person's nation of origin was designated) and (2) were eligible for or had (a) TPS on September 25, 2016, or (b) DED on September 28, 2016.

This protection covers nationals of 13 countries: El Salvador, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Liberia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen.

I believe similar protections should be extended to Guatemalan nationals in our country, which is why I will soon reintroduce the ''Continue American Safety Act,'' which extends TPS status to Guatemala and I look forward to working with my colleagues to achieve this outcome.

Second, H.R. 6 classifies people with TPS or DED as inspected and admitted for the purposes of Immigration & Nationality Act (INA) section 245(a), making it easier to obtain LPR status through existing channels (e.g., a family-based petition).

Third, H.R. 6 stays the removal or deportation of an individual while an application is pending.

Fourth, the American Dream and Promise Act establishes a fee ceiling of $1,140 for people with TPS or DED applying for LPR status.

Fifth, the legislation provides greater transparency by requiring the Secretary of the Homeland Security (DHS) to provide an explanation for and report within three days of publishing notice to terminate TPS designation for certain nationals.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 6 is exceptional legislation and a welcome development but is not a substitute for undertaking the comprehensive reform and modernization of the nation's immigration laws supported by the American people.

Only Congress can do that and passage of H.R. 6 shows that this House has the will and is up to the challenge.

Comprehensive immigration reform is desperately needed to ensure that Lady Liberty's lamp remains the symbol of a land that welcomes immigrants to a community of immigrants and does so in a manner that secures our borders and protects our homeland.

Mr. Speaker, let us build on the historic legislation that is the American Dream and Promise Act and seize the opportunity to pass legislation that secures our borders, preserves America's character as the most open and welcoming country in the history of the world, and will yield hundreds of billions of dollars in economic growth.

I urge all Members to join me in voting for H.R. 6, the American Dream and Promise Act of 2021.

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

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 45 seconds to the distinguished gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN).

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, when we came to Congress, my class of 2006 was offered the opportunity to go to Harvard University for a seminar. We were told there that one of the greatest problems facing this country was the lack of workers, that our birthrate was declining, and that we need more people to come to this country and more workers to supply our workforce and our economy. Those situations have not gotten better.

These Dreamers are trained in America. They have been educated in America. They are talented. They are smart. We are not only doing the right thing by giving them this pathway to citizenship, but we are doing the right thing for America because we need their talent to make this country even greater.

That is why I support the Dreamers act.

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

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 45 seconds to the distinguished gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STANTON).

Mr. STANTON. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6, the American Dream and Promise Act. Dreamers have been waiting far too long for meaningful congressional action.

By passing H.R. 6, we are telling Dreamers all over our country: We see you, we hear you, and we know your home is here in the United States of America.

Arizona is fortunate to have nearly 24,000 DACA recipients. They are teachers, community organizers, and essential workers contributing greatly to our economy. In this pandemic, they make sure our grocery store shelves are stocked and our families are fed. They work long shifts in COVID hospital wings and now are vaccinating our communities.

That is who they are, giving back and contributing an estimated $240 million in taxes yearly in Arizona alone. Dreamers are essential to rebuilding our economy, and it is long past time we put them on a path to citizenship.

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. GARCIA).

Mr. GARCIA of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 6.

As a first-generation American, I know firsthand the opportunities that America provides. I understand why every person on this planet should want to come to this beautiful country. We are a land of immigrants, built on hard work, and blessed by freedoms that are protected by law and order and secured by our Constitution.

I sympathize with the Dreamers, I really do, but this bill should not be considered before addressing our broken immigration system that led to this very problem. Providing amnesty to Dreamers while ignoring the crisis at the border is like cleaning up spilled water before fixing the broken pipe.

If Congress fails to reform our immigration system and fails to secure our borders, future migrants will be subjected to the same situation in which Dreamers today find themselves.

We need to fix our broken immigration system and secure our borders.

If my colleagues are sincere about their care and passion for the Dreamers, they should work with us to secure the border today so that the Dreamers have a chance tomorrow.

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

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and once again, I salute him for his leadership.

This is the third bill in 2 days that he has brought to the floor, yesterday for the ERA and Violence Against Women Act, and today, here we are with this legislation for the Dreamers.

Madam Speaker, this issue is near and dear to my heart but, more importantly, to my head. This is so important for our country.

Three years ago, I came to the floor and spoke about our Dreamers for 8 hours and 6 minutes. Have no fear, I will not use my Speaker's minute to that extent today. But I wish I could because I have so much to say about what Dreamers mean to America.

I rise with tremendous pride, joy, and hope this day as the House prepares to take this momentous step forward for our democracy by passing H.R. 6, the American Dream and Promise Act.

I want to salute some of our leaders in Congress. As I acknowledged Mr. NADLER, the distinguished chair of the committee, let us also acknowledge LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, the godmother of this legislation, who carries forth a commitment to the newcomers to our country in her DNA, the same commitment of her father, the late Chairman Ed Roybal, as he championed newcomers to our Nation.

She has been with this legislation for 20 years that I know of, and it was she and Howard Berman who introduced it initially a generation ago. Ten years ago, she authored this legislation, and we were successful on the floor. We were successful in passing it in the House because of the leadership of Congresswoman ROYBAL-ALLARD but also Chairwoman NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ, who at the time was the chair of the Hispanic Caucus. The Hispanic Caucus really led the way and taught the Congress about what Dreamers mean to America, in case that had not been within the experience of our Members.

In this legislation today, NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ has the ''promise.'' This is Dreamers and promise. She has the promise, TPS and DED—again, very important to our country.

YVETTE CLARKE, from the Congressional Black Caucus, who is very much a part of all of this today, has the TPS piece of this.

I was so pleased to hear this morning CAPAC, the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, have Congresswoman STRICKLAND, of African-American and Korean descent, speak in terms of what this means to the Asian Pacific American community, something that Chair JUDY CHU reminds us of every day.

This has now gone beyond the Hispanic Caucus, the Black Caucus, the Asian Pacific Caucus, and to all of us in the Congress. This legislation is protecting Dreamers and TPS and DED recipients and honors the truth that immigrants are the constant reinvigoration of our country. When they come here with their hopes and dreams and aspirations, these parents bringing their children, their hopes and dreams and aspirations for a better future for their children, that courage, that determination, those aspirations are American traits. They all make America more American with all of that.

Indeed, they are true and legitimate heirs, these Dreamers are, of our Founders. E pluribus unum, from many, one, we talk about that all the time. Many in this Chamber have been part of the fight to protect our patriotic Dreamers for years.

As I said, when I stood here for 8 hours and 6 minutes, the longest speech on record in the House in history, I was reading letters that Members were handing me about the story of the Dreamers. As Mr. STANTON mentioned, they are teachers, professionals, CEOs, entrepreneurs. They contribute to our community in every way. I was so pleased to hear him talk about that because one of the first meetings I ever went to about Dreamers was under the leadership of one of the predecessors of our Members from Arizona, Congressman Ed Pastor. Chairman Pastor, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Harry Mitchell, all three, had a meeting at Arizona State University about helping these young people. That was in 2007.

So, this has been going on for a while. Next month, as I mentioned, marks the 20th year since the Dream Act was introduced by Congresswoman ROYBAL-ALLARD, and it was on a bipartisan basis. When we passed it 10 years ago, it was on a bipartisan basis. Sadly, we couldn't prevail with 60 votes in the Senate. But since then, millions of Americans have come together to organize and mobilize for Dreamers: labor leaders, the business community, faith organizations, national security officials, law enforcement, and more.

We often talk about Dreamers having the support of the three Bs: badges, in terms of law enforcement; Bible, in terms of faith-based; and the business community.

The true VIPs of the moment are the Dreamers and immigrants who have spoken out with great dignity and eloquence, refusing to be forced back into the shadows.

This determination has made a difference. It is their courage that is sending this legislation to the Senate and then to the President's desk.

Before I close, I want to acknowledge the work of Congresswoman ZOE LOFGREN, the chair of the Immigration Subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee. ZOE LOFGREN is also the chair of House Administration, so I call her Madam Chair-Madam Chair. She has taught immigration law. She has been an immigration lawyer, and she chairs the Immigration Subcommittee. We could not be better served than by her intricate knowledge of immigration law, both on this legislation and legislation we will take up later, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act. I thank ZOE LOFGREN for that.

Again, Dreamers and TPS and DED recipients are American in every way. They have lived and worked in our country for decades, if not their entire lives. They are an integral thread in the fabric of our Nation. For the Dreamers, it is less time, for others more.

Dreamers power our businesses, our economy, and are CEOs and taxpayers, all of them. They advance innovation and America's technological edge as entrepreneurs and researchers. They protect our national security, military might, and servicemembers and civilian experts.

That is why I am so grateful to Chair ROYBAL-ALLARD, Chair VELÁZQUEZ, Chair JUDY CHU, and Congresswoman STRICKLAND for advancing this legislation to help Dreamers and TPS and DED recipients.

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So many on the front lines of the pandemic are frontline healthcare workers and first responders; transportation, sanitation, and food workers; and teachers. They give so much to our country.

These immigrant communities strengthen, enrich, and ennoble our Nation, and they must be allowed to stay. There is nothing partisan about protecting Dreamers and TPS and DED recipients.

The Dream Act has long had bipartisan support in both Chambers. Support for TPS and DED recipients is also bipartisan in the country. Nearly three-quarters of the public support a path to citizenship.

I always love to quote President Reagan. In his last speech as President of the United States, this was his last message as President to the American people. He said: ''Thanks to each wave of new arrivals to this land of opportunity, we are a nation forever young, forever bursting with energy and new ideas, and always on the cutting edge, always leading the world to the next frontier. This quality is vital to our future as a nation. If we ever closed the door to new Americans, our leadership in the world would soon be lost.''

I urge a bipartisan vote.

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, may I inquire as to the amount of time remaining for each side.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. DEGETTE). The gentleman from Ohio has 13 minutes. The gentleman from New York has 14¾ minutes.

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

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 45 seconds to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. JONES).

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, I swear, sometimes I stand in this Chamber and feel like I am in the Twilight Zone, listening to a number of my Republican colleagues espouse white supremacist ideology to denigrate our wonderful Dreamers.

I am over here standing with a clear understanding that this bill does not go far enough.

I want to share the story of a constituent of mine, Mr. Paul Pierrilus, of our Spring Valley, New York, community, who was deported to Haiti, a country where he had never even been, in apparent defiance of the President's 100-day executive order.

We need a bill that goes further. I am going to vote for this, but we need a bill that goes further, that forgives people who make mistakes.

Mr. Pierrilus, in his case, made a mistake in his early 20s. We need a bill that allows him to return home, and I am going to be fighting for that moving forward.

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, I will tell you what this bill does. Page 51, section 310: ''Grant program to assist eligible applicants. The Secretary shall establish, within U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services, a program to award grants.''

So while there is a disaster on the border, so much so that we have to send FEMA there, this bill not only gives amnesty to illegals, it uses American tax dollars to help the illegals apply for amnesty.

Such a deal for the American taxpayer. That is what this legislation does. That is what this bill is about.

At a time when we have chaos on the border, this bill gives amnesty to 3 million illegals and uses American tax dollars to help those same illegals apply for the amnesty. I mean, the disrespect that the Democrats have for the American taxpayer is astounding to me. It is truly astounding.

I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. HERRELL).

Ms. HERRELL. Madam Speaker, I find the name of this bill, the American Dream and Promise Act, to be quite a nightmare because while this may be a bill that will help some, it destroys the dreams of the American children.

The contradiction and the hypocrisy in this entire bill can be summed up in this way: I have heard over and over, Madam Speaker, these Dreamers are frontline workers; they have been in harm's way; they have helped with this pandemic. Yet, we are going to open the border and allow people into our country that do not have a COVID test. We are putting our Dreamers in harm's way. I find the hypocrisy of this bill somewhat puzzling.

But I also want to point out that this bill allows those convicted of dangerous crimes, including MS–13 and other gang members, to receive a green card by including the following exceptions if the applicants with multiple misdemeanor convictions, even if the crime was violent or resulted in death or bodily injury, they can still get a green card. It will not take into account violent crimes committed as a juvenile when adjudicating the application.

I strongly urge a ''no'' vote on this bill.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 45 seconds to the distinguished gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GARCIA).

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the American Dream and Promise Act.

Before I continue with my remarks, I want to remind Mr. JORDAN and the others across the aisle that no human being is illegal. We are all children of God.

I have dedicated my life to public service to help immigrants who come to the U.S. in search of a prosperous and dignified life.

Since 2001, when the Dream Act was first conceived, Dreamers have waited.

In 2012, DACA enabled eligible young adults to work lawfully, attend school, and contribute to society without the constant threat of deportation.

However, Dreamers are still waiting.

In Texas, over 213,000 Dreamers contribute $963 million in local, State, and Federal taxes and have played a critical role in our State's response to the COVID pandemic.

Dreamers have waited.

It is time for us to deliver. We should treat them with respect. I urge passage.

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

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 45 seconds to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA).

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Let me just bring back the issue at hand, which is our Dreamers. Dreamers are taxpayers. They obey the law. They work. They go to school. They are firefighters. They are police officers. They are nurses. Dreamers are Jose Angel Garibay.

This man from my district made the ultimate sacrifice for this United States, his adopted country. Orange County's first Iraqi war death, Jose Angel Garibay was killed in action on March 23, 2003.

At the age of 21, Jose became Orange County's first combat casualty in Iraq. Jose Angel Garibay did the right thing. He sacrificed his life for his country.

Let us do the right thing and pass this legislation to honor Dreamers.

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER).

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, I thank the ranking member from Ohio, Mr. JORDAN, for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to oppose H.R. 6.

Under the leadership of President Trump, illegal border crossings dropped dramatically, and our border was secured.

Since taking office, President Biden has halted construction of our border wall, attempted a moratorium on deportations, and, in so doing, created significant incentives for illegal immigration.

In February, over 100,000 illegal immigrants were apprehended at our southern border, three times the number in the same month the year previous.

Speaking to Border Patrol agents, Republicans and Democrats are told the same thing: This is a humanitarian crisis. Violent cartels are taking advantage of innocent people to smuggle drugs into our country.

Yet, the Biden administration placed a gag order on CBP agents. What is going on here? Are we going to face the problem, or are we going to hide it with gag orders?

Now Democrats are introducing H.R. 6, which only exacerbates the Biden policies at the border by creating the incentive of amnesty with no discussion of border security.

Madam Speaker, it is time for the House to wake up. This is disastrous policy, and it is in full view. There is no hiding from it. We should oppose H.R. 6 on humanitarian grounds.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 45 seconds to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU).

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 6, the American Dream and Promise Act, to put Dreamers and TPS and DED immigrants on a path to citizenship.

These are our friends, neighbors, and colleagues. They have graduated from our schools, served in our military, and worked in our communities. During the pandemic, they have kept our country running with over 200,000 Dreamers and over 130,000 TPS holders in essential jobs at hospitals, grocery stores, and schools.

As the chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I know this is important to so many, including the Asian-American and Pacific Islander community, who are 7 percent of the entire population but 16 percent of the undocumented. That means there are well over 100,000 Asian-American immigrants who urgently need relief.

This bill means so much to so many. I urge a ''yes'' vote for H.R. 6.

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

Mr. NADLER. I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE).

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, as an original co-lead of this legislation, I rise today in support of the bill that is near and dear to my heart, H.R. 6, the American Dream and Promise Act.

As the proud daughter of Jamaican immigrants, I understand the need for the American Dream and Promise Act, and more importantly, we need a humane and dignified 21st century immigration system. Comprehensive immigration reform is what is required.

Let me be very clear, crystal clear: Our immigration system is broken, and the time has come for the values of our Nation to be reflected in our immigration policy.

However, this is not just a moral issue. It is an economic one, as well. If COVID–19 has taught us anything, essential workers are the lifeblood of our economy. They have risked their lives during a global pandemic to serve, support, and protect American communities. We have relied on them during this crisis, and it is time to give them a way out of the shadows.

Let's pass H.R. 6, the American Dream and Promise Act. Let's see it through the Senate, and let's get it signed into law.

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition of this bill because we have a crisis along our southern border.

We have record numbers of migrants seeking to come into our country. The number of unaccompanied children illegally crossing the border increased 63 percent last month. This is truly a humanitarian and security crisis, but the current administration is not adequately addressing it. In fact, they are not addressing it at all.

Instead of doing more to protect our border, the administration is rolling back policies that discourage this kind of mass migration.

Today, we are considering a bill that does nothing to solve the problem. In fact, it shows that there are no repercussions for breaking our laws and encourages more to attempt to enter the country illegally.

We need a comprehensive and bipartisan solution to this crisis that discourages entering illegally and rewards following the law.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT).

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, I rise on behalf of those who teach, who heal, who protect, who study; for those whose entrepreneurial talent advances our economy—for all of our Dreamers. They have so much to contribute and they are American in every way except on paper.

For so many long years, they have been burdened with uncertainty because of the anti-immigrant hysteria whipped up by these Republican fanatics. In San Antonio, San Marcos, and Austin I have met with them personally; Dreamers in Texas, where releasing their full potential, through approval of this bill, would have such benefit to all of us.

Today let's move forward to reject the Republican nightmare and achieve the dream so that these deserving young people may truly share in the entire American Dream. This bill must only be the beginning.

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PFLUGER).

Mr. PFLUGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 6.

Bringing an amnesty bill to the floor this week in the middle of a complete and total crisis on our southern border is not only tone-deaf; it is wrong.

I traveled to the border on Monday and surveyed the facilities, the border, and the environment. It is a mess. Thousands of people are coming across our borders illegally.

If we really cared about children, we would be looking at the policies that are incentivizing the drug cartels, the traffickers, the coyotes that are bringing them across, exploiting them in every way. It is heartbreaking.

Some wish our Nation harm, including the individuals who have been found out to be on the terror watch list who have been apprehended crossing the border.

This bill will only incentivize more illegal crossings. What a week to put this bill to a vote.

We cannot begin to address the issues we are facing when our border is broken. I implore my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to work with us in a bipartisan manner to secure the border and then move on.

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Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, first of all, let me say that I rise in strong support of H.R. 6, the American Dream and Promise Act. I thank Congresswoman ROYBAL-ALLARD, Chairman NADLER, and Chairwoman LOFGREN for advancing this legislation and supporting our Dreamers.

It is time that we protect these young people who have never called any other country than America home. Dreamers and individuals eligible for TPS or Deferred Enforcement Departure contribute mightily to their communities and to our economy. They deserve a pathway to citizenship.

Now, the Dreamers in my State of California and in my Congressional district have made so many contributions under very scary and difficult circumstances.

Madam Speaker, yes, they are as American as I am. I ask for an ''aye'' vote.

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

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN).

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, my constituent, Mr. Jose Escobar, was living his American Dream, married to an American-born woman, two American-born children, living in an American-built house, paying American taxes. Yet when he reported to ICE, he was taken out of the arms of his wife and babies, sent to El Salvador with $20 and the clothes on his back. It took us more than 2 years to get him home, but I went to El Salvador with his wife, and we brought him home.

Madam Speaker, I will support this legislation because I want no one else to experience what Mr. Jose Escobar experienced.

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

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the distinguished gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ).

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise for every child who was ever raised in this beautiful country but told they are not American; for every Dreamer who has lived in fear that they will be forced from the only home they have ever known.

Madam Speaker, Dreamers are teachers, students, and healthcare workers. They feed us, care for us, and inspire us. They strengthen our economy. Now is the moment. We must give them the same opportunities and protections that they deserve as Americans.

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER).

Mr. STAUBER. Madam Speaker, when I speak to families back home, they understand that there are individuals and children in the country who were brought here through no fault of their own. They are understanding and compassionate people who want a solution that is fair and just. But something that I also hear from these same families is their concern and fear for providing green cards and paths to citizenship to gang members and criminals.

The text of this bill only compounds those fears—preventing the United States Government from using readily available information to remove gang members who are national security threats and other public safety threats.

This motion to recommit ensures that those individuals whose applications would be denied on the basis of criminal grounds, national security grounds, public safety risks, or as gang members, are considered by the Department of Homeland Security for removal from the United States.

Madam Speaker, under H.R. 6, information provided in an application for a green card may not be used for the purposes of immigration enforcement, even if the DHS denies the application or it is withdrawn. This means that if an applicant has a murder conviction, a rape conviction, or if the applicant is a gang member, and DHS knows about it because of the application, DHS can't even refer that person for removal.

To be clear, this MTR does not direct the DHS to remove an applicant if they are denied on any other basis. Only applicants who are denied on criminal or national security grounds as public safety risks or as gang members would be affected.

As crime rates skyrocket in cities across the country, the American people are asking for serious solutions. They are crying out for help. And this bill only further enables murderers, rapists, and gang members to exploit our system.

If the Democrats see fit to listen to the American people and exclude these criminals and gang members from receiving green cards under H.R. 6, then they should vote for this motion to recommit to ensure dangerous individuals are denied a safe haven here in our neighborhoods and communities where our children go to school and play.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York has 8¾ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Ohio has 6 minutes remaining.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT).

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 6, the American Dream and Promise Act.

Madam Speaker, how hypocritical and shameful of the other side of the aisle. They want to deny Dreamers, yet those Dreamers provide education and daycare services for their children.

They want to deny Dreamers, but those Dreamers take care of their frail and elderly parents.

They want to deny Dreamers, but their parents pick the crops and the fruits that they eat at their table.

Madam Speaker, how hypocritical. They want to deny Dreamers, yet those Dreamers, as members of the National Guard, protected us right here against an angry, racist mob.

Madam Speaker, I know that too well because I came to this Nation without any papers. And I sit as a Member of Congress and my vote is equal to any of their votes. It is equal to any of their votes because, in this country, you can dream and it has promise.

Madam Speaker, we will not go back. We will continue to move forward. I support H.R. 6.

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

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GARCÍA).

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, this bill is critical for millions. That is why I supported it in the previous Congress, but it also contains some deep flaws that perpetuate racial injustice. I, along with 47 Members, worked to eliminate those racially motivated barriers to legalization from this bill. These harmful provisions will deny immigrant youth a better future.

In this moment of racial reckoning, we have missed an opportunity. Yet I will vote for this bill, and I urge support because we can do better so that every immigrant child has a fair chance to call America home.

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON).

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, don't ask the President. Ask the people of Texas and they will tell you the truth. Biden's unilateral actions are the cause for this unprecedented crisis.

My Democrat colleagues' response to their fellow Americans: An amnesty that will only add fuel to the fire of the burning chaos at the southern border.

Madam Speaker, how did we go from America first to America last in just days?

Taken together, these perverse incentives will further encourage lawlessness, enrich cartels, enable the abuse and exploitation of the most vulnerable people, cheat those who have respected our process, compromise the health and safety of the American people, and undermine the sovereignty and security of our great Nation.

Madam Speaker, don't ask the President. Ask the people of Texas and they will tell you the truth. The cartels are in control at the border and the left is in control of the Democrat party.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. PRESSLEY).

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman NADLER for yielding.

Madam Speaker, the tragic events of this week underscore both our responsibility and the urgency we must move to legislate our values and to stand on the side of justice.

I represent Massachusetts Seventh, a district which is 40 percent immigrants. I rise today in solidarity with them.

H.R. 6 is a critical step towards citizenship for Dreamers, TPS, and DED holders. However, the criminal bar provisions added to this bill further entangles our racist criminal legal system in the citizenship process.

I thank Congressman GARCÍA and partners for leading the fight to eliminate this language. There is more work to be done, but this bill moves us in the right direction of a more just America, one which values the lives of immigrants and not just their labor.

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MCCLAIN).

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today because I am absolutely furious. Every single day, 5,000 new illegal aliens cross our southern border. Every single day, more men, more women and children are smuggled across our border and being trafficked. Every single day, the drug cartels and human traffickers are raping and abusing our women and children. One out of three of these women and children are being raped.

I ask the administration this: How is that not a crisis?

Madam Speaker, for almost 2 months, our Nation has refused to call this a crisis, what is occurring at our border. You cannot solve a problem unless you first admit there is a problem; and we have a problem. This bill today does nothing to solve that problem or even acknowledge that we have a problem.

We, as a Congress, need to say in unison: We have a crisis at our border.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the distinguished gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, there is no doubt the American Dream and Promise Act will bring much-needed relief to our Dreamers and our immigrant communities, and I will be voting for the bill.

However, many of my constituents are disappointed that H.R. 6 includes harsh exclusions that will block many of our long-term members of our community from citizenship simply because of misdeeds, mistakes that they made years and years ago. I will continue to advocate for them.

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, if we adopt the motion to recommit, we will instruct the Committee on the Judiciary to consider the amendment to H.R. 6 to ensure that gang members do not receive any benefits under the underlying bill and are swiftly removed from the country.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include the text of my amendment in the RECORD immediately prior to the vote on the motion to recommit.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ).

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, I, and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus rise in support of H.R. 6, the American Dream and Promise Act, which will make an incredible positive difference for our Nation.

It is precisely now, during a pandemic, when we need this legislation. Dreamers are doctors, nurses, lab technicians, contact tracers, and job creators. Dreamers are on the front lines of the COVID–19 pandemic. They strengthen our economy and they make invaluable contributions to America.

Madam Speaker, the American Dream and Promise Act will provide a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, TPS holders, and DED recipients. We must pass this bill today.

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

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentleman from California.

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, I thank the Congressional Hispanic Caucus members, Congresswoman LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, Congresswoman NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ, as well as Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE, for their remarkable efforts on this piece of legislation.

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. HICE).

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, there is an unprecedented crisis at the southern border. Literally, hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants are crossing into the United States, stretching our patrol officers and enforcement down there to a breaking point.

In February of this year, over 100,000 illegals were apprehended. That is a 28 percent increase from the year before. And I guarantee you, it is only going to get worse. The projections are even more than that this coming month.

Illegal border crossings are now five times higher than before President Biden was inaugurated. And this is all fueled by the ''open border'' policies of this administration promising amnesty, ending the wall construction, halting deportations, handcuffing our law enforcement, and undermining border security.

President Trump gave President Biden a secure southern border, and in

less than 3 months, it has been dismantled. This is absolute insanity.

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

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, meanwhile, here in Washington, the Democratic majority is cheerfully pushing more legislation to incentivize more illegals coming here. We have this bill promoting amnesty. We are literally exalting illegals in this country over those who have waited years to become citizens.

Madam Speaker, this is not rocket science. The Democratic party knows this is going to create a greater crisis, and they simply don't care. It is time to stop fueling the crisis and start solving it.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''no.''

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Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, how much time do we have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York has 5½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Ohio has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR).

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise in favor of Dreamers who call the U.S. home. Dreamers are our neighbors, our colleagues, our classmates. They are individuals that serve as essential workers, teachers, medical personnel, that fully contribute to our country and make America stronger. They pay taxes. They work. They have no criminal record. They help us, and those are the type of individuals that we need.

Madam Speaker, my question is: Why are we afraid of a 7-year-old?

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

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the distinguished gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING).

Ms. MANNING. Madam Speaker, I rise today as the granddaughter of immigrants in support of the American Dream and Promise Act. We need a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers who arrived in the United States as children and know this country as their only home; for TPS recipients who, like my grandparents, sought refuge in the United States when crises in their home countries put their very lives at risk.

These are doctors, nurses, first responders, who cared for us during the pandemic. Many have served bravely as members of our military.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' for our friends and neighbors who yearn to become citizens of the country they already call home.

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

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. SUOZZI).

Mr. SUOZZI. Madam Speaker, 100 years ago my father was born in a small medieval village in the mountaintops of southern Italy. He came to America as a young boy, and in his St. Dominic's High School yearbook, he wrote that his goal in life was to become a real American.

Twenty-seven years ago, I served as the young mayor of my hometown of Glen Cove. I addressed the issue of a growing population of new immigrants from Central and South America who gathered on street corners looking for daywork by creating the first dayworkers' site anywhere on the East Coast of the United States of America.

Today, those same men who gathered on street corners have their own businesses, own homes, their children went to school with my children. One Dreamer from El Salvador who graduated from high school with my daughter went on to graduate from college with a degree in biomedical engineering, got a master's in biomedical engineering, and is now pursuing a doctorate in the same subject.

Today, I will support the American Dream and Promise Act for Mario, and for Nelson, and for all the other Dreamers whose goal is like my father's, to be a real American.

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE), the distinguished whip.

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this amnesty bill. And if you look at what is happening at our southern border right now, America is facing a serious crisis. Our southern border is being overrun, the facilities, the detention centers that are set up to hold people who are coming across, are being overwhelmed.

In fact, if you listen to what the border agents are telling us, it is total mayhem, to quote one of the border agents. Many facilities are not at 100 percent or 200 percent or 300 percent capacity, but even worse than that. There are kids who aren't getting enough food, who aren't being able to shower more than once a week.

This is going on in American detention facilities today, and President Biden refuses to acknowledge the problem. Part of dealing with the problem is to first admit there is a problem, and President Biden doesn't even want to acknowledge it.

And then on the heels of this border crisis that is going on right now, there is a bill on the House floor to create amnesty, to create a bigger magnet, saying, come to the southern border.

The Homeland Security Secretary has been pressed repeatedly the last few days to tell people to stop coming across the border illegally, and he won't do it. He says, Well, they will come right now. As if there is a time to break the law.

Let's get back to legal immigration, a system that actually works for America. But when you have a crisis at the border, the last thing you should do is make it worse. That is what this bill does.

We should be having an honest conversation about how to make our legal system of immigration work; not how to ignite a crisis at the border and make it worse. We know how bad it is over there. In fact, because of the encouragement to cross the border illegally, there are caravans of young kids coming across, and reports that up to a third of all the women coming across are being sexually assaulted on the journey. Stop this humanitarian crisis. Reject this bill.

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

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

We do have a crisis in this country: the crisis consists of a shortage of workers. As our birth rate goes down, as our aging goes up, we have fewer and fewer workers. And since economists tell us that the number of workers is what produces prosperity, this is a crisis for the country.

Fortuitously, we have a situation where we have several million people in this country who are Americans, who have lived almost their entire lives in America, who, as was mentioned before, find out they weren't born in this country only when they apply for a driver's license when they are 18 years old. They are a resource for this country, and they ought to be legalized, which is what this bill does, so that we can utilize their talents properly and remain under rule of law.

Madam Speaker, organizations, associations, and industry leaders from across the political spectrum support passage of H.R. 6, the American Dream and Promise Act of 2021. They include among them: United We Dream, Service Employees International, the AFL–CIO—and these unions do not fear competition, they know it is good—the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, United States Chamber of Commerce, Apple, and the National Education Association.

After closing the books on 4 years of disastrous and inhumane immigration policies, today we begin a new chapter, one based on compassion, reason, and the fundamental values we hold dear as Americans.

Passage of H.R. 6 is long overdue. Today's vote will dictate the future of millions of Dreamers and recipients of the TPS and DED and will greatly help the economy of this country.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in support of the American Dream and Promise Act of 2021, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I'm proud to support H.R. 6, the American Dream and

Promise Act to ensure that millions of young Americans can remain in the only country they've ever known and loved.

The bill provides a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, young people who came to the U.S. as children without legal status. It provides conditional legal status for ten years to those with a high school diploma or equivalent credential, and they must pay a fee and pass a background check. They can also earn permanent legal status if they attend college, work lawfully, or serve in the military.

I supported President Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program which provided temporary legal status and work permits to over 650,000 young people, but only Congress can provide permanent legal status and a pathway to citizenship through statute. After putting their faith in the government when they registered for DACA and enduring the Trump Administration's three-year legal battle to end this program, these young people deserve the certainty of a permanent solution.

The American Dream and Promise Act also provides permanent legal status to recipients of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED), programs that provide temporary legal status to immigrants from countries experiencing war, natural disasters, or other ongoing crises.

Many of the individuals I've described are longtime U.S. residents who contribute to their communities and our economy and are Americans in all but name. Our legislation provides them with an earned pathway to citizenship so they can be legally recognized as full members of society and no longer live in fear of deportation. They deserve this, and I urge all Members to support the American Dream and Promise Act.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill, the Dream and Promise Act. Let me thank Speaker PELOSI, Chairman NADLER, Chairwoman LOFGREN, Rep. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Rep. YVETTE CLARKE for all their work to make humane immigration reform a priority.

I am a proud co-author of the Dream and Promise Act, which will finally give peace of mind to millions who are American in every way but on paper by providing a pathway to citizenship. These are Dreamers, TPS, and DED recipients, yes. But they are also our coworkers, friends, family members and hardworking, law-abiding members of our communities.

And under this bill, we can shield qualifying recipients of TPS, DED and DACA from deportation and create a more comprehensive pathway to citizenship.

So, let's do the right thing, the American thing, and pass this bill.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6, the DREAM and PROMISE Act of 2021. This timely legislation would finally provide a solution to the millions of immigrants who have faced uncertainty on their legal status for too long as a result of this country's broken immigration system.

When I was young and our family had the opportunity to travel to go see family or to see the country, I did not have a say in where we went or how long we stayed there. I was a child. Simply put, this was not my decision. Similarly, the children of undocumented immigrants who were brought to our country did not have a say on where their parents were bringing them, or how long they would be staying here. They were innocent children.

And while we've debated for over two decades on meaningful immigration reform, these individuals have had the opportunity to grow up with our children and families, attend the same schools and universities, have families of their own, and make immeasurable contributions to our communities. DREAMERs have been able to live the American Dream in every way but one—on paper.

The legislation that we are debating today not only provides a pathway to legalization and citizenship for these individuals but also to those who fled political unrest and natural disasters in their home countries. Currently protected under TPS (Temporary Protected Status), these individuals face the same uncertainty about their futures as DREAMERs. And like DREAMERs, they too have been in our country for decades and play a critical role in the success of our communities.

DREAM and PROMISE Act of 2021 is widely popular—supported by a majority of Americans—and, notably, bipartisan. It is backed by business leaders, labor unions, and educators alike. Some of its advocates are my constituents, who have told their stories and inspired me with their commitment and unwavering dedication to their work, their families, our community in North Texas, and to the country they call home, the United States of America.

Madam Speaker, I strongly believe that we must act now and pass legislation to offer a common-sense and logical solution to our broader immigration issues. The DREAM and PROMISE Act would take a meaningful step towards that goal and would lay out a path in which we could do that, which is why I urge my colleagues to support it and look forward to the Senate's immediate consideration.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, today, I am pleased to rise in support of the American Dream and Promise Act (H.R. 6) to provide permanent protections for Dreamers and those currently protected by Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) programs.

Over the past few years, the lives of these Dreamers, who have largely known no other home than the United States, have been filled with even greater uncertainly and court challenges. This bill aims to permanently change that and give security and a pathway to citizenship for our Dreamers.

The vast majority of DACA-eligible students over the age of 18 received a high school education here. Our nation has made an investment in their future that not only transformed their lives, but also has resulted in widespread economic and other benefits for our country and communities. A few years ago, it was estimated that if Wisconsin's DACA workers were deported, it would cost the state more than $400 million annually.

Despite this uncertainty and outright hateful opposition from the previous administration, these young men and women remain resolute and many have served on the frontlines—as health care professionals and other essential workers—during this deadly pandemic.

We successfully defended against ill-advised efforts to end DACA. Now it is time to take the next step. We need to ensure that DREAMers can continue enriching our country.

Likewise, TPS holders have also seen their lives thrown into turmoil during an already turbulent time, with their fate depending on a series of court decisions. Like Dreamers, TPS holders are active members of their communities, many have lived here for years, and are critical contributors to our economy.

It's always the right time to do the right thing. Now is the right time to provide permanent protections and a pathway to citizenship for those who have contributed so much to our country. I am pleased to support this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 233, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

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

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

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Jordan moves to recommit the bill H.R. 6 to the Committee on the Judiciary.

The material previously referred to by Mr. JORDAN is as follows:

Page 10, after line 8, insert the following:

(C) The Secretary knows or has reason to believe that the alien is or has been a member of a criminal street gang (as defined in subsection (a) of section 521 of title 18, United States Code), or to have participated in the activities of a criminal street gang knowing or having reason to know that such activities will promote, further, aid, or support the illegal activity of the criminal gang. For purposes of this subparagraph, the Secretary may consider any and all credible evidence of membership or participation in a criminal street gang, including evidence obtained from a State or Federal data base used for the purpose of recording and sharing activities of alleged gang members across law enforcement agencies.

Page 13, strike line 11 and all that follows through line 19.

Page 55, after line 18, insert the following:

SEC. 314. TREATMENT OF CERTAIN ALIENS FOUND INELIGIBLE FOR ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.

Notwithstanding sections 102(e), 202(d)(3), and 309 of this Act, an alien whose application would be denied based on criminal, national security, gang, or public safety grounds, as set out in section 102(c) or 202(a)(3) of this Act, shall be referred by the Secretary of Homeland Security for a determination of whether the alien should be placed in removal proceedings under section 240 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XIX, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

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

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

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

Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of H.R. 6 is postponed.

FARM WORKFORCE MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2021

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 233, I call up 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, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 233, the amendment printed in part C of House Report 117–12 is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 1603

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2021''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—SECURING THE DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE

Subtitle A—Temporary Status for Certified Agricultural Workers

Sec. 101. Certified agricultural worker status.
Sec. 102. Terms and conditions of certified status.
Sec. 103. Extensions of certified status.
Sec. 104. Determination of continuous presence.
Sec. 105. Employer obligations.
Sec. 106. Administrative and judicial review.

Subtitle B—Optional Earned Residence for Long-Term Workers

Sec. 111. Optional adjustment of status for long-term agricultural workers.
Sec. 112. Payment of taxes.
Sec. 113. Adjudication and decision; review.

Subtitle C—General Provisions

Sec. 121. Definitions.
Sec. 122. Rulemaking; Fees.
Sec. 123. Background checks.
Sec. 124. Protection for children.
Sec. 125. Limitation on removal.
Sec. 126. Documentation of agricultural work history.
Sec. 127. Employer protections.
Sec. 128. Correction of social security records; conforming amendments.
Sec. 129. Disclosures and privacy.
Sec. 130. Penalties for false statements in applications.
Sec. 131. Dissemination of information.
Sec. 132. Exemption from numerical limitations.
Sec. 133. Reports to Congress.
Sec. 134. Grant program to assist eligible applicants.
Sec. 135. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE II—ENSURING AN AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE FOR THE FUTURE

Subtitle A—Reforming the H–2A Temporary Worker Program

Sec. 201. Comprehensive and streamlined electronic H–2A platform.
Sec. 202. H–2A program requirements.
Sec. 203. Agency roles and responsibilities.
Sec. 204. Worker protection and compliance.
Sec. 205. Report on wage protections.
Sec. 206. Portable H–2A visa pilot program.
Sec. 207. Improving access to permanent residence.

Subtitle B—Preservation and Construction of Farmworker Housing

Sec. 220. Short title.
Sec. 221. Permanent establishment of housing preservation and revitalization program.
Sec. 222. Eligibility for rural housing vouchers.
Sec. 223. Amount of voucher assistance.
Sec. 224. Rental assistance contract authority.
Sec. 225. Funding for multifamily technical improvements.
Sec. 226. Plan for preserving affordability of rental projects.
Sec. 227. Covered housing programs.
Sec. 228. New farmworker housing.
Sec. 229. Loan and grant limitations.
Sec. 230. Operating assistance subsidies.
Sec. 231. Eligibility of certified workers.

Subtitle C—Foreign Labor Recruiter Accountability

Sec. 251. Registration of foreign labor recruiters.
Sec. 252. Enforcement.
Sec. 253. Appropriations.
Sec. 254. Definitions.

TITLE III—ELECTRONIC VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY

Sec. 301. Electronic employment eligibility verification system.
Sec. 302. Mandatory electronic verification for the agricultural industry.
Sec. 303. Coordination with E–Verify Program.
Sec. 304. Fraud and misuse of documents.
Sec. 305. Technical and conforming amendments.
Sec. 306. Protection of Social Security Administration programs.
Sec. 307. Report on the implementation of the electronic employment verification system.
Sec. 308. Modernizing and streamlining the employment eligibility verification process.
Sec. 309. Rulemaking and Paperwork Reduction Act.

TITLE I—SECURING THE DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE

Subtitle A—Temporary Status for Certified Agricultural Workers

SEC. 101. CERTIFIED AGRICULTURAL WORKER STATUS.

(a) REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFIED AGRICULTURAL WORKER STATUS.—

(1) PRINCIPAL ALIENS.—The Secretary may grant certified agricultural worker status to an alien who submits a completed application, including the required processing fees, before the end of the period set forth in subsection (c) and who—

(A) performed agricultural labor or services in the United States for at least 1,035 hours (or 180 work days) during the 2-year period preceding the date of the introduction of this Act;

(B) on the date of the introduction of this Act—

(i) is inadmissible or deportable from the United States; or

(ii) is under a grant of deferred enforced departure or has temporary protected status under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act;

(C) subject to section 104, has been continuously present in the United States since the date of the introduction of this Act and until the date on which the alien is granted certified agricultural worker status; and

(D) is not otherwise ineligible for certified agricultural worker status as provided in subsection (b).

(2) DEPENDENT SPOUSE AND CHILDREN.—The Secretary may grant certified agricultural dependent status to the spouse or child of an alien granted certified agricultural worker status under paragraph (1) if the spouse or child is not ineligible for certified agricultural dependent status as provided in subsection (b).

(b) GROUNDS FOR INELIGIBILITY.—

(1) GROUNDS OF INADMISSIBILITY.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), an alien is ineligible for certified agricultural worker or certified agricultural dependent status if the Secretary determines that the alien is inadmissible under section 212(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)), except that in determining inadmissibility—

(A) paragraphs (4), (5), (7), and (9)(B) of such section shall not apply;

(B) subparagraphs (A), (C), (D), (F), and (G) of such section 212(a)(6) and paragraphs (9)(C) and (10)(B) of such section 212(a) shall not apply unless based on the act of unlawfully entering the United States after the date of introduction of this Act; and

(C) paragraphs (6)(B) and (9)(A) of such section 212(a) shall not apply unless the relevant conduct began on or after the date of filing of the application for certified agricultural worker status.

(2) ADDITIONAL CRIMINAL BARS.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), an alien is ineligible for certified agricultural worker or certified agricultural dependent status if the Secretary determines that, excluding any offense under State law for which an essential element is the alien's immigration status and any minor traffic offense, the alien has been convicted of—

(A) any felony offense;

(B) an aggravated felony (as defined in section 101(a)(43) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(43)) at the time of the conviction);

(C) two misdemeanor offenses involving moral turpitude, as described in section 212(a)(2)(A)(i)(I) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(2)(A)(i)(I)), unless an offense is waived by the Secretary under paragraph (3)(B); or

(D) three or more misdemeanor offenses not occurring on the same date, and not arising out of the same act, omission, or scheme of misconduct.

(3) WAIVERS FOR CERTAIN GROUNDS OF INADMISSIBILITY.—For humanitarian purposes, family unity, or if otherwise in the public interest, the Secretary may waive the grounds of inadmissibility under—

(A) paragraph (1), (6)(E), or (10)(D) of section 212(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)); or

(B) subparagraphs (A) and (D) of section 212(a)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(2)), unless inadmissibility is based on a conviction that would otherwise render the alien ineligible under subparagraph (A), (B), or (D) of paragraph (2).

(c) APPLICATION.—

(1) APPLICATION PERIOD.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall accept initial applications for certified agricultural worker status during the 18-month period beginning on the date on which the interim final rule is published in the Federal Register pursuant to section 122(a).

(2) EXTENSION.—If the Secretary determines, during the initial period described in paragraph (1), that additional time is required to process initial applications for certified agricultural worker status or for other good cause, the Secretary may extend the period for accepting applications for up to an additional 12 months.

(3) SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An alien may file an application with the Secretary under this section with the assistance of an attorney or a nonprofit religious, charitable, social service, or similar organization recognized by the Board of Immigration Appeals under section 292.2 of title 8, Code of Federal Regulations. The Secretary

shall also create a procedure for accepting applications filed by qualified designated entities with the consent of the applicant.

(B) FARM SERVICE AGENCY OFFICES.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, shall establish a process for the filing of applications under this section at Farm Service Agency offices throughout the United States.

(4) EVIDENCE OF APPLICATION FILING.—As soon as practicable after receiving an application for certified agricultural worker status, the Secretary shall provide the applicant with a document acknowledging the receipt of such application. Such document shall serve as interim proof of the alien's authorization to accept employment in the United States and shall be accepted by an employer as evidence of employment authorization under section 274A(b)(1)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(b)(1)(C)), if the employer is employing the holder of such document to perform agricultural labor or services, pending a final administrative decision on the application.

(5) EFFECT OF PENDING APPLICATION.—During the period beginning on the date on which an alien applies for certified agricultural worker status under this subtitle, and ending on the date on which the Secretary makes a final administrative decision regarding such application, the alien and any dependents included in the application—

(A) may apply for advance parole, which shall be granted upon demonstrating a legitimate need to travel outside the United States for a temporary purpose;

(B) may not be detained by the Secretary or removed from the United States unless the Secretary makes a prima facie determination that such alien is, or has become, ineligible for certified agricultural worker status;

(C) may not be considered unlawfully present under section 212(a)(9)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(9)(B)); and

(D) may not be considered an unauthorized alien (as defined in section 274A(h)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(h)(3))).

(6) WITHDRAWAL OF APPLICATION.—The Secretary shall, upon receipt of a request from the applicant to withdraw an application for certified agricultural worker status under this subtitle, cease processing of the application, and close the case. Withdrawal of the application shall not prejudice any future application filed by the applicant for any immigration benefit under this Act or under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(d) ADJUDICATION AND DECISION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to section 123, the Secretary shall render a decision on an application for certified agricultural worker status not later than 180 days after the date the application is filed.

(2) NOTICE.—Prior to denying an application for certified agricultural worker status, the Secretary shall provide the alien with—

(A) written notice that describes the basis for ineligibility or the deficiencies in the evidence submitted; and

(B) at least 90 days to contest ineligibility or submit additional evidence.

(3) AMENDED APPLICATION.—An alien whose application for certified agricultural worker status is denied under this section may submit an amended application for such status to the Secretary if the amended application is submitted within the application period described in subsection (c) and contains all the required information and fees that were missing from the initial application.

(e) ALTERNATIVE H–2A STATUS.—An alien who has not met the required period of agricultural labor or services under subsection (a)(1)(A), but is otherwise eligible for certified agricultural worker status under such subsection, shall be eligible for classification as a nonimmigrant described in section 101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(a)) upon approval of a petition submitted by a sponsoring employer, if the alien has performed at least 575 hours (or 100 work days) of agricultural labor or services during the 3-year period preceding the date of the introduction of this Act. The Secretary shall create a procedure to provide for such classification without requiring the alien to depart the United States and obtain a visa abroad.

SEC. 102. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF CERTIFIED STATUS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) APPROVAL.—Upon approval of an application for certified agricultural worker status, or an extension of such status pursuant to section 103, the Secretary shall issue—

(A) documentary evidence of such status to the applicant; and

(B) documentary evidence of certified agricultural dependent status to any qualified dependent included on such application.

(2) DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE.—In addition to any other features and information as the Secretary may prescribe, the documentary evidence described in paragraph (1)—

(A) shall be machine-readable and tamper-resistant;

(B) shall contain a digitized photograph;

(C) shall serve as a valid travel and entry document for purposes of applying for admission to the United States; and

(D) shall be accepted during the period of its validity by an employer as evidence of employment authorization and identity under section 274A(b)(1)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(b)(1)(B)).

(3) VALIDITY PERIOD.—Certified agricultural worker and certified agricultural dependent status shall be valid for 5½ years beginning on the date of approval.

(4) TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION.—An alien with certified agricultural worker or certified agricultural dependent status may—

(A) travel within and outside of the United States, including commuting to the United States from a residence in a foreign country; and

(B) be admitted to the United States upon return from travel abroad without first obtaining a visa if the alien is in possession of—

(i) valid, unexpired documentary evidence of certified agricultural worker or certified agricultural worker dependent status as described in subsection (a); or

(ii) a travel document that has been approved by the Secretary and was issued to the alien after the alien's original documentary evidence was lost, stolen, or destroyed.

(b) ABILITY TO CHANGE STATUS.—

(1) CHANGE TO CERTIFIED AGRICULTURAL WORKER STATUS.—Notwithstanding section 101(a), an alien with valid certified agricultural dependent status may apply to change to certified agricultural worker status, at any time, if the alien—

(A) submits a completed application, including the required processing fees; and

(B) is not ineligible for certified agricultural worker status under section 101(b).

(2) CLARIFICATION.—Nothing in this title prohibits an alien granted certified agricultural worker or certified agricultural dependent status from changing status to any other nonimmigrant classification for which the alien may be eligible.

(c) PROHIBITION ON PUBLIC BENEFITS, TAX BENEFITS, AND HEALTH CARE SUBSIDIES.—Aliens granted certified agricultural worker or certified agricultural dependent status shall be considered lawfully present in the United States for all purposes for the duration of their status, except that such aliens—

(1) shall be ineligible for Federal means-tested public benefits to the same extent as other individuals who are not qualified aliens under section 431 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1641);

(2) are not entitled to the premium assistance tax credit authorized under section 36B of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 36B), and shall be subject to the rules applicable to individuals who are not lawfully present set forth in subsection (e) of such section;

(3) shall be subject to the rules applicable to individuals who are not lawfully present set forth in section 1402(e) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18071(e)); and

(4) shall be subject to the rules applicable to individuals not lawfully present set forth in section 5000A(d)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 5000A(d)(3)).

(d) REVOCATION OF STATUS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may revoke certified agricultural worker or certified agricultural dependent status if, after providing notice to the alien and the opportunity to provide evidence to contest the proposed revocation, the Secretary determines that the alien no longer meets the eligibility requirements for such status under section 101(b).

(2) INVALIDATION OF DOCUMENTATION.—Upon the Secretary's final determination to revoke an alien's certified agricultural worker or certified agricultural dependent status, any documentation issued by the Secretary to such alien under subsection (a) shall automatically be rendered invalid for any purpose except for departure from the United States.

SEC. 103. EXTENSIONS OF CERTIFIED STATUS.

(a) REQUIREMENTS FOR EXTENSIONS OF STATUS.—

(1) PRINCIPAL ALIENS.—The Secretary may extend certified agricultural worker status for additional periods of 5½ years to an alien who submits a completed application, including the required processing fees, within the 120-day period beginning 60 days before the expiration of the fifth year of the immediately preceding grant of certified agricultural worker status, if the alien—

(A) except as provided in section 126(c), has performed agricultural labor or services in the United States for at least 575 hours (or 100 work days) for each of the prior 5 years in which the alien held certified agricultural worker status; and

(B) has not become ineligible for certified agricultural worker status under section 101(b).

(2) DEPENDENT SPOUSE AND CHILDREN.—The Secretary may grant or extend certified agricultural dependent status to the spouse or child of an alien granted an extension of certified agricultural worker status under paragraph (1) if the spouse or child is not ineligible for certified agricultural dependent status under section 101(b).

(3) WAIVER FOR LATE FILINGS.—The Secretary may waive an alien's failure to timely file before the expiration of the 120-day period described in paragraph (1) if the alien demonstrates that the delay was due to extraordinary circumstances beyond the alien's control or for other good cause.

(b) STATUS FOR WORKERS WITH PENDING APPLICATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Certified agricultural worker status of an alien who timely files an application to extend such status under subsection (a) (and the status of the alien's dependents) shall be automatically extended through the date on which the Secretary makes a final administrative decision regarding such application.

(2) DOCUMENTATION OF EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION.—As soon as practicable after receipt of an application to extend certified agricultural worker status under subsection (a), the Secretary shall issue a document to the alien acknowledging the receipt of such application. An employer of the worker may not refuse to accept such document as evidence of employment authorization under section 274A(b)(1)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(b)(1)(C)), pending a final administrative decision on the application.

(c) NOTICE.—Prior to denying an application to extend certified agricultural worker status, the Secretary shall provide the alien with—

(1) written notice that describes the basis for ineligibility or the deficiencies of the evidence submitted; and

(2) at least 90 days to contest ineligibility or submit additional evidence.

SEC. 104. DETERMINATION OF CONTINUOUS PRESENCE.

(a) EFFECT OF NOTICE TO APPEAR.—The continuous presence in the United States of an applicant for certified agricultural worker status under section 101 shall not terminate when the alien is served a notice to appear under section 239(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229(a)).

(b) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN BREAKS IN PRESENCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3), an alien shall be considered to have failed to maintain continuous presence in the United States under this subtitle if the alien departed the United States for any period exceeding 90 days, or for any periods, in the aggregate, exceeding 180 days.

(2) EXTENSIONS FOR EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES.—The Secretary may extend the time periods described in paragraph (1) for an alien who demonstrates that the failure to timely return to the United States was due to extenuating circumstances beyond the alien's control, including the serious illness of the alien, or death or serious illness of a spouse, parent, son or daughter, grandparent, or sibling of the alien.

(3) TRAVEL AUTHORIZED BY THE SECRETARY.—Any period of travel outside of the United States by an alien that was authorized by the Secretary shall not be counted toward any period of departure from the United States under paragraph (1).

SEC. 105. EMPLOYER OBLIGATIONS.

(a) RECORD OF EMPLOYMENT.—An employer of an alien in certified agricultural worker status shall provide such alien with a written record of employment each year during which the alien provides agricultural labor or services to such employer as a certified agricultural worker.

(b) CIVIL PENALTIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary determines, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing, that an employer of an alien with certified agricultural worker status has knowingly failed to provide the record of employment required under subsection (a), or has provided a false statement of material fact in such a record, the employer shall be subject to a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed $500 per violation.

(2) LIMITATION.—The penalty under paragraph (1) for failure to provide employment records shall not apply unless the alien has provided the employer with evidence of employment authorization described in section 102 or 103.

(3) DEPOSIT OF CIVIL PENALTIES.—Civil penalties collected under this paragraph shall be deposited into the Immigration Examinations Fee Account under section 286(m) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1356(m)).

SEC. 106. ADMINISTRATIVE AND JUDICIAL REVIEW.

(a) ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW.—The Secretary shall establish a process by which an applicant may seek administrative review of a denial of an application for certified agricultural worker status under this subtitle, an application to extend such status, or a revocation of such status.

(b) ADMISSIBILITY IN IMMIGRATION COURT.—Each record of an alien's application for certified agricultural worker status under this subtitle, application to extend such status, revocation of such status, and each record created pursuant to the administrative review process under subsection (a) is admissible in immigration court, and shall be included in the administrative record.

(c) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, judicial review of the Secretary's decision to deny an application for certified agricultural worker status, an application to extend such status, or the decision to revoke such status, shall be limited to the review of an order of removal under section 242 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1252).

Subtitle B—Optional Earned Residence for Long-Term Workers

SEC. 111. OPTIONAL ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS FOR LONG-TERM AGRICULTURAL WORKERS.

(a) REQUIREMENTS FOR ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—

(1) PRINCIPAL ALIENS.—The Secretary may adjust the status of an alien from that of a certified agricultural worker to that of a lawful permanent resident if the alien submits a completed application, including the required processing and penalty fees, and the Secretary determines that—

(A) except as provided in section 126(c), the alien performed agricultural labor or services for not less than 575 hours (or 100 work days) each year—

(i) for at least 10 years prior to the date of the enactment of this Act and for at least 4 years in certified agricultural worker status; or

(ii) for fewer than 10 years prior to the date of the enactment of this Act and for at least 8 years in certified agricultural worker status; and

(B) the alien has not become ineligible for certified agricultural worker status under section 101(b).

(2) DEPENDENT ALIENS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The spouse and each child of an alien described in paragraph (1) whose status has been adjusted to that of a lawful permanent resident may be granted lawful permanent residence under this subtitle if—

(i) the qualifying relationship to the principal alien existed on the date on which such alien was granted adjustment of status under this subtitle; and

(ii) the spouse or child is not ineligible for certified agricultural worker dependent status under section 101(b).

(B) PROTECTIONS FOR SPOUSES AND CHILDREN.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall establish procedures to allow the spouse or child of a certified agricultural worker to self-petition for lawful permanent residence under this subtitle in cases involving—

(i) the death of the certified agricultural worker, so long as the spouse or child submits a petition not later than 2 years after the date of the worker's death; or

(ii) the spouse or a child being battered or subjected to extreme cruelty by the certified agricultural worker.

(3) DOCUMENTATION OF WORK HISTORY.—An applicant for adjustment of status under this section shall not be required to resubmit evidence of work history that has been previously submitted to the Secretary in connection with an approved extension of certified agricultural worker status.

(b) PENALTY FEE.—In addition to any processing fee that the Secretary may assess in accordance with section 122(b), a principal alien seeking adjustment of status under this subtitle shall pay a $1,000 penalty fee, which shall be deposited into the Immigration Examinations Fee Account pursuant to section 286(m) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.1356(m)).

(c) EFFECT OF PENDING APPLICATION.—During the period beginning on the date on which an alien applies for adjustment of status under this subtitle, and ending on the date on which the Secretary makes a final administrative decision regarding such application, the alien and any dependents included on the application—

(1) may apply for advance parole, which shall be granted upon demonstrating a legitimate need to travel outside the United States for a temporary purpose;

(2) may not be detained by the Secretary or removed from the United States unless the Secretary makes a prima facie determination that such alien is, or has become, ineligible for adjustment of status under subsection (a);

(3) may not be considered unlawfully present under section 212(a)(9)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(9)(B)); and

(4) may not be considered an unauthorized alien (as defined in section 274A(h)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(h)(3))).

(d) EVIDENCE OF APPLICATION FILING.—As soon as practicable after receiving an application for adjustment of status under this subtitle, the Secretary shall provide the applicant with a document acknowledging the receipt of such application. Such document shall serve as interim proof of the alien's authorization to accept employment in the United States and shall be accepted by an employer as evidence of employment authorization under section 274A(b)(1)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(b)(1)(C)), pending a final administrative decision on the application.

(e) WITHDRAWAL OF APPLICATION.—The Secretary shall, upon receipt of a request to withdraw an application for adjustment of status under this subtitle, cease processing of the application, and close the case. Withdrawal of the application shall not prejudice any future application filed by the applicant for any immigration benefit under this Act or under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

SEC. 112. PAYMENT OF TAXES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—An alien may not be granted adjustment of status under this subtitle unless the applicant has satisfied any applicable Federal tax liability.

(b) COMPLIANCE.—An alien may demonstrate compliance with subsection (a) by submitting such documentation as the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, may require by regulation.

SEC. 113. ADJUDICATION AND DECISION; REVIEW.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the requirements of section 123, the Secretary shall render a decision on an application for adjustment of status under this subtitle not later than 180 days after the date on which the application is filed.

(b) NOTICE.—Prior to denying an application for adjustment of status under this subtitle, the Secretary shall provide the alien with—

(1) written notice that describes the basis for ineligibility or the deficiencies of the evidence submitted; and

(2) at least 90 days to contest ineligibility or submit additional evidence.

(c) ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW.—The Secretary shall establish a process by which an applicant may seek administrative review of a denial of an application for adjustment of status under this subtitle.

(d) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an alien may seek judicial review of a denial of an application for adjustment of status under this title in an appropriate United States district court.

Subtitle C—General Provisions

SEC. 121. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided, any term used in this title that is used in the immigration laws shall have the meaning given such term in the immigration laws (as such term is defined in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101)).

(2) AGRICULTURAL LABOR OR SERVICES.—The term ''agricultural labor or services'' means—

(A) agricultural labor or services as such term is used in section 101(a)(15)(H)(ii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)(ii)), without regard to whether the labor or services are of a seasonal or temporary nature; and

(B) agricultural employment as such term is defined in section 3 of the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (29 U.S.C. 1802), without regard to whether the specific service or activity is temporary or seasonal.

(3) APPLICABLE FEDERAL TAX LIABILITY.—The term ''applicable Federal tax liability'' means all Federal income taxes assessed in accordance with section 6203 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 beginning on the date on which the applicant was authorized to work in the United States as a certified agricultural worker.

(4) APPROPRIATE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT.—The term ''appropriate United States district court'' means the United States District Court for the District of Columbia or the United States district court with jurisdiction over the alien's principal place of residence.

(5) CHILD.—The term ''child'' has the meaning given such term in section 101(b)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(b)(1)).

(6) CONVICTED OR CONVICTION.—The term ''convicted'' or ''conviction'' does not include a judgment that has been expunged or set aside, that resulted in a rehabilitative disposition, or the equivalent.

(7) EMPLOYER.—The term ''employer'' means any person or entity, including any labor contractor or any agricultural association, that employs workers in agricultural labor or services.

(8) QUALIFIED DESIGNATED ENTITY.—The term ''qualified designated entity'' means—

(A) a qualified farm labor organization or an association of employers designated by the Secretary; or

(B) any other entity that the Secretary designates as having substantial experience, demonstrated competence, and a history of long-term involvement in the preparation and submission of application for adjustment of status under title II of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151 et seq.).

(9) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(10) WORK DAY.—The term ''work day'' means any day in which the individual is employed 5.75 or more hours in agricultural labor or services.

SEC. 122. RULEMAKING; FEES.

(a) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register, an interim final rule implementing this title. Notwithstanding section 553 of title 5, United States Code, the rule shall be effective, on an interim basis, immediately upon publication, but may be subject to change and revision after public notice and opportunity for comment. The Secretary shall finalize such rule not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) FEES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may require an alien applying for any benefit under this title to pay a reasonable fee that is commensurate with the cost of processing the application.

(2) FEE WAIVER; INSTALLMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish procedures to allow an alien to—

(i) request a waiver of any fee that the Secretary may assess under this title if the alien demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Secretary that the alien is unable to pay the prescribed fee; or

(ii) pay any fee or penalty that the Secretary may assess under this title in installments.

(B) CLARIFICATION.—Nothing in this section shall be read to prohibit an employer from paying any fee or penalty that the Secretary may assess under this title on behalf of an alien and the alien's spouse or children.

SEC. 123. BACKGROUND CHECKS.

(a) SUBMISSION OF BIOMETRIC AND BIOGRAPHIC DATA.—The Secretary may not grant or extend certified agricultural worker or certified agricultural dependent status under subtitle A, or grant adjustment of status to that of a lawful permanent resident under subtitle B, unless the alien submits biometric and biographic data, in accordance with procedures established by the Secretary. The Secretary shall provide an alternative procedure for aliens who cannot provide all required biometric or biographic data because of a physical impairment.

(b) BACKGROUND CHECKS.—The Secretary shall use biometric, biographic, and other data that the Secretary determines appropriate to conduct security and law enforcement background checks and to determine whether there is any criminal, national security, or other factor that would render the alien ineligible for status under this title. An alien may not be granted any such status under this title unless security and law enforcement background checks are completed to the satisfaction of the Secretary.

SEC. 124. PROTECTION FOR CHILDREN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), for purposes of eligibility for certified agricultural dependent status or lawful permanent resident status under this title, a determination of whether an alien is a child shall be made using the age of the alien on the date on which the initial application for certified agricultural worker status is filed with the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(b) LIMITATION.—Subsection (a) shall apply for no more than 10 years after the date on which the initial application for certified agricultural worker status is filed with the Secretary of Homeland Security.

SEC. 125. LIMITATION ON REMOVAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—An alien who appears to be prima facie eligible for status under this title shall be given a reasonable opportunity to apply for such status. Such an alien may not be placed in removal proceedings or removed from the United States until a final administrative decision establishing ineligibility for such status is rendered.

(b) ALIENS IN REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, the Attorney General shall (upon motion by the Secretary with the consent of the alien, or motion by the alien) terminate removal proceedings, without prejudice, against an alien who appears to be prima facie eligible for status under this title, and provide such alien a reasonable opportunity to apply for such status.

(c) EFFECT OF FINAL ORDER.—An alien present in the United States who has been ordered removed or has been permitted to depart voluntarily from the United States may, notwithstanding such order or permission to depart, apply for status under this title. Such alien shall not be required to file a separate motion to reopen, reconsider, or vacate the order of removal. If the Secretary approves the application, the Secretary shall notify the Attorney General of such approval, and the Attorney General shall cancel the order of removal. If the Secretary renders a final administrative decision to deny the application, the order of removal or permission to depart shall be effective and enforceable to the same extent as if the application had not been made, only after all available administrative and judicial remedies have been exhausted.

(d) EFFECT OF DEPARTURE.—Section 101(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(g)) shall not apply to an alien who departs the United States—

(1) with advance permission to return to the United States granted by the Secretary under this title; or

(2) after having been granted certified agricultural worker status or lawful permanent resident status under this title.

SEC. 126. DOCUMENTATION OF AGRICULTURAL WORK HISTORY.

(a) BURDEN OF PROOF.—An alien applying for certified agricultural worker status under subtitle A or adjustment of status under subtitle B has the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that the alien has worked the requisite number of hours or days required under section 101, 103, or 111, as applicable. The Secretary shall establish special procedures to properly credit work in cases in which an alien was employed under an assumed name.

(b) EVIDENCE.—An alien may meet the burden of proof under subsection (a) by producing sufficient evidence to show the extent of such employment as a matter of just and reasonable inference. Such evidence may include—

(1) an annual record of certified agricultural worker employment as described in section 105(a), or other employment records from employers;

(2) employment records maintained by collective bargaining associations;

(3) tax records or other government records;

(4) sworn affidavits from individuals who have direct knowledge of the alien's work history; or

(5) any other documentation designated by the Secretary for such purpose.

(c) EXCEPTIONS FOR EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES.—

(1) IMPACT OF COVID–19.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may grant certified agricultural worker status to an alien who is otherwise eligible for such status if such alien is able to only partially satisfy the requirement under section 101(a)(1)(A) as a result of reduced hours of employment or other restrictions associated with 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) with respect to COVID–19.

(B) LIMITATION.—The exception described in subparagraph (A) shall apply only to agricultural labor or services required to be performed during the period that—

(i) begins on the first day of the public health emergency described in subparagraph (A); and

(ii) ends 90 days after the date on which such public health emergency terminates.

(2) EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES.—In determining whether an alien has met the requirement under section 103(a)(1)(A) or 111(a)(1)(A), the Secretary may credit the alien with not more than 575 hours (or 100 work days) of agricultural labor or services in the United States if the alien was unable to perform the required agricultural labor or services due to—

(A) pregnancy, parental leave, illness, disease, disabling injury, or physical limitation of the alien;

(B) injury, illness, disease, or other special needs of the alien's child or spouse;

(C) severe weather conditions that prevented the alien from engaging in agricultural labor or services;

(D) reduced hours of employment or other restrictions associated with 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) with respect to COVID–19; or

(E) termination from agricultural employment, if the Secretary determines that—

(i) the termination was without just cause; and

(ii) the alien was unable to find alternative agricultural employment after a reasonable job search.

(3) EFFECT OF DETERMINATION.—A determination under paragraph (1)(E) shall not be conclusive, binding, or admissible in a separate or subsequent judicial or administrative action or proceeding between the alien and a current or prior employer of the alien or any other party.

(4) HARDSHIP WAIVER.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—As part of the rulemaking described in section 122(a), the Secretary shall establish procedures allowing for a partial waiver of the requirement under section 111(a)(1)(A) for a certified agricultural worker if such worker—

(i) has continuously maintained certified agricultural worker status since the date such status was initially granted;

(ii) has partially completed the requirement under section 111(a)(1)(A); and

(iii) is no longer able to engage in agricultural labor or services safely and effectively because of—

(I) a permanent disability suffered while engaging in agricultural labor or services; or

(II) deteriorating health or physical ability combined with advanced age.

(B) DISABILITY.—In establishing the procedures described in subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Commissioner of Social Security to define ''permanent disability'' for purposes of a waiver under subparagraph (A)(iii)(I).

SEC. 127. EMPLOYER PROTECTIONS.

(a) CONTINUING EMPLOYMENT.—An employer that continues to employ an alien knowing that the alien intends to apply for certified agricultural worker status under subtitle A shall not violate section 274A(a)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(a)(2)) by continuing to employ the alien for the duration of the application period under section 101(c), and with respect to an alien who applies for certified agricultural status, for the duration of the period during which the alien's application is pending final determination.

(b) USE OF EMPLOYMENT RECORDS.—Copies of employment records or other evidence of employment provided by an alien or by an alien's employer in support of an alien's application for certified agricultural worker or adjustment of status under this title may not be used in a civil or criminal prosecution or investigation of that employer under section 274A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a) or the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for the prior unlawful employment of that alien regardless of the outcome of such application.

(c) ADDITIONAL PROTECTIONS.—Employers that provide unauthorized aliens with copies of employment records or other evidence of employment in support of an application for certified agricultural worker status or adjustment of status under this title shall not be subject to civil and criminal liability pursuant to such section 274A for employing such unauthorized aliens. Records or other evidence of employment provided by employers in response to a request for such records for the purpose of establishing eligibility for status under this title may not be used for any purpose other than establishing such eligibility.

(d) LIMITATION ON PROTECTION.—The protections for employers under this section shall not apply if the employer provides employment records to the alien that are determined to be fraudulent.

SEC. 128. CORRECTION OF SOCIAL SECURITY RECORDS; CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 208(e)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 408(e)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (C), by inserting ''or'' at the end;

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

''(D) who is granted certified agricultural worker status, certified agricultural dependent status, or lawful permanent resident status under title I of the Farm Work Modernization Act of 2021,''; and

(4) in the undesignated matter following subparagraph (D), as added by paragraph (3), by striking ''1990.'' and inserting ''1990, or in the case of an alien described in subparagraph (D), if such conduct is alleged to have occurred before the date on which the alien was granted status under title I of the Farm Work Modernization Act of 2021.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the first day of the seventh month that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) SOCIAL SECURITY ACT.—Section 210(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 410(a)(1)) is amended by inserting before the semicolon the following: ''(other than aliens granted certified agricultural worker status or certified agricultural dependent status under title I of the Farm Work Modernization Act of 2021''.

(2) INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986.—Section 3121(b)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting before the semicolon the following: ''(other than aliens granted certified agricultural worker status or certified agricultural dependent status under title I of the Farm Work Modernization Act of 2021''.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply with respect to service performed after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) AUTOMATED SYSTEM TO ASSIGN SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NUMBERS.—Section 205(c)(2)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(c)(2)(B)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(iv) The Commissioner of Social Security shall, to the extent practicable, coordinate with the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to implement an automated system for the Commissioner to assign social security account numbers to aliens granted certified agricultural worker status or certified agricultural dependent status under title I of the Farm Work Modernization Act of 2021. An alien who is granted such status, and who was not previously assigned a social security account number, shall request assignment of a social security account number and a social security card from the Commissioner through such system. The Secretary shall collect and provide to the Commissioner such information as the Commissioner deems necessary for the Commissioner to assign a social security account number, which information may be used by the Commissioner for any purpose for which the Commissioner is otherwise authorized under Federal law. The Commissioner may maintain, use, and disclose such information only as permitted by the Privacy Act and other Federal law.''.

SEC. 129. DISCLOSURES AND PRIVACY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not disclose or use information provided in an application for certified agricultural worker status or adjustment of status under this title (including information provided during administrative or judicial review) for the purpose of immigration enforcement.

(b) REFERRALS PROHIBITED.—The Secretary, based solely on information provided in an application for certified agricultural worker status or adjustment of status under this title (including information provided during administrative or judicial review), may not refer an applicant to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, or any designee of either such entity.

(c) EXCEPTIONS.—Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b), information provided in an application for certified agricultural worker status or adjustment of status under this title may be shared with Federal security and law enforcement agencies—

(1) for assistance in the consideration of an application under this title;

(2) to identify or prevent fraudulent claims or schemes;

(3) for national security purposes; or

(4) for the investigation or prosecution of any felony not related to immigration status.

(d) PENALTY.—Any person who knowingly uses, publishes, or permits information to be examined in violation of this section shall be fined not more than $10,000.

(e) PRIVACY.—The Secretary shall ensure that appropriate administrative and physical safeguards are in place to protect the security, confidentiality, and integrity of personally identifiable information collected, maintained, and disseminated pursuant to this title.

SEC. 130. PENALTIES FOR FALSE STATEMENTS IN APPLICATIONS.

(a) CRIMINAL PENALTY.—Any person who—

(1) files an application for certified agricultural worker status or adjustment of status under this title and knowingly falsifies, conceals, or covers up a material fact or makes any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or representations, or makes or uses any false writing or document knowing the same to contain any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or entry; or

(2) creates or supplies a false writing or document for use in making such an application,

shall be fined in accordance with title 18, United States Code, imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both.

(b) INADMISSIBILITY.—An alien who is convicted under subsection (a) shall be deemed inadmissible to the United States under section 212(a)(6)(C)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(6)(C)(i)).

(c) DEPOSIT.—Fines collected under subsection (a) shall be deposited into the Immigration Examinations Fee Account pursuant to section 286(m) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1356(m)).

SEC. 131. DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning not later than the first day of the application period described in section 101(c)—

(1) the Secretary of Homeland Security, in cooperation with qualified designated entities, shall broadly disseminate information described in subsection (b); and

(2) the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall disseminate to agricultural employers a document containing the information described in subsection (b) for posting at employer worksites.

(b) INFORMATION DESCRIBED.—The information described in this subsection shall include—

(1) the benefits that aliens may receive under this title; and

(2) the requirements that an alien must meet to receive such benefits.

SEC. 132. EXEMPTION FROM NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS.

The numerical limitations under title II of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151 et seq.) shall not apply to the adjustment of aliens to lawful permanent resident status under this title, and such aliens shall not be counted toward any such numerical limitation.

SEC. 133. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

Not later than 180 days after the publication of the final rule under section 122(a), and annually thereafter for the following 10 years, the Secretary shall submit a report to Congress that identifies, for the previous fiscal year—

(1) the number of principal aliens who applied for certified agricultural worker status under subtitle A, and the number of dependent spouses and children included in such applications;

(2) the number of principal aliens who were granted certified agricultural worker status under subtitle A, and the number of dependent spouses and children who were granted certified agricultural dependent status;

(3) the number of principal aliens who applied for an extension of their certified agricultural worker status under subtitle A, and the number of dependent spouses and children included in such applications;

(4) the number of principal aliens who were granted an extension of certified agricultural worker status under subtitle A, and the number of dependent spouses and children who were granted certified agricultural dependent status under such an extension;

(5) the number of principal aliens who applied for adjustment of status under subtitle B, and the number of dependent spouses and children included in such applications;

(6) the number of principal aliens who were granted lawful permanent resident status under subtitle B, and the number of spouses and children who were granted such status as dependents;

(7) the number of principal aliens included in petitions described in section 101(e), and the number of dependent spouses and children included in such applications; and

(8) the number of principal aliens who were granted H–2A status pursuant to petitions described in section 101(e), and the number of dependent spouses and children who were granted H–4 status.

SEC. 134. GRANT PROGRAM TO ASSIST ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a program to award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible nonprofit organizations to assist eligible applicants under this title by providing them with the services described in subsection (c).

(b) ELIGIBLE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—For purposes of this section, the term ''eligible nonprofit organization'' means an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (excluding a recipient of funds under title X of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2996 et seq.)) that has demonstrated qualifications, experience, and expertise in providing quality services to farm workers or aliens.

(c) USE OF FUNDS.—Grant funds awarded under this section may be used for the design and implementation of programs that provide—

(1) information to the public regarding the eligibility and benefits of certified agricultural worker status authorized under this title; and

(2) assistance, within the scope of authorized practice of immigration law, to individuals submitting applications for certified agricultural worker status or adjustment of status under this title, including—

(A) screening prospective applicants to assess their eligibility for such status;

(B) completing applications, including providing assistance in obtaining necessary documents and supporting evidence; and

(C) providing any other assistance that the Secretary determines useful to assist aliens in applying for certified agricultural worker status or adjustment of status under this title.

(d) SOURCE OF FUNDS.—In addition to any funds appropriated to carry out this section, the Secretary may use up to $10,000,000 from the Immigration Examinations Fee Account under section 286(m) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1356(m)) to carry out this section.

(e) ELIGIBILITY FOR SERVICES.—Section 504(a)(11) of Public Law 104–134 (110 Stat. 1321–53 et seq.) shall not be construed to prevent a recipient of funds under title X of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2996 et seq.) from providing legal assistance directly related to an application for status under this title or to an alien granted such status.

SEC. 135. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary, such sums as may be necessary to implement this title, including any amounts needed for costs associated with the initiation of such implementation, for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2024.

TITLE II—ENSURING AN AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE FOR THE FUTURE

Subtitle A—Reforming the H–2A Temporary Worker Program

SEC. 201. COMPREHENSIVE AND STREAMLINED ELECTRONIC H–2A PLATFORM.

(a) STREAMLINED H–2A PLATFORM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of State, and United States Digital Service, shall ensure the establishment of an electronic platform through which a petition for an H–2A worker may be filed. Such platform shall—

(A) serve as a single point of access for an employer to input all information and supporting documentation required for obtaining labor certification from the Secretary of Labor and the adjudication of the H–2A petition by the Secretary of Homeland Security;

(B) serve as a single point of access for the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Labor, and State workforce agencies to concurrently perform their respective review and adjudicatory responsibilities in the H–2A process;

(C) facilitate communication between employers and agency adjudicators, including by allowing employers to—

(i) receive and respond to notices of deficiency and requests for information;

(ii) submit requests for inspections and licensing;

(iii) receive notices of approval and denial; and

(iv) request reconsideration or appeal of agency decisions; and

(D) provide information to the Secretary of State and U.S. Customs and Border Protection necessary for the efficient and secure processing of H–2A visas and applications for admission.

(2) OBJECTIVES.—In developing the platform described in paragraph (1), the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of State, and United States Digital Service, shall streamline and improve the H–2A process, including by—

(A) eliminating the need for employers to submit duplicate information and documentation to multiple agencies;

(B) eliminating redundant processes, where a single matter in a petition is adjudicated by more than one agency;

(C) reducing the occurrence of common petition errors, and otherwise improving and expediting the processing of H–2A petitions; and

(D) ensuring compliance with H–2A program requirements and the protection of the wages and working conditions of workers.

(b) ONLINE JOB REGISTRY.—The Secretary of Labor shall maintain a national, publicly-accessible online job registry and database of all job orders submitted by H–2A employers. The registry and database shall—

(1) be searchable using relevant criteria, including the types of jobs needed to be filled, the date(s) and location(s) of need, and the employer(s) named in the job order;

(2) provide an interface for workers in English, Spanish, and any other language that the Secretary of Labor determines to be appropriate; and

(3) provide for public access of job orders approved under section 218(h)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

SEC. 202. H–2A PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.

Section 218 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1188) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 218. ADMISSION OF TEMPORARY H–2A WORKERS.

''(a) LABOR CERTIFICATION CONDITIONS.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may not approve a petition to admit an H–2A worker unless the Secretary of Labor has certified that—

''(1) there are not sufficient United States workers who are able, willing and qualified, and who will be available at the time and place needed, to perform the agricultural labor or services described in the petition; and

''(2) the employment of the H–2A worker in such labor or services will not adversely affect the wages and working conditions of workers in the United States who are similarly employed.

''(b) H–2A PETITION REQUIREMENTS.—An employer filing a petition for an H–2A worker to perform agricultural labor or services shall attest to and demonstrate compliance, as and when appropriate, with all applicable requirements under this section, including the following:

''(1) NEED FOR LABOR OR SERVICES.—The employer has described the need for agricultural labor or services in a job order that includes a description of the nature and location of the work to be performed, the material terms and conditions of employment, the anticipated period or periods (expected start and end dates) for which the workers will be needed, and the number of job opportunities in which the employer seeks to employ the workers.

''(2) NONDISPLACEMENT OF UNITED STATES WORKERS.—The employer has not and will not displace United States workers employed by the employer during the period of employment of the H–2A worker and during the 60-day period immediately preceding such period of employment in the job for which the employer seeks approval to employ the H–2A worker.

''(3) STRIKE OR LOCKOUT.—Each place of employment described in the petition is not, at the time of filing the petition and until the petition is approved, subject to a strike or lockout in the course of a labor dispute.

''(4) RECRUITMENT OF UNITED STATES WORKERS.—The employer shall engage in the recruitment of United States workers as described in subsection (c) and shall hire such workers who are able, willing and qualified, and who will be available at the time and place needed, to perform the agricultural labor or services described in the petition. The employer may reject a United States worker only for lawful, job-related reasons.

''(5) WAGES, BENEFITS, AND WORKING CONDITIONS.—The employer shall offer and provide, at a minimum, the wages, benefits, and working conditions required by this section to the H–2A worker and all workers who are similarly employed. The employer—

''(A) shall offer such similarly employed workers not less than the same benefits, wages, and working conditions that the employer is offering or will provide to the H–2A worker; and

''(B) may not impose on such similarly employed workers any restrictions or obligations that will not be imposed on the H–2A worker.

''(6) WORKERS' COMPENSATION.—If the job opportunity is not covered by or is exempt from the State workers' compensation law, the employer shall provide, at no cost to the worker, insurance covering injury and disease arising out of, and in the course of, the worker's employment which will provide benefits at least equal to those provided under the State workers' compensation law.

''(7) COMPLIANCE WITH LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAWS.—The employer shall comply with all applicable Federal, State and local employment-related laws and regulations.

''(8) COMPLIANCE WITH WORKER PROTECTIONS.—The employer shall comply with section 204 of the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2021.

''(9) COMPLIANCE WITH FOREIGN LABOR RECRUITMENT LAWS.—The employer shall comply with subtitle C of title II of the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2021.

''(c) RECRUITING REQUIREMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The employer may satisfy the recruitment requirement described in subsection (b)(4) by satisfying all of the following:

''(A) JOB ORDER.—As provided in subsection (h)(1), the employer shall complete a job order for posting on the electronic job registry maintained by the Secretary of Labor and for distribution by the appropriate State workforce agency. Such posting shall remain on the job registry as an active job order through the period described in paragraph (2)(B).

''(B) FORMER WORKERS.—At least 45 days before each start date identified in the petition, the employer shall—

''(i) make reasonable efforts to contact any United States worker the employer employed in the previous year in the same occupation and

area of intended employment for which an H–2A worker is sought (excluding workers who were terminated for cause or abandoned the worksite); and

''(ii) post such job opportunity in a conspicuous location or locations at the place of employment.

''(C) POSITIVE RECRUITMENT.—During the period of recruitment, the employer shall complete any other positive recruitment steps within a multi-State region of traditional or expected labor supply where the Secretary of Labor finds that there are a significant number of qualified United States workers who, if recruited, would be willing to make themselves available for work at the time and place needed.

''(2) PERIOD OF RECRUITMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this subsection, the period of recruitment begins on the date on which the job order is posted on the online job registry and ends on the date that H–2A workers depart for the employer's place of employment. For a petition involving more than one start date under subsection (h)(1)(C), the end of the period of recruitment shall be determined by the date of departure of the H–2A workers for the final start date identified in the petition.

''(B) REQUIREMENT TO HIRE US WORKERS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the limitations of subparagraph (A), the employer will provide employment to any qualified United States worker who applies to the employer for any job opportunity included in the petition until the later of—

''(I) the date that is 30 days after the date on which work begins; or

''(II) the date on which—

''(aa) 33 percent of the work contract for the job opportunity has elapsed; or

''(bb) if the employer is a labor contractor, 50 percent of the work contract for the job opportunity has elapsed.

''(ii) STAGGERED ENTRY.—For a petition involving more than one start date under subsection (h)(1)(C), each start date designated in the petition shall establish a separate job opportunity. An employer may not reject a United States worker because the worker is unable or unwilling to fill more than one job opportunity included in the petition.

''(iii) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding clause (i), the employer may offer a job opportunity to an H–2A worker instead of an alien granted certified agricultural worker status under title I of the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2021 if the H–2A worker was employed by the employer in each of 3 years during the most recent 4-year period.

''(3) RECRUITMENT REPORT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The employer shall maintain a recruitment report through the applicable period described in paragraph (2)(B) and submit regular updates through the electronic platform on the results of recruitment. The employer shall retain the recruitment report, and all associated recruitment documentation, for a period of 3 years from the date of certification.

''(B) BURDEN OF PROOF.—If the employer asserts that any eligible individual who has applied or been referred is not able, willing or qualified, the employer bears the burden of proof to establish that the individual is not able, willing or qualified because of a lawful, employment-related reason.

''(d) WAGE REQUIREMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Each employer under this section will offer the worker, during the period of authorized employment, wages that are at least the greatest of—

''(A) the agreed-upon collective bargaining wage;

''(B) the adverse effect wage rate (or any successor wage established under paragraph (7));

''(C) the prevailing wage (hourly wage or piece rate); or

''(D) the Federal or State minimum wage.

''(2) ADVERSE EFFECT WAGE RATE DETERMINATIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided under subparagraph (B), the applicable adverse effect wage rate for each State and occupational classification for a calendar year shall be as follows:

''(i) The annual average hourly wage for the occupational classification in the State or region as reported by the Secretary of Agriculture based on a wage survey conducted by such Secretary.

''(ii) If a wage described in clause (i) is not reported, the national annual average hourly wage for the occupational classification as reported by the Secretary of Agriculture based on a wage survey conducted by such Secretary.

''(iii) If a wage described in clause (i) or (ii) is not reported, the Statewide annual average hourly wage for the standard occupational classification as reported by the Secretary of Labor based on a wage survey conducted by such Secretary.

''(iv) If a wage described in clause (i), (ii), or (iii) is not reported, the national average hourly wage for the occupational classification as reported by the Secretary of Labor based on a wage survey conducted by such Secretary.

''(B) LIMITATIONS ON WAGE FLUCTUATIONS.—

''(i) WAGE FREEZE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022.—For calendar year 2022, the adverse effect wage rate for each State and occupational classification under this subsection shall be the adverse effect wage rate that was in effect for H–2A workers in the applicable State on the date of the introduction of the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2021.

''(ii) CALENDAR YEARS 2023 THROUGH 2031.—For each of calendar years 2023 through 2031, the adverse effect wage rate for each State and occupational classification under this subsection shall be the wage calculated under subparagraph (A), except that such wage may not—

''(I) be more than 1.5 percent lower than the wage in effect for H–2A workers in the applicable State and occupational classification in the immediately preceding calendar year;

''(II) except as provided in clause (III), be more than 3.25 percent higher than the wage in effect for H–2A workers in the applicable State and occupational classification in the immediately preceding calendar year; and

''(III) if the application of clause (II) results in a wage that is lower than 110 percent of the applicable Federal or State minimum wage, be more than 4.25 percent higher than the wage in effect for H–2A workers in the applicable State and occupational classification in the immediately preceding calendar year.

''(iii) CALENDAR YEARS AFTER 2031.—For any calendar year after 2031, the applicable wage rate described in paragraph (1)(B) shall be the wage rate established pursuant to paragraph (7)(D). Until such wage rate is effective, the adverse effect wage rate for each State and occupational classification under this subsection shall be the wage calculated under subparagraph (A), except that such wage may not be more than 1.5 percent lower or 3.25 percent higher than the wage in effect for H–2A workers in the applicable State and occupational classification in the immediately preceding calendar year.

''(3) MULTIPLE OCCUPATIONS.—If the primary job duties for the job opportunity described in the petition do not fall within a single occupational classification, the applicable wage rates under subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (1) for the job opportunity shall be based on the highest such wage rates for all applicable occupational classifications.

''(4) PUBLICATION; WAGES IN EFFECT.—

''(A) PUBLICATION.—Prior to the start of each calendar year, the Secretary of Labor shall publish the applicable adverse effect wage rate (or successor wage rate, if any), and prevailing wage if available, for each State and occupational classification through notice in the Federal Register.

''(B) JOB ORDERS IN EFFECT.—Except as provided in subparagraph (C), publication by the Secretary of Labor of an updated adverse effect wage rate or prevailing wage for a State and occupational classification shall not affect the wage rate guaranteed in any approved job order for which recruitment efforts have commenced at the time of publication.

''(C) EXCEPTION FOR YEAR-ROUND JOBS.—If the Secretary of Labor publishes an updated adverse effect wage rate or prevailing wage for a State and occupational classification concerning a petition described in subsection (i), and the updated wage is higher than the wage rate guaranteed in the work contract, the employer shall pay the updated wage not later than 14 days after publication of the updated wage in the Federal Register.

''(5) WORKERS PAID ON A PIECE RATE OR OTHER INCENTIVE BASIS.—If an employer pays by the piece rate or other incentive method and requires one or more minimum productivity standards as a condition of job retention, such standards shall be specified in the job order and shall be no more than those normally required (at the time of the first petition for H–2A workers) by other employers for the activity in the area of intended employment, unless the Secretary of Labor approves a higher minimum standard resulting from material changes in production methods.

''(6) GUARANTEE OF EMPLOYMENT.—

''(A) OFFER TO WORKER.—The employer shall guarantee the worker employment for the hourly equivalent of at least three-fourths of the work days of the total period of employment, beginning with the first work day after the arrival of the worker at the place of employment and ending on the date specified in the job offer. For purposes of this subparagraph, the hourly equivalent means the number of hours in the work days as stated in the job offer and shall exclude the worker's Sabbath and Federal holidays. If the employer affords the worker less employment than that required under this paragraph, the employer shall pay the worker the amount which the worker would have earned had the worker, in fact, worked for the guaranteed number of hours.

''(B) FAILURE TO WORK.—Any hours which the worker fails to work, up to a maximum of the number of hours specified in the job offer for a work day, when the worker has been offered an opportunity to do so, and all hours of work actually performed (including voluntary work in excess of the number of hours specified in the job offer in a work day, on the worker's Sabbath, or on Federal holidays) may be counted by the employer in calculating whether the period of guaranteed employment has been met.

''(C) ABANDONMENT OF EMPLOYMENT; TERMINATION FOR CAUSE.—If the worker voluntarily abandons employment without good cause before the end of the contract period, or is terminated for cause, the worker is not entitled to the guarantee of employment described in subparagraph (A).

''(D) CONTRACT IMPOSSIBILITY.—If, before the expiration of the period of employment specified in the job offer, the services of the worker are no longer required for reasons beyond the control of the employer due to any form of natural disaster before the guarantee in subparagraph (A) is fulfilled, the employer may terminate the worker's employment. In the event of such termination, the employer shall fulfill the employment guarantee in subparagraph (A) for the work days that have elapsed from the first work day after the arrival of the worker to the termination of employment. The employer shall make efforts to transfer a worker to other comparable employment acceptable to the worker. If such transfer is not affected, the employer shall provide the return transportation required in subsection (f)(2).

''(7) WAGE STANDARDS AFTER 2031.—

''(A) STUDY OF ADVERSE EFFECT WAGE RATE.—Beginning in fiscal year 2028, the Secretary of Agriculture and Secretary of Labor shall jointly conduct a study that addresses—

''(i) whether the employment of H–2A workers has depressed the wages of United States farm workers;

''(ii) whether an adverse effect wage rate is necessary to protect the wages of United States farm workers in occupations in which H–2A workers are employed;

''(iii) whether alternative wage standards would be sufficient to prevent wages in occupations in which H–2A workers are employed from falling below the wage level that would have prevailed in the absence of H–2A employment;

''(iv) whether any changes are warranted in the current methodologies for calculating the adverse effect wage rate and the prevailing wage rate; and

''(v) recommendations for future wage protection under this section.

''(B) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than October 1, 2029, the Secretary of Agriculture and Secretary of Labor shall jointly prepare and submit a report to the Congress setting forth the findings of the study conducted under subparagraph (A) and recommendations for future wage protections under this section.

''(C) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study under subparagraph (A) and preparing the report under subparagraph (B), the Secretary of Agriculture and Secretary of Labor shall consult with representatives of agricultural employers and an equal number of representatives of agricultural workers, at the national, State and local level.

''(D) WAGE DETERMINATION AFTER 2031.—Upon publication of the report described in subparagraph (B), the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with and the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture, shall make a rule to establish a process for annually determining the wage rate for purposes of paragraph (1)(B) for fiscal years after 2031. Such process shall be designed to ensure that the employment of H–2A workers does not undermine the wages and working conditions of similarly employed United States workers.

''(e) HOUSING REQUIREMENTS.—Employers shall furnish housing in accordance with regulations established by the Secretary of Labor. Such regulations shall be consistent with the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The employer shall be permitted at the employer's option to provide housing meeting applicable Federal standards for temporary labor camps or to secure housing which meets the local standards for rental and/or public accommodations or other substantially similar class of habitation: Provided, That in the absence of applicable local standards, State standards for rental and/or public accommodations or other substantially similar class of habitation shall be met: Provided further, That in the absence of applicable local or State standards, Federal temporary labor camp standards shall apply.

''(2) FAMILY HOUSING.—Except as otherwise provided in subsection (i)(5), the employer shall provide family housing to workers with families who request it when it is the prevailing practice in the area and occupation of intended employment to provide family housing.

''(3) UNITED STATES WORKERS.—Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) and (2), an employer is not required to provide housing to United States workers who are reasonably able to return to their residence within the same day.

''(4) TIMING OF INSPECTION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor or designee shall make a determination as to whether the housing furnished by an employer for a worker meets the requirements imposed by this subsection prior to the date on which the Secretary of Labor is required to make a certification with respect to a petition for the admission of such worker.

''(B) TIMELY INSPECTION.—The Secretary of Labor shall provide a process for—

''(i) an employer to request inspection of housing up to 60 days before the date on which the employer will file a petition under this section; and

''(ii) annual inspection of housing for workers who are engaged in agricultural employment that is not of a seasonal or temporary nature.

''(f) TRANSPORTATION REQUIREMENTS.—

''(1) TRAVEL TO PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT.—A worker who completes 50 percent of the period of employment specified in the job order shall be reimbursed by the employer for the cost of the worker's transportation and subsistence from the place from which the worker came to work for the employer (or place of last employment, if the worker traveled from such place) to the place of employment.

''(2) TRAVEL FROM PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT.—For a worker who completes the period of employment specified in the job order or who is terminated without cause, the employer shall provide or pay for the worker's transportation and subsistence from the place of employment to the place from which the worker, disregarding intervening employment, came to work for the employer, or to the place of next employment, if the worker has contracted with a subsequent employer who has not agreed to provide or pay for the worker's transportation and subsistence to such subsequent employer's place of employment.

''(3) LIMITATION.—

''(A) AMOUNT OF REIMBURSEMENT.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the amount of reimbursement provided under paragraph (1) or (2) to a worker need not exceed the lesser of—

''(i) the actual cost to the worker of the transportation and subsistence involved; or

''(ii) the most economical and reasonable common carrier transportation charges and subsistence costs for the distance involved.

''(B) DISTANCE TRAVELED.—For travel to or from the worker's home country, if the travel distance between the worker's home and the relevant consulate is 50 miles or less, reimbursement for transportation and subsistence may be based on transportation to or from the consulate.

''(g) HEAT ILLNESS PREVENTION PLAN.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The employer shall maintain a reasonable plan that describes the employer's procedures for the prevention of heat illness, including appropriate training, access to water and shade, the provision of breaks, and the protocols for emergency response. Such plan shall—

''(A) be in writing in English and, to the extent necessary, any language common to a significant portion of the workers if they are not fluent in English; and

''(B) be posted at a conspicuous location at the worksite and provided to employees prior to the commencement of labor or services.

''(2) CLARIFICATION.—Nothing in this subsection is intended to limit any other Federal or State authority to promulgate, enforce, or maintain health and safety standards related to heat-related illness.

''(h) H–2A PETITION PROCEDURES.—

''(1) SUBMISSION OF PETITION AND JOB ORDER.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The employer shall submit information required for the adjudication of the H–2A petition, including a job order, through the electronic platform no more than 75 calendar days and no fewer than 60 calendar days before the employer's first date of need specified in the petition.

''(B) FILING BY AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS.—An association of agricultural producers that use agricultural services may file an H–2A petition under subparagraph (A). If an association is a joint or sole employer of workers who perform agricultural labor or services, H–2A workers may be used for the approved job opportunities of any of the association's producer members and such workers may be transferred among its producer members to perform the agricultural labor or services for which the petition was approved.

''(C) PETITIONS INVOLVING STAGGERED ENTRY.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), an employer may file a petition involving employment in the same occupational classification and same area of intended employment with multiple start dates if—

''(I) the petition involves temporary or seasonal employment and no more than 10 start dates;

''(II) the multiple start dates share a common end date;

''(III) no more than 120 days separate the first start date and the final start date listed in the petition; and

''(IV) the need for multiple start dates arises from variations in labor needs associated with the job opportunity identified in the petition.

''(ii) LABOR CONTRACTORS.—A labor contractor may not file a petition described in clause (i) unless the labor contractor—

''(I) is filing as a joint employer with its contractees, or is operating in a State in which joint employment and liability between the labor contractor and its contractees is otherwise established; or

''(II) has posted and is maintaining a premium surety bond as described in subsection (l)(1).

''(2) LABOR CERTIFICATION.—

''(A) REVIEW OF JOB ORDER.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the relevant State workforce agency, shall review the job order for compliance with this section and notify the employer through the electronic platform of any deficiencies not later than 7 business days from the date the employer submits the necessary information required under paragraph (1)(A). The employer shall be provided 5 business days to respond to any such notice of deficiency.

''(ii) STANDARD.—The job order must include all material terms and conditions of employment, including the requirements of this section, and must be otherwise consistent with the minimum standards provided under Federal, State or local law. In considering the question of whether a specific qualification is appropriate in a job order, the Secretary of Labor shall apply the normal and accepted qualification required by non-H–2A employers in the same or comparable occupations and crops.

''(iii) EMERGENCY PROCEDURES.—The Secretary of Labor shall establish emergency procedures for the curing of deficiencies that cannot be resolved during the period described in clause (i).

''(B) APPROVAL OF JOB ORDER.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Upon approval of the job order, the Secretary of Labor shall immediately place for public examination a copy of the job order on the online job registry, and the State workforce agency serving the area of intended employment shall commence the recruitment of United States workers.

''(ii) REFERRAL OF UNITED STATES WORKERS.—The Secretary of Labor and State workforce agency shall keep the job order active until the end of the period described in subsection (c)(2) and shall refer to the employer each United States worker who applies for the job opportunity.

''(C) REVIEW OF INFORMATION FOR DEFICIENCIES.—Within 7 business days of the approval of the job order, the Secretary of Labor shall review the information necessary to make a labor certification and notify the employer through the electronic platform if such information does not meet the standards for approval. Such notification shall include a description of any deficiency, and the employer shall be provided 5 business days to cure such deficiency.

''(D) CERTIFICATION AND AUTHORIZATION OF WORKERS.—Not later than 30 days before the date that labor or services are first required to be performed, the Secretary of Labor shall issue the requested labor certification if the Secretary determines that the requirements set forth in this section have been met.

''(E) EXPEDITED ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS OF CERTAIN DETERMINATIONS.—The Secretary of Labor shall by regulation establish a procedure for an employer to request the expedited review of a denial of a labor certification under this section, or the revocation of such a certification. Such procedure shall require the Secretary to expeditiously, but no later than 72 hours after expedited review is requested, issue a de novo determination on a labor certification that was denied in whole or in part because of the availability of able, willing and qualified workers if the employer demonstrates, consistent with subsection (c)(3)(B), that such workers are not actually available at the time or place such labor or services are required.

''(3) PETITION DECISION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 7 business days after the Secretary of Labor issues the certification, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall issue a decision on the petition and shall transmit a notice of action to the petitioner via the electronic platform.

''(B) APPROVAL.—Upon approval of a petition under this section, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure that such approval is noted in the electronic platform and is available to the Secretary of State and U.S. Customs and Border Protection, as necessary, to facilitate visa issuance and admission.

''(C) PARTIAL APPROVAL.—A petition for multiple named beneficiaries may be partially approved with respect to eligible beneficiaries notwithstanding the ineligibility, or potential ineligibility, of one or more other beneficiaries.

''(D) POST-CERTIFICATION AMENDMENTS.—The Secretary of Labor shall provide a process for amending a request for labor certification in conjunction with an H–2A petition, subsequent to certification by the Secretary of Labor, in cases in which the requested amendment does not materially change the petition (including the job order).

''(4) ROLES OF AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS.—

''(A) MEMBER'S VIOLATION DOES NOT NECESSARILY DISQUALIFY ASSOCIATION OR OTHER MEMBERS.—If an individual producer member of a joint employer association is determined to have committed an act that results in the denial of a petition with respect to the member, the denial shall apply only to that member of the association unless the Secretary of Labor determines that the association or other member participated in, had knowledge of, or reason to know of, the violation.

''(B) ASSOCIATION'S VIOLATION DOES NOT NECESSARILY DISQUALIFY MEMBERS.—

''(i) If an association representing agricultural producers as a joint employer is determined to have committed an act that results in the denial of a petition with respect to the association, the denial shall apply only to the association and does not apply to any individual producer member of the association unless the Secretary of Labor determines that the member participated in, had knowledge of, or reason to know of, the violation.

''(ii) If an association of agricultural producers certified as a sole employer is determined to have committed an act that results in the denial of a petition with respect to the association, no individual producer member of such association may be the beneficiary of the services of H–2A workers in the commodity and occupation in which such aliens were employed by the association which was denied during the period such denial is in force, unless such producer member employs such aliens in the commodity and occupation in question directly or through an association which is a joint employer of such workers with the producer member.

''(5) SPECIAL PROCEDURES.—The Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture and Secretary of Homeland Security, may by regulation establish alternate procedures that reasonably modify program requirements under this section, when the Secretary determines that such modifications are required due to the unique nature of the work involved.

''(6) CONSTRUCTION OCCUPATIONS.—An employer may not file a petition under this section on behalf of a worker if the majority of the worker's duties will fall within a construction or extraction occupational classification.

''(i) NON-TEMPORARY OR -SEASONAL NEEDS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the requirement in section 101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(a) that the agricultural labor or services performed by an H–2A worker be of a temporary or seasonal nature, the Secretary of Homeland Security may, consistent with the provisions of this subsection, approve a petition for an H–2A worker to perform agricultural services or labor that is not of a temporary or seasonal nature.

''(2) NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS.—

''(A) FIRST 3 FISCAL YEARS.—The total number of aliens who may be issued visas or otherwise provided H–2A nonimmigrant status under paragraph (1) for the first fiscal year during which the first visa is issued under such paragraph and for each of the following two fiscal years may not exceed 20,000.

''(B) FISCAL YEARS 4 THROUGH 10.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The total number of aliens who may be issued visas or otherwise provided H–2A nonimmigrant status under paragraph (1) for the first fiscal year following the fiscal years referred to in subparagraph (A) and for each of the following 6 fiscal years may not exceed a numerical limitation jointly imposed by the Secretary of Agriculture and Secretary of Labor in accordance with clause (ii).

''(ii) ANNUAL ADJUSTMENTS.—For each fiscal year referred to in clause (i), the Secretary of Agriculture and Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall establish a numerical limitation for purposes of clause (i). Such numerical limitation may not be lower 20,000 and may not vary by more than 12.5 percent compared to the numerical limitation applicable to the immediately preceding fiscal year. In establishing such numerical limitation, the Secretaries shall consider appropriate factors, including—

''(I) a demonstrated shortage of agricultural workers;

''(II) the level of unemployment and underemployment of agricultural workers during the preceding fiscal year;

''(III) the number of H–2A workers sought by employers during the preceding fiscal year to engage in agricultural labor or services not of a temporary or seasonal nature;

''(IV) the number of such H–2A workers issued a visa in the most recent fiscal year who remain in the United States in compliance with the terms of such visa;

''(V) the estimated number of United States workers, including workers who obtained certified agricultural worker status under title I of the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2021, who worked during the preceding fiscal year in agricultural labor or services not of a temporary or seasonal nature;

''(VI) the number of such United States workers who accepted jobs offered by employers using the online job registry during the preceding fiscal year;

''(VII) any growth or contraction of the United States agricultural industry that has increased or decreased the demand for agricultural workers; and

''(VIII) any changes in the real wages paid to agricultural workers in the United States as an indication of a shortage or surplus of agricultural labor.

''(C) SUBSEQUENT FISCAL YEARS.—For each fiscal year following the fiscal years referred to in subparagraph (B), the Secretary of Agriculture and Secretary of Labor shall jointly determine, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, and after considering appropriate factors, including those factors listed in subclauses (I) through (VIII) of subparagraph (B)(ii), whether to establish a numerical limitation for that fiscal year. If a numerical limitation is so established—

''(i) such numerical limitation may not be lower than highest number of aliens admitted under this subsection in any of the three fiscal years immediately preceding the fiscal year for which the numerical limitation is to be established; and

''(ii) the total number of aliens who may be issued visas or otherwise provided H–2A nonimmigrant status under paragraph (1) for that fiscal year may not exceed such numerical limitation.

''(D) EMERGENCY PROCEDURES.—The Secretary of Agriculture and Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall jointly establish by regulation procedures for immediately adjusting a numerical limitation imposed under subparagraph (B) or (C) to account for significant labor shortages.

''(3) ALLOCATION OF VISAS.—

''(A) BI-ANNUAL ALLOCATION.—The annual allocation of visas described in paragraph (2) shall be evenly allocated between two halves of the fiscal year unless the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture and Secretary of Labor, determines that an alternative allocation would better accommodate demand for visas. Any unused visas in the first half of the fiscal year shall be added to the allocation for the subsequent half of the same fiscal year.

''(B) RESERVE FOR DAIRY LABOR OR SERVICES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Of the visa numbers made available in each half of the fiscal year pursuant to subparagraph (A), 50 percent of such visas shall be reserved for employers filing petitions seeking H–2A workers to engage in agricultural labor or services in the dairy industry.

''(ii) EXCEPTION.—If, after 4 months have elapsed in one half of the fiscal year, the Secretary of Homeland Security determines that application of clause (i) will result in visas going unused during that half of the fiscal year, clause (i) shall not apply to visas under this paragraph during the remainder of such calendar half.

''(C) LIMITED ALLOCATION FOR CERTAIN SPECIAL PROCEDURES INDUSTRIES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the numerical limitations under paragraph (2), up to 500 aliens may be issued visas or otherwise provided H–2A nonimmigrant status under paragraph (1) in a fiscal year for range sheep or goat herding.

''(ii) LIMITATION.—The total number of aliens in the United States in valid H–2A status under clause (i) at any one time may not exceed 500.

''(iii) CLARIFICATION.—Any visas issued under this subparagraph may not be considered for purposes of the annual adjustments under subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (2).

''(4) ANNUAL ROUND TRIP HOME.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the other requirements of this section, an employer shall provide H–2A workers employed under this subsection, at no cost to such workers, with annual round trip travel, including transportation and subsistence during travel, to their homes in their communities of origin. The employer must provide such travel within 14 months of the initiation of the worker's employment, and no more than 14 months can elapse between each required period of travel.

''(B) LIMITATION.—The cost of travel under subparagraph (A) need not exceed the lesser of—

''(i) the actual cost to the worker of the transportation and subsistence involved; or

''(ii) the most economical and reasonable common carrier transportation charges and subsistence costs for the distance involved.

''(5) FAMILY HOUSING.—An employer seeking to employ an H–2A worker pursuant to this subsection shall offer family housing to workers with families if such workers are engaged in agricultural employment that is not of a seasonal or temporary nature. The worker may reject such an offer. The employer may not charge the

worker for the worker's housing, except that if the worker accepts family housing, a prorated rent based on the fair market value for such housing may be charged for the worker's family members.

''(6) WORKPLACE SAFETY PLAN FOR DAIRY EMPLOYEES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If an employer is seeking to employ a worker in agricultural labor or services in the dairy industry pursuant to this subsection, the employer must report incidents consistent with the requirements under section 1904.39 of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations, and maintain an effective worksite safety and compliance plan to prevent workplace accidents and otherwise ensure safety. Such plan shall—

''(i) be in writing in English and, to the extent necessary, any language common to a significant portion of the workers if they are not fluent in English; and

''(ii) be posted at a conspicuous location at the worksite and provided to employees prior to the commencement of labor or services.

''(B) CONTENTS OF PLAN.—The Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, shall establish by regulation the minimum requirements for the plan described in subparagraph (A). Such plan shall include measures to—

''(i) require workers (other than the employer's family members) whose positions require contact with animals to complete animal care training, including animal handling and job-specific animal care;

''(ii) protect against sexual harassment and violence, resolve complaints involving harassment or violence, and protect against retaliation against workers reporting harassment or violence; and

''(iii) contain other provisions necessary for ensuring workplace safety, as determined by the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture.

''(C) CLARIFICATION.—Nothing in this paragraph is intended to apply to persons or entities that are not seeking to employ workers under this section. Nothing in this paragraph is intended to limit any other Federal or State authority to promulgate, enforce, or maintain health and safety standards related to the dairy industry.

''(j) ELIGIBILITY FOR H–2A STATUS AND ADMISSION TO THE UNITED STATES.—

''(1) DISQUALIFICATION.—An alien shall be ineligible for admission to the United States as an H–2A worker pursuant to a petition filed under this section if the alien was admitted to the United States as an H–2A worker within the past 5 years of the date the petition was filed and—

''(A) violated a material provision of this section, including the requirement to promptly depart the United States when the alien's authorized period of admission has expired, unless the alien has good cause for such failure to depart; or

''(B) otherwise violated a term or condition of admission into the United States as an H–2A worker.

''(2) VISA VALIDITY.—A visa issued to an H–2A worker shall be valid for 3 years and shall allow for multiple entries during the approved period of admission.

''(3) PERIOD OF AUTHORIZED STAY; ADMISSION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—An alien admissible as an H–2A worker shall be authorized to stay in the United States for the period of employment specified in the petition approved by the Secretary of Homeland Security under this section. The maximum continuous period of authorized stay for an H–2A worker is 36 months.

''(B) REQUIREMENT TO REMAIN OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.—In the case of an H–2A worker whose maximum continuous period of authorized stay (including any extensions) has expired, the alien may not again be eligible for such stay until the alien remains outside the United States for a cumulative period of at least 45 days.

''(C) EXCEPTIONS.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall deduct absences from the United States that take place during an H–2A worker's period of authorized stay from the period that the alien is required to remain outside the United States under subparagraph (B), if the alien or the alien's employer requests such a deduction, and provides clear and convincing proof that the alien qualifies for such a deduction. Such proof shall consist of evidence including, but not limited to, arrival and departure records, copies of tax returns, and records of employment abroad.

''(D) ADMISSION.—In addition to the maximum continuous period of authorized stay, an H–2A worker's authorized period of admission shall include an additional period of 10 days prior to the beginning of the period of employment for the purpose of traveling to the place of employment and 45 days at the end of the period of employment for the purpose of traveling home or seeking an extension of status based on a subsequent offer of employment if the worker has not reached the maximum continuous period of authorized stay under subparagraph (A) (subject to the exceptions in subparagraph (C)).

''(4) CONTINUING H–2A WORKERS.—

''(A) SUCCESSIVE EMPLOYMENT.—An H–2A worker is authorized to start new or concurrent employment upon the filing of a nonfrivolous H–2A petition, or as of the requested start date, whichever is later if—

''(i) the petition to start new or concurrent employment was filed prior to the expiration of the H–2A worker's period of admission as defined in paragraph (3)(D); and

''(ii) the H–2A worker has not been employed without authorization in the United States from the time of last admission to the United States in H–2A status through the filing of the petition for new employment.

''(B) PROTECTION DUE TO IMMIGRANT VISA BACKLOGS.—Notwithstanding the limitations on the period of authorized stay described in paragraph (3), any H–2A worker who—

''(i) is the beneficiary of an approved petition, filed under section 204(a)(1)(E) or (F) for preference status under section 203(b)(3)(A)(iii); and

''(ii) is eligible to be granted such status but for the annual limitations on visas under section 203(b)(3)(A),

may apply for, and the Secretary of Homeland Security may grant, an extension of such nonimmigrant status until the Secretary of Homeland Security issues a final administrative decision on the alien's application for adjustment of status or the Secretary of State issues a final decision on the alien's application for an immigrant visa.

''(5) ABANDONMENT OF EMPLOYMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), an H–2A worker who abandons the employment which was the basis for the worker's authorized stay, without good cause, shall be considered to have failed to maintain H–2A status and shall depart the United States or be subject to removal under section 237(a)(1)(C)(i).

''(B) GRACE PERIOD TO SECURE NEW EMPLOYMENT.—An H–2A worker shall not be considered to have failed to maintain H–2A status solely on the basis of a cessation of the employment on which the alien's classification was based for a period of 45 consecutive days, or until the end of the authorized validity period, whichever is shorter, once during each authorized validity period.

''(k) REQUIRED DISCLOSURES.—

''(1) DISCLOSURE OF WORK CONTRACT.—Not later than the time the H–2A worker applies for a visa, the employer shall provide the worker with a copy of the work contract that includes the disclosures and rights under this section (or in the absence of such a contract, a copy of the job order and proof of the certification described in subparagraphs (B) and (D) of subsection (h)(2)). An H–2A worker moving from one H–2A employer to a subsequent H–2A employer shall be provided with a copy of the new employment contract no later than the time an offer of employment is made by the subsequent employer.

''(2) HOURS AND EARNINGS STATEMENTS.—The employer shall furnish to H–2A workers, on or before each payday, in one or more written statements—

''(A) the worker's total earnings for the pay period;

''(B) the worker's hourly rate of pay, piece rate of pay, or both;

''(C) the hours of employment offered to the worker and the hours of employment actually worked;

''(D) if piece rates of pay are used, the units produced daily;

''(E) an itemization of the deductions made from the worker's wages; and

''(F) any other information required by Federal, State or local law.

''(3) NOTICE OF WORKER RIGHTS.—The employer must post and maintain in a conspicuous location at the place of employment, a poster provided by the Secretary of Labor in English, and, to the extent necessary, any language common to a significant portion of the workers if they are not fluent in English, which sets out the rights and protections for workers employed pursuant to this section.

''(l) LABOR CONTRACTORS; FOREIGN LABOR RECRUITERS; PROHIBITION ON FEES.—

''(1) LABOR CONTRACTORS.—

''(A) SURETY BOND.—An employer that is a labor contractor who seeks to employ H–2A workers shall maintain a surety bond in an amount required under subparagraph (B). Such bond shall be payable to the Secretary of Labor or pursuant to the resolution of a civil or criminal proceeding, for the payment of wages and benefits, including any assessment of interest, owed to an H–2A worker or a similarly employed United States worker, or a United States worker who has been rejected or displaced in violation of this section.

''(B) AMOUNT OF BOND.—The Secretary of Labor shall annually publish in the Federal Register a schedule of required bond amounts that are determined by such Secretary to be sufficient for labor contractors to discharge financial obligations under this section based on the number of workers the labor contractor seeks to employ and the wages such workers are required to be paid.

''(C) PREMIUM BOND.—A labor contractor seeking to file a petition involving more than one start date under subsection (h)(1)(C) shall maintain a surety bond that is at least 15 percent higher than the applicable bond amount determined by the Secretary under subparagraph (B).

''(D) USE OF FUNDS.—Any sums paid to the Secretary under subparagraph (A) that are not paid to a worker because of the inability to do so within a period of 5 years following the date of a violation giving rise to the obligation to pay shall remain available to the Secretary without further appropriation until expended to support the enforcement of this section.

''(2) PROHIBITION AGAINST EMPLOYEES PAYING FEES.—Neither the employer nor its agents shall seek or receive payment of any kind from any worker for any activity related to the H–2A process, including payment of the employer's attorneys' fees, application fees, or recruitment costs. An employer and its agents may receive reimbursement for costs that are the responsibility and primarily for the benefit of the worker, such as government-required passport fees.

''(3) THIRD PARTY CONTRACTS.—The contract between an employer and any labor contractor or any foreign labor recruiter (or any agent of such labor contractor or foreign labor recruiter) whom the employer engages shall include a term providing for the termination of such contract

for cause if the contractor or recruiter, either directly or indirectly, in the placement or recruitment of H–2A workers seeks or receives payments or other compensation from prospective employees. Upon learning that a labor contractor or foreign labor recruiter has sought or collected such payments, the employer shall so terminate any contracts with such contractor or recruiter.

''(m) ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor is authorized to take such actions against employers, including imposing appropriate penalties and seeking monetary and injunctive relief and specific performance of contractual obligations, as may be necessary to ensure compliance with the requirements of this section and with the applicable terms and conditions of employment.

''(2) COMPLAINT PROCESS.—

''(A) PROCESS.—The Secretary of Labor shall establish a process for the receipt, investigation, and disposition of complaints alleging failure of an employer to comply with the requirements under this section and with the applicable terms and conditions of employment.

''(B) FILING.—A complaint referred to in subparagraph (A) may be filed not later than 2 years after the date of the conduct that is the subject of the complaint.

''(C) COMPLAINT NOT EXCLUSIVE.—A complaint filed under this paragraph is not an exclusive remedy and the filing of such a complaint does not waive any rights or remedies of the aggrieved party under this law or other laws.

''(D) DECISION AND REMEDIES.—If the Secretary of Labor finds, after notice and opportunity for a hearing, that the employer failed to comply with the requirements of this section or the terms and conditions of employment, the Secretary of Labor may require payment of unpaid wages, unpaid benefits, fees assessed in violation of this section, damages, and civil money penalties. The Secretary is also authorized to impose other administrative remedies, including disqualification of the employer from utilizing the H–2A program for a period of up to 5 years in the event of willful or multiple material violations. The Secretary is authorized to permanently disqualify an employer from utilizing the H–2A program upon a subsequent finding involving willful or multiple material violations.

''(E) DISPOSITION OF PENALTIES.—Civil penalties collected under this paragraph shall be deposited into the H–2A Labor Certification Fee Account established under section 203 of the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2021.

''(3) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed as limiting the authority of the Secretary of Labor to conduct an investigation—

''(A) under any other law, including any law affecting migrant and seasonal agricultural workers; or

''(B) in the absence of a complaint.

''(4) RETALIATION PROHIBITED.—It is a violation of this subsection for any person to intimidate, threaten, restrain, coerce, blacklist, discharge, or in any other manner discriminate against, or to cause any person to intimidate, threaten, restrain, coerce, blacklist, or in any manner discriminate against, an employee, including a former employee or an applicant for employment, because the employee—

''(A) has disclosed information to the employer, or to any other person, that the employee reasonably believes evidences a violation under this section, or any rule or regulation relating to this section;

''(B) has filed a complaint concerning the employer's compliance with the requirements under this section or any rule or regulation pertaining to this section;

''(C) cooperates or seeks to cooperate in an investigation or other proceeding concerning the employer's compliance with the requirements under this section or any rule or regulation pertaining to this section; or

''(D) has taken steps to exercise or assert any right or protection under the provisions of this section, or any rule or regulation pertaining to this section, or any other relevant Federal, State, or local law.

''(5) INTERAGENCY COMMUNICATION.—The Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, Secretary of State and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, shall establish mechanisms by which the agencies and their components share information, including by public electronic means, regarding complaints, studies, investigations, findings and remedies regarding compliance by employers with the requirements of the H–2A program and other employment-related laws and regulations.

''(n) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) DISPLACE.—The term 'displace' means to lay off a similarly employed United States worker, other than for lawful job-related reasons, in the occupation and area of intended employment for the job for which H–2A workers are sought.

''(2) H–2A WORKER.—The term 'H–2A worker' means a nonimmigrant described in section 101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(a).

''(3) JOB ORDER.—The term 'job order' means the document containing the material terms and conditions of employment, including obligations and assurances required under this section or any other law.

''(4) ONLINE JOB REGISTRY.—The term 'online job registry' means the online job registry of the Secretary of Labor required under section 201(b) of the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2021 (or similar successor registry).

''(5) SIMILARLY EMPLOYED.—The term 'similarly employed', in the case of a worker, means a worker in the same occupational classification as the classification or classifications for which the H–2A worker is sought.

''(6) UNITED STATES WORKER.—The term 'United States worker' means any worker who is—

''(A) a citizen or national of the United States;

''(B) an alien who is lawfully admitted for permanent residence, is admitted as a refugee under section 207, is granted asylum under section 208, or is an immigrant otherwise authorized to be employed in the United States;

''(C) an alien granted certified agricultural worker status under title I of the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2021; or

''(D) an individual who is not an unauthorized alien (as defined in section 274A(h)(3)) with respect to the employment in which the worker is engaging.

''(o) FEES; AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

''(1) FEES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall impose a fee to process petitions under this section. Such fee shall be set at a level that is sufficient to recover the reasonable costs of processing the petition, including the reasonable costs of providing labor certification by the Secretary of Labor.

''(B) DISTRIBUTION.—Fees collected under subparagraph (A) shall be deposited as offsetting receipts into the immigration examinations fee account in section 286(m), except that the portion of fees assessed for the Secretary of Labor shall be deposited into the H–2A Labor Certification Fee Account established pursuant to section 203(c) of the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2021.

''(2) APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated for each fiscal year such sums as necessary for the purposes of—

''(A) recruiting United States workers for labor or services which might otherwise be performed by H–2A workers, including by ensuring that State workforce agencies are sufficiently funded to fulfill their functions under this section;

''(B) enabling the Secretary of Labor to make determinations and certifications under this section and under section 212(a)(5)(A)(i);

''(C) monitoring the terms and conditions under which H–2A workers (and United States workers employed by the same employers) are employed in the United States; and

''(D) enabling the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out the Secretary of Agriculture's duties and responsibilities under this section.''.

SEC. 203. AGENCY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

(a) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY OF LABOR.—With respect to the administration of the H–2A program, the Secretary of Labor shall be responsible for—

(1) consulting with State workforce agencies to—

(A) review and process job orders;

(B) facilitate the recruitment and referral of able, willing and qualified United States workers who will be available at the time and place needed;

(C) determine prevailing wages and practices; and

(D) conduct timely inspections to ensure compliance with applicable Federal, State, or local housing standards and Federal regulations for H–2A housing;

(2) determining whether the employer has met the conditions for approval of the H–2A petition described in section 218 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1188);

(3) determining, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, whether a job opportunity is of a seasonal or temporary nature;

(4) determining whether the employer has complied or will comply with the H–2A program requirements set forth in section 218 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1188);

(5) processing and investigating complaints consistent with section 218(m) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1188(m));

(6) referring any matter as appropriate to the Inspector General of the Department of Labor for investigation;

(7) ensuring that guidance to State workforce agencies to conduct wage surveys is regularly updated; and

(8) issuing such rules and regulations as are necessary to carry out the Secretary of Labor's responsibilities under this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

(b) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY.—With respect to the administration of the H–2A program, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall be responsible for—

(1) adjudicating petitions for the admission of H–2A workers, which shall include an assessment as to whether each beneficiary will be employed in accordance with the terms and conditions of the certification and whether any named beneficiaries qualify for such employment;

(2) transmitting a copy of the final decision on the petition to the employer, and in the case of approved petitions, ensuring that the petition approval is reflected in the electronic platform to facilitate the prompt issuance of a visa by the Department of State (if required) and the admission of the H–2A workers to the United States;

(3) establishing a reliable and secure method through which H–2A workers can access information about their H–2A visa status, including information on pending, approved, or denied petitions to extend such status;

(4) investigating and preventing fraud in the program, including the utilization of H–2A workers for other than allowable agricultural labor or services; and

(5) issuing such rules and regulations as are necessary to carry out the Secretary of Homeland Security's responsibilities under this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

(c) ESTABLISHMENT OF ACCOUNT AND USE OF FUNDS.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF ACCOUNT.—There is established in the general fund of the Treasury a separate account, which shall be known as the ''H–2A Labor Certification Fee Account''. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, there

shall be deposited as offsetting receipts into the account all amounts—

(A) collected as a civil penalty under section 218(m)(2)(E) of the Immigration and Nationality Act; and

(B) collected as a fee under section 218(o)(1)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

(2) USE OF FEES.—Amounts deposited into the H–2A Labor Certification Fee Account shall be available (except as otherwise provided in this paragraph) without fiscal year limitation and without the requirement for specification in appropriations Acts to the Secretary of Labor for use, directly or through grants, contracts, or other arrangements, in such amounts as the Secretary of Labor determines are necessary for the costs of Federal and State administration in carrying out activities in connection with labor certification under section 218 of the Immigration and Nationality Act. Such costs may include personnel salaries and benefits, equipment and infrastructure for adjudication and customer service processes, the operation and maintenance of an on-line job registry, and program integrity activities. The Secretary, in determining what amounts to transfer to States for State administration in carrying out activities in connection with labor certification under section 218 of the Immigration and Nationality Act shall consider the number of H–2A workers employed in that State and shall adjust the amount transferred to that State accordingly. In addition, 10 percent of the amounts deposited into the H–2A Labor Certification Fee Account shall be available to the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Labor to conduct audits and criminal investigations relating to such foreign labor certification programs.

(3) ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—Amounts available under paragraph (1) shall be available in addition to any other funds appropriated or made available to the Department of Labor under other laws, including section 218(o)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

SEC. 204. WORKER PROTECTION AND COMPLIANCE.

(a) EQUALITY OF TREATMENT.—H–2A workers shall not be denied any right or remedy under any Federal, State, or local labor or employment law applicable to United States workers engaged in agricultural employment.

(b) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LAWS.—

(1) MIGRANT AND SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL WORKER PROTECTION ACT.—H–2A workers shall be considered migrant agricultural workers for purposes of the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (29 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).

(2) WAIVER OF RIGHTS PROHIBITED.—Agreements by H–2A workers to waive or modify any rights or protections under this Act or section 218 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1188) shall be considered void or contrary to public policy except as provided in a collective bargaining agreement with a bona fide labor organization.

(3) MEDIATION.—

(A) FREE MEDIATION SERVICES.—The Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service shall be available to assist in resolving disputes arising under this section between H–2A workers and agricultural employers without charge to the parties.

(B) COMPLAINT.—If an H–2A worker files a civil lawsuit alleging one or more violations of section 218 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1188), the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 201 et seq.), or the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (29 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), not later than 60 days after the filing of proof of service of the complaint, a party to the lawsuit may file a request with the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service to assist the parties in reaching a satisfactory resolution of all issues involving all parties to the dispute.

(C) NOTICE.—Upon filing a request under subparagraph (B) and giving of notice to the parties, the parties shall attempt mediation within the period specified in subparagraph (D), except that nothing in this paragraph shall limit the ability of a court to order preliminary injunctive relief to protect health and safety or to otherwise prevent irreparable harm.

(D) 90-DAY LIMIT.—The Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service may conduct mediation or other nonbinding dispute resolution activities for a period not to exceed 90 days beginning on the date on which the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service receives a request for assistance under subparagraph (B) unless the parties agree to an extension of such period.

(E) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), there is authorized to be appropriated to the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, such sums as may be necessary for each fiscal year to carry out this subparagraph.

(ii) MEDIATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service is authorized—

(I) to conduct the mediation or other dispute resolution activities from any other account containing amounts available to the Director; and

(II) to reimburse such account with amounts appropriated pursuant to clause (i).

(F) PRIVATE MEDIATION.—If all parties agree, a private mediator may be employed as an alternative to the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

(c) FARM LABOR CONTRACTOR REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) SURETY BONDS.—

(A) REQUIREMENT.—Section 101 of the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (29 U.S.C. 1811), is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) A farm labor contractor shall maintain a surety bond in an amount determined by the Secretary to be sufficient for ensuring the ability of the farm labor contractor to discharge its financial obligations, including payment of wages and benefits to employees. Such a bond shall be available to satisfy any amounts ordered to be paid by the Secretary or by court order for failure to comply with the obligations of this Act. The Secretary of Labor shall annually publish in the Federal Register a schedule of required bond amounts that are determined by such Secretary to be sufficient for farm labor contractors to discharge financial obligations based on the number of workers to be covered.''.

(B) REGISTRATION DETERMINATIONS.—Section 103(a) of the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (29 U.S.C. 1813(a)), is amended—

(i) in paragraph (4), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(ii) in paragraph (5)(B), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(iii) in paragraph (6), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; '' ; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

''(7) has failed to maintain a surety bond in compliance with section 101(e); or

''(8) has been disqualified by the Secretary of Labor from importing nonimmigrants described in section 101(a)(15)(H)(ii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.''.

(2) SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST.—

(A) DECLARATION.—Section 102 of the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (29 U.S.C. 1812), is amended—

(i) in paragraph (4), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(ii) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(6) a declaration, subscribed and sworn to by the applicant, stating whether the applicant has a familial, contractual, or employment relationship with, or shares vehicles, facilities, property, or employees with, a person who has been refused issuance or renewal of a certificate, or has had a certificate suspended or revoked, pursuant to section 103.''.

(B) REBUTTABLE PRESUMPTION.—Section 103 of the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (29 U.S.C. 1813), as amended by this Act, is further amended by inserting after subsection (a) the following new subsection (and by redesignating the subsequent subsections accordingly):

''(b)(1) There shall be a rebuttable presumption that an applicant for issuance or renewal of a certificate is not the real party in interest in the application if the applicant—

''(A) is the immediate family member of any person who has been refused issuance or renewal of a certificate, or has had a certificate suspended or revoked; and

''(B) identifies a vehicle, facility, or real property under paragraph (2) or (3) of section 102 that has been previously listed by a person who has been refused issuance or renewal of a certificate, or has had a certificate suspended or revoked.

''(2) An applicant described in paragraph (1) bears the burden of demonstrating to the Secretary's satisfaction that the applicant is the real party in interest in the application.''.

SEC. 205. REPORT ON WAGE PROTECTIONS.

(a) Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 3 years thereafter, the Secretary of Labor and Secretary of Agriculture shall prepare and transmit to the Committees on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and Senate, a report that addresses—

(1) whether, and the manner in which, the employment of H–2A workers in the United States has impacted the wages, working conditions, or job opportunities of United States farm workers;

(2) whether, and the manner in which, the adverse effect wage rate increases or decreases wages on United States farms, broken down by geographic region and farm size;

(3) whether any potential impact of the adverse effect wage rate varies based on the percentage of workers in a geographic region that are H–2A workers;

(4) the degree to which the adverse effect wage rate is affected by the inclusion in wage surveys of piece rate compensation, bonus payments, and other pay incentives, and whether such forms of incentive compensation should be surveyed and reported separately from hourly base rates;

(5) whether, and the manner in which, other factors may artificially affect the adverse effect wage rate, including factors that may be specific to a region, State, or region within a State;

(6) whether, and the manner in which, the H–2A program affects the ability of United States farms to compete with agricultural commodities imported from outside the United States;

(7) the number and percentage of farmworkers in the United States whose incomes are below the poverty line;

(8) whether alternative wage standards would be sufficient to prevent wages in occupations in which H–2A workers are employed from falling below the wage level that would have prevailed in the absence of the H–2A program;

(9) whether any changes are warranted in the current methodologies for calculating the adverse effect wage rate and the prevailing wage; and

(10) recommendations for future wage protection under this section.

(b) In preparing the report described in subsection (a), the Secretary of Labor and Secretary of Agriculture shall engage with equal numbers of representatives of agricultural employers and agricultural workers, both locally and nationally.

SEC. 206. PORTABLE H–2A VISA PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor and Secretary of

Agriculture, shall establish through regulation a 6-year pilot program to facilitate the free movement and employment of temporary or seasonal H–2A workers to perform agricultural labor or services for agricultural employers registered with the Secretary of Agriculture. Notwithstanding the requirements of section 218 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, such regulation shall establish the requirements for the pilot program, consistent with subsection (b). For purposes of this section, such a worker shall be referred to as a portable H–2A worker, and status as such a worker shall be referred to as portable H–2A status.

(2) ONLINE PLATFORM.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Agriculture, shall maintain an online electronic platform to connect portable H–2A workers with registered agricultural employers seeking workers to perform temporary or seasonal agricultural labor or services. Employers shall post on the platform available job opportunities, including a description of the nature and location of the work to be performed, the anticipated period or periods of need, and the terms and conditions of employment. Such platform shall allow portable H–2A workers to search for available job opportunities using relevant criteria, including the types of jobs needed to be filled and the dates and locations of need.

(3) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding the issuance of the regulation described in paragraph (1), the Secretary of State may not issue a portable H–2A visa and the Secretary of Homeland Security may not confer portable H–2A status on any alien until the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor and Secretary of Agriculture, has determined that a sufficient number of employers have been designated as registered agricultural employers under subsection (b)(1) and that such employers have sufficient job opportunities to employ a reasonable number of portable H–2A workers to initiate the pilot program.

(b) PILOT PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—The pilot program in subsection (a) shall contain the following elements:

(1) REGISTERED AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYERS.—

(A) DESIGNATION.—Agricultural employers shall be provided the ability to seek designation as registered agricultural employers. Reasonable fees may be assessed commensurate with the cost of processing applications for designation. A designation shall be valid for a period of up to 3 years unless revoked for failure to comply with program requirements. Registered employers that comply with program requirements may apply to renew such designation for additional periods of up to 3 years for the duration of the pilot program.

(B) LIMITATIONS.—Registered agricultural employers may employ aliens with portable H–2A status without filing a petition. Such employers shall pay such aliens at least the wage required under section 218(d) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1188(d)).

(C) WORKERS' COMPENSATION.—If a job opportunity is not covered by or is exempt from the State workers' compensation law, a registered agricultural employer shall provide, at no cost to the worker, insurance covering injury and disease arising out of, and in the course of, the worker's employment, which will provide benefits at least equal to those provided under the State workers' compensation law.

(2) DESIGNATED WORKERS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Individuals who have been previously admitted to the United States in H–2A status, and maintained such status during the period of admission, shall be provided the opportunity to apply for portable H–2A status. Portable H–2A workers shall be subject to the provisions on visa validity and periods of authorized stay and admission for H–2A workers described in paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 218(j) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1188(j)(2) and (3)).

(B) LIMITATIONS ON AVAILABILITY OF PORTABLE H–2A STATUS.—

(i) INITIAL OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT REQUIRED.—No alien may be granted portable H–2A status without an initial valid offer of employment to perform temporary or agricultural labor or services from a registered agricultural employer.

(ii) NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS.—The total number of aliens who may hold valid portable H–2A status at any one time may not exceed 10,000. Notwithstanding such limitation, the Secretary of Homeland Security may further limit the number of aliens with valid portable H–2A status if the Secretary determines that there are an insufficient number of registered agricultural employers or job opportunities to support the employment of all such portable H–2A workers.

(C) SCOPE OF EMPLOYMENT.—During the period of admission, a portable H–2A worker may perform temporary or seasonal agricultural labor or services for any employer in the United States that is designated as a registered agricultural employer pursuant to paragraph (1). An employment arrangement under this section may be terminated by either the portable H–2A worker or the registered agricultural employer at any time.

(D) TRANSFER TO NEW EMPLOYMENT.—At the cessation of employment with a registered agricultural employer, a portable H–2A worker shall have 60 days to secure new employment with a registered agricultural employer.

(E) MAINTENANCE OF STATUS.—A portable H–2A worker who does not secure new employment with a registered agricultural employer within 60 days shall be considered to have failed to maintain such status and shall depart the United States or be subject to removal under section 237(a)(1)(C)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1188(a)(1)(C)(i)).

(3) ENFORCEMENT.—The Secretary of Labor shall be responsible for conducting investigations and random audits of employers to ensure compliance with the employment-related requirements of this section, consistent with section 218(m) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1188(m)). The Secretary of Labor shall have the authority to collect reasonable civil penalties for violations, which shall be utilized by the Secretary for the administration and enforcement of the provisions of this section.

(4) ELIGIBILITY FOR SERVICES.—Section 305 of Public Law 99–603 (100 Stat. 3434) is amended by striking ''other employment rights as provided in the worker's specific contract under which the nonimmigrant was admitted'' and inserting ''employment-related rights''.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months before the end of the third fiscal year of the pilot program, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Agriculture, shall prepare and submit to the Committees on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Senate, a report that provides—

(1) the number of employers designated as registered agricultural employers, broken down by geographic region, farm size, and the number of job opportunities offered by such employers;

(2) the number of employers whose designation as a registered agricultural employer was revoked;

(3) the number of individuals granted portable H–2A status in each fiscal year, along with the number of such individuals who maintained portable H–2A status during all or a portion of the 3-year period of the pilot program;

(4) an assessment of the impact of the pilot program on the wages and working conditions of United States farm workers;

(5) the results of a survey of individuals granted portable H–2A status, detailing their experiences with and feedback on the pilot program;

(6) the results of a survey of registered agricultural employers, detailing their experiences with and feedback on the pilot program;

(7) an assessment as to whether the program should be continued and if so, any recommendations for improving the program; and

(8) findings and recommendations regarding effective recruitment mechanisms, including use of new technology to match workers with employers and ensure compliance with applicable labor and employment laws and regulations.

SEC. 207. IMPROVING ACCESS TO PERMANENT RESIDENCE.

(a) WORLDWIDE LEVEL.—Section 201(d)(1)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151(d)(1)(A)) is amended by striking ''140,000'' and inserting ''180,000''.

(b) VISAS FOR FARMWORKERS.—Section 203(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1) by striking ''28.6 percent of such worldwide level'' and inserting ''40,040'';

(2) in paragraph (2)(A) by striking ''28.6 percent of such worldwide level'' and inserting ''40,040'';

(3) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in the matter before clause (i), by striking ''28.6 percent of such worldwide level'' and inserting ''80,040''; and

(ii) by amending clause (iii) to read as follows:

''(iii) OTHER WORKERS.—Other qualified immigrants who, at the time of petitioning for classification under this paragraph—

''(I) are capable of performing unskilled labor, not of a temporary or seasonal nature, for which qualified workers are not available in the United States; or

''(II) can demonstrate employment in the United States as an H–2A nonimmigrant worker for at least 100 days in each of at least 10 years.'';

(B) by amending subparagraph (B) to read as follows:

''(B) VISAS ALLOCATED FOR OTHER WORKERS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clauses (ii) and (iii), 50,000 of the visas made available under this paragraph shall be reserved for qualified immigrants described in subparagraph (A)(iii).

''(ii) PREFERENCE FOR AGRICULTURAL WORKERS.—Subject to clause (iii), not less than four-fifths of the visas described in clause (i) shall be reserved for—

''(I) qualified immigrants described in subparagraph (A)(iii)(I) who will be performing agricultural labor or services in the United States; and

''(II) qualified immigrants described in subparagraph (A)(iii)(II).

''(iii) EXCEPTION.—If because of the application of clause (ii), the total number of visas available under this paragraph for a calendar quarter exceeds the number of qualified immigrants who otherwise may be issued such a visa, clause (ii) shall not apply to visas under this paragraph during the remainder of such calendar quarter.

''(iv) NO PER COUNTRY LIMITS.—Visas described under clause (ii) shall be issued without regard to the numerical limitation under section 202(a)(2).''; and

(C) by amending subparagraph (C) by striking ''An immigrant visa'' and inserting ''Except for qualified immigrants petitioning for classification under subparagraph (A)(iii)(II), an immigrant visa'';

(4) in paragraph (4), by striking ''7.1 percent of such worldwide level'' and inserting ''9,940'';

(5) in paragraph (5)(A), in the matter before clause (i), by striking ''7.1 percent of such worldwide level'' and inserting ''9,940''.

(c) PETITIONING PROCEDURE.—Section 204(a)(1)(E) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1154(a)(1)(E)) is amended by inserting ''or 203(b)(3)(A)(iii)(II)'' after ''203(b)(1)(A)''.

(d) DUAL INTENT.—Section 214(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(b)) is

amended by striking ''section 101(a)(15)(H)(i) except subclause (b1) of such section'' and inserting ''clause (i), except subclause (b1), or (ii)(a) of section 101(a)(15)(H)''.

Subtitle B—Preservation and Construction of Farmworker Housing

SEC. 220. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Strategy and Investment in Rural Housing Preservation Act of 2021''.

SEC. 221. PERMANENT ESTABLISHMENT OF HOUSING PRESERVATION AND REVITALIZATION PROGRAM.

Title V of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1471 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 545. HOUSING PRESERVATION AND REVITALIZATION PROGRAM.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall carry out a program under this section for the preservation and revitalization of multifamily rental housing projects financed under section 515 or both sections 514 and 516.

''(b) NOTICE OF MATURING LOANS.—

''(1) TO OWNERS.—On an annual basis, the Secretary shall provide written notice to each owner of a property financed under section 515 or both sections 514 and 516 that will mature within the 4-year period beginning upon the provision of such notice, setting forth the options and financial incentives that are available to facilitate the extension of the loan term or the option to decouple a rental assistance contract pursuant to subsection (f).

''(2) TO TENANTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For each property financed under section 515 or both sections 514 and 516, not later than the date that is 2 years before the date that such loan will mature, the Secretary shall provide written notice to each household residing in such property that informs them of the date of the loan maturity, the possible actions that may happen with respect to the property upon such maturity, and how to protect their right to reside in Federally assisted housing after such maturity.

''(B) LANGUAGE.—Notice under this paragraph shall be provided in plain English and shall be translated to other languages in the case of any property located in an area in which a significant number of residents speak such other languages.

''(c) LOAN RESTRUCTURING.—Under the program under this section, the Secretary may restructure such existing housing loans, as the Secretary considers appropriate, for the purpose of ensuring that such projects have sufficient resources to preserve the projects to provide safe and affordable housing for low-income residents and farm laborers, by—

''(1) reducing or eliminating interest;

''(2) deferring loan payments;

''(3) subordinating, reducing, or reamortizing loan debt; and

''(4) providing other financial assistance, including advances, payments, and incentives (including the ability of owners to obtain reasonable returns on investment) required by the Secretary.

''(d) RENEWAL OF RENTAL ASSISTANCE.—When the Secretary offers to restructure a loan pursuant to subsection (c), the Secretary shall offer to renew the rental assistance contract under section 521(a)(2) for a 20-year term that is subject to annual appropriations, provided that the owner agrees to bring the property up to such standards that will ensure its maintenance as decent, safe, and sanitary housing for the full term of the rental assistance contract.

''(e) RESTRICTIVE USE AGREEMENTS.—

''(1) REQUIREMENT.—As part of the preservation and revitalization agreement for a project, the Secretary shall obtain a restrictive use agreement that obligates the owner to operate the project in accordance with this title.

''(2) TERM.—

''(A) NO EXTENSION OF RENTAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT.—Except when the Secretary enters into a 20-year extension of the rental assistance contract for the project, the term of the restrictive use agreement for the project shall be consistent with the term of the restructured loan for the project.

''(B) EXTENSION OF RENTAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT.—If the Secretary enters into a 20-year extension of the rental assistance contract for a project, the term of the restrictive use agreement for the project shall be for 20 years.

''(C) TERMINATION.—The Secretary may terminate the 20-year use restrictive use agreement for a project prior to the end of its term if the 20-year rental assistance contract for the project with the owner is terminated at any time for reasons outside the owner's control.

''(f) DECOUPLING OF RENTAL ASSISTANCE.—

''(1) RENEWAL OF RENTAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT.—If the Secretary determines that a maturing loan for a project cannot reasonably be restructured in accordance with subsection (c) and the project was operating with rental assistance under section 521, the Secretary may renew the rental assistance contract, notwithstanding any provision of section 521, for a term, subject to annual appropriations, of at least 10 years but not more than 20 years.

''(2) RENTS.—Any agreement to extend the term of the rental assistance contract under section 521 for a project shall obligate the owner to continue to maintain the project as decent, safe and sanitary housing and to operate the development in accordance with this title, except that rents shall be based on the lesser of—

''(A) the budget-based needs of the project; or

''(B) the operating cost adjustment factor as a payment standard as provided under section 524 of the Multifamily Assisted Housing Reform and Affordability Act of 1997 (42 U.S.C. 1437 note).

''(g) MULTIFAMILY HOUSING TRANSFER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Under the program under this section, the Secretary may provide grants to qualified non-profit organizations and public housing agencies to provide technical assistance, including financial and legal services, to borrowers under loans under this title for multifamily housing to facilitate the acquisition of such multifamily housing properties in areas where the Secretary determines there is a risk of loss of affordable housing.

''(h) TRANSFER OF RENTAL ASSISTANCE.—After the loan or loans for a rental project originally financed under section 515 or both sections 514 and 516 have matured or have been prepaid and the owner has chosen not to restructure the loan pursuant to subsection (c), a tenant residing in such project shall have 18 months prior to loan maturation or prepayment to transfer the rental assistance assigned to the tenant's unit to another rental project originally financed under section 515 or both sections 514 and 516, and the owner of the initial project may rent the tenant's previous unit to a new tenant without income restrictions.

''(i) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Of any amounts made available for the program under this section for any fiscal year, the Secretary may use not more than $1,000,000 for administrative expenses for carrying out such program.

''(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated for the program under this section $200,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.''.

SEC. 222. ELIGIBILITY FOR RURAL HOUSING VOUCHERS.

Section 542 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490r) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(c) ELIGIBILITY OF HOUSEHOLDS IN SECTIONS 514, 515, AND 516 PROJECTS.—The Secretary may provide rural housing vouchers under this section for any low-income household (including those not receiving rental assistance) residing, for a term longer than the remaining term of their lease in effect just prior to prepayment, in a property financed with a loan made or insured under section 514 or 515 (42 U.S.C. 1484, 1485) which has been prepaid without restrictions imposed by the Secretary pursuant to section 502(c)(5)(G)(ii)(I) (42 U.S.C. 1472(c)(5)(G)(ii)(I)), has been foreclosed, or has matured after September 30, 2005, or residing in a property assisted under section 514 or 516 that is owned by a nonprofit organization or public agency.''.

SEC. 223. AMOUNT OF VOUCHER ASSISTANCE.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in the case of any rural housing voucher provided pursuant to section 542 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490r), the amount of the monthly assistance payment for the household on whose behalf such assistance is provided shall be determined as provided in subsection (a) of such section 542.

SEC. 224. RENTAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT AUTHORITY.

Subsection (d) of section 521 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490a(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following new subparagraph (and by redesignating the subsequent subparagraphs accordingly):

''(B) upon request of an owner of a project financed under section 514 or 515, the Secretary is authorized to enter into renewal of such agreements for a period of 20 years or the term of the loan, whichever is shorter, subject to amounts made available in appropriations Acts;''; and

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

''(3) In the case of any rental assistance contract authority that becomes available because of the termination of assistance on behalf of an assisted family—

''(A) at the option of the owner of the rental project, the Secretary shall provide the owner a period of 6 months before such assistance is made available pursuant to subparagraph (B) during which the owner may use such assistance authority to provide assistance of behalf of an eligible unassisted family that—

''(i) is residing in the same rental project that the assisted family resided in prior to such termination; or

''(ii) newly occupies a dwelling unit in such rental project during such period; and

''(B) except for assistance used as provided in subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall use such remaining authority to provide such assistance on behalf of eligible families residing in other rental projects originally financed under section 515 or both sections 514 and 516 of this Act.''.

SEC. 225. FUNDING FOR MULTIFAMILY TECHNICAL IMPROVEMENTS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Agriculture $50,000,000 for fiscal year 2022 for improving the technology of the Department of Agriculture used to process loans for multifamily housing and otherwise managing such housing. Such improvements shall be made within the 5-year period beginning upon the appropriation of such amounts and such amount shall remain available until the expiration of such 5-year period.

SEC. 226. PLAN FOR PRESERVING AFFORDABILITY OF RENTAL PROJECTS.

(a) PLAN.—The Secretary of Agriculture (in this section referred to as the ''Secretary'') shall submit a written plan to the Congress, not later than the expiration of the 6-month period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, for preserving the affordability for low-income families of rental projects for which loans were made under section 515 or made to nonprofit or public agencies under section 514 and avoiding the displacement of tenant households, which shall—

(1) set forth specific performance goals and measures;

(2) set forth the specific actions and mechanisms by which such goals will be achieved;

(3) set forth specific measurements by which progress towards achievement of each goal can be measured;

(4) provide for detailed reporting on outcomes; and

(5) include any legislative recommendations to assist in achievement of the goals under the plan.

(b) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT; PURPOSE.—The Secretary shall establish an advisory committee whose purpose shall be to assist the Secretary in preserving section 515 properties and section 514 properties owned by nonprofit or public agencies through the multifamily housing preservation and revitalization program under section 545 and in implementing the plan required under subsection (a).

(2) MEMBER.—The advisory committee shall consist of 16 members, appointed by the Secretary, as follows:

(A) A State Director of Rural Development for the Department of Agriculture.

(B) The Administrator for Rural Housing Service of the Department of Agriculture.

(C) Two representatives of for-profit developers or owners of multifamily rural rental housing.

(D) Two representatives of non-profit developers or owners of multifamily rural rental housing.

(E) Two representatives of State housing finance agencies.

(F) Two representatives of tenants of multifamily rural rental housing.

(G) One representative of a community development financial institution that is involved in preserving the affordability of housing assisted under sections 514, 515, and 516 of the Housing Act of 1949.

(H) One representative of a nonprofit organization that operates nationally and has actively participated in the preservation of housing assisted by the Rural Housing Service by conducting research regarding, and providing financing and technical assistance for, preserving the affordability of such housing.

(I) One representative of low-income housing tax credit investors.

(J) One representative of regulated financial institutions that finance affordable multifamily rural rental housing developments.

(K) Two representatives from non-profit organizations representing farmworkers, including one organization representing farmworker women.

(3) MEETINGS.—The advisory committee shall meet not less often than once each calendar quarter.

(4) FUNCTIONS.—In providing assistance to the Secretary to carry out its purpose, the advisory committee shall carry out the following functions:

(A) Assisting the Rural Housing Service of the Department of Agriculture to improve estimates of the size, scope, and condition of rental housing portfolio of the Service, including the time frames for maturity of mortgages and costs for preserving the portfolio as affordable housing.

(B) Reviewing current policies and procedures of the Rural Housing Service regarding preservation of affordable rental housing financed under sections 514, 515, 516, and 538 of the Housing Act of 1949, the Multifamily Preservation and Revitalization Demonstration program (MPR), and the rental assistance program and making recommendations regarding improvements and modifications to such policies and procedures.

(C) Providing ongoing review of Rural Housing Service program results.

(D) Providing reports to the Congress and the public on meetings, recommendations, and other findings of the advisory committee.

(5) TRAVEL COSTS.—Any amounts made available for administrative costs of the Department of Agriculture may be used for costs of travel by members of the advisory committee to meetings of the committee.

SEC. 227. COVERED HOUSING PROGRAMS.

Paragraph (3) of section 41411(a) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12491(a)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (I), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (J) as subparagraph (K); and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (I) the following new subparagraph:

''(J) rural development housing voucher assistance provided by the Secretary of Agriculture pursuant to section 542 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490r), without regard to subsection (b) of such section, and applicable appropriation Acts; and''.

SEC. 228. NEW FARMWORKER HOUSING.

Section 513 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1483) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(f) FUNDING FOR FARMWORKER HOUSING.—

''(1) SECTION 514 FARMWORKER HOUSING LOANS.—

''(A) INSURANCE AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Agriculture may, to the extent approved in appropriation Acts, insure loans under section 514 (42 U.S.C. 1484) during each of fiscal years 2022 through 2031 in an aggregate amount not to exceed $200,000,000.

''(B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR COSTS.—There is authorized to be appropriated $75,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2031 for costs (as such term is defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 661a)) of loans insured pursuant the authority under subparagraph (A).

''(2) SECTION 516 GRANTS FOR FARMWORKER HOUSING.—There is authorized to be appropriated $30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2031 for financial assistance under section 516 (42 U.S.C. 1486).

''(3) SECTION 521 HOUSING ASSISTANCE.—There is authorized to be appropriated $2,700,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2031 for rental assistance agreements entered into or renewed pursuant to section 521(a)(2) (42 U.S.C. 1490a(a)(2)) or agreements entered into in lieu of debt forgiveness or payments for eligible households as authorized by section 502(c)(5)(D).''.

SEC. 229. LOAN AND GRANT LIMITATIONS.

Section 514 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1484) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(j) PER PROJECT LIMITATIONS ON ASSISTANCE.—If the Secretary, in making available assistance in any area under this section or section 516 (42 U.S.C. 1486), establishes a limitation on the amount of assistance available per project, the limitation on a grant or loan award per project shall not be less than $5 million.''.

SEC. 230. OPERATING ASSISTANCE SUBSIDIES.

Subsection (a)(5) of section 521 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490a(a)(5)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A) by inserting ''or domestic farm labor legally admitted to the United States and authorized to work in agriculture'' after ''migrant farmworkers'';

(2) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) by striking ''AMOUNT.—In any fiscal year'' and inserting ''AMOUNT.—

''(i) HOUSING FOR MIGRANT FARMWORKERS.—In any fiscal year'';

(B) by inserting ''providing housing for migrant farmworkers'' after ''any project''; and

(C) by inserting at the end the following:

''(ii) HOUSING FOR OTHER FARM LABOR.—In any fiscal year, the assistance provided under this paragraph for any project providing housing for domestic farm labor legally admitted to the United States and authorized to work in agriculture shall not exceed an amount equal to 50 percent of the operating costs for the project for the year, as determined by the Secretary. The owner of such project shall not qualify for operating assistance unless the Secretary certifies that the project was unoccupied or underutilized before making units available to such farm labor, and that a grant under this section will not displace any farm worker who is a United States worker.''; and

(3) in subparagraph (D), by adding at the end the following:

''(iii) The term 'domestic farm labor' has the same meaning given such term in section 514(f)(3) (42 U.S.C. 1484(f)(3)), except that subparagraph (A) of such section shall not apply for purposes this section.''.

SEC. 231. ELIGIBILITY OF CERTIFIED WORKERS.

Subsection (a) of section 214 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 1436a) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (6), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (7) as paragraph (8); and

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

''(7) an alien granted certified agricultural worker or certified agricultural dependent status under title I of the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2021, but solely for financial assistance made available pursuant to section 521 or 542 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490a, 1490r); or''.

Subtitle C—Foreign Labor Recruiter Accountability

SEC. 251. REGISTRATION OF FOREIGN LABOR RECRUITERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall establish procedures for the electronic registration of foreign labor recruiters engaged in the recruitment of nonimmigrant workers described in section 101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(a)) to perform agricultural labor or services in the United States.

(b) PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS.—The procedures described in subsection (a) shall—

(1) require the applicant to submit a sworn declaration—

(A) stating the applicant's permanent place of residence or principal place of business, as applicable;

(B) describing the foreign labor recruiting activities in which the applicant is engaged; and

(C) including such other relevant information as the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of State may require;

(2) include an expeditious means to update and renew registrations;

(3) include a process, which shall include the placement of personnel at each United States diplomatic mission in accordance with subsection (g)(2), to receive information from the public regarding foreign labor recruiters who have allegedly engaged in a foreign labor recruiting activity that is prohibited under this subtitle;

(4) include procedures for the receipt and processing of complaints against foreign labor recruiters and for remedies, including the revocation of a registration or the assessment of fines upon a determination by the Secretary of Labor that the foreign labor recruiter has violated the requirements of this subtitle;

(5) require the applicant to post a bond in an amount sufficient to ensure the ability of the applicant to discharge its responsibilities and ensure protection of workers, including payment of wages; and

(6) allow the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of State to consult with other appropriate Federal agencies to determine whether any reason exists to deny registration to a foreign labor recruiter or revoke such registration.

(c) ATTESTATIONS.—Foreign labor recruiters registering under this subtitle shall attest and agree to abide by the following requirements:

(1) PROHIBITED FEES.—The foreign labor recruiter, including any agent or employee of such foreign labor recruiter, shall not assess any recruitment fees on a worker for any foreign labor recruiting activity.

(2) PROHIBITION ON FALSE AND MISLEADING INFORMATION.—The foreign labor recruiter shall not knowingly provide materially false or misleading information to any worker concerning

any matter required to be disclosed under this subtitle.

(3) REQUIRED DISCLOSURES.—The foreign labor recruiter shall ascertain and disclose to the worker in writing in English and in the primary language of the worker at the time of the worker's recruitment, the following information:

(A) The identity and address of the employer and the identity and address of the person conducting the recruiting on behalf of the employer, including each subcontractor or agent involved in such recruiting.

(B) A copy of the approved job order or work contract under section 218 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, including all assurances and terms and conditions of employment.

(C) A statement, in a form specified by the Secretary—

(i) describing the general terms and conditions associated with obtaining an H–2A visa and maintaining H–2A status;

(ii) affirming the prohibition on the assessment of fees described in paragraph (1), and explaining that such fees, if paid by the employer, may not be passed on to the worker;

(iii) describing the protections afforded the worker under this subtitle, including procedures for reporting violations to the Secretary of State, filing a complaint with the Secretary of Labor, or filing a civil action; and

(iv) describing the protections afforded the worker by section 202 of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1375b), including the telephone number for the national human trafficking resource center hotline number.

(4) BOND.—The foreign labor recruiter shall agree to maintain a bond sufficient to ensure the ability of the foreign labor recruiter to discharge its responsibilities and ensure protection of workers, and to forfeit such bond in an amount determined by the Secretary under subsections (b)(1)(C)(ii) or (c)(2)(C) of section 252 for failure to comply with the provisions of this subtitle.

(5) COOPERATION IN INVESTIGATION.—The foreign labor recruiter shall agree to cooperate in any investigation under section 252 of this subtitle by the Secretary or other appropriate authorities.

(6) NO RETALIATION.—The foreign labor recruiter shall agree to refrain from intimidating, threatening, restraining, coercing, discharging, blacklisting or in any other manner discriminating or retaliating against any worker or their family members (including a former worker or an applicant for employment) because such worker disclosed information to any person based on a reason to believe that the foreign labor recruiter, or any agent or subcontractee of such foreign labor recruiter, is engaging or has engaged in a foreign labor recruiting activity that does not comply with this subtitle.

(7) EMPLOYEES, AGENTS, AND SUBCONTRACTEES.—The foreign labor recruiter shall consent to be liable for the conduct of any agents or subcontractees of any level in relation to the foreign labor recruiting activity of the agent or subcontractee to the same extent as if the foreign labor recruiter had engaged in such conduct.

(8) ENFORCEMENT.—If the foreign labor recruiter is conducting foreign labor recruiting activity wholly outside the United States, such foreign labor recruiter shall establish a registered agent in the United States who is authorized to accept service of process on behalf of the foreign labor recruiter for the purpose of any administrative proceeding under this title or any Federal court civil action, if such service is made in accordance with the appropriate Federal rules for service of process.

(d) TERM OF REGISTRATION.—Unless suspended or revoked, a registration under this section shall be valid for 2 years.

(e) APPLICATION FEE.—The Secretary shall require a foreign labor recruiter that submits an application for registration under this section to pay a reasonable fee, sufficient to cover the full costs of carrying out the registration activities under this subtitle.

(f) NOTIFICATION.—

(1) EMPLOYER NOTIFICATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than once every year, an employer of H–2A workers shall provide the Secretary with the names and addresses of all foreign labor recruiters engaged to perform foreign labor recruiting activity on behalf of the employer, whether the foreign labor recruiter is to receive any economic compensation for such services, and, if so, the identity of the person or entity who is paying for the services.

(B) AGREEMENT TO COOPERATE.—In addition to the requirements of subparagraph (A), the employer shall—

(i) provide to the Secretary the identity of any foreign labor recruiter whom the employer has reason to believe is engaging in foreign labor recruiting activities that do not comply with this subtitle; and

(ii) promptly respond to any request by the Secretary for information regarding the identity of a foreign labor recruiter with whom the employer has a contract or other agreement.

(2) FOREIGN LABOR RECRUITER NOTIFICATION.—A registered foreign labor recruiter shall notify the Secretary, not less frequently than once every year, of the identity of any subcontractee, agent, or foreign labor recruiter employee involved in any foreign labor recruiting activity for, or on behalf of, the foreign labor recruiter.

(g) ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE.—

(1) LISTS.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor shall maintain and make publicly available in written form and on the websites of United States embassies in the official language of that country, and on websites maintained by the Secretary of Labor, regularly updated lists—

(A) of foreign labor recruiters who hold valid registrations under this section, including—

(i) the name and address of the foreign labor recruiter;

(ii) the countries in which such recruiters conduct recruitment;

(iii) the employers for whom recruiting is conducted;

(iv) the occupations that are the subject of recruitment;

(v) the States where recruited workers are employed; and

(vi) the name and address of the registered agent in the United States who is authorized to accept service of process on behalf of the foreign labor recruiter; and

(B) of foreign labor recruiters whose registration the Secretary has revoked.

(2) PERSONNEL.—The Secretary of State shall ensure that each United States diplomatic mission is staffed with a person who shall be responsible for receiving information from members of the public regarding potential violations of the requirements applicable to registered foreign labor recruiters and ensuring that such information is conveyed to the Secretary of Labor for evaluation and initiation of an enforcement action, if appropriate.

(3) VISA APPLICATION PROCEDURES.—The Secretary shall ensure that consular officers issuing visas to nonimmigrants under section 101(a)(1)(H)(ii)(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 11001(a)(1)(H)(ii)(a))—

(A) provide to and review with the applicant, in the applicant's language (or a language the applicant understands), a copy of the information and resources pamphlet required by section 202 of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1375b);

(B) ensure that the applicant has a copy of the approved job offer or work contract;

(C) note in the visa application file whether the foreign labor recruiter has a valid registration under this section; and

(D) if the foreign labor recruiter holds a valid registration, review and include in the visa application file, the foreign labor recruiter's disclosures required by subsection (c)(3).

(4) DATA.—The Secretary of State shall make publicly available online, on an annual basis, data disclosing the gender, country of origin (and State, county, or province, if available), age, wage, level of training, and occupational classification, disaggregated by State, of nonimmigrant workers described in section 101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

SEC. 252. ENFORCEMENT.

(a) DENIAL OR REVOCATION OF REGISTRATION.—

(1) GROUNDS FOR DENIAL OR REVOCATION.—The Secretary shall deny an application for registration, or revoke a registration, if the Secretary determines that the foreign labor recruiter, or any agent or subcontractee of such foreign labor recruiter—

(A) knowingly made a material misrepresentation in the registration application;

(B) materially failed to comply with one or more of the attestations provided under section 251(c); or

(C) is not the real party in interest.

(2) NOTICE.—Prior to denying an application for registration or revoking a registration under this subsection, the Secretary shall provide written notice of the intent to deny or revoke the registration to the foreign labor recruiter. Such notice shall—

(A) articulate with specificity all grounds for denial or revocation; and

(B) provide the foreign labor recruiter with not less than 60 days to respond.

(3) RE-REGISTRATION.—A foreign labor recruiter whose registration was revoked under subsection (a) may re-register if the foreign labor recruiter demonstrates to the Secretary's satisfaction that the foreign labor recruiter has not violated this subtitle in the 5 years preceding the date an application for registration is filed and has taken sufficient steps to prevent future violations of this subtitle.

(b) ADMINISTRATIVE ENFORCEMENT.—

(1) COMPLAINT PROCESS.—

(A) FILING.—A complaint may be filed with the Secretary of Labor, in accordance with the procedures established under section 251(b)(4) not later than 2 years after the earlier of—

(i) the date of the last action which constituted the conduct that is the subject of the complaint took place; or

(ii) the date on which the aggrieved party had actual knowledge of such conduct.

(B) DECISION AND PENALTIES.—If the Secretary of Labor finds, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing, that a foreign labor recruiter failed to comply with any of the requirements of this subtitle, the Secretary of Labor may—

(i) levy a fine against the foreign labor recruiter in an amount not more than—

(I) $10,000 per violation; and

(II) $25,000 per violation, upon the third violation;

(ii) order the forfeiture (or partial forfeiture) of the bond and release of as much of the bond as the Secretary determines is necessary for the worker to recover prohibited recruitment fees;

(iii) refuse to issue or renew a registration, or revoke a registration; or

(iv) disqualify the foreign labor recruiter from registration for a period of up to 5 years, or in the case of a subsequent finding involving willful or multiple material violations, permanently disqualify the foreign labor recruiter from registration.

(2) AUTHORITY TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE.—The Secretary of Labor is authorized to take other such actions, including issuing subpoenas and seeking appropriate injunctive relief, as may be necessary to assure compliance with the terms and conditions of this subtitle.

(3) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed as limiting the authority of the Secretary of Labor to conduct an investigation—

(A) under any other law, including any law affecting migrant and seasonal agricultural workers; or

(B) in the absence of a complaint.

(c) CIVIL ACTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor or any person aggrieved by a violation of this subtitle may bring a civil action against any foreign labor recruiter, or any employer that does not meet the requirements under subsection (d)(1), in any court of competent jurisdiction—

(A) to seek remedial action, including injunctive relief; and

(B) for damages in accordance with the provisions of this subsection.

(2) AWARD FOR CIVIL ACTION FILED BY AN INDIVIDUAL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If the court finds in a civil action filed by an individual under this section that the defendant has violated any provision of this subtitle, the court may award—

(i) damages, up to and including an amount equal to the amount of actual damages, and statutory damages of up to $1,000 per plaintiff per violation, or other equitable relief, except that with respect to statutory damages—

(I) multiple infractions of a single provision of this subtitle (or of a regulation under this subtitle) shall constitute only one violation for purposes of this subsection to determine the amount of statutory damages due a plaintiff; and

(II) if such complaint is certified as a class action the court may award—

(aa) damages up to an amount equal to the amount of actual damages; and

(bb) statutory damages of not more than the lesser of up to $1,000 per class member per violation, or up to $500,000; and other equitable relief;

(ii) reasonable attorneys' fees and costs; and

(iii) such other and further relief as necessary to effectuate the purposes of this subtitle.

(B) CRITERIA.—In determining the amount of statutory damages to be awarded under subparagraph (A), the court is authorized to consider whether an attempt was made to resolve the issues in dispute before the resort to litigation.

(C) BOND.—To satisfy the damages, fees, and costs found owing under this paragraph, the Secretary shall release as much of the bond held pursuant to section 251(c)(4) as necessary.

(3) SUMS RECOVERED IN ACTIONS BY THE SECRETARY OF LABOR.—

(A) ESTABLISHMENT OF ACCOUNT.—There is established in the general fund of the Treasury a separate account, which shall be known as the ''H–2A Foreign Labor Recruiter Compensation Account''. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, there shall be deposited as offsetting receipts into the account, all sums recovered in an action by the Secretary of Labor under this subsection.

(B) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts deposited into the H–2A Foreign Labor Recruiter Compensation Account and shall be paid directly to each worker affected. Any such sums not paid to a worker because of inability to do so within a period of 5 years following the date such funds are deposited into the account shall remain available to the Secretary until expended. The Secretary may transfer all or a portion of such remaining sums to appropriate agencies to support the enforcement of the laws prohibiting the trafficking and exploitation of persons or programs that aid trafficking victims.

(d) EMPLOYER SAFE HARBOR.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An employer that hires workers referred by a foreign labor recruiter with a valid registration at the time of hiring shall not be held jointly liable for a violation committed solely by a foreign labor recruiter under this subtitle—

(A) in any administrative action initiated by the Secretary concerning such violation; or

(B) in any Federal or State civil court action filed against the foreign labor recruiter by or on behalf of such workers or other aggrieved party under this subtitle.

(2) CLARIFICATION.—Nothing in this subtitle shall be construed to prohibit an aggrieved party or parties from bringing a civil action for violations of this subtitle or any other Federal or State law against any employer who hired workers referred by a foreign labor recruiter—

(A) without a valid registration at the time of hire; or

(B) with a valid registration if the employer knew or learned of the violation and failed to report such violation to the Secretary.

(e) PAROLE TO PURSUE RELIEF.—If other immigration relief is not available, the Secretary of Homeland Security may grant parole to permit an individual to remain legally in the United States for time sufficient to fully and effectively participate in all legal proceedings related to any action taken pursuant to subsection (b) or (c).

(f) WAIVER OF RIGHTS.—Agreements by employees purporting to waive or to modify their rights under this subtitle shall be void as contrary to public policy.

(g) LIABILITY FOR AGENTS.—Foreign labor recruiters shall be subject to the provisions of this section for violations committed by the foreign labor recruiter's agents or subcontractees of any level in relation to their foreign labor recruiting activity to the same extent as if the foreign labor recruiter had committed the violation.

SEC. 253. APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for the Secretary of Labor and Secretary of State to carry out the provisions of this subtitle.

SEC. 254. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this subtitle:

(1) FOREIGN LABOR RECRUITER.—The term ''foreign labor recruiter'' means any person who performs foreign labor recruiting activity in exchange for money or other valuable consideration paid or promised to be paid, to recruit individuals to work as nonimmigrant workers described in section 101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(a)), including any person who performs foreign labor recruiting activity wholly outside of the United States. Such term does not include any entity of the United States Government or an employer, or employee of an employer, who engages in foreign labor recruiting activity solely to find employees for that employer's own use, and without the participation of any other foreign labor recruiter.

(2) FOREIGN LABOR RECRUITING ACTIVITY.—The term ''foreign labor recruiting activity'' means recruiting, soliciting, or related activities with respect to an individual who resides outside of the United States in furtherance of employment in the United States, including when such activity occurs wholly outside of the United States.

(3) RECRUITMENT FEES.—The term ''recruitment fees'' has the meaning given to such term under section 22.1702 of title 22 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(4) PERSON.—The term ''person'' means any natural person or any corporation, company, firm, partnership, joint stock company or association or other organization or entity (whether organized under law or not), including municipal corporations.

TITLE III—ELECTRONIC VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY

SEC. 301. ELECTRONIC EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 8 of title II of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1321 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 274D the following:

''SEC. 274E. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ELECTRONIC VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY.

''(a) EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION SYSTEM.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security (referred to in this section as the 'Secretary') shall establish and administer an electronic verification system (referred to in this section as the 'System'), patterned on the E–Verify Program described in section 403(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note) (as in effect on the day before the effective date described in section 303(a)(4) of the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2021), and using the employment eligibility confirmation system established under section 404 of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a note) (as so in effect) as a foundation, through which the Secretary shall—

''(A) respond to inquiries made by persons or entities seeking to verify the identity and employment authorization of individuals that such persons or entities seek to hire, or to recruit or refer for a fee, for employment in the United States; and

''(B) maintain records of the inquiries that were made, and of verifications provided (or not provided) to such persons or entities as evidence of compliance with the requirements of this section.

''(2) INITIAL RESPONSE DEADLINE.—The System shall provide confirmation or a tentative nonconfirmation of an individual's identity and employment authorization as soon as practicable, but not later than 3 calendar days after the initial inquiry.

''(3) GENERAL DESIGN AND OPERATION OF SYSTEM.—The Secretary shall design and operate the System—

''(A) using responsive web design and other technologies to maximize its ease of use and accessibility for users on a variety of electronic devices and screen sizes, and in remote locations;

''(B) to maximize the accuracy of responses to inquiries submitted by persons or entities;

''(C) to maximize the reliability of the System and to register each instance when the System is unable to receive inquiries;

''(D) to protect the privacy and security of the personally identifiable information maintained by or submitted to the System;

''(E) to provide direct notification of an inquiry to an individual with respect to whom the inquiry is made, including the results of such inquiry, and information related to the process for challenging the results, in cases in which the individual has established a user account as described in paragraph (4)(B) or an electronic mail address for the individual is submitted by the person or entity at the time the inquiry is made; and

''(F) to maintain appropriate administrative, technical, and physical safeguards to prevent misuse of the System and unfair immigration-related employment practices.

''(4) MEASURES TO PREVENT IDENTITY THEFT AND OTHER FORMS OF FRAUD.—To prevent identity theft and other forms of fraud, the Secretary shall design and operate the System with the following attributes:

''(A) PHOTO MATCHING TOOL.—The System shall display the digital photograph of the individual, if any, that corresponds to the document presented by an individual to establish identity and employment authorization so that the person or entity that makes an inquiry can compare the photograph displayed by the System to the photograph on the document presented by the individual.

''(B) INDIVIDUAL MONITORING AND SUSPENSION OF IDENTIFYING INFORMATION.—The System shall enable individuals to establish user accounts, after authentication of an individual's identity, that would allow an individual to—

''(i) confirm the individual's own employment authorization;

''(ii) receive electronic notification when the individual's social security account number or

other personally identifying information has been submitted to the System;

''(iii) monitor the use history of the individual's personally identifying information in the System, including the identities of all persons or entities that have submitted such identifying information to the System, the date of each query run, and the System response for each query run;

''(iv) suspend or limit the use of the individual's social security account number or other personally identifying information for purposes of the System; and

''(v) provide notice to the Department of Homeland Security of any suspected identity fraud or other improper use of personally identifying information.

''(C) BLOCKING MISUSED SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NUMBERS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social Security (referred to in this section as the 'Commissioner'), shall develop, after publication in the Federal Register and an opportunity for public comment, a process in which social security account numbers that have been identified to be subject to unusual multiple use in the System or that are otherwise suspected or determined to have been compromised by identity fraud or other misuse, shall be blocked from use in the System unless the individual using such number is able to establish, through secure and fair procedures, that the individual is the legitimate holder of the number.

''(ii) NOTICE.—If the Secretary blocks or suspends a social security account number under this subparagraph, the Secretary shall provide notice to the persons or entities that have made inquiries to the System using such account number that the identity and employment authorization of the individual who provided such account number must be re-verified.

''(D) ADDITIONAL IDENTITY AUTHENTICATION TOOL.—The Secretary shall develop, after publication in the Federal Register and an opportunity for public comment, additional security measures to adequately verify the identity of an individual whose identity may not be verified using the photo tool described in subparagraph (A). Such additional security measures—

''(i) shall be kept up-to-date with technological advances; and

''(ii) shall be designed to provide a high level of certainty with respect to identity authentication.

''(E) CHILD-LOCK PILOT PROGRAM.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Commissioner, shall establish a reliable, secure program through which parents or legal guardians may suspend or limit the use of the social security account number or other personally identifying information of a minor under their care for purposes of the System. The Secretary may implement the program on a limited pilot basis before making it fully available to all individuals.

''(5) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY.—The Commissioner, in consultation with the Secretary, shall establish a reliable, secure method, which, within the time periods specified in paragraph (2) and subsection (b)(4)(D)(i)(II), compares the name and social security account number provided in an inquiry against such information maintained by the Commissioner in order to validate (or not validate) the information provided by the person or entity with respect to an individual whose identity and employment authorization the person or entity seeks to confirm, the correspondence of the name and number, and whether the individual has presented a social security account number that is not valid for employment. The Commissioner shall not disclose or release social security information (other than such confirmation or nonconfirmation) under the System except as provided under this section.

''(6) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall establish a reliable, secure method, which, within the time periods specified in paragraph (2) and subsection (b)(4)(D)(i)(II), compares the name and identification or other authorization number (or any other information determined relevant by the Secretary) which are provided in an inquiry against such information maintained or accessed by the Secretary in order to validate (or not validate) the information provided, the correspondence of the name and number, and whether the individual is authorized to be employed in the United States.

''(B) TRAINING.—The Secretary shall provide and regularly update training materials on the use of the System for persons and entities making inquiries.

''(C) AUDIT.—The Secretary shall provide for periodic auditing of the System to detect and prevent misuse, discrimination, fraud, and identity theft, to protect privacy and assess System accuracy, and to preserve the integrity and security of the information in the System.

''(D) NOTICE OF SYSTEM CHANGES.—The Secretary shall provide appropriate notification to persons and entities registered in the System of any change made by the Secretary or the Commissioner related to permitted and prohibited documents, and use of the System.

''(7) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE.—As part of the System, the Secretary of State shall provide to the Secretary of Homeland Security access to passport and visa information as needed to confirm that a passport or passport card presented under subsection (b)(3)(A)(i) confirms the employment authorization and identity of the individual presenting such document, and that a passport, passport card, or visa photograph matches the Secretary of State's records, and shall provide such assistance as the Secretary of Homeland Security may request in order to resolve tentative nonconfirmations or final nonconfirmations relating to such information.

''(8) UPDATING INFORMATION.—The Commissioner, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Secretary of State shall update records in their custody in a manner that promotes maximum accuracy of the System and shall provide a process for the prompt correction of erroneous information, including instances in which it is brought to their attention through the tentative nonconfirmation review process under subsection (b)(4)(D).

''(9) MANDATORY AND VOLUNTARY SYSTEM USES.—

''(A) MANDATORY USERS.—Except as otherwise provided under Federal or State law, such as sections 302 and 303 of the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2021, nothing in this section shall be construed as requiring the use of the System by any person or entity hiring, recruiting, or referring for a fee, an individual for employment in the United States.

''(B) VOLUNTARY USERS.—Beginning after the date that is 30 days after the date on which final rules are published under section 309(a) of the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2021, a person or entity may use the System on a voluntary basis to seek verification of the identity and employment authorization of individuals the person or entity is hiring, recruiting, or referring for a fee for employment in the United States.

''(C) PROCESS FOR NON-USERS.—The employment verification process for any person or entity hiring, recruiting, or referring for a fee, an individual for employment in the United States shall be governed by section 274A(b) unless the person or entity—

''(i) is required by Federal or State law to use the System; or

''(ii) has opted to use the System voluntarily in accordance with subparagraph (B).

''(10) NO FEE FOR USE.—The Secretary may not charge a fee to an individual, person, or entity related to the use of the System.

''(b) NEW HIRES, RECRUITMENT, AND REFERRAL.—Notwithstanding section 274A(b), the requirements referred to in paragraphs (1)(B) and (3) of section 274A(a) are, in the case of a person or entity that uses the System for the hiring, recruiting, or referring for a fee, an individual for employment in the United States, the following:

''(1) INDIVIDUAL ATTESTATION OF EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION.—During the period beginning on the date on which an offer of employment is accepted and ending on the date of hire, the individual shall attest, under penalty of perjury on a form designated by the Secretary, that the individual is authorized to be employed in the United States by providing on such form—

''(A) the individual's name and date of birth;

''(B) the individual's social security account number (unless the individual has applied for and not yet been issued such a number);

''(C) whether the individual is—

''(i) a citizen or national of the United States;

''(ii) an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence; or

''(iii) an alien who is otherwise authorized by the Secretary to be hired, recruited, or referred for employment in the United States; and

''(D) if the individual does not attest to United States citizenship or nationality, such identification or other authorization number established by the Department of Homeland Security for the alien as the Secretary may specify.

''(2) EMPLOYER ATTESTATION AFTER EXAMINATION OF DOCUMENTS.—Not later than 3 business days after the date of hire, the person or entity shall attest, under penalty of perjury on the form designated by the Secretary for purposes of paragraph (1), that it has verified that the individual is not an unauthorized alien by—

''(A) obtaining from the individual the information described in paragraph (1) and recording such information on the form;

''(B) examining—

''(i) a document described in paragraph (3)(A); or

''(ii) a document described in paragraph (3)(B) and a document described in paragraph (3)(C); and

''(C) attesting that the information recorded on the form is consistent with the documents examined.

''(3) ACCEPTABLE DOCUMENTS.—

''(A) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION AND IDENTITY.—A document described in this subparagraph is an individual's—

''(i) United States passport or passport card;

''(ii) permanent resident card that contains a photograph;

''(iii) foreign passport containing temporary evidence of lawful permanent residence in the form of an official I–551 (or successor) stamp from the Department of Homeland Security or a printed notation on a machine-readable immigrant visa;

''(iv) unexpired employment authorization card that contains a photograph;

''(v) in the case of a nonimmigrant alien authorized to engage in employment for a specific employer incident to status, a foreign passport with Form I–94, Form I–94A, or other documentation as designated by the Secretary specifying the alien's nonimmigrant status as long as such status has not yet expired and the proposed employment is not in conflict with any restrictions or limitations identified in the documentation;

''(vi) passport from the Federated States of Micronesia or the Republic of the Marshall Islands with Form I–94, Form I–94A, or other documentation as designated by the Secretary, indicating nonimmigrant admission under the Compact of Free Association Between the United States and the Federated States of Micronesia or the Republic of the Marshall Islands; or

''(vii) other document designated by the Secretary, by notice published in the Federal Register, if the document—

''(I) contains a photograph of the individual, biometric identification data, and other personal identifying information relating to the individual;

''(II) is evidence of authorization for employment in the United States; and

''(III) contains security features to make it resistant to tampering, counterfeiting, and fraudulent use.

''(B) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION.—A document described in this subparagraph is—

''(i) an individual's social security account number card (other than such a card which specifies on the face that the issuance of the card does not authorize employment in the United States); or

''(ii) a document establishing employment authorization that the Secretary determines, by notice published in the Federal Register, to be acceptable for purposes of this subparagraph, provided that such documentation contains security features to make it resistant to tampering, counterfeiting, and fraudulent use.

''(C) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING IDENTITY.—A document described in this subparagraph is—

''(i) an individual's driver's license or identification card if it was issued by a State or one of the outlying possessions of the United States and contains a photograph and personal identifying information relating to the individual;

''(ii) an individual's unexpired United States military identification card;

''(iii) an individual's unexpired Native American tribal identification document issued by a tribal entity recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs;

''(iv) in the case of an individual under 18 years of age, a parent or legal guardian's attestation under penalty of law as to the identity and age of the individual; or

''(v) a document establishing identity that the Secretary determines, by notice published in the Federal Register, to be acceptable for purposes of this subparagraph, if such documentation contains a photograph of the individual, biometric identification data, and other personal identifying information relating to the individual, and security features to make it resistant to tampering, counterfeiting, and fraudulent use.

''(D) AUTHORITY TO PROHIBIT USE OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS.—If the Secretary finds that any document or class of documents described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) does not reliably establish identity or employment authorization or is being used fraudulently to an unacceptable degree, the Secretary may, by notice published in the Federal Register, prohibit or place conditions on the use of such document or class of documents for purposes of this section.

''(4) USE OF THE SYSTEM TO SCREEN IDENTITY AND EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a person or entity that uses the System for the hiring, recruiting, or referring for a fee an individual for employment in the United States, during the period described in subparagraph (B), the person or entity shall submit an inquiry through the System described in subsection (a) to seek verification of the identity and employment authorization of the individual.

''(B) VERIFICATION PERIOD.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), and subject to subsection (d), the verification period shall begin on the date of hire and end on the date that is 3 business days after the date of hire, or such other reasonable period as the Secretary may prescribe.

''(ii) SPECIAL RULE.—In the case of an alien who is authorized to be employed in the United States and who provides evidence from the Social Security Administration that the alien has applied for a social security account number, the verification period shall end 3 business days after the alien receives the social security account number.

''(C) CONFIRMATION.—If a person or entity receives confirmation of an individual's identity and employment authorization, the person or entity shall record such confirmation on the form designated by the Secretary for purposes of paragraph (1).

''(D) TENTATIVE NONCONFIRMATION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—In cases of tentative nonconfirmation, the Secretary shall provide, in consultation with the Commissioner, a process for—

''(I) an individual to contest the tentative nonconfirmation not later than 10 business days after the date of the receipt of the notice described in clause (ii); and

''(II) the Secretary to issue a confirmation or final nonconfirmation of an individual's identity and employment authorization not later than 30 calendar days after the Secretary receives notice from the individual contesting a tentative nonconfirmation.

''(ii) NOTICE.—If a person or entity receives a tentative nonconfirmation of an individual's identity or employment authorization, the person or entity shall, not later than 3 business days after receipt, notify such individual in writing in a language understood by the individual and on a form designated by the Secretary, that shall include a description of the individual's right to contest the tentative nonconfirmation. The person or entity shall attest, under penalty of perjury, that the person or entity provided (or attempted to provide) such notice to the individual, and the individual shall acknowledge receipt of such notice in a manner specified by the Secretary.

''(iii) NO CONTEST.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—A tentative nonconfirmation shall become final if, upon receiving the notice described in clause (ii), the individual—

''(aa) refuses to acknowledge receipt of such notice;

''(bb) acknowledges in writing, in a manner specified by the Secretary, that the individual will not contest the tentative nonconfirmation; or

''(cc) fails to contest the tentative nonconfirmation within the 10-business-day period beginning on the date the individual received such notice.

''(II) RECORD OF NO CONTEST.—The person or entity shall indicate in the System that the individual did not contest the tentative nonconfirmation and shall specify the reason the tentative nonconfirmation became final under subclause (I).

''(III) EFFECT OF FAILURE TO CONTEST.—An individual's failure to contest a tentative nonconfirmation shall not be considered an admission of any fact with respect to any violation of this Act or any other provision of law.

''(iv) CONTEST.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—An individual may contest a tentative nonconfirmation by using the tentative nonconfirmation review process under clause (i), not later than 10 business days after receiving the notice described in clause (ii). Except as provided in clause (iii), the nonconfirmation shall remain tentative until a confirmation or final nonconfirmation is provided by the System.

''(II) PROHIBITION ON TERMINATION.—In no case shall a person or entity terminate employment or take any adverse employment action against an individual for failure to obtain confirmation of the individual's identity and employment authorization until the person or entity receives a notice of final nonconfirmation from the System. Nothing in this subclause shall prohibit an employer from terminating the employment of the individual for any other lawful reason.

''(III) CONFIRMATION OR FINAL NONCONFIRMATION.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Commissioner, shall issue notice of a confirmation or final nonconfirmation of the individual's identity and employment authorization not later than 30 calendar days after the date the Secretary receives notice from the individual contesting the tentative nonconfirmation.

''(E) FINAL NONCONFIRMATION.—

''(i) NOTICE.—If a person or entity receives a final nonconfirmation of an individual's identity or employment authorization, the person or entity shall, not later than 3 business days after receipt, notify such individual of the final nonconfirmation in writing, on a form designated by the Secretary, which shall include information regarding the individual's right to appeal the final nonconfirmation as provided under subparagraph (F). The person or entity shall attest, under penalty of perjury, that the person or entity provided (or attempted to provide) the notice to the individual, and the individual shall acknowledge receipt of such notice in a manner designated by the Secretary.

''(ii) TERMINATION OR NOTIFICATION OF CONTINUED EMPLOYMENT.—If a person or entity receives a final nonconfirmation regarding an individual, the person or entity may terminate employment of the individual. If the person or entity does not terminate such employment pending appeal of the final nonconfirmation, the person or entity shall notify the Secretary of such fact through the System. Failure to notify the Secretary in accordance with this clause shall be deemed a violation of section 274A(a)(1)(A).

''(iii) PRESUMPTION OF VIOLATION FOR CONTINUED EMPLOYMENT.—If a person or entity continues to employ an individual after receipt of a final nonconfirmation, there shall be a rebuttable presumption that the person or entity has violated paragraphs (1)(A) and (a)(2) of section 274A(a).

''(F) APPEAL OF FINAL NONCONFIRMATION.—

''(i) ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Commissioner, shall develop a process by which an individual may seek administrative review of a final nonconfirmation. Such process shall—

''(I) permit the individual to submit additional evidence establishing identity or employment authorization;

''(II) ensure prompt resolution of an appeal (but in no event shall there be a failure to respond to an appeal within 30 days); and

''(III) permit the Secretary to impose a civil money penalty (not to exceed $500) on an individual upon finding that an appeal was frivolous or filed for purposes of delay.

''(ii) COMPENSATION FOR LOST WAGES RESULTING FROM GOVERNMENT ERROR OR OMISSION.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—If, upon consideration of an appeal of a final nonconfirmation, the Secretary determines that the final nonconfirmation was issued in error, the Secretary shall further determine whether the final nonconfirmation was the result of government error or omission. If the Secretary determines that the final nonconfirmation was solely the result of government error or omission and the individual was terminated from employment, the Secretary shall compensate the individual for lost wages.

''(II) CALCULATION OF LOST WAGES.—Lost wages shall be calculated based on the wage rate and work schedule that were in effect prior to the individual's termination. The individual shall be compensated for lost wages beginning on the first scheduled work day after employment was terminated and ending 90 days after completion of the administrative review process described in this subparagraph or the day the individual is reinstated or obtains other employment, whichever occurs first.

''(III) LIMITATION ON COMPENSATION.—No compensation for lost wages shall be awarded for any period during which the individual was not authorized for employment in the United States.

''(IV) SOURCE OF FUNDS.—There is established in the general fund of the Treasury, a separate account which shall be known as the 'Electronic Verification Compensation Account'. Fees collected under subsections (f) and (g) shall be deposited in the Electronic Verification Compensation Account and shall remain available for purposes of providing compensation for lost wages under this subclause.

''(iii) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Not later than 30 days after the dismissal of an appeal under this subparagraph, an individual may seek judicial

review of such dismissal in the United States District Court in the jurisdiction in which the employer resides or conducts business.

''(5) RETENTION OF VERIFICATION RECORDS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—After completing the form designated by the Secretary in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2), the person or entity shall retain the form in paper, microfiche, microfilm, electronic, or other format deemed acceptable by the Secretary, and make it available for inspection by officers of the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, or the Department of Labor during the period beginning on the date the verification is completed and ending on the later of—

''(i) the date that is 3 years after the date of hire; or

''(ii) the date that is 1 year after the date on which the individual's employment is terminated.

''(B) COPYING OF DOCUMENTATION PERMITTED.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person or entity may copy a document presented by an individual pursuant to this section and may retain the copy, but only for the purpose of complying with the requirements of this section.

''(c) REVERIFICATION OF PREVIOUSLY HIRED INDIVIDUALS.—

''(1) MANDATORY REVERIFICATION.—In the case of a person or entity that uses the System for the hiring, recruiting, or referring for a fee an individual for employment in the United States, the person or entity shall submit an inquiry using the System to verify the identity and employment authorization of—

''(A) an individual with a limited period of employment authorization, within 3 business days before the date on which such employment authorization expires; and

''(B) an individual, not later than 10 days after receiving a notification from the Secretary requiring the verification of such individual pursuant to subsection (a)(4)(C).

''(2) REVERIFICATION PROCEDURES.—The verification procedures under subsection (b) shall apply to reverifications under this subsection, except that employers shall—

''(A) use a form designated by the Secretary for purposes of this paragraph; and

''(B) retain the form in paper, microfiche, microfilm, electronic, or other format deemed acceptable by the Secretary, and make it available for inspection by officers of the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, or the Department of Labor during the period beginning on the date the reverification commences and ending on the later of—

''(i) the date that is 3 years after the date of reverification; or

''(ii) the date that is 1 year after the date on which the individual's employment is terminated.

''(3) LIMITATION ON REVERIFICATION.—Except as provided in paragraph (1), a person or entity may not otherwise reverify the identity and employment authorization of a current employee, including an employee continuing in employment.

''(d) GOOD FAITH COMPLIANCE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a person or entity that uses the System is considered to have complied with the requirements of this section notwithstanding a technical failure of the System, or other technical or procedural failure to meet such requirement if there was a good faith attempt to comply with the requirement.

''(2) EXCEPTION FOR FAILURE TO CORRECT AFTER NOTICE.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply if—

''(A) the failure is not de minimis;

''(B) the Secretary has provided notice to the person or entity of the failure, including an explanation as to why it is not de minimis;

''(C) the person or entity has been provided a period of not less than 30 days (beginning after the date of the notice) to correct the failure; and

''(D) the person or entity has not corrected the failure voluntarily within such period.

''(3) EXCEPTION FOR PATTERN OR PRACTICE VIOLATORS.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to a person or entity that has engaged or is engaging in a pattern or practice of violations of paragraph (1)(A) or (2) of section 274A(a).

''(4) DEFENSE.—In the case of a person or entity that uses the System for the hiring, recruiting, or referring for a fee an individual for employment in the United States, the person or entity shall not be liable to a job applicant, an employee, the Federal Government, or a State or local government, under Federal, State, or local criminal or civil law, for any employment-related action taken with respect to an employee in good-faith reliance on information provided by the System. Such person or entity shall be deemed to have established compliance with its obligations under this section, absent a showing by the Secretary, by clear and convincing evidence, that the employer had knowledge that an employee is an unauthorized alien.

''(e) LIMITATIONS.—

''(1) NO NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION CARD.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize, directly or indirectly, the issuance or use of national identification cards or the establishment of a national identification card.

''(2) USE OF RECORDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, nothing in this section shall be construed to permit or allow any department, bureau, or other agency of the United States Government to utilize any information, database, or other records assembled under this section for any purpose other than the verification of identity and employment authorization of an individual or to ensure the secure, appropriate, and non-discriminatory use of the System.

''(f) PENALTIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in this subsection, the provisions of subsections (e) through (g) of section 274A shall apply with respect to compliance with the provisions of this section and penalties for non-compliance for persons or entitles that use the System.

''(2) CEASE AND DESIST ORDER WITH CIVIL MONEY PENALTIES FOR HIRING, RECRUITING, AND REFERRAL VIOLATIONS.—Notwithstanding the civil money penalties set forth in section 274A(e)(4), with respect to a violation of paragraph (1)(A) or (2) of section 274A(a) by a person or entity that has hired, recruited, or referred for a fee, an individual for employment in the United States, a cease and desist order—

''(A) shall require the person or entity to pay a civil penalty in an amount, subject to subsection (d), of—

''(i) not less than $2,500 and not more than $5,000 for each unauthorized alien with respect to whom a violation of either such subsection occurred;

''(ii) not less than $5,000 and not more than $10,000 for each such alien in the case of a person or entity previously subject to one order under this paragraph; or

''(iii) not less than $10,000 and not more than $25,000 for each such alien in the case of a person or entity previously subject to more than one order under this paragraph; and

''(B) may require the person or entity to take such other remedial action as appropriate.

''(3) ORDER FOR CIVIL MONEY PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS.—With respect to a violation of section 274A(a)(1)(B), the order under this paragraph shall require the person or entity to pay a civil penalty in an amount, subject to paragraphs (4), (5), and (6), of not less than $1,000 and not more than $25,000 for each individual with respect to whom such violation occurred. Failure by a person or entity to utilize the System as required by law or providing information to the System that the person or entity knows or reasonably believes to be false, shall be treated as a violation of section 274A(a)(1)(A).

''(4) EXEMPTION FROM PENALTY FOR GOOD FAITH VIOLATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A person or entity that uses the System is presumed to have acted with knowledge for purposes of paragraphs (1)(A) and (2) of section 274A(a) if the person or entity fails to make an inquiry to verify the identity and employment authorization of the individual through the System.

''(B) GOOD FAITH EXEMPTION.—In the case of imposition of a civil penalty under paragraph (2)(A) with respect to a violation of paragraph (1)(A) or (2) of section 274A(a) for hiring or continuation of employment or recruitment or referral by a person or entity, and in the case of imposition of a civil penalty under paragraph (3) for a violation of section 274A(a)(1)(B) for hiring or recruitment or referral by a person or entity, the penalty otherwise imposed may be waived or reduced if the person or entity establishes that the person or entity acted in good faith.

''(5) MITIGATION ELEMENTS.—For purposes of paragraphs (2)(A) and (3), when assessing the level of civil money penalties, in addition to the good faith of the person or entity being charged, due consideration shall be given to the size of the business, the seriousness of the violation, whether or not the individual was an unauthorized alien, and the history of previous violations.

''(6) CRIMINAL PENALTY.—Notwithstanding section 274A(f)(1) and the provisions of any other Federal law relating to fine levels, any person or entity that is required to comply with the provisions of this section and that engages in a pattern or practice of violations of paragraph (1) or (2) of section 274A(a), shall be fined not more than $5,000 for each unauthorized alien with respect to whom such a violation occurs, imprisoned for not more than 18 months, or both.

''(7) ELECTRONIC VERIFICATION COMPENSATION ACCOUNT.—Civil money penalties collected under this subsection shall be deposited in the Electronic Verification Compensation Account for the purpose of compensating individuals for lost wages as a result of a final nonconfirmation issued by the System that was based on government error or omission, as set forth in subsection (b)(4)(F)(ii)(IV).

''(8) DEBARMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If a person or entity is determined by the Secretary to be a repeat violator of paragraph (1)(A) or (2) of section 274A(a) or is convicted of a crime under section 274A, such person or entity may be considered for debarment from the receipt of Federal contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements in accordance with the debarment standards and pursuant to the debarment procedures set forth in the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

''(B) NO CONTRACT, GRANT, AGREEMENT.—If the Secretary or the Attorney General wishes to have a person or entity considered for debarment in accordance with this paragraph, and such a person or entity does not hold a Federal contract, grant or cooperative agreement, the Secretary or Attorney General shall refer the matter to the Administrator of General Services to determine whether to list the person or entity on the List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement, and if so, for what duration and under what scope.

''(C) CONTRACT, GRANT, AGREEMENT.—If the Secretary or the Attorney General wishes to have a person or entity considered for debarment in accordance with this paragraph, and such person or entity holds a Federal contract, grant, or cooperative agreement, the Secretary or Attorney General shall advise all agencies or departments holding a contract, grant, or cooperative agreement with the person or entity of the Government's interest in having the person or entity considered for debarment, and after soliciting and considering the views of all such agencies and departments, the Secretary or Attorney General may refer the matter to the appropriate lead agency to determine whether to list the person or entity on the List of Parties

Excluded from Federal Procurement, and if so, for what duration and under what scope.

''(D) REVIEW.—Any decision to debar a person or entity in accordance with this subsection shall be reviewable pursuant to part 9.4 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

''(9) PREEMPTION.—The provisions of this section preempt any State or local law, ordinance, policy, or rule, including any criminal or civil fine or penalty structure, relating to the hiring, continued employment, or status verification for employment eligibility purposes, of unauthorized aliens, except that a State, locality, municipality, or political subdivision may exercise its authority over business licensing and similar laws as a penalty for failure to use the System as required under this section.

''(g) UNFAIR IMMIGRATION-RELATED EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES AND THE SYSTEM.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the prohibitions on discrimination set forth in section 274B, it is an unfair immigration-related employment practice for a person or entity, in the course of utilizing the System—

''(A) to use the System for screening an applicant prior to the date of hire;

''(B) to terminate the employment of an individual or take any adverse employment action with respect to that individual due to a tentative nonconfirmation issued by the System;

''(C) to use the System to screen any individual for any purpose other than confirmation of identity and employment authorization as provided in this section;

''(D) to use the System to verify the identity and employment authorization of a current employee, including an employee continuing in employment, other than reverification authorized under subsection (c);

''(E) to use the System to discriminate based on national origin or citizenship status;

''(F) to willfully fail to provide an individual with any notice required under this title;

''(G) to require an individual to make an inquiry under the self-verification procedures described in subsection (a)(4)(B) or to provide the results of such an inquiry as a condition of employment, or hiring, recruiting, or referring; or

''(H) to terminate the employment of an individual or take any adverse employment action with respect to that individual based upon the need to verify the identity and employment authorization of the individual as required by subsection (b).

''(2) PREEMPLOYMENT SCREENING AND BACKGROUND CHECK.—Nothing in paragraph (1)(A) shall be construed to preclude a preemployment screening or background check that is required or permitted under any other provision of law.

''(3) CIVIL MONEY PENALTIES FOR DISCRIMINATORY CONDUCT.—Notwithstanding section 274B(g)(2)(B)(iv), the penalties that may be imposed by an administrative law judge with respect to a finding that a person or entity has engaged in an unfair immigration-related employment practice described in paragraph (1) are—

''(A) not less than $1,000 and not more than $4,000 for each individual discriminated against;

''(B) in the case of a person or entity previously subject to a single order under this paragraph, not less than $4,000 and not more than $10,000 for each individual discriminated against; and

''(C) in the case of a person or entity previously subject to more than one order under this paragraph, not less than $6,000 and not more than $20,000 for each individual discriminated against.

''(4) ELECTRONIC VERIFICATION COMPENSATION ACCOUNT.—Civil money penalties collected under this subsection shall be deposited in the Electronic Verification Compensation Account for the purpose of compensating individuals for lost wages as a result of a final nonconfirmation issued by the System that was based on government error or omission, as set forth in subsection (b)(4)(F)(ii)(IV).

''(h) CLARIFICATION.—All rights and remedies provided under any Federal, State, or local law relating to workplace rights, including but not limited to back pay, are available to an employee despite—

''(1) the employee's status as an unauthorized alien during or after the period of employment; or

''(2) the employer's or employee's failure to comply with the requirements of this section.

''(i) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term 'date of hire' means the date on which employment for pay or other remuneration commences.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Immigration and Nationality Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 274D the following:

''Sec. 274E. Requirements for the electronic verification of employment eligibility.''.

SEC. 302. MANDATORY ELECTRONIC VERIFICATION FOR THE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The requirements for the electronic verification of identity and employment authorization described in section 274E of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as inserted by section 301 of this Act, shall apply to a person or entity hiring, recruiting, or referring for a fee an individual for agricultural employment in the United States in accordance with the effective dates set forth in subsection (b).

(b) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) HIRING.—Subsection (a) shall apply to a person or entity hiring an individual for agricultural employment in the United States as follows:

(A) With respect to employers having 500 or more employees in the United States on the date of the enactment of this Act, on the date that is 6 months after completion of the application period described in section 101(c).

(B) With respect to employers having 100 or more employees in the United States (but less than 500 such employees) on the date of the enactment of this Act, on the date that is 9 months after completion of the application period described in section 101(c).

(C) With respect to employers having 20 or more employees in the United States (but less than 100 such employees) on the date of the enactment of this Act, on the date that is 12 months after completion of the application period described in section 101(c).

(D) With respect to employers having one or more employees in the United States, (but less than 20 such employees) on the date of the enactment of this Act, on the date that is 15 months after completion of the application period described in section 101(c).

(2) RECRUITING AND REFERRING FOR A FEE.—Subsection (a) shall apply to a person or entity recruiting or referring for a fee an individual for agricultural employment in the United States on the date that is 12 months after completion of the application period described in section 101(c).

(3) TRANSITION RULE.—Except as required under subtitle A of title IV of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note) (as in effect on the day before the effective date described in section 303(a)(4)), Executive Order No. 13465 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note; relating to Government procurement), or any State law requiring persons or entities to use the E–Verify Program described in section 403(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note) (as in effect on the day before the effective date described in section 303(a)(4)), sections 274A and 274B of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a and 1324b) shall apply to a person or entity hiring, recruiting, or referring an individual for employment in the United States until the applicable effective date under this subsection.

(4) E–VERIFY VOLUNTARY USERS AND OTHERS DESIRING EARLY COMPLIANCE.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit persons or entities, including persons or entities that have voluntarily elected to participate in the E–Verify Program described in section 403(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note) (as in effect on the day before the effective date described in section 303(a)(4)), from seeking early compliance on a voluntary basis.

(5) DELAYED IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, may delay the effective dates described in paragraphs (1) and (2) for a period not to exceed 180 days if the Secretary determines, based on the most recent report described in section 133 and other relevant data, that a significant number of applications under section 101 remain pending.

(c) RURAL ACCESS TO ASSISTANCE FOR TENTATIVE NONCONFIRMATION REVIEW PROCESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall coordinate with the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social Security, to create a process for individuals to seek assistance in contesting a tentative nonconfirmation as described in section 274E(b)(4)(D) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as inserted by section 301 of this Act, at local offices or service centers of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

(2) STAFFING AND RESOURCES.—The Secretary of Homeland Security and Secretary of Agriculture shall ensure that local offices and service centers of the U.S. Department of Agriculture are staffed appropriately and have the resources necessary to provide information and support to individuals seeking the assistance described in paragraph (1), including by facilitating communication between such individuals and the Department of Homeland Security or the Social Security Administration.

(3) CLARIFICATION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to delegate authority or transfer responsibility for reviewing and resolving tentative nonconfirmations from the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Commissioner of Social Security to the Secretary of Agriculture.

(d) DOCUMENT ESTABLISHING EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION AND IDENTITY.—In accordance with section 274E(b)(3)(A)(vii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as inserted by section 301 of this Act, and not later than 12 months after the completion of the application period described in section 101(c) of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall recognize documentary evidence of certified agricultural worker status described in section 102(a)(2) of this Act as valid proof of employment authorization and identity for purposes of section 274E(b)(3)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as inserted by section 301 of this Act.

(e) AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT.—For purposes of this section, the term ''agricultural employment'' means agricultural labor or services, as defined by section 101(a)(15)(H)(ii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)(ii)), as amended by this Act.

SEC. 303. COORDINATION WITH E–VERIFY PROGRAM.

(a) REPEAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title IV of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note) is repealed.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections, in section 1(d) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, is amended by striking the items relating to subtitle A of title IV.

(3) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any Federal, State, or local law, Executive order, rule, regulation, or delegation of authority, or any document of, or pertaining to, the Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice, or the Social Security Administration, to the E–

Verify Program described in section 403(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note), or to the employment eligibility confirmation system established under section 404 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note), is deemed to refer to the employment eligibility confirmation system established under section 274E of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as inserted by section 301 of this Act.

(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection, and the amendments made by this subsection, shall take effect on the date that is 30 days after the date on which final rules are published under section 309(a).

(b) FORMER E–VERIFY MANDATORY USERS, INCLUDING FEDERAL CONTRACTORS.—Beginning on the effective date in subsection (a)(4), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall require employers required to participate in the E–Verify Program described in section 403(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note) by reason of any Federal, State, or local law, Executive order, rule, regulation, or delegation of authority, including employers required to participate in such program by reason of Federal acquisition laws (and regulations promulgated under those laws, including the Federal Acquisition Regulation), to comply with the requirements of section 274E of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as inserted by section 301 of this Act (and any additional requirements of such Federal acquisition laws and regulation) in lieu of any requirement to participate in the E–Verify Program.

(c) FORMER E–VERIFY VOLUNTARY USERS.—Beginning on the effective date in subsection (a)(4), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide for the voluntary compliance with the requirements of section 274E of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as inserted by section 301 of this Act, by employers voluntarily electing to participate in the E–Verify Program described in section 403(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note) before such date.

SEC. 304. FRAUD AND MISUSE OF DOCUMENTS.

Section 1546(b) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''identification document,'' and inserting ''identification document or document meant to establish employment authorization,'';

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ''identification document'' and inserting ''identification document or document meant to establish employment authorization,''; and

(3) in the matter following paragraph (3) by inserting ''or section 274E(b)'' after ''section 274A(b)''.

SEC. 305. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) UNLAWFUL EMPLOYMENT OF ALIENS.—Section 274A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(B)(ii) of subsection (a), by striking ''subsection (b).'' and inserting ''section 274B.''; and

(2) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) of subsection (b), by striking ''The requirements referred'' and inserting ''Except as provided in section 274E, the requirements referred''.

(b) UNFAIR IMMIGRATION-RELATED EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES.—Section 274B(a)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324b(a)(1)) is amended in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting ''including misuse of the verification system as described in section 274E(g)'' after ''referral for a fee,''.

SEC. 306. PROTECTION OF SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION PROGRAMS.

(a) FUNDING UNDER AGREEMENT.—Effective for fiscal years beginning on or after October 1, 2021, the Commissioner and the Secretary shall ensure that an agreement is in place which shall—

(1) provide funds to the Commissioner for the full costs of the responsibilities of the Commissioner with respect to employment eligibility verification, including under this title and the amendments made by this title, and including—

(A) acquiring, installing, and maintaining technological equipment and systems necessary for the fulfillment of such responsibilities, but only that portion of such costs that are attributable exclusively to such responsibilities; and

(B) responding to individuals who contest a tentative nonconfirmation or administratively appeal a final nonconfirmation provided with respect to employment eligibility verification;

(2) provide such funds annually in advance of the applicable quarter based on an estimating methodology agreed to by the Commissioner and the Secretary (except in such instances where the delayed enactment of an annual appropriation may preclude such quarterly payments); and

(3) require an annual accounting and reconciliation of the actual costs incurred and the funds provided under the agreement, which shall be reviewed by the Inspectors General of the Social Security Administration and the Department of Homeland Security.

(b) CONTINUATION OF EMPLOYMENT VERIFICATION IN ABSENCE OF TIMELY AGREEMENT.—In any case in which the agreement required under subsection (a) for any fiscal year beginning on or after October 1, 2021, has not been reached as of October 1 of such fiscal year, the latest agreement described in such subsection shall be deemed in effect on an interim basis for such fiscal year until such time as an agreement required under subsection (a) is subsequently reached, except that the terms of such interim agreement shall be modified to adjust for inflation and any increase or decrease in the volume of requests under the employment eligibility verification system. In any case in which an interim agreement applies for any fiscal year under this subsection, the Commissioner and the Secretary shall, not later than October 1 of such fiscal year, notify the Committee on Ways and Means, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate of the failure to reach the agreement required under subsection (a) for such fiscal year. Until such time as the agreement required under subsection (a) has been reached for such fiscal year, the Commissioner and the Secretary shall, not later than the end of each 90-day period after October 1 of such fiscal year, notify such Committees of the status of negotiations between the Commissioner and the Secretary in order to reach such an agreement.

SEC. 307. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ELECTRONIC EMPLOYMENT VERIFICATION SYSTEM.

Not later than 24 months after the date on which final rules are published under section 309(a), and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that includes the following:

(1) An assessment of the accuracy rates of the responses of the electronic employment verification system established under section 274E of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as inserted by section 301 of this Act (referred to in this section as the ''System''), including tentative and final nonconfirmation notices issued to employment-authorized individuals and confirmation notices issued to individuals who are not employment-authorized.

(2) An assessment of any challenges faced by persons or entities (including small employers) in utilizing the System.

(3) An assessment of any challenges faced by employment-authorized individuals who are issued tentative or final nonconfirmation notices.

(4) An assessment of the incidence of unfair immigration-related employment practices, as described in section 274E(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as inserted by section 301 of this Act, related to the use of the System.

(5) An assessment of the photo matching and other identity authentication tools, as described in section 274E(a)(4) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as inserted by section 301 of this Act, including—

(A) an assessment of the accuracy rates of such tools;

(B) an assessment of the effectiveness of such tools at preventing identity fraud and other misuse of identifying information;

(C) an assessment of any challenges faced by persons, entities, or individuals utilizing such tools; and

(D) an assessment of operation and maintenance costs associated with such tools.

(6) A summary of the activities and findings of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigrations Services E–Verify Monitoring and Compliance Branch, or any successor office, including—

(A) the number, types and outcomes of audits, investigations, and other compliance activities initiated by the Branch in the previous year;

(B) the capacity of the Branch to detect and prevent violations of section 274E(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as inserted by this Act; and

(C) an assessment of the degree to which persons and entities misuse the System, including—

(i) use of the System before an individual's date of hire;

(ii) failure to provide required notifications to individuals;

(iii) use of the System to interfere with or otherwise impede individuals' assertions of their rights under other laws; and

(iv) use of the System for unauthorized purposes; and

(7) An assessment of the impact of implementation of the System in the agricultural industry and the use of the verification system in agricultural industry hiring and business practices.

SEC. 308. MODERNIZING AND STREAMLINING THE EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION PROCESS.

Not later than 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Commissioner, shall submit to Congress a plan to modernize and streamline the employment eligibility verification process that shall include—

(1) procedures to allow persons and entities to verify the identity and employment authorization of newly hired individuals where the in-person, physical examination of identity and employment authorization documents is not practicable;

(2) a proposal to create a simplified employment verification process that allows employers that utilize the employment eligibility verification system established under section 274E of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as inserted by section 301 of this Act, to verify the identity and employment authorization of individuals without also having to complete and retain Form I–9, Employment Eligibility Verification, or any subsequent replacement form; and

(3) any other proposal that the Secretary determines would simplify the employment eligibility verification process without compromising the integrity or security of the system.

SEC. 309. RULEMAKING AND PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days prior to the end of the application period defined in section 101(c) of this Act, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register proposed rules implementing this title and the amendments made by this title. The Secretary shall finalize such rules not later than 180 days after the date of publication.

(b) PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The requirements under chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, (commonly known as the ''Paperwork Reduction

Act'') shall apply to any action to implement this title or the amendments made by this title.

(2) ELECTRONIC FORMS.—All forms designated or established by the Secretary that are necessary to implement this title and the amendments made by this title shall be made available in paper and electronic formats, and shall be designed in such a manner to facilitate electronic completion, storage, and transmittal.

(3) LIMITATION ON USE OF FORMS.—All forms designated or established by the Secretary that are necessary to implement this title, and the amendments made by this title, and any information contained in or appended to such forms, may not be used for purposes other than for enforcement of this Act and any other provision of Federal criminal law.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill, as amended, shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees.

The gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NADLER. 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 H.R. 1603.

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 2½ minutes.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 1603, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2021 addresses an issue of critical national importance: the growing labor challenges that are damaging the American agriculture sector.

Solving this issue is paramount to the sustainability of American farming. It is also a matter of food security, and thus, national security. As domestic food outputs decline, we have become more dependent on food imports and more vulnerable to food contamination. The COVID–19 pandemic exposed these vulnerabilities as travel restrictions impacted our food supply chain, and over 500,000 farmworkers tested positive for the virus.

With fewer U.S. workers turning to agricultural work as their chosen pursuit, most of today's hired farm laborers are foreign-born. Unfortunately, our immigration laws have not been updated to reflect the needs of our 21st century economy.

As a result of these outdated laws, undocumented workers now comprise about half of the U.S. workforce. But they are living and working in a state of uncertainty and fear, which contributes to the destabilization of farms across the Nation.

H.R. 1603, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act, addresses these challenges head on. The bill provides temporary status to current farmworkers with an optional path to a green card for those who continue to work in agriculture. The bill also addresses the Nation's future labor needs by modernizing the H–2A temporary visa program, while ensuring fair wages and workplace conditions for all farmworkers.

This is a bipartisan, balanced solution, one that we should all be able to get behind. It is a victory for farmers who have struggled with persistent labor shortages for decades.

It is also a victory for farmworkers who have worked tirelessly in the field growing and harvesting food without proper labor protections or any guarantee that they can remain in this country. No acceptable solution can fail to deal with this reality. That is why H.R. 1603 is the right solution.

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will vote today in favor of providing a seat at America's table for those who have long grown the food we serve on it.

Madam Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague, Ms. LOFGREN of California, the chair of the Immigration Subcommittee, for her leadership and steadfast commitment to the bipartisan process that led to today's vote on the Farm Workforce Modernization Act.

Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support our farmers and our farmworkers by supporting this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1430

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK), the ranking member of the Immigration and Citizenship Subcommittee.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, it was no accident that when we finally won control of the border and cut the flow of low-wage labor, Americans saw the strongest wage growth in 40 years, the lowest unemployment rate in 50 years, and the lowest poverty rate in 60 years. For the first time in decades, the wage gap between rich and poor narrowed.

Now, this bill extends amnesty, green cards, and a path to citizenship to somewhere between 1 and 2½ million illegal immigrants now working in agriculture and their families in a manner that will depress wages, not just in agriculture, but in every field of the economy for years to come.

Madam Speaker, if you obeyed the law and came here legally to work, then you cannot qualify as a certified agricultural worker. You must have come here illegally, and you must have worked here illegally for at least 1,035 hours in the last 2 years. That is about 13 40-hour workweeks a year. You get legal status for yourself and your family for the next 5½ years. You can get indefinite extensions as long as you work in agriculture 575 hours or about 14 weeks a year. If you do this for between 4 and 8 years and you get a green card, then your family gets green cards and you are on a 5-year path to citizenship. The green cards give you the right to work in direct competition with American workers in any sector of the economy.

Madam Speaker, let me emphasize that if you came here legally and worked the same hours, then you are out of luck. If you obeyed the laws, well, you are just a schmuck.

It utterly escapes me how America's working families are helped by flooding the labor market with millions of low-wage workers under this program. As these workers get green cards, they are sure to move from agriculture to high-paying jobs, ensuring a continuous need for new agricultural workers to replace them.

Between the two immigration bills today, somewhere north of 4 million illegal immigrants will qualify for amnesty, legal employment, and a path to citizenship as a reward for breaking our laws.

Is it any wonder that our Border Patrol is now completely overwhelmed as millions of economic refugees rush our border in expectation of the same rewards?

This bill would bring a tragic end to the blue-collar economic boom that President Trump proudly announced on this floor just a year ago. Here is the real tragedy: During the Trump blue-collar boom, the poorest Americans were making the greatest gains, and it is precisely these American families who will be the most harmed by these amnesty bills.

Trump had their back. Biden is on their backs.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN).

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, our country has come through a pandemic, and many of us have suffered, but there is one thing that we can be grateful for, and that is that the food chain was never disrupted.

Throughout the pandemic, we could go to the grocery store and there would be food in that store. For that, we need to thank the farmers of this country. But we also need to thank the farmworkers of this country, a majority of whom are undocumented and a majority of whom have been here more than 10 years.

What this bill does and how it was formed is important. I want to thank Representatives DAN NEWHOUSE, MIKE SIMPSON, DOUG LAMALFA, and many others on the Republican side of the aisle. I worked with JIM COSTA, JIMMY PANETTA, and many others to try to see if we could come together to come up with solutions for the challenges that we face in farm country.

We pulled together growers and the farmworkers union to talk together for solutions. It took us almost a year of growers and the farmworkers union, and Republicans and Democrats, sitting around a table to come up with this bill.

It has basically three provisions.

The first recognizes that we have had undocumented farmworkers in our

fields for decades. It allows them to get a certified agricultural worker card so that they can work without fear. That is a temporary worker status. They can renew it, travel, pay taxes, and continue forever in that status. After working for a long period of time, they and their families have the option of applying for legal permanent residence if they choose.

The second provision streamlines an existing program, the H–2A program, so that we will have a legal supply of farmworkers in the future. Both labor and employers agreed to those streamlines.

The final provision says that if we have a system that works, then we need to enforce that system. We are going to have the E-Verify system used in agriculture after this bill is fully implemented.

Who is in favor of this? The Arizona Nursery Association, California Farm Bureau Federation, Georgia Milk Producers, Michigan Greenhouse Growers Council, Minnesota Milk Producers Association, Ohio Produce Growers Marketing Association, Texas Association of Dairymen, and hundreds of other growers.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD a list of Farmers and Producers Associations supporting H.R. 1603.

[From the House Committee on the Judiciary]

OVER 250 FARMERS AND PRODUCERS ASSOCIATIONS SUPPORT H.R. 1603

African-American Farmers of California; Ag Valley Cooperative, Non-Stock; AgCountry Farm Credit Services; Agribusiness Henderson County (NC); Agricultural Council of California; Agri-Mark, Inc.; Alabama Farmers Cooperative, Inc.; Alabama Nursery and Landscape Association; Almond Alliance; Amalgamated Sugar Company; American AgCredit; American AgriWomen; American Beekeeping Federation; American Honey Producers Association; American Mushroom Institute; American Pistachio Growers; American Seed Trade Association; American Sheep Industry Association (ASI); AmericanHort; Arizona Dairy Producers Trade Association; Arizona Nursery Association; Associated Milk Producers Inc.; Aurora Organic Dairy; Bluebird Bonanza Farms; Bongards' Creameries; CalChamber.

California Apple Commission; California Association of Food Banks; California Association of Wheat Growers; California Avocado Commission; California Blueberry Association; California Blueberry Commission; California Canning Peach Association; California Cherry Growers and Industry Association; California Citrus Mutual; California Dairies, Inc.; California Date Commission; California Dried Plum Board; California Farm Bureau Federation; California Fig Advisory Board; California Fresh Fruit Association; California Pear Growers Association; California Seed Association; California State Floral Association; California Strawberry Commission; California Sweet Potato Council; California Tomato Growers Association; California Walnut Commission; California Warehouse Association.

California Women for Agriculture; Cayuga Milk Ingredients; Center for Dairy Excellence (Pennsylvania); Central Valley Ag Coop; Certified American Grown; Chobani; CHS Inc.; Co-Alliance Cooperative, Inc.; CoBank; Colorado Dairy Farmers; Colorado Nursery and Greenhouse Association; Colorado Potato Legislative Association; Cooperative Milk Producers Association; Cooperative Producers, Inc.; Costa Farms; Dairy Farmers of America, Inc.; Dairy Producers of New Mexico; Dairy Producers of Utah; Edge Dairy Farmer Cooperative; Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery; Empire State Potato Growers; Far West Agribusiness Association; Farm Credit East; Farmers Cooperative.

FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative; Federation of Employers and Workers of America; First District Association; Florida Agri-Women; Florida Citrus Mutual; Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association; Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association; Florida Strawberry Growers Association; Florida Tomato Exchange; Food Northwest; Food Producers of Idaho; Foremost Farms USA; Frenchman Valley Farmers Cooperative Inc.; Fresh Harvest/Steve Scaroni (CA); Fresno County Farm Bureau (CA); Georgia Green Industry Association; Georgia Milk Producers, Inc.; Georgia Urban Ag Council; Glanbia Nutritionals; Idaho Alfalfa/Clover Seed Commission; Idaho Alfalfa/Clover Seed Growers Association; Idaho Apple Commission; Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry; Idaho Bankers Association; Idaho Cattleman's Association.

Idaho Dairymen's Association; Idaho Grain Producers Association; Idaho Grower Shippers Association; Idaho Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; Idaho Hop Growers Association; Idaho Horticulture Society; Idaho Milk Products; Idaho Mint Growers Association; Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association; Idaho Onion Growers Association; Idaho Potato Commission; Idaho Sugarbeet Growers; Idaho-Oregon Fruit & Vegetable Association; Illinois Green Industry Association; Indiana Nursery and Landscape Association; Indiana Outdoor Maintenance Alliance; International Dairy Foods Association; Iowa Institute for Cooperatives; Iowa Nursery & Landscape Association; Iowa State Dairy Association; Kansas Dairy Association; Land O'Lakes, Inc.; Laurel Springs Nursery, LLC (NC); Leitz Farms LLC/Fred Leitz (MI); Lone Star Milk Producers; Madera County Farm Bureau (CA); Maine Landscape & Nursery Association; Maine Potato Board.

Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative Association; Maryland Nursery, Landscape, and Greenhouse Association, Inc.; Massachusetts Nursery and Landscape Association, Inc.; MBG Marketing; McCain USA Inc.; Michigan Apple Association; Michigan Greenhouse Growers Council; Michigan Milk Producers Association; Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association; Mid Kansas Cooperative; Midwest Apple Improvement Association; Midwest Dairy Coalition; Milk Producers Council; Milk Producers of Idaho; Minnesota Milk Producers Association; Minnesota Nursery & Landscape Association; Missouri Green Industry Alliance; Montana Nursery and Landscape Association; Monterey County Farm Bureau (CA); Mount Joy Farmers Cooperative Association; Napa Vinters Association; National All-Jersey Inc.; National Council of Agricultural Employers; National Council of Farmer Cooperatives; National Farmers Union; National Grange; National Milk Producers Federation.

National Onion Association; National Potato Council; National Young Farmers Coalition; Nebraska Cooperative Council; Nebraska State Dairy Association; New England Apple Council; New Jersey Landscape Contractors Association; New Jersey Nursery & Landscape Association; New Mexico Chapter, Colorado Nursery and Greenhouse Association; New York Apple Association; New York Farm Bureau; New York State Flower Industries; New York State Vegetable Growers Association; Nezperce Prairie Grass Growers Association; Nisei Farmers League; North American Blueberry Council; North Carolina Dairy Producers Association; North Carolina Nursery & Landscape Association; North Carolina Potato Association; Northeast Dairy Farmers Cooperatives; Northeast Dairy Producers Association, Inc.; Northern Family Farms LLP, Merrillan, WI; Northern Plains Potato Growers Association; Northwest Ag Cooperatives Council; Northwest Dairy Association/Darigold; Northwest Horticultural Council.

Ohio Apple Marketing Program; Ohio Dairy Producers Association; Ohio Fruit Growers Marketing Association; Ohio Landscape Association; Ohio Nursery & Landscape Association; Ohio Produce Growers Marketing Assocation; Oklahoma Nursery & Landscape Association; Olive Growers Council of California; Oneida-Madison Milk Producers Cooperative Association; Oregon Association of Nurseries; Oregon Dairy Farmers Association; Oregon Potato Commission; Pacific Northwest Christmas Tree Association; PennAg Industries Association; Pennsylvania Cooperative Potato Growers; Pennsylvania Landscape and Nursery Association; Plant California Alliance; Potato Growers of Michigan, Inc; Prairie Farms Dairy, Inc.; Professional Dairy Managers of Pennsylvania; Reiter Affiliated Companies; Rhode Island Nursery and Landscape Association; San Diego County Farm Bureau (CA); Scioto Cooperative Milk Producers' Association; Select Milk Producers, Inc.; Simplot; South Dakota Association of Cooperatives; South Dakota Dairy Producers; Southeast Milk Inc.; Southern States Cooperative; Stanislaus County Farm Bureau (CA).

Sunkist Growers, Inc.; Sunmaid Growers of California; Sunsweet Growers Inc.; Tennessee Farmers Cooperative; Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council; Texas Association of Dairymen; Texas Citrus Mutual; Texas Nursery & Landscape Association; Tillamook County Creamery Association; Tree Top; Tulare County Farm Bureau (CA); Turfgrass Producers International; U.S. Apple Association; U.S. Durum Growers Association; United Dairymen of Arizona; United Fresh Produce Association; United Potato Growers of America; Upstate Niagara Cooperative, Inc.; Utah Apple Marketing Board; Utah Horticulture Association; Utah Nursery & Landscape Association; Utah Tart Cherry Marketing Board.

Valley Fig Growers; Valley Vision (CA); Ventura County Agricultural Association (CA); Vermont Dairy Producers Alliance; Virginia Apple Growers Association; Virginia Nursery & Landscape Association; Virginia State Dairymen's Association; Washington Growers League; Washington State Dairy Federation; Washington State Nursery & Landscape Association; Washington State Potato Commission; Washington State Tree Fruit Association; West Virginia Nursery & Landscape Association; Western Growers Association; Western Plant Health Association; Western States Dairy Producers Association; Western United Dairies; Wine Institute; WineAmerica; Wisconsin Landscape Contractors Association; Wisconsin Potato & Vegetable Growers Association; Yuma Fresh Vegetable Association.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, we have many others, including labor. We have the National Association of Counties, United Farm Workers, Service Employees International Union, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD a list of organizations supporting H.R. 1603.

[From the House Committee on the Judiciary]

MORE THAN 100 ORGANIZATIONS, REPRESENTING LABOR UNIONS, IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS, AND BUSINESS INTERESTS HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR SUPPORT FOR H.R. 1603

LABOR UNIONS AND IMMIGRANT RIGHTS ADVOCATES

United Farm Workers (UFW); UFW Foundation; Farmworker Justice; African Communities Together; America's Voice; American Immigration Lawyers Association; Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs; Bend the Arc: Jewish Action; Bipartisan Policy Center Action; Bridges Faith Initiative; Carbondale Branch NAACP; CASA; Center for American Progress; Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP); Central American Resource Center of Northern CA—CARECEN SF; Centro de los Derechos del Migrante, Inc.; Child Labor Coalition; Children's Defense Fund; Church World Service; El Colectivo NC; Faith in Public Life; Farmworker and Landscaper Advocacy Project—FLAP—FWD.us; Greater New York Labor-Religion Coalition; Health Outreach Partners; Hispanic Federation; Immigrant Worker Project—Centro San Jose; Immigration Hub.

Justice for Migrant Women; Justice in Motion; La Unión del Pueblo Entero; Latino Service Center; Leadership Conference of Women Religious; Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Family Services; LIUNA; LULAC; MI Familia Vota; Migrant Legal Aid (Michigan); MomsRising/MamásConPoder; NAACP; National Consumers League; National Domestic Workers Alliance; National Immigration Forum; NC Justice Center; NETWORK Lobby For Catholic Social Justice; New American Economy; Ohio Immigrant Alliance; Oxfam America; PCUN; Service Employees International Union (SEIU); The Advocates for Human Rights; The Foundation for Farmworkers; The LIBRE Initiative; U.S. Hispanic Leadership Institute; UndocuBlack Network; USHLI.

BUSINESS, COMMUNITY, AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Americans for Prosperity; National Association of Counties (NACo); National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA); National Education Association (NEA); Maryland Pesticide Education Network; PhDTrekkers; Rochelle Township High School; South Central Idaho Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; Union for Reform Judaism; U.S. Chamber of Commerce; U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops; U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I ask that we come together and pass this bill. America will be stronger and better if we do.

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) to control the remainder of the time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California will control the time.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS).

Mr. BIGGS. Madam Speaker, while the Biden inhumane border crisis rages on the southern border, we are here today, once again, debating amnesty for illegal aliens.

Promising amnesty to those who are already here illegally encourages more aliens to come illegally. All data for the last 35 years shows that there is this correlative relationship.

Instead of voting on amnesty, we should be voting on real reforms to close loopholes and remove incentives for aliens to come here illegally. That is why I reintroduced the Fund and Complete the Border Wall Act earlier this year and introduced the Stopping Border Surges Act earlier this week. These bills include real reforms that will have real impacts.

The Stopping Border Surges Act fixes problems caused by the Flores settlement agreement that prevents DHS from detaining family units for more than 20 days, ensures that unaccompanied alien children are quickly and safely returned home, and promotes increased integrity in the asylum system.

This bill, however, will actually cause more problems than it will solve. It has serious flaws that will lead to fraud and abuse.

This bill gives the Secretary broad authority to waive grounds of inadmissibility for humanitarian purposes, family unity, or because the waiver is otherwise in the public interest. What that means is that convicted criminals will have an opportunity to gain amnesty.

This bill invites fraudulent applications because under this bill, Madam Speaker, if you apply for amnesty, your receipt serves as your authorization to work. All you have to do is apply for the amnesty and you will be able to work legally. There is no way that this will not lead to fraudulent filings.

This bill establishes grant programs that use taxpayer dollars to help illegal aliens apply for amnesty. Instead of spending taxpayer dollars to facilitate amnesty, we should focus on reducing the deficit. This bill does nothing to secure the border or close loopholes in our immigration laws that encourage illegal immigration.

Now, I address something that was said in the last debate. One of the Representatives said that no Republican has taken her up on going to the border. That is not accurate. When she announced that in the Judiciary Committee, I said that I will go with you, that I want to go with you.

We agreed I would go. Our staffs arranged it. My flight reservations were made, and within about 3 days before going, I was told that there is no more room for you on this trip.

So, it wasn't accurate to say that no Republican has taken her up on it. I took her up on it.

I will tell you this, Madam Speaker, when the Speaker says the reason to support the previous bill is that 75 percent of Americans support amnesty, well, if you are going to rely on polling data, I would inform you that a recent poll said that 75 percent of Americans support the use of voter ID. Let's go ahead and fix that then if we are going to rely on voting information to pass good policy.

Let's reinstitute voter ID, and let's vote ''no'' on this bill.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GARCIA).

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill. Agricultural workers are crucial to our economy, and this bill would establish a legal and reliable farm workforce.

I support this bill because it recognizes the humanity—yes, the humanity—of farmworkers and their families.

This is personal to me. I grew up poor, picking cotton in the fields of south Texas. I can testify firsthand about the incredibly hard, back-breaking work that farmworkers do, especially in the heat of the south Texas sun. Not much seems to have changed since I worked in the fields. Things pretty much still are handled about the same.

This bill is long overdue and would provide farmworkers with important worker protections and legal rights that I never had and that they desperately need today. Texas is home to nearly 250,000 farms, and the need for a strong agricultural workforce is vital. It is vital to Texas; it is vital to this country; and it is vital to this world.

Madam Speaker, I urge passage.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY).

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I hear a lot from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle that this is not how people should be treated, whether it was with respect to the first broader amnesty bill, with respect to the Dreamers, or whether it is this bill with respect to farmworkers, which is, in fact, an amnesty bill. But the fact of the matter is that nobody on this side of the aisle and nobody I know in Texas disagrees that the system is broken and that we need to make sure that people are treated fairly and treated appropriately. Nobody disagrees with that.

The problem is that what we are doing is putting this bill in front of any kind of enforcement mechanisms that will prevent the continued abuse of human beings because we refuse to do our actual job under the Constitution of the United States to secure our border.

We are just refusing to do it, and then we pass legislation in the name of helping people who, yes, are stuck in a system because we created this system because it is so badly broken. You then create the magnet, Madam Speaker, that empowers cartels and continues the vicious cycle.

Today, when this passes off the floor, there will be a lot of backslapping and congratulations: Isn't this great, isn't this awesome, and aren't we so proud of ourselves for what we are doing for these immigrants, these workers?

But we are not doing a darn thing to actually fix the system that prevents the flow, prevents the danger, prevents the cartels, prevents the abuses, and

prevents essentially the indentured servitude that this bill would actually create for the farmworkers in question, leaving them stuck with Band-Aids of having to work certain hours as farmworkers, continuing the process, by the way, while we continue to encourage sex trafficking, human trafficking, crimes, violations, and children being abused.

As I said before, as we sit here in this august body—not actually amending, by the way, just bloviating—while we are sitting here, some little girl is getting raped in Mexico on a journey because of the pressure that we are causing by empowering cartels to do it. That is occurring, and we are just whistling, and we are just sitting here, burying our head in the sand.

Like I said, go give the press conferences and go pat ourselves on the back as a body for being pro-immigrant. How is it pro-immigrant to have wide-open borders being exploited by cartels, wide-open borders with narcotics coming across, and wide-open borders with human beings coming across it?

By the way, when the media says this Biden crisis has ended, if they ever acknowledge it exists, it will be because numbers are going down in facilities because catching and releasing is going up. That is what is going to occur.

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

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I yield the gentleman from Texas an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, that is what is going to occur. My fellow citizens back home in Texas and Americans, when those numbers go down in facilities, don't kid yourselves; illegal immigration will continue.

They will be catching and releasing illegal immigrants. They will be dropping numbers down at facilities. They will close the FEMA facility in Midland. We will have as much illegal immigration as we have right now, and the other side will claim: Oh, the crisis is going down.

That is what is coming at us. And today, we are passing amnesty instead of securing the border of the United States.

□ 1445

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STANTON).

Mr. STANTON. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman NADLER and Chairwoman LOFGREN for their incredible leadership on this important bill.

I rise in support of the Farm Workforce Modernization Act, a bipartisan bill that will improve the H–2A agricultural visa program to make it easier for Arizona farmers to meet their workforce needs while also providing a path for agricultural workers to earn legal status.

Throughout this pandemic, farmworkers have been on the front lines playing a critical role in feeding America's families. They deserve the opportunity to take steps toward legal status in this country. It is the right thing to do for them and it is the right thing to do to advance our farm industry.

This bill is good for Arizona's economy—Arizona, the birth place of Cesar Chavez—where agribusiness is a $23 billion-a-year industry. Our State's crops cannot be left to rot in the ground because we lack access to a stable workforce.

Passing this bill today brings us one step closer to ensuring that farmers have the stable workforce they need and that farmworkers are recognized for all the work they do for us every day.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. HICE).

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding.

It is stunning to me that we are still wrestling through these type of issues. We have been watching over the last few months one radical piece of legislation after another and our country is beginning to suffer. We are watching gas prices go up, skyrocketing. We are still shutting businesses down. We are still seeing schools closed. We are watching our energy independence be reversed.

Madam Speaker, it is one horrible bill, one horrible policy after another. And now we are watching a catastrophe on our southern border, and my friends on the other side of the aisle appear to not care what is happening at the southern border.

We haven't honestly called it for what it is: a disaster.

We are not willing to look at the national security issues of it. We are not willing to look at the danger that is occurring, the cartels, the human trafficking, the drug trafficking, the criminals who, perhaps, are coming across our border, the terrorists who may be coming across our border.

And now what are we doing?

We are looking at another outrageous piece of legislation that says: if you come work on a farm, we are going to give you amnesty. It doesn't matter what your background. It doesn't matter who you are.

At the same time, we even have here around Capitol Hill fences guarding us, guarding the American people from the people's House, but we are going to open up our borders for who knows who to come marching through.

Now we have a piece of legislation that says: just come work on a farm and we are going to give you amnesty.

Madam Speaker, 1.5 million people are going to become citizens for working minimal time on farms.

This is going to shield criminals. They are just going to come across the border, claim amnesty, come work on a farm, and before long, they are legal citizens here.

We don't know who these people are. We don't know what their intentions are, but we are going to grant them amnesty through this bill. It is nonsense. It is frightening. It is irresponsible. It is endangering American lives. It is encouraging even more disaster and danger on our southern border.

It makes absolutely zero sense for us to proceed with this type of irresponsible legislation, and I urge my colleagues to vote against this.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as I stood on the floor of the House for H.R. 6, this is not amnesty. I thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) for her leadership, and Mr. NADLER as well.

Madam Speaker, let me explain to you that under the American Dream and Promise Act, which immigrants are eligible for, they would have 43,500 homes and $340 million in mortgage payments.

Today, I rise in support of H.R. 1603 because this would allow farmworkers, agricultural workers, to be able to gain legal status and to be able to seek a certified agricultural worker status.

Dr. RUIZ, our colleague, indicated that he was raised by farmworkers. He saw the bent hands, the bent banks, and the broken hands, and he saw the patriotism. This is not amnesty. I will tell you what it is not. It is not the Trump policy of caging children in cages. It is not the Trump policy of turning young 11-year-olds back across the border to be raped.

I hope my colleagues who are talking about abortion and talking about rape voted for the Violence Again Women Act to really protect immigrant women.

I rise to support this legislation because it will provide dignity, opportunity for an enhanced economic engine, as the farmworkers take certified status because they can do it over and over again.

Where is the bread on our table coming from?

The hardworking farmworkers who are out there every day in these fields working to provide for the American people and the people around the world.

We are the breadbasket of the world and, because of their work, we are able to feed many. So I rise in enthusiastic support. I wish my colleagues would have been as enthusiastic and as angry about caging children as they are today about us fixing the immigration system.

Madam Speaker, I ask for support of H.R. 1603.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1603, the bipartisan "Farm Workforce Modernization Act," which will stabilize the agricultural sector and preserve our rural heritage by ensuring that farmers can meet their labor needs well into the future.

First, the bill establishes a program for agricultural workers in the United States (and their spouses and minor children) to earn legal status through continued agricultural employment.

Specifically, the bill creates a process for farm workers to seek Certified Agricultural Worker status, a temporary status for those who have worked at least 180 days in agriculture over the prior 2-year period.

Certified Agricultural Worker status can be renewed indefinitely with continued farm work (at least 100 days per year).

Applicants must undergo background checks and pass strict criminal and national security bars.

Dependent status is available for spouses and minor children.

The bill does not require workers to do or apply for anything else in order to stay and work in the United States.

But long-term workers who want to stay have the option of earning a path to lawful permanent residence by paying a $1,000 fine and engaging additional agricultural work, as follows:

1. Workers with 10 years of agricultural work prior to the date of enactment must complete 4 additional years of such work.

2. Workers with less than 10 years of agricultural work prior to the date of enactment must complete 8 additional years of such work.

The Farmworkers Movement in this country was started and led by a great leader, Cesar Chavez who said:

> We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community. Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own.

The Texas Farm Workers Union ("TFWU") was established by Antonio Orendain and farmworker leaders of the Rio Grande Valley active with the United Farm Workers (UFW) after a disagreement with UFW leadership over direction of a melon strike in south McAllen, TX in 1975.

In August 1975, nearly ten years after he began organizing farm workers for the United Farm Workers in the Rio Grande Valley of South Texas.

Antonio Orendain worked for Cesar Chavez in the Chicago UFW national grape and lettuce boycott office.

Farmworkers undertake some of the toughest jobs in America.

They have earned the opportunity to build their lives without the fear of being uprooted from their families and their communities.

The bipartisan Farm Workforce Modernization Act empowers the economic and physical well-being of immigrant families while providing much-needed labor security for our nation's farms.

The agricultural industry relies on the labor of 2.4 million farmworkers—about half of whom are undocumented.

This bill would protect thousands of families from deportation.

This is a big step in making our immigration system more humane and more efficient.

I know the farming and agricultural communities in the state of Texas farm and my district borders communities that farm.

What we are doing here is the right thing and attempting to reinforce the breadbasket that the United States happens to be to the world.

I have heard the clamoring of farm workers for a very long time but I have also heard the need for fairness and the improvement of conditions that they are working in with adequate compensation.

This bill regularizes people who want to be regularized and who want to contribute to helping the agricultural industry in this great nation.

I would like to thank my Judiciary Committee colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and in particular, Chairman NADLER and Subcommittee Chairwoman LOFGREN, for their work in shepherding this important legislation to the floor.

I am reminded of our tenure here on the Judiciary Committee and our record of being fair and bipartisan on immigration reform for at least 2 decades.

I urge all members to join me in voting for H.R. 1603, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2021.

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

I can assure the gentlewoman from Texas that we are outraged by the fact that this administration's policies and pronouncements have encouraged thousands upon thousands of children to be placed on that trail of terror in the hands of Mexican criminal cartels and brought here on the expectation of admission, an expectation that this administration is fulfilling.

I must also assure the gentlewoman that this certainly is an amnesty bill. It allows anyone who is here illegally, who can claim to have worked the equivalent of 13 40-hour weeks over 2 years, legal status, amnesty. The documentation can be as little as having a friend vouch for them.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Let me say that we can respect each other's differences, and I thank the gentleman for explaining that. Amnesty is not related to people working to earn their status, and that is what this bill does, just as the DACA bill does. They earn their status.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, reclaiming my time.

This only applies to illegal aliens. If you are legally here, obeying our laws, you are out of luck with this bill. What this bill says is, if you are here illegally and can have a friend vouch for you that you worked 1,000 hours over the last 2 years in agriculture—again, that is the equivalent of 13 40-hour weeks—you get legal status.

This is one of the many reasons why we are seeing this response from around the world now flooding our southern border.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. SPARTZ).

Mrs. SPARTZ. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, it is unfortunate that Congress cannot have a serious conversation about immigration because we do actually have a real problem. We have a real crisis at the border. It is a humanitarian crisis, the Wild West. We are a country of laws.

We have a problem with illegal immigration. It needs to be streamlined to better serve our national interests. We have problems with visa processes, and we can do better.

But, unfortunately, we are passing a lot of bills that probably will not see the light of day in the Senate, that are not going to become legislation. We do grandstanding drama and constant rhetoric, and it is very unfortunate for me because the American people are tired of our institution not doing its work, because we are policymakers and we are legislators and we have to work on policy, not on political drama.

So as a member of the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship, I encourage my colleagues to actually start working in committees on legislation, not sending legislation from the Speaker's office to the floor, but actually have reforms and work at it because our people deserve it and our people deserve to have a branch that works for the people, not having the executive and judicial branches doing our functions.

So I hope we will have some very constructive and serious conversation on immigration, and I would be happy to help with it, but these piecemeal approaches are not going to work and are not good for our country.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON).

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Farm Workforce Modernization Act.

For years, my constituents have been asking me to fix our Nation's broken immigration system. They have told me that the shortage of legal workers in agriculture is wreaking havoc on our farmers in rural communities.

That is why I joined with my good friends, Representatives NEWHOUSE, DIAZ-BALART, and LAMALFA to come up with a bipartisan solution to this problem. Along with Chairwoman LOFGREN and other Democratic colleagues, we crafted a bill to create a merit-based agricultural immigration system for our Nation's food producers, and make much-needed reforms in the H–2A program.

But don't just take my word for it. There are over 250 agricultural industry groups from all across America that have written to Congress to support this bill. From potatoes and dairy in my district to citrus and strawberries in Florida and California, growers agree that this bill is good for agriculture and good for our country.

But I want to take a moment to address the current situation on our southern border. What is happening there is a crisis and we must address it. We all realize that. Unfortunately, years of congressional inaction has made ''immigration'' a toxic word. This bill is not about what is happening on the border, but that seems to be what all of the debate is about—

what is happening at the southern border.

This bill is not amnesty. It does not grant anybody amnesty. It allows individuals to get right with the law and to become part of the legal workforce in the United States. It is about providing a stable legal workforce for the people who put food on our tables.

This isn't a perfect bill. No one would agree that it is. But it is a very good compromise that actually gives us a chance to solve a real problem for our constituents. That is why I came to Congress, to do those things, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, no one disputes that this bill is a huge windfall to big agriculture. The problem is that it comes at the expense of American workers.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. ESCOBAR).

Ms. ESCOBAR. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

I will be very clear, Madam Speaker. Farmworkers do back-breaking work under the scorching sun or unbearable cold to make sure that all of us have food on our table. Whether they are sick, feeling well, whether they have family members who are not feeling well, they go to work to make sure we have what we need, even, and almost especially, during the era of COVID.

It is incredible that anyone would stand in the way of having these incredible people finally have a pathway to legalization.

The Farm Workforce Modernization Act is a piece of legislation that is long overdue. I have one thing to say to those who would oppose legislation for this population, even though they benefit from the labor of this population: ''they don't have shame,'' ''no tienen verguenza.''

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. TIFFANY).

Mr. TIFFANY. Madam Speaker, while chaos reigns on the border, we have another Democrat jam job before us today.

I would turn to the committee ranking member, the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK), for a colloquy.

Did the gentleman see these bills in the committee?

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. TIFFANY. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Not this session, no.

Mr. TIFFANY. Madam Speaker, reclaiming my time.

These bills did not come before this committee. For someone like myself, who has just joined the committee, I did not even have a chance to be able to partake in this bill.

I wanted to express concerns especially about the H–2A provision in this bill because I am familiar—there is a parallel to the J–1 visas that we use in northern Wisconsin in the resort area. They are temporary visas. And what we found over the years as employers is that people would figure out how to use the J–1 visa to get into the country, and then go job shopping from there.

The H–2A is susceptible to the same thing. And due to lax enforcement, we could all live with it if there was good enforcement in America, but there is not good enforcement of our laws here in the United States.

So let's cut to the chase here. The gentleman from California touched on this very well. These bills devalue American workers' labor.

In 2019, the greatest increase in wages for people who are in the lower income brackets happened, the greatest increases in decades.

I just say to all of those working-class Americans out there: Make no mistake, these bills today are another clear message that you are viewed as replaceable.

□ 1500

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

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I salute the gentleman for the excellent work of his committee, bringing this important legislation, H.R. 1603, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act, to the floor. I thank the chairman for this critical victory for farmworkers and growers, who have come together in support of this legislation, this legislation which ensures that America can continue to feed the world.

Thank you to Chair ZOE LOFGREN, chair of the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship, for her years of relentless leadership on behalf of farmworkers, without which this bill would not be possible. I sang her praises earlier as a former teacher of immigration, immigration lawyer, and chair of the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship. She knows of what she legislates.

I think that it is clear to see there are a number of Californians involved in this. I want to salute Mr. COSTA and Mr. CARBAJAL, who are an important part of this. They represent farmland in California. They know the needs of the workers. They respect the involvement of the growers.

This, again, is a wonderful bill. We salute many Members, representing every corner of the country, whose vision and values have strengthened this bill that has truly been a caucus- and Congress-wide effort.

Thank you to the United Farm Workers for their outstanding organizing which made this possible. In addition to our work internally, their outside mobilization is so important.

We are also inspired by the immortal words of our beloved Dolores Huerta: ''Yes, we can,'' ''Si, se puede.'' Yes, we can; yes, we will; and, yes, we are doing it. It was an honor last year at this time to celebrate her 90th birthday in the Rayburn Room, the last event we had before COVID took over. So here we are a year later. This is probably a better celebration.

Passing the Farm Workforce Modernization Act and doing so on a bipartisan basis was a source of pride in the last Congress, and it is now. With a Democratic majority in the Senate and President Biden in the White House, when we pass it again, it is with better assurance that it will become law.

The bill honors the millions of farmworkers who are the backbone of our economy, quietly persevering through harsh working conditions and low wages as they power the farm economy and put food on our tables.

As the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has written:

> Recognizing the dignity of work of farmworkers and their families is a central concern.
>
> Farmworkers produce the food that we eat and contribute to the care of our community.

This legislation, while long overdue, is urgently needed now, in light of the coronavirus crisis, which is forcing our essential farmworkers to live and work under a cloud of fear and uncertainty about their health and their jobs.

At the same time, the pandemic has accelerated a labor crisis in the farm economy that endangers farmers and producers and requires action. This action today is an agreement between the growers and the farmworkers.

This legislation supports workers and the farm economy with strong, smart reforms.

This bill provides a path to legalization for more than one million currently undocumented farmworkers. No one who works to feed our country should be condemned to permanent second-class status.

This bill establishes the agricultural workforce of the future by modernizing the H–2A initiative to ensure that farms have stable, secure workforces.

Critically, it demands fair, humane treatment for farmworkers by securing fairness in pay, improving access to quality housing, and ensuring robust safety and heat illness protections.

Any of us who have visited farmworkers in the fields—and some of our Members have been farmworkers themselves or children of farmworkers—know the environment, the heat, the chemicals, and the rest, are a challenge.

This legislation is a critical step forward for our workers, for our growers, and the farm economy, but our work is not done.

Congress will continue to stabilize the farm economy, protect workers and families, and maintain America's agricultural preeminence in the world.

Under the leadership of President Biden, we will continue our work to fundamentally, fully fix our broken immigration system so that we can honor

America's proud immigrant heritage and advance a better future for all.

Earlier, I quoted President Reagan. I want to do so again more fully. Earlier, when I spoke on the floor about Dreamers, I did so for 8 hours and 6 minutes. I promised earlier today to be shorter, and so I didn't give as much of President Reagan's speech.

This is what he said: ''And since this is the last speech that I will give as President, I think it's fitting to leave one final thought, an observation about a country which I love.''

He went on to talk about the Statue of Liberty, Madam Speaker. He said: ''The torch of Lady Liberty symbolizes our freedom and represents our heritage, the compact with our parents, our grandparents, and our ancestors. It is that lady who gives us our great and special place in the world. For it's the great life force of each generation of new Americans that guarantees that America's triumph shall continue unsurpassed into the next century and beyond. Other countries may seek to compete with us; but in one vital area, as a beacon of freedom and opportunity that draws the people of the world, no country on Earth comes close.''

As I said earlier, he said: ''This, I believe, is one of the most important sources of America's greatness. We lead the world because, unique among nations, we draw our people—our strength—from every country and every corner of the world. And by doing so we continuously renew and enrich our Nation. While other countries cling to the stale past, here in America we breathe life into dreams. We create the future, and the world follows us into tomorrow. Thanks to each wave''—President Reagan said—''Thanks to each wave of new arrivals to this land of opportunity, we're a Nation forever young, forever bursting with energy and new ideas, and always on the cutting edge, always leading the world to the next frontier. This quality is vital to our future as a Nation. If we ever closed the door to new Americans, our leadership in the world would soon be lost.''

This being the last speech that I will give as President, President Reagan said, ''I think it's fitting to leave one final thought, an observation about a country which I love.''

As we remember the words of President Reagan, I also recall the words of the late Cesar Chavez, whose birthday we celebrate later this month. He said: ''To make a great dream come true, the first requirement is a great capacity to dream; the second is persistence.''

Thanks to all of our bipartisan Members for their persistence on this legislation for which I urge a strong bipartisan ''aye'' vote.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I would remind this Speaker that Cesar Chavez was one of the most outspoken adversaries to illegal immigration, precisely because he knew what that did to depress the wages of the legal immigrants that he represented through the United Farm Workers.

I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON), the ranking member of the Committee on Agriculture.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, as Republican leader of the House Committee on Agriculture, I have the opportunity to speak with producers nationwide, and, overwhelmingly, they say the number one issue facing the industry is the lack of a reliable, legal workforce.

When it comes to farm labor, our immigration system is broken and in desperate need of repair.

The Farm Workforce Modernization Act is a step in the right direction. I will vote ''yes'' today, but to be clear, the bill is imperfect and must be improved before becoming law.

It will not fully address the shortage of legal agricultural workers and may leave our farmers, ranchers, and especially our dairies, with critical unmet needs.

I filed an amendment that would have addressed these deficiencies that was endorsed by the American Farm Bureau Federation. Though not made in order, I hope that amendment will serve as a starting point in the Senate for necessary improvements.

Americans are blessed with a safe, abundant, and affordable food supply. But how long will that food supply last if we do not have an adequate agricultural workforce?

This may be a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reform our immigration laws. Therefore, we must get it right.

Madam Speaker, if we fail to address the agricultural workforce, we will have food insecurity, and that will lead to national insecurity.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE).

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, let me be blunt: there is a crisis at our southern border. You have heard about it from my Republican colleagues and I over the past few days. Just this year, more than 200,000 people have illegally crossed our border, including four known terrorists.

We must do something to stop this disturbing trend. The U.S. is a country of law and order. We must continue working to reform our broken immigration laws and enhance our border security.

That is exactly what this legislation will do. The Farm Workforce Modernization Act is a truly bipartisan bill, negotiated over many months by agriculture and labor representatives alike, to ensure those who wish to can come to our country, abide by our laws and contribute to our farms, ranches, and local communities.

The bill creates an employment- and merit-based program for foreign workers to legally work in agriculture, eliminating incentives for illegal migration and strengthening both our national security and our national food supply chain.

This legislation streamlines our H–2A guest worker program, giving employers more flexibility and allowing access for year-round agriculture sectors like dairy and horticulture.

Finally, the bill phases in E-Verify. So, once these laws are in place, we can enforce them and ensure that workers maintain a legal work status.

Madam Speaker, I come from one of the most productive agricultural regions in the world, where many of our crops are labor intensive. As much as producers would prefer to hire American workers to work in their fields, in their orchards, and in their dairies, there simply isn't enough interest among domestic workers to get these jobs done.

For decades, Congress has attempted to pass comprehensive immigration reform to address our agricultural workforce, but we have been unsuccessful. This bill is the targeted, bipartisan solution our farmers and ranchers need.

I want to thank Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. LAMALFA, and many others. I urge my colleagues to support this bill so we can get it to the President's desk for America's agricultural industry.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, let's acknowledge the reality of what we have right now, a big mess of a situation that hasn't been cured in several decades.

We used to have a system of invited workers, called the bracero program. Political battling has caused no new fix in all of this time. Similarly, this bill allows good workers, decent people, to get right with the law, with background checks, with restitution, and requirements to stay right with their ag worker status.

The same bill passed this House through committee last Congress with good bipartisan support. It has benchmarks that must be met by workers who are already here with history in ag, not opening the floodgates to more illegal entry and benefits. More recent entrants are required to remain in ag work for 8 additional years to remain eligible. We have caps in this bill to the current approximately 700,000 workers already here, with capped ratchets if more are needed.

It establishes an E-Verify for ag, with strong biometric screening for all these certified ag workers, something we have never had under E-Verify.

It codifies in law many of the pieces adopted in the Trump administration's H–2A rule, including staggered H–2A and making it much less burdensome for farmers to get these workers, especially dairy, which needs year-round workers and cannot have it now.

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

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, what this bill is not is amnesty, even though it may be dismissed as such. Americans have demonstrated they will not step forward to do this work, not with the nonworking benefits they can already access. Frequent anecdotes show that those that might, frequently quit after a few days because the work is too hard, even at dramatically increased wages.

This law does not hand out citizenship or allow anyone to cut ahead in line to apply for it. The same goes for green cards. No express lane for green cards, not even government benefit eligibility.

This is simply a way to get right with the law, have a capped pool of already in-place ag workers with legal status. That is better for the worker, the farmer, and for our system of ID'ing who is in this country currently. It is a vast improvement over what we have now.

□ 1515

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I would just point out, the last 30 seconds was on the time of the gentleman from New York. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. PANETTA).

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act would simply protect our existing farmworkers and perpetuate an enduring farm workforce. It would do that by modernizing and streamlining our H–2A visa system and by allowing those who are willing to come here to stay here if they continue to work here in agriculture.

Now, this bill is a bipartisan bill. It is the right bill because it was a negotiated bill. No, it is not the perfect bill, but it is the necessary bill that was formulated after months and months of difficult talks between Democrats and Republicans and farmers and farmworkers.

Now, during those discussions, unlike what we are hearing today, we put negative politics aside and we focused on the positive policies for the people who are part of the solution to the number one problem for our farmers. We don't have a domestic workforce willing to do ag labor, so farmers are reliant on immigrants to harvest their products.

That is why, if we pass this bill today and the Senate does its job tomorrow, farmers will have a predictable and dependable workforce, farmworkers will get the legality and the dignity that they deserve, and we in Congress will have done our job for our agriculture and for our Nation that both rely on immigrants for our future.

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

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA).

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise to support the bipartisan Farm Workforce Modernization Act, which is an opportunity to provide meaningful reform that we have been waiting for, for years.

This measure is supported by a bipartisan coalition that includes not only the United Farm Workers and other labor organizations, but a majority of farm organizations across the country. What this is really about is an opportunity to fix a part of a broken immigration system.

I want to thank not only Chairman NADLER, but also Chairwoman ZOE LOFGREN and DAN NEWHOUSE for the hard work that they have done to bring this legislation to the floor, bipartisan support on both sides of the aisle.

Let me begin with the fact that food is a national security issue. It is a national security issue. Less than 5 percent of America's population is directly involved in the production of food and fiber that feeds our Nation. That partnership is between farmworkers and farmers and dairy men and women.

I know because my family represents a third-generation family. Farmworkers are some of the hardest working individuals you will ever meet. I know because I worked side by side for years growing up on my family's farm.

It is simply wrong that they be subject to living and working under a shadow of uncertainty and fear of being deported. That is not right.

This bill is not about the border. The border has been a problem for decades. It is not about amnesty. This is an earned basis to have legal status in America. I have spoken with the hardworking men and women and their young children who work to put food on America's dinner table, and I've seen the hope in their eyes, the hope that we can pass this legislation to provide them legal status, hope for a normal life free of the dread of family separation that too often happens with deportation that hangs over them every day when they go to work, hope for a chance to change their reality and reshape their story.

This measure involves protections. It involves E-Verify. It involves an opportunity to reform an H–2A program for a reliable workforce for American agriculture. We owe it to the individuals who do so much for us. I ask that you support this legislation.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DAVIDSON).

Mr. DAVIDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to this bill.

It purports to solve an important problem for our country's ag workforce, for our ag community, and for food security for our country, but it exploits a bigger problem and a real emergency by creating a gaping hole in our broken immigration system. Rather than address the root issue with our immigration laws, it exploits them.

Frankly, I don't know how many noncitizens some of my colleagues represent. I came here to represent American citizens. This bill disadvantages American citizens, and it disadvantages people who follow our admittedly broken immigration laws and come here legally, and it rewards people who come here illegally.

It is going to exacerbate the humanitarian crisis we see at the border instead of cure it. It is not a remedy; it is a harm. It is a harm to American citizenship, which should be treasured. We do welcome new Americans. We are unequaled in the world. No country welcomes more new citizens per year than the United States of America.

We will continue to be the land of opportunity, but we can only do that if we protect the cherished value of American citizenship. Citizenship matters. We cannot destroy it by adopting these policies. I plead that people oppose it.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ).

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, I and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus rise in support of H.R. 1603, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act.

My parents were farmworkers who worked tirelessly day in and day out with calloused hands and tired backs to give me, their children, opportunities that they never had.

Farmworkers like my parents and like many of my constituents back home in the Coachella Valley taught me the value of hard work, resiliency, and taking care of one another.

Farmworkers are getting infected and dying from COVID–19 at a much higher rate than the general public. They are literally dying to feed you, give you the nutrients you need to prevent COVID–19 and to heal from COVID–19.

We must protect and secure our food supply chain. We must pass the bipartisan Farm Workforce Modernization Act to stabilize our food supply chain and ensure that farmers can meet their future labor needs.

The Congressional Hispanic Caucus is proud to work with Chair ZOE LOFGREN and Congressman JIMMY PANETTA, as well as CHC members SALUD CARBAJAL and JIM COSTA, and other Members to get the bill signed into law.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from California will control the time.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. FISCHBACH).

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Madam Speaker, H.R. 1603 subjects H–2A employers to a private right of action in Federal court for the first time ever in the history of the H–2A program. The bill does so by applying the right of action standard in the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act, or MSPA, to H–2A employers.

My motion to recommit today simply provides that when an H–2A employer faces an H–2A-related claim under the MSPA, the employer is provided a right to cure before the claim can proceed. Specifically, the amendment allows the employer to attempt to resolve the alleged violation within 5 days of receiving the complaint. The employer must also file with the court documentation demonstrating that the action giving rise to the complaint has been remedied. After that, the court may dismiss the complaint if it is satisfied that the complaint has been resolved.

Under H.R. 1603, private right of action can include actual damages or statutory damages of up to $500 per plaintiff per violation, where violations constitute separate provisions. Most claims involve multiple plaintiffs and, in class action, could involve many plaintiffs who didn't even want to be part of the claim. For class action, the court is authorized to award the lesser of up to $500 per plaintiff per violation or up to $500,000. In other words, liability under MSPA could be half a million dollars.

Especially in the case of a fabricated claim or an unintended violation, this could be financially devastating for farmers. Costs like these to agricultural employers on top of attorneys' fees, court fees, and awards pursuant to other claim avenues should be taken seriously. They can be significant burdens on employers who did not knowingly or purposefully violate H–2A requirements.

At the very least, we should allow our growers the opportunity to remedy a potential violation before they are hit with a huge penalty. Today's motion to recommit would do just that. If the purpose of filing a complaint is to seek redress, then this amendment provides a reasonable path forward.

I am sure that those whose purpose it is to subject employers to additional claims, frivolous or otherwise, will oppose my amendment, but those who understand the importance of helping U.S. farmers in the face of constant and growing competition from foreign agricultural operations without our high labor standards understand how reasonable a right to cure is.

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Madam Speaker, my amendment would retain the ability of H–2A workers to obtain redress, but would provide important protection for growers, too.

Madam Speaker, if we adopt the motion to recommit, we will instruct the Committee on the Judiciary to consider my amendment to H.R. 1603 to provide a commonsense right to cure for our Nation's farmers, who will be subject to burdensome litigation under this underlying bill.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include the text of the amendment in the RECORD immediately prior to the vote on the motion to recommit.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, may I inquire how much time remains on both sides?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from California has 9 minutes remaining. The gentleman from California has 5½ minutes remaining.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR).

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, farm work is hard work. Both of my parents, Odilia and Martin, were farmworkers. It is very hard work. It is one of those type of jobs that is very necessary to make sure that we bring food to the table.

I represent several areas that are rural, and my ranchers and my farmers need an ag work program. It has to. They need it. I have always said, if an American wants the job, let them have that job. But if they are not going to fill that position, then we need to have a guest worker plan, just like we did during World War II, where we did the Bracero program. Therefore, we need to support this for our ranchers and our farmers.

I will tell you this, it is not amnesty. What Ronald Reagan did in 1986, that was amnesty. This is not amnesty. And if you want to talk about border security, this will help secure the border.

Let me explain. If you have people who will come into a secure system to come work, and then they go back, then you can have Border Patrol focus on the people who have the bad motives, the people who want to bring in drugs, the people who want to smuggle or traffic people. So this actually will help border security if we set this up right, like they did in World War II.

Madam Speaker, I ask Members to support this program. It is needed by our farmworkers. We need to do it.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Chairwoman ZOE LOFGREN and Mr. NADLER for their work.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, may I inquire of my friend from California if she has any additional speakers?

Ms. LOFGREN. No, I do not.

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

Just yesterday, the Secretary of Homeland Security told the Homeland Security Committee that the border is secure. The Secretary said the border is secure, despite saying only 1 day earlier that the Department of Homeland Security is on pace to encounter more individuals on the southwest border than we have in the last 20 years.

He said the border is secure, despite a 590 percent increase in the number of family units crossing the border in the first 6 weeks of the Biden administration.

He said the border is secure, despite Customs and Border Protection referring over 7,300 unaccompanied alien minors to the Department of Health and Human Services during the month of February. That is the highest number of referrals in any February in the history of the program.

□ 1530

He said the border is secure despite the Biden administration's plan to use the Dallas Convention Center to house thousands of the unaccompanied minors who the cartels have smuggled across the border.

No matter what Secretary Mayorkas says, the fact is the border is not secure, and it is not secure because of President Biden's dangerous immigration policies.

We know that when foreign nationals think they can easily get into the U.S. and be rewarded with legal status, which is what this bill does, they flood the border.

We are watching that happen before our eyes. Aliens are flooding the border in response to the President's rhetoric and policies and in response to the promises of additional rewards made through bills like this.

Talk of amnesty fuels border crossings. That is a fact.

This bill grants amnesty and a special path to U.S. citizenship to at least 1 million farmworkers currently in the United States. I have seen estimates that go up to 2½ million—nobody really knows—as well as to their spouses and children.

This bill allows aliens to get green cards even if they illegally reentered the U.S., committed immigration fraud, voted illegally in a Federal or State election, or have two serious misdemeanor convictions.

The supporters of this bill claim that illegal aliens who get green cards must work in agriculture. However, the bill includes broad waiver authority that allows those who did not complete all the work requirements because of weather conditions or COVID or if the alien was fired, among other situations, to still get a green card.

Those legalized under this bill would, from the outset, compete directly for jobs with Americans. Nothing in this bill prevents those who get employment authorization during the initial process from working in nonagricultural labor sectors. And of course, once they and their family members get a green card, as provided under this legislation, they are free to work wherever they want.

This bill sends a powerful message and an invitation to those who cross our borders illegally that they can expect to be rewarded with legal status and, ultimately, green cards and an expedited path to citizenship.

But far worse than that, it floods our market with low-wage labor at a time when Americans are struggling to recover from the devastating lockdowns that have crushed the dreams of so many working families.

I will end as I began. The people who were most helped by the economic expansion that we saw were working-class Americans because the Trump administration got control of our borders and stemmed the flow of this illegal labor.

They made the greatest gains during the expansion; they have been the most harmed during the lockdowns; and this adds to their burdens and woes by ensuring that the market for their skills and labor will remain stagnant for a decade to come.

Please don't do this to those good Americans in this perilous time for our country.

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

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

There has been a lot of rhetoric today about the border, and I think it is important to address some of it.

First, let's get the facts straight. The uptick in apprehensions at the southern border began in April 2020, last year, long before we knew President Biden was even going to become the Democratic nominee, much less the President.

During the pandemic, the Trump administration did something that troubled me a great deal and that I objected to. They ignored the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. That was a bipartisan bill. Congressman CHRIS SMITH from New Jersey was the lead on the Republican side. I worked on it on our side along with others. It had a very precise protocol for what to do when an unaccompanied child presented at the border, a potential trafficking victim.

Instead of following that protocol, the prior administration would simply take that child, an 11- or 12-year-old little girl, and turn her back into Mexico, not knowing what would happen to her.

Now, those children who have been in squalid camps for the last year are being addressed pursuant to the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. It is correct that we have had more children present than we were prepared to deal with, and there was a scramble to take care of those children properly. But it has nothing to do with the Farm Work Modernization Act.

I listened with some interest to the suggestion that there needs to be a change in the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act provisions of this bill. Currently, H–2A employers must comply with the H–2A program requirements, which largely meet or exceed MSPA. The primary difference is that the DOL stands in the place of the foreign farmworker in bringing forward cases of alleged violation of the H–2A program.

The Fair Labor Standards Act and a number of other Federal and State laws apply to the H–2A program, but it is worth noting that any H–2A employer that employs one or more domestic workers who perform seasonal or temporary agricultural work is already covered under MSPA, and that would be close to like all employers. This bill would formally place all employers of H–2A workers under MSPA, impacting only those who hire no domestic employees.

The idea that there needs to be a right to cure has merit, except it is already addressed in this bill because it requires mandatory mediation. If there is a problem that can be fixed, it will be fixed in the mediation system. That is quite new.

The other thing to point out is that there are no attorney's fees provided for in the bill or in MSPA, so the idea that somehow this is a windfall for the trial bar is simply incorrect.

There is a great Q&A truth setting in a publication called Hoard's Dairyman, ''What the Farm Workforce Act could mean.'' I include the article in the RECORD.

[From Hoard's Dairyman, Mar. 15, 2021]

WHAT THE FARM WORKFORCE ACT COULD MEAN

(By Bob Gray)

The Farm Workforce Modernization Act, bipartisan bill H.R. 1603, was reintroduced this week by Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren (D–Calif.) and Congressman Dan Newhouse (R–Wash.). It could be taken up by the full House this week.

Here are some additional details about the bill. Most of this information came from the four Republican leads—Representatives Dan Newhouse (R–Wash.), Mike Simpson (R–Idaho), Mario Diaz-Balart (R–Fla.), and Doug LaMalfa (R–Calif.). Before reading further, I want to reiterate, however, that this is a bipartisan bill with support from both sides of the aisle.

The Farm Workforce Modernization Act (FWMA) expands the current H–2A seasonal worker program to include full-time, year-round workers for dairy and other agricultural businesses.

The bill is not perfect, but it is a very good start in providing an extremely important piece of the legislative reform needed by dairy farmers. Right now, as you all know, we have no program. We have never had an immigration worker program in the past.

When the bill goes before the House next week, you will hear various pros and cons about it in the press. Therefore, I thought it would be useful to include a ''Facts and Myths'' sheet about the legislation so you can fully understand its provisions and not be misled by information that is incorrect.

THIS IS WHAT THE FARM WORKFORCE MODERNIZATION ACT DOES

Simplifies H–2A by reducing duplicative paperwork—only one filing needed instead of three.

Bureaucracy is reduced even further for many farmers with staggered labor needs. Farmers can file one petition for the entire season, allowing for staggered entry of H–2A workers.

Modernizes recruitment by allowing employers to post job openings on an online job registry. No classified ads are required.

Reduces labor costs by freezing wages for one year and capping wage growth thereafter. The adverse effect wage rate is replaced in later years.

Makes available 60,000 year-round H–2A visas over the first three years, growing annually by 12.5%. Dairy is guaranteed at least half of these visas, and any unused visas are available for other agriculture industries.

Stabilizes the existing workforce by giving legitimate farmworkers a chance to get a five-year Certified Agriculture Worker (CAW) visa to work in U.S. agriculture. As long as the worker continues to meet minimum days in agriculture annually, the worker can continue to work in the U.S. with unlimited five-year renewals. CAWs can cross the border as they need without restriction.

CAWs can earn the opportunity to apply for a green card by paying a penalty and continuing to work in agriculture for at least eight years. If a CAW can prove 10 years of prior work in agriculture, they can apply for a green card after four years.

MYTHS AND FACTS

MYTH: This bill will codify wage surveys into law and result in multiple wage classes. Under this bill, wages will be much higher than the current Adverse Effect Wage Rate (AEWR).

FACT: This bill provides for greater certainty and granularity in wages. First, this bill applies a one-year freeze of wages across all categories at the current year's rate. After the one-year freeze, all wage rates are then limited in any increases year over year to 3.25% with the ability to decrease 1.5%. (Exception: If the resulting wage is less than 110% of the federal or state minimum wage, then the wage could increase an additional percentage point to 4.25%.) After year 10, the AEWR requirement ends, and the Secretaries of Agriculture and Labor must develop a new wage standard with input from stakeholders. If Congress fails to act to control and reform AEWR, some estimates have shown AEWR rates could rise 7% to 8% annually in the coming years.

MYTH: Adjusted workers are treated immediately as U.S. workers, thus requiring employers to hire them. This displaces previous H–2A workers.

FACT: This bill includes a provision that allows employers to prioritize their longtime H–2A workers over new Certified Agriculture Workers (CAWs). CAWs have a requirement to work in agriculture that no domestic worker has. Because of that requirement and proven experience in agriculture work, CAWs do receive preference over new foreign agriculture workers. There is no expansion of the current workforce; CAW workers are already here and working in agriculture. The bill eliminates the legal chaos farmers and workers face today.

MYTH: This bill does not allow agricultural associations to file as agents on behalf of their members.

FACT: This bill does not affect the ability of associations to file as agents. The bill allows associations to file as agents, or as a joint or sole employer of workers.

MYTH: This bill provides no relief for dairies or year-round agriculture.

FACT: This bill creates year-round access to the H–2A program for dairy and other agricultural sectors that desperately need workers but have previously been unable to utilize the program. Without this bill, year-round agriculture has no access to a legal foreign workforce.

MYTH: This bill would create new funding for the Legal Services Corporation.

FACT: There is no new funding in this bill for the Legal Services Corporation.

MYTH: This bill requires farmworker housing to meet Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards.

FACT: Farmworker housing is already required to meet OSHA standards, and DOL requires annual approved inspections before approving a certification. The bill makes no changes to that requirement, and in fact, reduces the inspection to every two years. The bill provides $11 billion in additional funds to

offset costs for grower-provided and other farmworker housing.

MYTH: This bill establishes a new bureaucratic complaint/investigation process that allows anyone to file a complaint.

FACT: There is no new process established in this bill. It simply codifies existing regulations.

MYTH: The bill requires more reporting on employer recruitment efforts.

FACT: There are no additional reporting requirements in this bill, and requirements for recruitment efforts have been simplified and modernized.

MYTH: This bill creates a new private right of action for H–2A workers under the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (MSPA).

FACT: Currently, H–2A employers must comply with the H–2A program requirements, which largely meet or exceed MSPA. The primary difference is that DOL stands in the place of the foreign farmworker in bringing forward cases of alleged violations of the H–2A program, the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), and a number of other federal and state laws. In addition, any H–2A employer that employs one or more domestic worker who performs seasonal or temporary agricultural work is also currently covered under MSPA. The bill would formally place all employers of H–2A workers under MSPA (impacting only those who currently hire no domestic employees for seasonal or temporary work) while creating a new mandatory mediation requirement for any claim not just filed under MSPA but extended it to claims under the H–2A program and FLSA. Mandatory mediation could help reduce litigation costs and attorney fees for growers, in part by resolving frivolous claims before reaching the court room.

MYTH: This bill gives workers up to two years to file a legal claim against an employer, even after the worker has returned to their home country.

FACT: Under current statue, H–2A workers already get this. There is nothing new in this bill. Many state-based claims have longer statute of limitations.

MYTH: This bill gives the Department of Labor (DOL) a new ability to sue on behalf of employees.

FACT: Under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), DOL already has this ability. There is nothing new in this bill.

MYTH: To overcome a denial of labor certification, this legislation places the burden of proof on employers to show that domestic workers were turned away for lawful reasons.

FACT: Nothing new is in this bill. This provision already exists under current law.

MYTH: This bill permits very limited appeals and does not grant de novo appeals of denials or Notice of Disagreement (NOD).

FACT: This bill allows employers to quickly fix application deficiencies, as with current law. The bill, however, improves this process by creating a new emergency procedure for farmers so issues are fixed faster and workers are not delayed. It also allows for post-certification modifications.

MYTH: This bill establishes a new requirement for employers to provide housing for domestic workers outside of a 50-mile distance.

FACT: The bill does not change any current housing requirements. As with current law, the requirement to provide housing applies only to U.S. workers who live outside of the normal commuting distance for the area.

MYTH: The bill makes no meaningful reform to the high housing costs in the H–2A program.

FACT: The bill makes historic investments in farmworker housing while reducing employer costs in providing such housing, including to H–2A workers. The bill provides $1 billion to rehabilitate existing housing, triples federal funding for USDA Section 514/516 rural housing and grant programs, and doubles funding for the Section 521 rental assistance program. The bill also reduces the cost of providing housing to H–2A workers by making operating assistance subsidies available to 514/516 property owners who house H–2A workers.

MYTH: Mandatory E-Verify just for agriculture means thousands of year-round employers will have no access to labor whatsoever.

FACT: This bill provides a way for the current workforce to get right with the law, which means they would be compliant with E-Verify. As noted above, the bill provides employers with two avenues for hiring new year-round workers. The E-Verify requirement would only apply to new hires and is phased in, beginning three years after enactment.

MYTH: Illegal farmworkers, their spouses, and all their dependents are provided a special, expedited path to legal, permanent residence and will move out of agriculture and into other jobs in the economy.

FACT: This bill does not create an immediate path to permanent residence. First, it creates a temporary legal status that can only be renewed with significant agricultural work. Second, the bill provides the option of earning permanent residence through continued agricultural work, but it would take at a minimum five to 10 years to earn such status, depending on the amount of past agricultural work the worker could demonstrate. These significant past and future work commitments would ensure the stability of American agriculture for years to come. Spouses and dependents receive the same protections that currently exist in the H–2A program.

MYTH: The bill puts AEWR into law after 2029 with no increase or decrease in caps. Keeping the AEWR for another 10 years and preserving it in statute means employers will see no relief.

FACT: After year 10, the AEWR requirement ends, and the Secretaries of Agriculture and Labor must develop a new wage standard with input from stakeholders.

MYTH: The bill provides new authority for the DOL to award back wages, penalties, and damages and/or to debar employers from the program for five years or permanently.

FACT: The DOL already has authority to temporarily debar bad actors. This bill would give the DOL new authority to permanently debar individuals who have previously been debarred and are habitual violators of the program's requirements.

Ms. LOFGREN. We have labored long and hard, those of us in our bipartisan group that worked to solve a problem that our country has, which is we need a stable workforce in the agricultural sector.

I thank last year's chairman of the Agriculture Committee, Collin Peterson, for the work that he did on this bill; this year's chair who also supports this bill, Mr. SCOTT; as well as the ranking member who said that he would vote for it even though there are some things he would like to change. It is a compromise, and it was worked on for almost over a year to get to this point.

We believe that having a legal workforce in agriculture that will give stability is not only good for those workers, but it is good for their employers, and it is good for America.

We believe that making sure that there is a future flow of a legal workforce not only into farms but now into dairy is good for America because we think immigration ought to be legal. It ought to be regularized. It ought to be orderly. That is what this bill would accomplish.

Finally, there has been a lot of talk about enforcement. This bill has enforcement in it. When the bill is implemented, we will have a strategy in a legal way to meet the needs of agriculture in America. If we have that as law, we ought to enforce that law. That is why, on a bipartisan basis, we agreed that E-Verify ought to be applied to this whole sector.

This is a package that will make America stronger. It is fair to farmworkers. It is fair to farmers. And it is good for America. I hope that people will vote for it on both sides of the aisle. So many of us worked together to bring it to this point.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, farmworkers toil under difficult and dangerous conditions for long hours and low pay to ensure America has a safe and plentiful food supply.

Because of the scarcity of domestic farm labor, for decades, the agricultural sector has depended largely on the labor of migrant workers. The vast majority of crop workers in the United States were not born here and are undocumented or here on guest visas. Though these workers perform incredibly difficult work under hazardous conditions, they are often unable to seek recourse when their rights are violated. A pathway to citizenship, when accompanied by appropriate oversight measures, could help reduce these dedicated workers' justifiable fear of reprisal for asserting their rights. Farmworkers are integral to our communities and our economy. Creating a pathway to citizenship for these individuals—who work to feed us and our country year after year—as well as their families is both an economic and humanitarian necessity.

I support legalization of vulnerable, undocumented workers and a path to citizenship. However, in exchange for legalization for some undocumented farmworkers, this bill would depress labor standards for H–2A workers. Because weakened labor standards for H–2A workers could adversely impact the domestic workforce, this bill could negatively impact the economic security of all farmworkers.

Wage cuts for many H–2A workers in turn would depress wages for all farmworkers. The adverse effect wage rate (AEWR), which is often the binding wage paid to H–2A workers, is designed to ensure that wages paid to H–2A workers do not depress wages for U.S. farmworkers. This means the AEWR must be high enough to reflect wages paid in the local labor market. This bill would change the way the AEWR is currently calculated over the first ten years to reflect average wages paid to farmworkers in the region according to their specific occupation, rather than the average wage paid to farmworkers across all occupations. However, the bill fails to require the use of data that actually reflects local wage conditions. Additionally, while setting limitations on how much AEWR wages can decrease after

an initial one-year freeze, the bill imposes caps on wage increases from year to year, limiting whether AEWR can truly reflect wages paid in the local labor market.

As a result of these changes to the AEWR, the majority of H–2A workers would see their wages actually go down, albeit modestly, while others would see the growth in their wages capped. I have opposed similar efforts proposed by the Trump Administration that would depress wages.

This year, I was pleased to lead House efforts to include an increase to the federal minimum wage in the House-passed American Rescue Plan (H.R. 1319). While those minimum wage provisions did not ultimately survive Senate budget reconciliation rules, I will continue to push for H.R. 603, the Raise the Wage Act, which would gradually raise the federal minimum wage to $15 per hour by 2025. I am confident that in the next ten years, we will enact a meaningful increase in the federal minimum wage, boosting wages for workers across our nation—including farmworkers. However, I am concerned that H.R. 1603, Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2021, will create artificial barriers to wage growth, or worse, lead to wage cuts, continuing to leave farmworkers relegated to low pay and economic insecurity.

Our country's wage and hour laws are designed to ensure that workers are guaranteed a fair day's pay for a fair day's work. But this right is only as strong as a worker's ability to hold employers accountable, especially in court. Unfortunately, this bill creates obstacles that may delay farmworkers' ability to access their day in court, when they have been victims of wage theft. While I welcome extending coverage of the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (MSPA) to H–2A workers, adding a mediation requirement to both the MSPA and the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) is problematic. This bill enables employers to impose three months of mandatory mediation when an H–2A worker brings a civil suit under these laws, even if the worker does not consent to the mediation and wants his or her day in court. This undermines the voluntary nature of mediation and provides bad actors with an avenue for delaying or denying wage recovery. This delay could prove significant for farmworkers who may be in this country for a limited amount of time to participate in litigation. This is especially fraught given that, in contrast to MSPA, the FLSA provides for recovery of unpaid wages and liquidated, or double, damages and recovery of attorney's fees, plus costs. This provision may also pull domestic farmworkers or other visa classifications of workers into required mediation where there are collective or class actions, thereby undermining incentives for other workers to join with H–2A workers to seek redress.

Last Congress, I supported the passage of H.R. 1423, the FAIR Act, to ban forced arbitration in many areas, including employment, because it could delay or totally block workers' access to courts. We should promote legislation that protects workers' fundamental right to have their day in court, not delay it.

This bill denies newly legalized farmworkers and their families access to key social safety net programs. Denial of benefits that can promote economic stability, coupled with the bill's wage suppressing provisions, threatens to create a long-term pool of economically vulnerable workers. While most of these individuals do not currently have access to these benefits due to their immigration status, leaving immigrant workers who are granted legal status under this legislation without access to social safety net programs establishes a dangerous precedent that access to health care and other basic necessities can be traded away for a path to legal status.

This legislation weakens the current recruitment and hiring standards for U.S. farmworkers. A reduction in employers' obligations to hire U.S. workers under this bill will undermine one of the core principles of the H–2A program: that H–2A workers should fill in gaps in the farm workforce that U.S. employers are truly unable to fill, rather than merely replacing U.S. workers that employers could attract with reasonable efforts. I raised concerns with similar efforts to modify recruitment standards by the Trump Administration in 2019.

Agricultural work is hazardous, and workers in this sector have few legal health and safety protections. Ensuring that H–2A workers and all farmworkers have safe, healthy working conditions is critical. I am pleased that this bill requires H–2A employers to maintain heat illness prevention plans and requires H–2A employers in the dairy industry to maintain workplace safety plans. However, as presently written, some provisions are ambiguous and would be difficult to enforce; other provisions have weak minimum requirements that would limit their value. As this legislation moves forward, I would urge the inclusions of stronger health and safety standards.

Strong labor protections are vital to protect both H–2A workers, who are vulnerable given their temporary status, and domestic farmworkers, whose employers may be disincentivized to provide employment. This is especially true given that farmworkers have historically been carved out of labor and employment laws, leaving these workers with fewer wage protections and rights to bargain for better working conditions.

While this bill does make some improvements in immigration law, I look forward to supporting a version of this bill that more accurately reflects strong labor standards.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 233, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

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

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

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Madam Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mrs. Fischbach moves to recommit the bill H.R. 1603 to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

At the end of section 204(b), add the following:

(4) RIGHT TO CURE.— If an H-2A worker files a civil lawsuit alleging a violation under the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (29 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), an agricultural employer may, not later than 5 days after receiving service of the complaint, file with the court documentation demonstrating that the action giving rise to the complaint has been remedied. The court may dismiss such complaint if satisfied that the complaint has been resolved.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XIX, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

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

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

Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of H.R. 1603 is postponed.

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.

PROTECT DEMOCRACY IN BURMA ACT OF 2021

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1112) to require a report on the military coup in Burma, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1112

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 ''Protect Democracy in Burma Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) On March 14, 2005, the House of Representatives agreed to H. Res. 135, which established the House Democracy Assistance Commission (later changed to the House Democracy Partnership, hereafter referred to as ''HDP'') to work directly with parliaments around the world to support the development of effective, independent, and responsive legislative institutions.

(2) HDP approved a legislative strengthening partnership with Burma in 2016 and organized the first congressional delegation to meet with the new civilian-led government, led by State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi, and civil society leaders in May 2016.

(3) On February 2, 2021, the U.S. Department of State assessed that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of Burma's ruling party, and President Win Myint, the duly elected head of government, were deposed in a military coup on February 1, 2021.

(4) As part of the military coup, the Burmese military declared martial law, suspended the civilian-led government, and detained newly elected Members of Parliament

in the capitol, Naypyidaw, thereby usurping the role of the democratically elected government and parliament.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) due to the Burmese military's seizure of government through the detention of State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, President Win Myint, and other government leaders, Burma is not represented by a democratically-elected government;

(2) the inability of newly elected Members of Parliament to begin their official mandate due to the Burmese military's actions directly threatens the democratic trajectory of Burma's Parliament, and thereby the country;

(3) the will and determination of those duly-elected Members of Parliament who are taking it upon themselves to continue serving as representatives of the people through alternative methods of communicating and convening should be lauded; and

(4) by preventing the Parliament from completing its work, the Burmese military has rendered impossible and effectively nullified the international collaborative relationships that have supported and strengthened the institution, including the Burmese parliament's partnership with HDP.

SEC. 4. POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES REGARDING BURMA'S DEMOCRACY.

It is the policy of the United States to—

(1) condemn the military coup in Burma, to urge the unconditional release of detained democratically-elected leaders and civil society members, and to support a return to Burma's democratic transition;

(2) instruct, as appropriate, representatives of the United States Government to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States at the United Nations to hold accountable those responsible for the military coup in Burma; and

(3) engage with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and ASEAN member states to promote a return to Burma's democratic transition and democratic values throughout Southeast Asia, and support the centrality of ASEAN within the regional architecture of the Indo-Pacific.

SEC. 5. REPORT.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate a report on the military coup in Burma, including a description of efforts to implement the policy specified in section 4.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1112, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I want to start by thanking Mr. CONNOLLY for this important bill before us today.

The Protect Democracy in Burma Act of 2021 is a timely measure that ensures the United States is not silent when a military coup supplants democracy. It also directs strong U.S. engagement with our partners at the U.N. and ASEAN because we are always stronger when we are united.

In 2015, decades of brutal military rule gave way to what many hoped would be a new era of reform and democratization in Burma. That hope was short-lived, and the Tatmadaw began to show its true colors as it engaged in a genocide of the Rohingya Muslim minority.

Now, a little more than 5 years after the democratic opening that it helped usher in, the military has halted Burma's democratic experiment.

By all accounts, Burma's November 2020 parliamentary elections were credible, and claims of widespread fraud have been debunked by election-monitoring authorities. The United States condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the actions of the Burmese military and its violent crackdown and killing of protesters. But we cannot stand alone.

□ 1545

To be most effective, the United States must work with our partners in the region in condemning the Tatmadaw's brutal actions in supporting democracy and respect for the election outcome.

Madam Speaker, that is exactly what this bill sets out to do. It makes clear where the U.S. stands. It promotes multilateral cooperation as we work to hold the Burmese military accountable and call for a return to Burma's democratic transition. It also ensures reporting to Congress so that we can properly review U.S. policy.

Madam Speaker, this is a very important bill that sends a message to the people of Burma and to the entire world, and I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, on February 1, Burma's military seized power yet again, ending 5 years of a flawed, but hopeful, democracy, and dragging Burma back into brutal military rule. Since that day, the world has watched horrified as pro-democracy protestors are met with brutal violence in the streets.

The Burmese military has used communications blackouts, curfews, and mass detentions to stifle opposition. They have used live ammunition against peaceful protestors. Hundreds have been killed and thousands detained. At the same time, the lead opposition to the Burmese military, the National League for Democracy, is facing further repression. NLD members have been rounded up and charged with baseless crimes, including NLD's leader, Aung San Suu Kyi.

Madam Speaker, that is why I am asking my colleagues to join me today in supporting this resolution. I really want to thank the chairman and Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia for bringing this bill forward, to make it clear that the United States of America condemns this coup. It encourages engagement with southeast nations to promote Burma's return to democracy.

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

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY), an esteemed member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and author of this important bill.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I thank my distinguished friend for the wonderful work he is doing as our new chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. And I thank my friend, Mr. MCCAUL, the distinguished ranking member.

Madam Speaker, this is an important bipartisan statement. Lives are at stake. It is urgent this House speak with one voice about what is happening in Myanmar, formerly Burma. The current crisis in the wake of a military coup in which violence is escalating by the day and protestors are being killed by the dozens demands a timely response.

I was pleased to introduce this bill in collaboration with the House Democracy Partnership chairman, Mr. DAVID PRICE, and our Republican colleague, Mr. VERN BUCHANAN of Florida.

On February 1, the Burmese military seized control of Burma's Government in a coup d'etat by detaining democratically elected leaders from the National League of Democracy, NLD, just hours before the country's new parliament was set to meet for its first session. And that was following an overwhelming election result in that country.

Among those detained were State Counselor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi; President U Win Myint; and other senior NLD leaders. In one fell swoop, the military plunged this national democracy into renewed political turmoil just as it was emerging from five decades of military rule and isolation.

In 2015, more than 30 million voters elected the NLD and its leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, to power in the country's first general election.

The country's first peaceful transfer of power from military rule to a civilian government was celebrated around the world. Pictures of voters proudly raising their ink-stained fingers after the voting in the country's 2015 and 2020 elections had been replaced tragically by images of anger and tears and bloodshed.

The military takeover has jeopardized hard-won progress on everything, from infrastructure or education investments to the country's fragile peace process. It seeks to snuff out the hopes of the Burmese people for a better future.

At least 149 people, including children, have been killed by the security forces. Mass funerals have been conducted all across the country. More than 2,100 individuals—civilians, students, journalists, unionists—have been detained. Millions have poured onto the streets all across Burma to demand a return to democracy, putting themselves at grave risk for the sake of their own freedom.

A civil disobedience movement has emerged with medics, bankers, lawyers, teachers, engineers, factory workers, students, leaving their jobs and their study as a form of resistance against the coup. Despite military orders to shoot to kill, they have not backed down.

While we cannot be on the streets of Yangon or Mandalay or Nay Pyi Taw, we must stand in solidarity with those brave people in their peaceful protests against this coup.

That is what this bill seeks to do. The Protect Democracy in Burma Act would establish that it is the policy of the United States Government to engage with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and their member states to condemn the coup, urge unconditional release of detained leaders and civil society members, and support the immediate return to a democratic transition. It instructs the United States Government to use its voice, vote, and influence in the U.N. to hold accountable those responsible for this coup.

Finally, the legislation states, as the sense of Congress, that the Burmese military has effectively nullified its participation with the House Democracy Partnership—a partnership here at the House that has been in place for the past 5 years.

Madam Speaker, I was privileged, along with our chairman, Mr. PRICE, to travel to Burma and meet with Aung San Suu Kyi as part of that partnership delegation back in 2016, a visit that reinforced our commitment to supporting Burma's democratization and development. The Burmese military must respect the results of democratic elections and allow the democratic transition in Burma to continue.

Madam Speaker, with this bill, with one voice, Congress will send a clear signal to the military junta that its unlawful seizure of power will not be accepted and there will be hope for the Burmese people.

Mr. MCCAUL. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY).

Ms. TENNEY. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman and the ranking member for their leadership.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1112 and H. Res. 134. Both of these bills support democracy and stand with the people of Burma, also known as Myanmar.

New York's 22nd District is home to more than 4,000 Burmese refugees and new Burmese-American citizens. They have been coming to our region for over 20 years. They are demanding action and a return to civilian rule in Burma. I stand with them and all of my colleagues in condemning the atrocious human rights abuses that are taking place at the hands of the military coup last month.

I am honored to be an original cosponsor on both of these bills on Burma as a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, where they received strong bipartisan support. Though these bills will not solve the problem in Burma, this will provide continued pressure on the military and a strong unified international condemnation will add to that. However, these bills are a very important step in the right direction.

The Burmese refugees and American citizens I represent in New York's 22nd District remain resolute in support of their friends and families who are suffering through this tragic process. In Utica, for example, they continue to advocate peacefully and protest in solidarity with those in their home country, displaying signs that read: ''Save Democracy, Save Burma.''

The passion and courage of the Burmese people both in my district and in Burma is inspiring. I am honored to provide a voice for them in this august body.

Madam Speaker, I urge all to remain committed to the Burmese people's quest for democracy and to oppose the assault on their free and fair government.

Again, I thank Chairman MEEKS, Ranking Member MCCAUL, and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) for being so strong on this initiative. It is critically important to the Burmese refugees in my community.

To the citizens: We stand with you.

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE), the distinguished chairman of the House Democracy Partnership.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am proud to advocate the passage of H.R. 1112, the Protect Democracy in Burma Act; and H. Res. 134, a resolution condemning the military coup taking place in Burma.

I commend Chairman MEEKS and Ranking Member MCCAUL for their leadership. As chairman of the House Democracy Partnership, I am happy to work alongside Representative CONNOLLY to champion this bill, and I commend Representative LEVIN for his good work, as well.

What is going on in Burma demands action. The very foundation of Burmese democracy and, consequently, the country's international standing now hang in the balance as a result of the Burmese military's reckless action. The situation is deteriorating rapidly, with Burmese military and security forces violently attacking and rounding up peaceful protestors, civil servants, community leaders, journalists, and even emergency medical personnel. The death toll is now estimated at 200.

The democratically elected Government of Burma, to be sure, had serious flaws, but it had made significant progress in improving the lives of Burmese citizens. The House Democracy Partnership had begun to work with the democratically elected parliament, as had the National Democratic Institute. The International Republican Institute had begun to work on local governance. That progress must be consolidated, built on, and expanded, not washed away by the greed of a few generals in fear of losing their wealth, losing the control they exercise at the expense of the Burmese people.

I strongly support the Biden administration's decision to place sanctions on senior military leaders and military-owned businesses. The economic and political pressure must be intense.

We must do more, including working with our friends and allies in the region, particularly members of the ASEAN community, to keep up the drumbeat, to keep up the pressure, for the junta to step down and to restore the democratically elected government.

We must do all we can, and time is not on our side. These two bills are a beginning. They signify a unified and urgent sense on the part of the House that this coup simply must be reversed and democratic government restored in Burma.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to stand with colleagues today in solidarity, and I urge support of these two bills.

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

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the esteemed gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the distinguished chairman for his leadership, and I thank the ranking member as well.

Madam Speaker, I stand here today to recognize the hardworking Burmese Americans who are here, who are fighting every day for their friends and their relatives in their native land.

On February 1, 2021, hours before the Burmese Parliament was to convene in a new session, Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of the Burma ruling party; and President Win Myint, the duly-elected head of government, were deposed in a military coup.

How shameful.

As that coup was done, violence prevailed. And as violence prevailed, people lost their lives.

□ 1600

This is a worthy act of condemnation. I also support H. Res. 134, the resolution condemning the coup in Burma, and condemning the still detaining of Aung San Suu Kyi to her place of residence. She is in danger.

So I rise today to support H.R. 1112, which declares: ''It is the policy of the United States to instruct, as appropriate, representatives of the United States Government to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United

States at the United Nations to hold accountable those responsible for the military coup in Burma.''

The legislation also directs that not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this act that Congress gets a report from the Secretary of State as relates to the military coup in Burma, and provide a description of the efforts taken by the United States to help the people of Burma restore their democratic form of government.

I want to cite a constituent in my district—first of all, the people from Burma who have been generous in their help of Houstonians, their fellow Houstonians, in Hurricane Harvey, in the freeze, in COVID–19—Mr. Mouton, who has provided resources to all of the people in the area representing the community of those from Burma. He has been generous in his support when people have been in need. That is what people from Burma here in the United States do.

So this statement that we are making is to say that we are standing with the freedom fighters. We are standing with those who believe in democracy.

And I want to salute the Parliament. The Parliament and the duly elected members of the Burmese Parliament who have taken it upon themselves to continue serving as representatives of the people through alternative methods of communicating and convening is courageous and laudable and inspires the respect of freedom-loving people everywhere.

It is our goal, as we stand on the floor of the House, for the American peoples' voices to be heard through H.R. 1112, the Protect Democracy in Burma Act of 2021, and H. Res. 134, the resolution condemning the coup in Burma, and to support the American-Burmese community.

Madam Speaker, as a senior member of the Committee on the Judiciary and the Member of Congress for the Eighteenth Congressional District of Texas, the home of a large and vibrant Burmese community, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1112, the ''Protect Democracy In Burma Act of 2021,'' which condemns the military coup in Burma and calls for the unconditional release of detained democratically-elected leaders and civil society members and declares it the policy of the United States to support a return to Burma's democratic transition.

Madam Speaker, on February 1, 2021, hours before Burmese Parliament was to convene in a new session Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of Burma's ruling party, and President Win Myint, the duly elected head of government, were deposed in a military coup on February 1, 2021.

As part of the military coup, the Burmese military declared martial law, suspended the civilian led government, and detained newly elected Members of Parliament in the capitol, Naypyidaw, thereby usurping the role of the democratically elected government and parliament.

The inability of newly elected Members of Parliament to begin their official mandate due to the Burmese military's actions directly threatens the democratic trajectory of Burma's Parliament, and thereby the country.

By preventing the Parliament from completing its work, the Burmese military has rendered impossible and effectively nullified the international collaborative relationships that have supported and strengthened the institution, including the Burmese parliament's partnership with HDP.

Because of the Burmese military's seizure of government through the detention of State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, President Win Myint, and other government leaders, Burma is not represented by a democratically-elected government.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 1112 declares it to be the policy of the United States to instruct, as appropriate, representatives of the United States Government to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States at the United Nations to hold accountable those responsible for the military coup in Burma.

The legislation also directs the representatives of the United States Government to engage with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and ASEAN member states to promote a return to Burma's democratic transition and democratic values throughout Southeast Asia and support the centrality of ASEAN within the regional architecture of the Indo-Pacific.

Finally, the legislation directs that not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate a report on the military coup in Burma and a description of efforts taken by the United States to help the people of Burma restore their democratic form of government.

Madam Speaker, the will and determination of those duly elected Members of the Burmese Parliament who are taking it upon themselves to continue serving as representatives of the people through alternative methods of communicating and convening is courageous, laudable, and inspires the respect of freedom loving people everywhere.

That is why I strongly support H.R. 1112, the ''Protect Democracy in Burma Act of 2021,'' and urge my colleagues to join me in voting for its passage.

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

Madam Speaker, Members across the aisle share the same concerns about Burma's military coup, and the brutal human rights violations it has caused. This bill ensures that the United States of America's condemnation of this coup is a matter of record, and it asks the administration to report to Congress on this critical issue.

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

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Madam Speaker, again, I want to thank Mr. CONNOLLY for introducing this legislation, and I want to thank Ranking Member MCCAUL and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle for making sure that we have a singular voice going forward.

The world cannot turn a blind eye to the violence perpetrated by the Burmese military. With this important measure, the United States sends a clear signal that we stand with the people of Burma in their longstanding pursuit for democracy, and a strong message to the Burmese military, or to anyone, for that matter, who fail to uphold the will of the people.

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. MEEKS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1112, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONDEMNING MILITARY COUP IN BURMA

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 134) condemning the military coup that took place on February 1, 2021, in Burma and the Burmese military detention of civilian leaders, calling for the release of all those detained and for those elected to serve in Parliament to resume their duties, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 134

Whereas the military of Burma (hereinafter referred to as the ''Tatmadaw'') held power in Burma between 1962 and 2011;

Whereas provisions in the 2008 Constitution of Burma, written by the Tatmadaw, allocate 25 percent of parliamentary seats to the Tatmadaw, conferring powers on the Tatmadaw that have been used to suppress basic rights, including freedoms of expression, assembly, and association;

Whereas, in 2010, Burma conducted its first election, which was neither free nor fair, under the new Constitution, and which was boycotted by the National League for Democracy (NLD);

Whereas Burma conducted elections in November 2015, in which the NLD came to power;

Whereas Burma's November 8, 2020, elections resulted in the NLD securing enough seats in Parliament to form the next government, notwithstanding the disenfranchisement of more than 1,500,000 voters, mostly from ethnic minority communities in Kachin, Karen, Mon, Rakhine, Shan, and Chin states;

Whereas the Tatmadaw conducted a coup against the civilian government on February 1, 2021, hours before Parliament was to convene in a new session;

Whereas the Tatmadaw claimed they had evidence of parliamentary election fraud perpetrated by the NLD and Burma's Union Election Commission, an allegation that contradicted the judgment of several independent election monitoring organizations that the electoral process and outcome were credible despite minor irregularities;

Whereas the Tatmadaw has detained unlawfully State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi,

President Win Myint, and other leaders of the NLD, as well as prodemocracy activists from the 88 Generation and other civil society leaders;

Whereas the Tatmadaw has charged State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi with importing walkie-talkies illegally and President Win Myint with violating prohibitions on gatherings during the COVID–19 pandemic;

Whereas the Tatmadaw has declared a state of emergency until new elections are held in one year;

Whereas the Tatmadaw has restricted freedom of movement, telecommunications, and the media, limiting access to information to and from Burma during a political and public health crisis;

Whereas, on January 31, 2021, the Secretary-General of the United Nations spokesperson released the following condemnation of the coup, which reads, in part, ''The Secretary-General strongly condemns the detention of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, President U Win Myint and other political leaders on the eve of the opening session of Myanmar's new Parliament. He expresses his grave concern regarding the declaration of the transfer of all legislative, executive and judicial powers to the military. These developments represent a serious blow to democratic reforms in Myanmar.'';

Whereas, on February 1, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., condemned the coup in a statement that read, in part, ''The military's seizure of power in Burma, the detention of Aung San Suu Kyi and other civilian officials, and the declaration of a national state of emergency are a direct assault on the country's transition to democracy and the rule of law.'';

Whereas protests opposing the coup have swept Burma;

Whereas the House of Representatives passed H. Res. 1091 on December 13, 2018, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the atrocities committed against the Rohingya by the Tatmadaw and security forces beginning in August 2017 constituted crimes against humanity and genocide; and

Whereas the United States has sanctioned Tatmadaw officials previously, including Commander in Chief Min Aung Hlaing, for the atrocities committed against the Rohingya, and the International Court of Justice is investigating the Tatmadaw's conduct: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns the military coup that took place on February 1, 2021;

(2) stands with the people of Burma in their ambition for sustainable peace, a genuine democracy, and the realization of human rights for all, including for ethnic minorities whose human rights have been violated repeatedly and who have been disenfranchised historically;

(3) condemns any attacks on civilians and supports the use of all diplomatic and development tools to ensure that civilians are safe during conflict;

(4) calls on the Tatmadaw to—

(A) release all those currently detained arbitrarily as a result of the February 1st coup;

(B) restore all forms of communications, including internet services;

(C) remove all impediments to free travel that have been imposed as a result of the coup, apart from legitimate travel restrictions related to the COVID–19 pandemic;

(D) return to power all members of the civilian government;

(E) allow for freedom of expression, including the right to protest, press freedom, and freedom of movement;

(F) allow unfettered reporting from local, national, and international media; and

(G) refrain from mass evictions; and

(5) calls on the President of the United States and the Secretary of State to—

(A) encourage both the return to power of all members of the civilian government and, subsequently, constitutional reforms to address the power conferred to the Tatmadaw in Parliament and the disenfranchisement of ethnic minorities in Burma;

(B) reinstate sanctions and impose new restrictions aimed at the Tatmadaw and those responsible for the February 1st coup;

(C) work with the international partners and multilateral institutions, including the United Nations Security Council, to condemn the coup and enact multilateral, targeted sanctions on the military, military-owned businesses, including the Myanmar Economic Corporation and Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited, and others connected to the coup, including an international arms embargo;

(D) coordinate with international partners and allies, especially those with economic investments in Burma, with respect to planned economic consequences for the coup and ensuring those consequences are tailored to avoid impacting Burmese civilians;

(E) ensure that targeted sanctions allow all necessary exemptions to permit the delivery of humanitarian assistance to civilians in need;

(F) ensure that United States-based social media companies, including Facebook, not allow their platforms to be used as vehicles for disinformation campaigns or advocating violence against the Burmese people;

(G) implement restrictions on diplomatic, economic, and security relations with Burma until a full restoration of civilian-controlled Parliament, and release of those detained in connection with the coup; and

(H) direct the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to bring about greater international cooperation to pursue justice and accountability in Burma.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 134.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Representative LEVIN for sponsoring this resolution, which condemns the military coup that occurred in Burma on February 1, 2021.

It has been more than 45 days since the Burmese military, also known as the Tatmadaw, arrested several democratically-elected members of government, including the President Win Myint, and the State Counselor, Aung San Suu Kyi, and declared a year-long state of emergency, and nullified the results of Burma's November 8, 2020, elections.

Despite Tatmadaw claims of election fraud, several independent election monitoring organizations found that the electoral process and outcome were credible, even despite minor irregularities.

Since the coup took place, we have seen thousands of protesters take to the streets to make sure that their voices were heard; voices in opposition to the coup and in support of democracy. And as those protests continued, we have seen security forces increasingly use violence in an attempt to quell the demonstrations.

The U.N. estimates that 149 people have been killed since the coup occurred on February 1. Fifty-seven people were killed this past weekend alone.

It is imperative that democracies around the world speak out in condemnation of this coup and the arrest of democratically-elected government officials. It is vital that we speak in support of democracy, of all of those members of civil society who have been arrested, and those in Burma who are protesting for the restoration of democracy. And it is important that we make it clear to the Tatmadaw, including through additional targeted sanctions that leverage sources of income for the military, that these actions are absolutely unacceptable.

We are sadly, in this body, all too familiar with the rippling effects of attempts to undo democratic elections. We have an obligation to speak up and speak out wherever democracy is threatened.

Madam Speaker, this is a very important resolution. I support it and urge my colleagues to do the same, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, the House has always come together to condemn human rights violations around the world, whether it is in Rwanda or Xinjiang; or as we discuss here today, in Burma.

Only 3 years ago, the House overwhelmingly passed Mr. CHABOT's resolution to label the Burmese military's crimes against the Rohingya Muslim population as genocide.

Unfortunately, we are once again facing shocking violence in Burma as a pro-democracy movement pushes back against the recent military coup. Hundreds are reported dead, with many more injured. And more than 2,000 people have been arrested, simply for peacefully asking for freedom. America cannot stand idly and silently by while atrocities like this happen.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution. With over 60 Republican and Democrat cosponsors, this resolution, and this issue, is truly bipartisan. I want to thank Mr. LEVIN for introducing this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), a

valued member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and author of this important resolution.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman MEEKS and Ranking Member MCCAUL for their support in bringing this resolution to the floor today.

Last month, the Burmese military, Tatmadaw, staged a coup and quashed Burma's fragile experiment with democracy.

Burma had struggled during that time to enfranchise its minority population, and to respect their human rights. The genocide of the Rohingya is perhaps the best known example, but it is far from the only one.

In fact, when Burma's November 8, 2020, elections resulted in the National League for Democracy winning an overwhelming victory and securing enough seats in Parliament to form the next government, it was notwithstanding the disenfranchisement of more than 1,500,000 voters, mostly from ethnic minority communities in Kachin, Karen, Mon, Rakhine, Shan, and Chin states.

The resolution before us today condemns the February 1st coup unequivocally and calls on the Tatmadaw to free all those they have detained arbitrarily and return members of the civilian government to power.

We are considering this resolution at a critical time. More than 2,100 people have been arrested, charged, or sentenced in relation to the coup. The military and police have been ordered to fire on protesters. More than 200 people have been killed in cold blood in these violent crackdowns.

On top of mobile data blackouts, there is now concern that the Tatmadaw could cut off WiFi as well, and even reports of fiber lines being cut, which would cut off access to the internet altogether.

Clearly, there is no time to waste. The junta's rule must end. But it will not be enough simply to return to the status quo ante. This resolution calls on President Biden and Secretary Blinken to encourage not just the return to power of the civilian government, but also, subsequently, constitutional reforms to address the undemocratic power reserved for the Tatmadaw in Parliament, and the disenfranchisement of Burma's ethnic minorities.

Democracy is something we must ever defend and nurture. That is why we who believe that all people are created equal and must be treated as such, whether here in America or anywhere else around the globe, must speak up, not only for full civilian control in Burma, but also for democracy, not for some, but for all.

And so this resolution makes clear that Congress stands with all of the people of Burma in their ambition for sustainable peace, a genuine democracy, and the realization of human rights for all.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Ranking Member CHABOT for authoring this resolution with me, as well as Subcommittee Chairman BERA, Chairman MEEKS, Ranking Member MCCAUL, and all of my colleagues who have cosponsored this important resolution, which I am proud to say, on a completely bipartisan basis, we passed through the House Foreign Affairs Committee unanimously.

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

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding, and I thank the chairman for his leadership.

I would especially like to thank Mr. LEVIN for his resolution condemning the military coup in Burma, and calling for release of all those who have been detained, as well as restoring those elected to serve in Parliament to a position that allows them to fulfill their important duties.

I would also like to thank Mr. CONNOLLY for his Protect Democracy in Burma Act, H.R. 1112, and the important report that it will authorize.

Mr. Speaker, 24 years ago, in 1997, I chaired my first hearing on Burmese human rights abuse, and chaired additional hearings after that, including in 1998 and 2006. I also introduced several resolutions addressing the ongoing egregious crisis, including H. Res. 1710, which decried the house arrest of Aung San Suu Kyi, and called on the Burmese military regime to end its campaign of religious and ethnic persecution of the Rohingya people, amounting to crimes against humanity.

□ 1615

Thus, after decades of abuse, rape, torture, and murder, it is incredibly tragic as to how little has changed in that country.

As H. Res. 134 points out, the Burmese Government's unlawful detention of State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi, as well as the crackdown on democracy advocates and the squelching of free expression and other fundamental civil and political rights, is outrageous and begs immediate reform and correction.

The United States must, and I believe will, in a bipartisan way, and with the executive branch taking the lead, do its part. Every sanction of leverage must be deployed, and we must call on all of our international partners to join us in those efforts.

The most glaring example of basic religious persecution, Mr. Speaker, is the oppression of Burma's Muslim Rohingya population. This persecution has been aided and abetted in part by religious and nationalist extremists such as the Buddhist monk Wirathu and the 969 movement.

We also see religious persecution intertwined with ethnic persecution, as in the case of the Karen, Kachin, and Shan people, many of whom are Christians. I have met many of them over the years.

Many of you have seen the riveting image of a Catholic nun, Sister Ann Rose Nu Tawang, kneeling before a group of militarized police, pleading that they do not shoot the protesters. Sadly, at least two protesters lost their lives that day. But what gives us at least a glimmer of hope is that opposite Sister Ann Rose, two of the officers, who are presumably Buddhists, also got down on their knees in response that this ought to be peaceful and not violent.

It is an image which gives one some hope that the people of Burma can overcome their differences and unite for peace and justice and for the benefit of all Burmese, regardless of religion, ethnicity, or political affiliation.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my distinguished chairman and the ranking member for their leadership on this.

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

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT).

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank the ranking member for his leadership on this issue and so many issues that are so significant across the globe. Fortunately, our committee usually works in a bipartisan manner, so I want to thank my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, especially the chairman, for his leadership on this as well.

As the ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee's Asia, the Pacific, Central Asia, and Nonproliferation Subcommittee, I rise today in support of H.R. 134, legislation that Congressman LEVIN and I introduced condemning the Burmese military's February 1 coup against the civilian government. The military's decision to seize control and detain top political leaders, including Aung San Suu Kyi and President Win Myint, was a brazen assault on Burma's fledgling democracy.

Self-government is not some sort of temporary arrangement or a gift from the military. Burma's generals cannot simply back out of democracy when it no longer serves their purposes.

The situation has only gotten worse since the coup began. To date, the military has killed hundreds of people and has detained thousands of innocent people as political prisoners, and the conditions in many instances are horrible.

What the military is doing here is just unconscionable. These murders and detentions are blatant violations of the rights of the Burmese people who, after all, only want to have what so many other countries have across the globe, and that is the ability to determine their own leadership and their own course of action for their own families and their children and grandchildren.

We should honor—the whole world really should honor—the courage of the Burmese people who have been peacefully protesting for quite some time

now. Their bravery and determination are recognized and supported across the globe. America and the world stand with them in their struggle against tyranny.

Unfortunately, the PRC in this case and in so many other cases across the globe, whether it is Cambodia or other areas where they tend, their actions are malevolent. They are undermining democracy; they are undermining freedom; and they are undermining legitimate governments. They are rewarding bad behavior, as they are doing in this case, and that is too bad because the PRC wants to be a major force and wants to be a country that other countries can look up to.

Unfortunately, they are doing all the wrong things too often, and that is what they are doing here as well. Rather than putting pressure on the military in Burma, they are essentially looking the other way or supporting them in what they are doing.

The bravery and determination of the people must be recognized across the globe.

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

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT).

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a report from the Associated Press detailing the detention of AP reporter Thein Zaw by Burmese authorities.

[From the AP, Mar. 12, 2021]

MYANMAR COURT EXTENDS DETENTION OF AP JOURNALIST

YANGON, MYANMAR (AP).—A court in Myanmar extended on Friday the pretrial detention of an Associated Press journalist who was arrested while covering demonstrations against a coup. He is facing a charge that could send him to prison for three years.

Thein Zaw, 32, was one of nine media workers taken into custody during a protest on Feb. 27 in Yangon, the country's largest city, and has been held without bail. His next hearing at the Kamayut Township court will be on March 24.

Friday's hearing, which Thein Zaw attended via videoconference, came at the end of his initial remand period.

Thein Zaw and at least six other members of the media have been charged with violating a public order law, according to his lawyer, Tin Zar Oo, and the independent Assistance Association for Political Prisoners. Separate hearings were held Friday for the other detained journalists.

Tin Zar Oo and one of Thein Zaw's brothers were allowed into the courtroom to take part in the 10-minute videoconference. Tin Zar Oo said she was able to submit documents giving her power of attorney for the case, but only at the next hearing might be allowed to submit a bail application.

A representative of the U.S. Embassy was also present, said Aryani Manring, a spokeswoman for the mission.

Thein Zaw had not been seen by his lawyer or any of his family members since his arrest. Tin Zar Oo said visits at Insein Prison, where her client is being held, are not allowed because of coronavirus concerns, so his family has been dropping off food and supplies for him at the gate.

Tin Zar Oo said that her client looked healthy during Friday's hearing, but he suffers from asthma at night. She said Thein Zaw's brother noted that he had lost weight.

Thein Zaw was arrested as he was photographing police, some of them armed, charging down a street at anti-coup protesters. A video shows that although he stepped to the side of the street to get out of their way, several police rushed over and surrounded him. One put him in a chokehold as he was handcuffed and then taken away.

According to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, 38 journalists have been detained since the military ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi on Feb. 1. Nineteen are still incarcerated.

The group says it has verified the detentions of more than 2,000 people as well as 69 deaths.

On Friday, local media in Shan State in eastern Myanmar reported that a freelance journalist from Poland had been beaten and arrested by security forces.

The online Kanbawza Tai News said a foreign photojournalist was arrested Thursday while taking pictures of a protest in the city of Taunggyi. A photo provided to the news site shows a man trapped against a wall with one arm raised as he is surrounded by about 10 soldiers.

Germany's dpa news agency said the man, Robert Bociaga, 30, has been working for the news service, and it has not been able to contact him.

''We are deeply shocked by the arrest and apparent mistreatment of Robert Bociaga,'' said the agency's editor-in-chief, Sven Goesmann. ''This is an intolerable and unacceptable attack on the freedom of the press and, even in this brutal form, is unfortunately not an isolated case.''

The Polish Foreign Ministry confirmed the arrest of a Polish journalist and said it was trying to contact the detained man and obtain information about his health and legal situation.

Earlier this week, Myanmar authorities canceled the licenses of five local outlets that had extensively covered the protests. Mizzima, Democratic Voice of Burma, Khit Thit Media, Myanmar Now and 7Day News have continued operating despite being barred from broadcasting or publishing on any media platform.

The Associated Press and many press freedom organizations have called for the release of Thein Zaw and the other detained journalists.

The U.S. government, in addition to criticizing the coup and the violence of Myanmar's security forces, has condemned the crackdown on the press in the Southeast Asian nation.

''We are deeply concerned about the increasing attacks on the freedom of expression, including for members of the press. We call for the release of journalists and for all others who have been unjustly detained,'' U.S. State Department spokesperson Ned Price told reporters in Washington on Thursday.

Even during Suu Kyi's time in office, journalists were often sued for their reporting.

In the highest-profile case, two journalists working for the Reuters news agency were arrested in 2017 while working on a story about military violence directed at Myanmar's Rohingya minority. They were accused of illegally possessing official documents and sentenced to seven years behind bars before being freed in 2019 in a mass presidential pardon.

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Zaw has been jailed for covering the violence leveled against anti-coup demonstrators in Burma.

Thanks to Mr. Zaw and other journalists on the ground, we know what is going on in Burma is pure evil. The autocratic strongmen leading this coup are using deadly force to crack down on all dissenting speech. Burmese authorities, under the direction of these military thugs, are actively murdering demonstrators, arresting thousands, and imprisoning international reporters covering the situation.

Senseless violence, military rule, and imprisoning political opponents all fly directly in the face of the democratic values we cherish as Americans.

Today, this Chamber has the opportunity to condemn the hostile takeover of the Burmese Government, defend the demonstrators looking for peace, and stand up for democracy in Burma.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage my colleagues to support both H. Res. 134 and H.R. 1112.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the Burmese military is using brutal violence to drag Burma back into repression and isolation. We should condemn this coup with one united voice as the United States of America through its Congress.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, it is imperative that the Burmese military respect the will of the Burmese people and, one, return power to those democratically elected; and, two, release civilian leaders taken into custody.

Daily protests against the military coup continue to occur in towns and cities throughout Burma, and the security forces are using increasing brutality to crack down against those demonstrating.

We must make it clear that the United States is watching and that we support the restoration of democracy.

Again, I want to thank Mr. LEVIN, the ranking member, and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for coming together so that the Burmese people know that the Congress of the United States of America stands together in their fight for democracy.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RUIZ). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 134.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

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

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

AMERICAN DREAM AND PROMISE ACT OF 2021

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of the bill (H.R. 6) to authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain aliens, and for other purposes, will now resume.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the motion to recommit on H.R. 6 offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN) on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the motion.

The Clerk redesignated the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 203, nays 216, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 90]

YEAS—203

Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bentz
Bergman
Bice (OK)
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brooks
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Calvert
Cammack
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Comer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Estes
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harris
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
Jacobs (NY)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Katko
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kim (CA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
LaTurner
Lesko
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Mace
Malliotakis
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McKinley
Meijer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Mullin
Murphy (NC)
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunes
Obernolte
Owens
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Stivers
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wittman
Womack
Zeldin

NAYS—216

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Auchincloss
Axne
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brown
Brownley
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis, Danny K.
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fletcher
Foster
Frankel, Lois
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hastings
Hayes
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Kahele
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newman
Norcross
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Rice (NY)
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—10

Brady
Donalds
Gaetz
Gohmert
Kinzinger
McHenry
Pascrell
Takano
Wilson (SC)
Young

□ 1713

Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mses. CLARK of Massachusetts, SANCHEZ, and Mr. GREEN of Texas changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Messrs. CAWTHORN, NORMAN, LAMBORN, WESTERMAN, MOORE of Alabama, and BOST changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I want to state that on March 18, 2021, I missed one rollcall vote. Had I been present, I would have voted: ''Yes''—rollcall vote 90—Motion to Recommit on H.R. 6.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Allred (Davids (KS))
Axne (Stevens)
Barragán (Beyer)
Bera(Aguilar)
Bishop (GA) (Butterfield)
Blumenauer (Beyer)
Buchanan (Gimenez)
Bush (Clark (MA))
Cárdenas (Gomez)
Cleaver (Davids (KS))
DeSaulnier (Matsui)
DesJarlais (Fleischmann)
Garbarino (Joyce (OH))
Grijalva (García (IL))
Hastings (Butterfield)
Kahele (Mrvan)
Kim (NJ) (Davids (KS))
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Langevin (Lynch)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lieu (Beyer)
Lowenthal (Beyer)
McEachin (Wexton)
Meng (Clark (MA))
Moore (WI) (Beyer)
Moulton (Underwood)
Napolitano (Correa)
Omar (Pressley)
Payne (Pallone)
Peters (Kildee)
Pingree (Cicilline)
Porter (Wexton)
Rush (Underwood)
Schneider (Sherrill)
Sires (Pallone)
Slotkin (Stevens)
Smith (WA) (Courtney)
Timmons (Steube)
Wasserman Schultz (Soto)
Watson Coleman (Pallone)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

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

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

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

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 228, nays 197, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 91]

YEAS—228

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Auchincloss
Axne
Bacon
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brown
Brownley
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis, Danny K.
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fitzpatrick
Fletcher
Foster
Frankel, Lois
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gimenez
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hastings
Hayes
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Kahele
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna

Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newhouse
Newman
Norcross
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Rice (NY)
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Salazar
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Upton
Valadao
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NAYS—197

Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bentz
Bergman
Bice (OK)
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brooks
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Calvert
Cammack
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Comer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
DesJarlais
Donalds
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Estes
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fleischmann
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Gibbs
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harris
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
Jacobs (NY)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Katko
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kim (CA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
LaTurner
Lesko
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Mace
Malliotakis
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
Meijer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Mullin
Murphy (NC)
Nehls
Norman
Nunes
Obernolte
Owens
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Stivers
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wittman
Womack
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—5

Brady
Gohmert
Kinzinger
Wilson (SC)
Young

□ 1801

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Messrs. MCKINLEY, and GREEN of Tennessee changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Allred (Davids (KS))
Axne (Stevens)
Barragán (Beyer)
Bera (Aguilar)
Bishop (GA) (Butterfield)
Blumenauer (Beyer)
Buchanan (Gimenez)
Bush (Clark (MA))
Cárdenas (Gomez)
Cleaver (Davids (KS))
DeSaulnier (Matsui)
DesJarlais (Fleischmann)
Gaetz (McHenry)
Garbarino (Joyce (OH))
Grijalva (García (IL))
Hastings (Butterfield)
Kahele (Mrvan)
Kim (NJ) (Davids (KS))
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Langevin (Lynch)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lieu (Beyer)
Lowenthal (Beyer)
McEachin (Wexton)
Meng (Clark (MA))
Moore (WI) (Beyer)
Moulton (Underwood)
Napolitano (Correa)
Omar (Pressley)
Payne (Pallone)
Peters (Kildee)
Pingree (Cicilline)
Porter (Wexton)
Rush (Underwood)
Schneider (Sherrill)
Sires (Pallone)
Slotkin (Stevens)
Smith (WA) (Courtney)
Timmons (Steube)
Wasserman Schultz (Soto)
Watson Coleman (Pallone)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

LATRICE POWELL TRIBUTE

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

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to recognize the outstanding service of an esteemed member of my staff known and respected by all here: our deputy floor director, Latrice Powell.

In her 13 years on Capitol Hill, Latrice's name has become synonymous with cool-headed leadership and institutional expertise. We all know her as a maestro of the floor, masterfully directing legislative procedures and voting schedules, all while anticipating and managing the diverse needs of our Caucus.

Indeed, her skills as a coalition-builder and communicator help our Democratic Caucus honor this proud truth: Our diversity is our strength, but our unity is our power.

Members are particularly grateful for Latrice's calm and trusted presence this past year as she helped our Caucus and the Congress navigate this time of pandemic, and she has done so with equanimity and excellence.

Throughout her tenure on our floor team, Latrice has helped guide the passage and then the enactment of hundreds of bills for the people. While she has helped advance this great progress, she has made history as the first African-American assistant manager of the Democratic Cloakroom and then again at the start of the 116th Congress when it was my honor to appoint her to be the first African-American deputy floor director.

A Jackson, Mississippi, native, Latrice first came to the Hill to work under the leadership of our chairman—that is you, Mr. Speaker—BENNIE THOMPSON. She then joined the staff of the Congressional Black Caucus under Chairs EMANUEL CLEAVER and MARCIA FUDGE before serving as assistant Cloakroom manager. In each of these positions, she acquired a sterling reputation for her ability, and I know that each of these Members take great pride in her success.

While Latrice's trusted presence on this House floor will be missed, we are grateful for her service and for her work to forge a path for others to follow.

On behalf of the House of Representatives, I thank Latrice Powell and wish her the best in the next stages of her journey.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding, and I rise to join her in recognizing and thanking Latrice Powell for the extraordinary service that she has given to this institution.

Members from both sides of the aisle have come to know and respect Latrice for her deep knowledge of floor procedure, her acumen, and her experience helping to manage the floor during very difficult votes and debate.

Not only has she served the Speaker as her deputy floor director, Latrice previously helped run the Democratic Cloakroom, as was pointed out, and before that was director of operations for Member services for the Congressional Black Caucus as well as a staff member for the gentleman from Mississippi, our Speaker pro tempore, Mr. BENNIE THOMPSON. That is a very distinguished record of service to this House and to our country.

Now, I would be remiss if I did not observe that Latrice Powell is a graduate of the University of Maryland, and is a proud Terp. What a wonderful and distinguished academic institution she has graduated from. She also holds a master's degree in counseling and psychology from Bowie State University.

What is significant about the University of Maryland and Bowie State University? They are in my district, so, Mr. Speaker, you know what extraordinary institutions they are.

Today, Latrice lives in Upper Marlboro. Whose district do you think that is, Mr. Speaker? Just take a wild guess. The Fifth Congressional District of Maryland that I have had the proud privilege of serving for the last four decades.

Sadly, Latrice will shortly be leaving the House. You have heard me say this about other of our staff: The American people have no idea how talented our staff is and how hardworking, how patriotic, and how committed they are to this country and to this institution.

I would hope that all of us would, on a regular basis, tell them.

Latrice is an extraordinary person, but she is representative of those who work with us. That is the great truth and great privilege that we have as Members of this House serving with such extraordinary people who serve this institution. They serve us, and they serve this country so well.

I know that feeling all too well, having just said good-bye to my floor director, Shuwanza Goff. All of you know Shuwanza. She is now serving the President of the United States of America. She, too, was a historic first on this floor.

I hope that all the Members will join me on both sides of the aisle. For the most part, this staff is serving this House and this institution, not a party and not a philosophy, but serving an institution that we have so proudly call the people's House.

Bill Natcher from Kentucky was the chairman of the Appropriations Committee on which NANCY and I both served. He used to say, when he brought his bill to the floor: This is the people's bill in the people's House.

How proud we are that nobody can appoint us to this institution; we have to be elected to the House of Representatives.

Latrice, you have served all of us so very, very well. We love you, and we wish you the very best in the days ahead. God bless you, and Godspeed. We love you.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman for his wonderful remarks, and I want to join him in acknowledging the leadership of Shuwanza when she served here for all that time, and now we are very proud of the fact that she is in the administration. But every chance we get, we should acknowledge the great service that she provided here as we acknowledge and say thank you to Latrice Powell and wish her well as she goes forward. She made us all so very, very proud and continues to do so.

Thank you so much, Latrice.

FARM WORKFORCE MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2021

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi). Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further 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, will now resume.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CARBAJAL). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the motion to recommit offered by the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. FISCHBACH) on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the motion.

The Clerk redesignated the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 204, nays 218, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 92]

YEAS—204

Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bentz
Bergman
Bice (OK)
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brooks
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Calvert
Cammack
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Comer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Estes
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harris
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
Jacobs (NY)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Katko
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kim (CA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
LaTurner
Lesko
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Mace
Malliotakis
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
Meijer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Mullin
Murphy (NC)
Nehls
Norman
Nunes
Obernolte
Owens
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wittman
Womack
Zeldin

NAYS—218

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Auchincloss
Axne
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brown
Brownley
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis, Danny K.
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fletcher
Foster
Frankel, Lois
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hastings
Hayes
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Kahele
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newman
Norcross
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Rice (NY)
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—7

Brady
Gohmert
Kinzinger
Newhouse
Stivers
Wilson (SC)
Young

□ 1857

Mses. GARCIA of Texas, DELBENE, and MANNING changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama changed his vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Allred (Davids (KS))
Axne (Stevens)
Barragán (Beyer)
Bera (Aguilar)
Bishop (GA) (Butterfield)
Blumenauer (Beyer)
Buchanan (Gimenez)
Bush (Clark (MA))
Cárdenas (Gomez)
Cleaver (Davids (KS))
DeSaulnier (Matsui)
DesJarlais (Fleischmann)
Gaetz (McHenry)
Garbarino (Joyce (OH))
Grijalva (García (IL))
Hastings (Butterfield)
Kahele (Mrvan)

Kim (NJ) (Davids (KS))
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Langevin (Lynch)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lieu (Beyer)
Lowenthal (Beyer)
McEachin (Wexton)
Meng (Clark (MA))
Moore (WI) (Beyer)
Moulton (Underwood)
Napolitano (Correa)
Omar (Pressley)
Payne (Pallone)
Peters (Kildee)
Pingree (Cicilline)
Porter (Wexton)
Rodgers (WA) (Joyce (PA))
Rush (Underwood)
Schneider (Sherrill)
Sires (Pallone)
Slotkin (Stevens)
Smith (WA) (Courtney)
Timmons (Steube)
Wasserman Schultz (Soto)
Watson Coleman (Pallone)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

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

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

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

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 247, nays 174, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 93]

YEAS—247

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Amodei
Auchincloss
Axne
Baird
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brown
Brownley
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fitzpatrick
Fletcher
Foster
Frankel, Lois
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gimenez
Gomez
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hastings
Hayes
Herrera Beutler
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jacobs (NY)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Joyce (OH)
Kahele
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
LaMalfa
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meijer
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newhouse
Newman
Norcross
Nunes
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reed
Rice (NY)
Rodgers (WA)
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Salazar
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stanton
Stefanik
Stevens
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Tenney
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NAYS—174

Aderholt
Allen
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bergman
Bice (OK)
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Brooks
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Calvert
Cammack
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Comer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson
DesJarlais
Donalds
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Estes
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fleischmann
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gallagher
Garcia (CA)
Gibbs
Golden
Gonzales, Tony
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harris
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hern
Herrell
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (PA)
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kim (CA)
Kustoff
LaHood
Lamborn
Latta
LaTurner
Lesko
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Mace
Malliotakis
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McKinley
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Mullin
Murphy (NC)
Nehls
Norman
Obernolte
Owens
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Stivers
Taylor
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Van Duyne
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wittman
Womack
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—8

Brady
Fortenberry
Gaetz
Gohmert
Kinzinger
McHenry
Wilson (SC)
Young

□ 1945

Mr. FERGUSON changed his vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Allred (Davids (KS))
Axne (Stevens)
Barragán (Beyer)
Bera (Aguilar)
Bishop (GA) (Butterfield)
Blumenauer (Beyer)
Buchanan (Gimenez)
Bush (Clark (MA))
Cárdenas (Gomez)
Cleaver (Davids (KS))
DeSaulnier (Matsui)
DesJarlais (Fleischmann)
Garbarino (Joyce (OH))
Grijalva (García (IL))
Hastings (Butterfield)
Kahele (Mrvan)
Kim (NJ) (Davids (KS))
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Langevin (Lynch)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lieu (Beyer)
Lowenthal (Beyer)
McEachin (Wexton)
Meng (Clark (MA))
Moore (WI) (Beyer)
Moulton (Underwood)
Napolitano (Correa)
Omar (Pressley)
Payne (Pallone)
Peters (Kildee)
Pingree (Cicilline)
Porter (Wexton)
Rodgers (WA) (Joyce (PA))
Rush (Underwood)
Schneider (Sherrill)
Sires (Pallone)
Slotkin (Stevens)
Smith (WA) (Courtney)
Timmons (Steube)
Wasserman Schultz (Soto)
Watson Coleman (Pallone)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise to raise a question of the privileges of the House, and I offer a resolution (H. Res. 243) removing a certain Member from a certain committee of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. DEGETTE). The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 243

Whereas Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Christopher Wray said in July 2020 that ''Beijing is engaged in a highly sophisticated malign foreign influence campaign'' that involves ''subversive, undeclared, criminal, or coercive attempts to sway our government's policies, distort our country's public discourse, and undermine confidence in our democratic processes and values'';

Whereas Representative Eric Swalwell has not denied public reporting that a suspected Chinese intelligence operative helped raise money for Representative Swalwell's political campaigns and facilitated the potential assignment of interns into Representative Swalwell's offices;

Whereas Representative Swalwell has not denied other troublesome elements of public reporting;

Whereas clause 1 of rule XXIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives provides, ''A Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner, officer, or employee of the House shall behave at all times in a manner that shall reflect creditably on the House.''; and

Whereas Representative Eric Swalwell should be removed from his committee assignment in light of conduct he has exhibited: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the following named Member be, and is hereby, removed from the following committee of the House of Representatives:

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE: Mr. Swalwell of California.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The resolution qualifies.

MOTION TO TABLE

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I have a motion at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Hoyer moves that the resolution be laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to table.

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

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

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 218, nays 200, answered ''present'' 3, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 94]

YEAS—218

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Auchincloss
Axne
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brown
Brownley
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis, Danny K.
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fletcher
Foster
Frankel, Lois
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hastings
Hayes
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Kahele
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newman
Norcross
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Rice (NY)
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NAYS—200

Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bentz
Bergman
Bice (OK)
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brooks
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Calvert
Cammack
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Comer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Estes
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harris
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
Jacobs (NY)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (PA)
Katko
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kim (CA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
LaTurner
Lesko
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Mace
Malliotakis
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McKinley
Meijer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Mullin
Murphy (NC)
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunes
Obernolte
Owens
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Stivers
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wittman
Womack
Zeldin

PRESENTS—3

Armstrong
Guest
Joyce (OH)

NOT VOTING—9

Brady
Castor (FL)
Davis, Rodney
Gaetz
Gohmert
Kinzinger
McHenry
Wilson (SC)
Young

□ 2031

Mr. ROUZER and Mrs. GREENE of Georgia changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Messrs. KHANNA and PASCRELL changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the motion to table was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Allred (Davids (KS))
Axne (Stevens)
Barragán (Beyer)
Bera (Aguilar)
Bishop (GA) (Butterfield)
Blumenauer (Beyer)
Buchanan (Gimenez)
Bush (Clark (MA))
Cárdenas (Gomez)
Cleaver (Davids (KS))
DeSaulnier (Matsui)
DesJarlais (Fleischmann)
Garbarino (Joyce (OH))
Grijalva (García (IL))
Hastings (Butterfield)
Kahele (Mrvan)
Kim (NJ) (Davids (KS))
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Langevin (Lynch)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lieu (Beyer)
Lowenthal (Beyer)
McEachin (Wexton)
Meng (Clark (MA))
Moore (WI) (Beyer)
Moulton (Underwood)
Napolitano (Correa)
Omar (Pressley)
Payne (Pallone)
Peters (Kildee)
Pingree (Cicilline)
Porter (Wexton)
Rodgers (WA) (Joyce (PA))
Rush (Underwood)
Schneider (Sherrill)
Sires (Pallone)
Slotkin (Stevens)
Smith (WA) (Courtney)
Timmons (Steube)
Wasserman Schultz (Soto)
Watson Coleman (Pallone)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

ENERGY SECURITY IN EUROPE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the Congressional Ukraine Caucus, I rise with great concern regarding Europe's energy security with the imminent completion of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline.

Nord Stream 2 is a Russian malign influence energy project designed to ensnare Europe and weaken the sovereignty of Ukraine. Tragically, Russia's illegal war in and on Ukraine has claimed the lives of over 14,000 Ukrainians and displaced millions more.

Russia has a deeply troubling history of using energy coercion to undermine democratic institutions. Thankfully, Congress has now passed legislation twice on an overwhelmingly bipartisan basis to put mandatory sanctions on Nord Stream 2.

I am so thankful for President Biden's commitment to liberty in Ukraine and his opposition to Nord Stream 2. I am also encouraged by Secretary Blinken's recent statement reaffirming the administration's commitment to comply with the sanctions legislation.

Our caucus, on a bipartisan basis, stands ready to work with the administration to apply further sanctions to halt the pipeline. The State Department must make clear that Congress will not support a side deal that puts the security of Ukraine and the region at risk.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JOE NOVOTNY ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the retirement of a true servant of the House, Joe Novotny.

A familiar voice that we all know so well, Joe served Congress for 29 years at both the committee and the institutional level, becoming a recognizable and reliable part of the House legislative process as the Reading Clerk.

Joe's career started as a House Page and led him to positions on the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Education and Labor. In 2010, Joe joined the Clerk's organization as Reading Clerk, where this Chamber has enjoyed his voice and diligence for over a decade.

When asking the many teams who work with him how they would describe Joe, the word that came up repeatedly was ''teammate.'' As a dedicated public servant with nearly three decades of experience and knowledge, Joe's attention to detail, mentorship, humor, and kindness made him an asset and a friend to every team he has been a part of. From his restaurant recommendations to stories about seeing his favorite bands play live on weekends, Joe will not only be missed by his colleagues in Legislative Operations, but by all of us who know him as part of this Chamber.

I would like to wish Joe well in his retirement and celebrate his commitment to serving this body so ably for so many years. Congratulations, Joe.

HATE CRIMES IN AMERICA

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was in the United States Congress when the first hate crimes legislation was written. It was written after the heinous killing of James Byrd in Texas, where a Black man was dragged through the streets of Texas and decapitated.

Tomorrow, the President of the United States will go to Georgia, where eight people were killed, six of whom happen to be Asian women. Yet a captain in the Cherokee Sheriff's Department said that the perpetrator had a bad day.

Mr. Speaker, wrapped in racism, white supremacy, and hatred, the Georgia law says that if you kill women, it may be a gender hatred crime. I want a full investigation. I believe in the Constitution due process, but this is a hate crime. People are dead, Asian women are dead, and this perpetrator should be held accountable.

If you are in law enforcement, the best role that you have is as a fact finder and someone who can offer sympathy that makes sense, not that the perpetrator had a bad day and this is what he did. I am having a bad day because we still have hatred in this country.

SUPPER FROM A LAB IS NOT A SOLUTION

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

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, Nebraska is famous for its high-quality beef; and what wine is to France, beef is to Nebraska.

Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, a number of us took note when Microsoft founder Bill Gates proposed that the wealthiest nations move to a hundred percent synthetic beef—synthetic beef—to fight climate change.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have been in meetings with Bill Gates, and I respect his intellect and his desire for social responsibility by the world's wealthiest, and I have no beef with Bill for his desire to see us transition to a much more sustainable economy, and I agree. But making supper from a lab? That is not a solution. That is a chemistry experiment.

Mr. Speaker, America makes food, real food, and we shouldn't disrupt a nutritional food source and management of our animal resources that would have minimal effect on greenhouse gases.

I have an idea. I would like to invite Mr. Gates to the West Point Livestock Auction, and he can present his proposal for lab-based meat to the farmers and ranchers there. We would have a healthy debate.

OUR DIVERSITY MAKES US STRONG

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

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the millions of Dreamers who call America home and contribute to the rich tapestry of our country, yet have seen their dreams of a permanent home deferred over and over again.

These Americans, in every way but on paper, deal with uncertainty each day that we fail to act. Now that the House has acted, the Senate must immediately pass the American Dream and Promise Act.

In our melting pot of a city, New Yorkers have shown again and again that it is our diversity that makes us strong and that immigrants and the American Dream are linked.

So, today, the House made clear that immigrants are welcome here and that Dreamers deserve to know their home will not be taken away. I thank all of my colleagues who voted ''yes'' to providing this commonsense pathway to citizenship, and I urge the Senate to do the same.

CHILD ABUSE LEGISLATION NEEDS TO BE FIXED

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, the House voted on H.R. 485, Stronger CAPTA, a reauthorization of the Child Abuse Protection and Treatment Act.

Abuse is obviously a horrible thing that no child should have to suffer. However, this legislation has multiple issues which I call on the Senate to fix. Notably, it would create a national registry of child abuse and neglect.

Now, this sounds good, but under current law, a person does not need to be convicted or even charged with a crime to be put on a State abuse registry, which leads to many parents being added due to misfiled paperwork or perhaps overzealous CPS workers.

Homeschooling parents in particular face this issue, and an appeal can take months or even years to get a name removed from the list. By nationalizing State registries, this problem will spread nationwide without a fix.

The legislation attempts to address this concern by creating a working group to study and make recommendations on due process concerns, but that is not a sufficient safeguard for Americans' due process rights.

A 2009 HHS report on the feasibility of a national child abuse registry noted that a national registry would be plagued by false positives, where an innocent person sharing a name with an abuser would be flagged in background searches.

I call on the Senate to fix this legislation.

□ 2045

OBSERVING SLEEP AWARENESS WEEK

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

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to speak about Sleep Awareness Week, a week to remind us all of the importance of something we all need—a good night's sleep.

Sleep Awareness Week and World Sleep Day are internationally recognized and bring awareness to sleep and its important impact on our health.

The pandemic has taken a toll on all of us, including our sleep schedules. Increased anxiety and worries have made it harder than ever to get consistent and peaceful sleep.

Despite this fact, it is important we consider the instrumental role sleep plays in keeping our bodies and minds healthy.

A proper comprehensive view of good health must include the importance of rest. We all could use it.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure all American families, including 165,000 people in our country impacted by narcolepsy, have access to the healthcare they need.

Sleep, wellness, and health must go hand in hand.

HONORING GARY CLARK

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOWMAN). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a longtime friend and the biggest advocate for veterans in central Florida, retired Air Force Colonel Gary Clark.

I have known Colonel Clark for 20 years as a fellow veteran and veteran's advocate. I am honored to recognize him as one of the distinguished 2020 inductees into the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame. This is an honor truly befitting Gary, thanks to his countless contributions to Florida's veterans.

Florida is known as the most veteran-friendly State in America, with over a million vets calling the Sunshine State home. Anywhere you go in central Florida, if there is a veteran in need, you can bet that Gary is on it.

Retiring from the Air Force in 1993, Gary continued his service and quickly became a distinguished advocate for veterans. Gary established the Polk County Veterans Council, developed a partnership for the Polk County School Board to support 13 Junior ROTC units, and chairs the Flight to Honor Polk, which brings senior veterans to the memorials near Washington.

Gary coordinates an annual Veterans Day breakfast with the Rotary Clubs of Lakeland and has chaired the 15th Congressional District of Florida's Service Academy Nominating Committee for at least a decade, and he remains the chair for my current board.

Mr. Speaker, it is simply impossible to think of veterans in central Florida without thinking of Gary Clark. On behalf of Polk County and the 15th District of Florida, we congratulate him on this honor and his induction into the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame, and we thank him for his selfless service to our veteran community.

SUPPORTING PUBLIC ACCESS TO CAPITOL

Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on a more somber note, I rise in support of public access to this House, the people's House.

While I have only been a Member since January 3, as a former Naval aviator who had the privilege to travel to over 40 countries, I know the importance of our free and open democracy in both the figurative and the literal sense.

I was on the House floor on January 6 when violence erupted. As we continue to investigate the tragedy that resulted, the military fortress erected in response is a gross overcorrection.

Capitol Police have indicated there is no credible threat justifying maintaining this security posture. On March 4, facing nonspecific rumors of a potential threat, the House rushed to conclude its work the night before and did not meet. Not only was the threat unfounded, but the Senate, operating under the same security protocols as the House, was open and conducting the people's business, the same Senate that is only a few yards down the hall behind us.

Speaking of the differences between the two Chambers, doesn't it seem odd that the same House impeachment managers who testified before the Senate without masks would insist that I be fined if I take my mask off right now, even though I have been vaccinated and there is no one around me?

In addition to dismantling this fortress, we should begin relaxing the protocols put in place a year ago to limit the spread of COVID. Today, all House Members have been offered the vaccine, and roughly 75 percent have been vaccinated. Many of the remaining 25 percent have antibodies from being infected previously.

There is no justification for this House to continue operating in a quasi-virtual state. The CDC has issued new guidelines easing masks and social distancing for the nearly 32 million people who are fully vaccinated.

It is time to end the proxy voting, begin in-person committee meetings, and return to regular order. Our strength as an institution relies on personal relationships and the ability to build alliances where we find common interests. As a freshman, I have yet to meet most of my colleagues. We should be working to find common ground, and that is simply not possible in a virtual meeting.

Mr. Speaker, as the new administration acts to tear down the wall at our southern border, we have a new one right here, paralyzing the seat of democracy. The hypocrisy is obvious, and it is shameful.

This is no longer about safety. It is about making every effort to create disruption and hide what is really going on from the American people.

It is time to take down the razor wire fencing, send the troops home, and open the people's House to the public.

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

ADDRESSING THE BORDER CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CLOUD) for 38 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the Biden border crisis, the unraveling of what was once a managed situation.

We are a compassionate Nation, but lawlessness is not compassion. Aiding and abetting cartels is not compassion. Putting policies in place that allow evil actors to abuse women on a journey is not compassion. Allowing them to grow and be funded into a destabilizing force in Central and South American nations that are trying to thrive and survive and create an economy for their own people, that is not compassion.

The policies that the Biden administration has put in place have caused this crisis at the border. It is different from the previous administration that came in, inherited a problem and had to put policies in place and make difficult decisions to come up with a solution. This administration inherited a solution and has put in place policies that have created a problem.

It was predictable. It was easy to avoid. It is unfortunate that we have to be here again to talk about this today, but we are here because the lives of those affected matter. They deserve it. They need their story to be told.

It is ironic that we are taking people off the border right now, our good men and women who signed up to protect and secure our border, to defend the Constitution, and to protect our communities. We are actually taking them off the border to sit at computers to do paperwork to process what has become a migrant humanitarian crisis.

We have essentially turned our brave men and women into the last mile, so to speak, for cartel activity. The business model that the cartels have to work throughout the world to bring people to our border, to charge them thousands of dollars each while they abuse them on the journey, while they put them into indentured servitude and then hand them over to our people simply for processing. That is not what they signed up to do.

The migrants deserve better as well, as do, certainly, our communities. We understand the strategy of the cartels to overwhelm our border and our resources with the humanitarian crisis and then sneak in drugs that destroy the lives of our young people and our families.

We have to fix this. We can secure our border. We can protect the lives of these people, and we can keep this Nation strong. We can help push back the cartel influence in our Nation and throughout Central and South America.

I have a couple of fellow Members of Congress and friends here who have valuable experience. I thank them for joining me today to help us with this conversation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the good gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN).

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman CLOUD for organizing this Special Order on this topic that the country is dealing with today.

The Trump administration established strong laws against illegal immigration. President Biden has decided to disregard any success achieved by his predecessor and, instead, announced open borders to the world.

This problem was not created due to conditions abroad but by decisions made at home, and they were political decisions, unfortunately.

Since President Biden was elected, illegal border crossings have skyrocketed. In February 2020, the CBP announced that over 35,000 migrants tried to cross the border illegally. To put this in context, this past February, that number far surpassed 100,000.

Despite having the statistics to prove it, President Biden refuses to call this situation a crisis, which it is.

Aside from halting construction on the border wall as performed by President Trump, the Biden administration

has reimplemented a system of catch and release and implemented selective enforcement of our immigration laws.

They have suspended the removal of most people with active deportation orders and even released COVID-positive detainees into our country. Really? If you go out of the country as an American and come in, you have to be tested. This administration has no policies in place to test or provide masks and definitely not to know what is coming into the country for other viruses.

The problems we are experiencing are more than politically motivated. They are counterproductive and put the safety of the American people in jeopardy. Our social systems and border officials don't have the capacity or the resources to handle an overwhelming surge in illegal border crossings.

Let me be clear, our immigration system needs judicial review and legislative reform. Americans want a secure southern border. Disregarding any form of success on our border is not the answer that we need.

As I said before, legal immigration has countless benefits to this great Nation. We have a right and a responsibility to know who and what comes into our great country.

Mr. CLOUD. I yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER).

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Congressman CLOUD, for this very important Special Order. The House of hypocrites may be a more fitting name than this House of Representatives.

The Democrats have facilitated the building of a 10-foot-tall wall or fence with razor wire around the people's House, our national Capitol Building, and surround themselves with police and National Guard. Yet, the same people refuse to protect our Nation's border and the continued construction of our border wall.

Last week, the Democrats passed two bills that diminish our Second Amendment rights. The Democrats are the people who have told you we don't need guns and walls, yet they have surrounded themselves with guns and walls for months.

There are real dangers posed by allowing this massive illegal immigration invasion. We don't know who the people are that are coming or what their intentions are. We do know that a lot of them are bringing in drugs, women and children to be trafficked, COVID and other diseases, and weapons.

I call on President Biden and the Democrats to stop obstructing the enforcement of our immigration laws and facilitating this invasion on our southern border.

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the good gentleman from Florida (Mr. POSEY).

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the good Congressman from Texas (Mr. CLOUD) for leading this important discussion.

When I visited the border, I saw the dangers of open borders, not only for Americans, but for thousands of illegal immigrants smuggled across the border.

Open borders empower drug cartels. Cartels are ruthless and inhumane in their treatment of their human cargo.

President Trump secured agreements with El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala that curbed the flow of illegal immigrant caravans. Those agreements, along with the Remain in Mexico agreement, deprived the cartels of billions and billions of dollars and saved hundreds of thousands of immigrants from sexual abuse and exploitation at the hands of the ruthless drug cartels.

Sadly, on January 20, President Biden gave the ruthless cartels a green light to resume their exploitation of women, children, and young men when he signed executive orders effectively repealing those agreements, which had curbed illegal immigration and were defunding the cartels.

Now, the record-low crossings of immigrants and drugs have been replaced by record highs. Customs and Border Protection agents are overwhelmed and have resorted to catch and release, which rewards the cartels, further enriching those guys.

□ 2100

Rather than abandoning border security, the Biden-Harris administration must abandon the failed policies that created the crisis.

Restoring our border is essential to putting the safety and security of Americans first, to protect immigrants from exploitation and harm, and to deprive the drug cartels of victims and revenue.

The worst is still to come if this administration continues down this reckless road.

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. POSEY for his comments. It is interesting of him to point out the former ''Remain in Mexico'' policy that was removed under this administration. Ironically, if you are a U.S. citizen going to Mexico, you will have to remain in Mexico and not be allowed into our very own home country unless you have a negative COVID test. However, this is not happening with the migrants at the border currently.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the good gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I have the honor of representing Yuma County, Arizona. And as many of you know, Yuma is the epicenter of the Biden-created border crisis. When Mr. Biden says he is not going to enforce our immigration laws, when he says he is not going to build a border wall, it has dire consequences.

We are seeing the tragic consequences of that right now in Yuma. Mr. Biden's decision last month to release illegal immigrants in Yuma County on a daily basis has opened up a spigot of border crossings into my great State of Arizona.

Now my worst fears are coming through: Illegal aliens are flooding into Yuma. We have now ceded operational control of the border to the cartels.

In less than 2 months, the Biden administration has destroyed much of President Trump's progress in securing the southern border. The Biden administration's open border policy, coupled with NANCY PELOSI's amnesty bills taken up this week—this very day in Congress will only exacerbate the growing humanitarian health and security crisis along the southern border.

It is shocking to me that the House Democrats' answer to the Biden-created border crisis is to take up legislation that would give amnesty, plus a path to citizenship, to more than 5 million illegal aliens. This is like pouring gasoline on a wildfire.

We should be enforcing the immigration laws we have on the books. We should not be giving amnesty to millions of illegal aliens. Mr. Biden should never have halted final construction of the border wall. Unfortunately, Democrat's hatred for President Trump clouds their ability to work together towards commonsense reforms.

Instead, Democrats rammed their radical amnesty legislation through Congress, even with confirmed reports that suspects on the terrorist watch list have attempted to enter into our country.

What is happening in Yuma and all along the southern border is unconscionable. The crisis is only getting worse. Unfortunately, today's action on the House floor sends exactly the wrong message. We should not be incentivizing more illegal immigrants to unlawfully enter our country. Instead, we must condemn these attempts, enforce the laws on the books, and take all necessary steps to get our border under control.

God help us all if these two bills become law.

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. GOSAR for his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the good gentleman from Montana (Mr. ROSENDALE).

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the open border policies of the Biden administration, which have created the worst border crisis in recent memory.

After the surge in 2019, the Trump administration built the wall system to secure our border, ended ''catch and release,'' and, most importantly, actually enforced our Nations' laws, making it harder and less desirable to come to our country illegally. And it worked. Illegal border crossings fell to record lows.

Unfortunately, on his first day in office, in an act of spiteful partisanship, President Biden undid all of that with the stroke of a pen. The results are clear and disturbing. February border apprehensions were tripled what they were last year under President Trump, with a number of accompanied children in custody already shattering a record.

This truly is a humanitarian crisis of our time. On the treacherous trip to our country, illegal aliens are subject to abuse, rape, gang violence, and harsh weather and terrain. Once they arrive, often they are forced into sex slavery or indentured servitude to pay off their debts to coyotes or the cartel. Open borders and amnesty are not compassionate. They are heartless. The level of human suffering taking place on the border due to President Biden's policies is truly tragic. The result of these policies was completely predictable.

When I visited the border just over a month ago, agents told me troubling stories of illegal aliens, specifically citing President Biden's immigration policies as the reason they decided to come to America. And this week, House Democrats passed amnesty measures that will only make the situation worse.

Mr. Speaker, I urge President Biden and House Democrats to reconsider, set aside partisanship, and work with us to secure our border, enforce our laws, and address the humanitarian crisis at the border before it is too late.

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the good gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS).

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, Mr. CLOUD, for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, earlier today, Democrats ignored President Biden's inhumane border crisis and passed two amnesty bills. The bills actually encourage illegal immigration.

Here is the way it works: The cartels have operational control of our border. They do. No one crosses the southern border unless the cartel says it is okay. The cartels are advertising now. NGOs funded by this government are advertising down in the Northern Triangle states in Mexico: ''Come north.''

They give brochures how to get here. And what happens is caravans are forming now. But more than that, we have got people lining up at the borders to come across. It is a treacherous journey.

Mr. Speaker, parents are giving their kids to coyotes to bring forward. And these people have no respect for human life. No respect. And that is because of the policies of this administration. And I will tell you what I heard someone on the floor of the House state today, and I am going to quote it.

They said, ''This bill is not amnesty. It does not grant anybody amnesty. It allows individuals to get right with the law and become legal workers in the United States.''

That is the definition of amnesty. Look it up in Merriam Webster.

Earlier this week, Secretary Mayorkas admitted, ''We are on pace to encounter more individuals on the southwest border than at any time in the last 20 years.''

Let that sink in: More than any time in the last 20 years.

And the answer to this by our Democrat colleagues is to pass amnesty.

Mr. Speaker, we hear moving stories that all Dreamers came to the United States as little children, graduated from high school as valedictorians and are now working as doctors saving lives.

If that were true, why did these bills include waivers for illegal aliens who have been convicted of crimes?

Why didn't these bills include language to require that illegal aliens who will get amnesty at least have graduated from either high school or college?

The contents of the bills the House passed today do not match the rhetoric of the open borders crowd. We can spend hours talking about the heartfelt stories, what happened to people, kids who I have seen, who have been rented out and used multiple times to take advantage of these policies. Time doesn't allow for me to do that, but we must continue to fight this horrible scourge because it is a humanitarian crisis.

Don't paper over it claiming that you are compassionate when you are enticing people to put their lives in the hands of people who don't give any consideration for human life.

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks.

Indeed, it is true that these cartels have a weird, perverted thinking when it comes to people. For them, they are just a business product. In their mind, they can sell a kilo of coke once, but they can get residual income from a human life.

It is pathetic, disturbing, troubling, to say the least, that we, by our policies, empower this kind of activity on our southern border.

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

Mrs. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas, my good friend, Congressman MICHAEL CLOUD, for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the Biden regime has focused all its time and energy on benefiting those who have done it all wrong. Fascist governors imposed draconian lockdowns and sent their States into economic disaster. So Biden passed the blue State bailout.

Did you commit a felony? This administration wants you to vote.

And now this administration wants to give special privileges to those breaking Federal law and crossing the southern border.

Mr. Speaker, it is past time that we fix the broken immigration system and secure the border. That is my hard line. That means building the wall, properly funding Border Patrol, and enforcing the laws we have on the books—exactly what President Trump did, which led to record low illegal crossings. This is the right and humane thing to do.

Getting children out of the hands of cartels and coyotes, and making it clear that the American government will put those coming the right way, the legal way, they will be rewarded. But, no, this administration has become a marketing wing for the cartels, urging folks from all around the world to flood our southern border.

These cartels are making billions of dollars on human smuggling alone, and billions more on drug trafficking. The result of Biden's collaboration with cartels is the highest number of unaccompanied minors we have ever seen. Thousands of criminals, and even individuals on the FBI's terrorist watch list, crossing our border.

Mr. Speaker, this administration is incentivizing unaccompanied minors to make the hazardous and potentially fatal journey across our southern border. That is child abuse. This administration has signaled that we will not fortify our southern border, and we have seen those on the terrorist watch list try to enter. That is a dereliction of duty. And we have seen this administration fail to uphold and enforce the laws of our Nation. That is a betrayal of the American people.

The most moral thing we can do is build a wall and secure our southern border. It is shameful and immoral to signal to poor and desperate people that if you break our laws, if you cross our borders, if you somehow make it, if you somehow don't get caught and survive, then we will take care of you with our hard-earned tax dollars. Let's ask California how that is working for them.

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mrs. BOEBERT for her remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the good gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE).

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to shine a light on the current crisis that is plaguing our southwest border. Customs and Border Protection agents has stated that they are encountering more than 3,000 illegal immigrants per day. It has also been reported that Customs and Border Patrol encountered the highest number of illegal aliens recorded in the month of February in over 7 years, at 100,441 encounters.

The Biden executive order terminating the construction of the wall caused this crisis, and the COVID–19 pandemic has made it worse. The Biden border crisis stands to threaten not only U.S. communities along the southern border, but also Americans throughout the interior. And as a result of the Federal Government's inaction, local border communities are stepping up to fill the void.

But, unfortunately, these localities do not have the authority to retain these illegals who plan to travel to dozens of cities throughout the country. We must do everything in our power to protect Americans from unnecessary exposure to the coronavirus.

It seriously troubles me that the Secretary of Homeland Security acknowledged just yesterday in a committee hearing that the Department not only does not know how many illegal immigrants have been released, but they are also not testing all of them for COVID–

19 before releasing them. Let that sink in.

The Department charged with protecting the homeland lacks an executable strategy to ensure that all illegal immigrants are properly screened and tested before they are released into the interior.

In order to right this wrong and stand up for the safety of all Americans, I will be introducing the COVID–19 Border Protection Act, a bill that repurposes COVID relief funds, funds from Democrats' nearly $2 trillion package slated to be sent overseas, to test immigrants who are encountered by Federal officials at the border and quarantine those who test positive. I took an oath to protect all Americans, and this bill does just that.

The crisis at the border is unacceptable and it exemplifies the threat posed by the rollback of Trump-era policies that were tough on illegal immigration.

□ 2115

Illegal immigrants should not be allowed to enter our country to begin with, and a wall would help do just that. But they should certainly not be allowed to enter and spread the COVID–19 virus. All Americans should be appalled with the crisis at the border.

I call on my colleagues to join me in rejecting the administration's America second policies and get tough on illegal immigration.

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, we are indeed a compassionate Nation, we recognize that everyone on this planet are people created in the image of God. We understand that people are hurting all over the world.

The solution for that, however, is for us to be that shining city on the hill, for us to be an example to the world. For them to know that if you live by the same principles that have made this Nation into one of the brightest beacons of freedom through all of human history that you can achieve the same results.

We want people to prosper everywhere. We want every nation to prosper, and that is why we are so intent on stopping this terrible scourge that is at our southern border. These cartels are wreaking havoc in the lives of these people, and we have to put an end to this.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an article titled ''Color-Coded Passage: Why Smugglers are Tagging U.S.-Bound Migrants with Wristbands.''

It has recently come to light that a number of the migrants are coming over with wristbands. The question was asked, Why?

[From Reuters, Mar. 9, 2021]

COLOR-CODED PASSAGE: WHY SMUGGLERS ARE TAGGING U.S.-BOUND MIGRANTS WITH WRISTBANDS

(By Adrees Latif, Laura Gottesdiener, Mica Rosenberg)

PENITAS, TX.—Along the banks of the Rio Grande in the scrubby grassland near Penitas, Texas, hundreds of colored plastic wristbands ripped off by migrants litter the ground, signs of what U.S. border officials say is a growing trend among powerful drug cartels and smugglers to track people paying to cross illegally into the United States.

The plastic bands—red, blue, green, white—some labeled arrivals or entries in Spanish, are discarded after migrants cross the river on makeshift rafts, according to a Reuters witness. Their use has not been widely reported before.

Some migrants are trying to evade border agents, others are mostly Central American families or young children traveling without parents who turn themselves into officials, often to seek asylum.

Border Patrol agents in the Rio Grande Valley sector, which spans more than 34,000 square miles (88,000 square kilometers) along the border in southeast Texas, have recently encountered immigrants wearing the bracelets during several apprehensions, said Matthew Dyman a spokesman for U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

The ''information on the bracelets represents a multitude of data that is used by smuggling organizations, such as payment status or affiliation with smuggling groups,'' Dyman told Reuters.

The differing smuggling techniques come as Democratic President Joe Biden's administration has sought to reverse restrictive immigration polices set up by his predecessor, former President Donald Trump. But a recent jump in border crossings has Republicans warning the easing of hardline policies will lead to an immigration crisis.

U.S. border agents carried out nearly 100,000 apprehensions or rapid expulsions of migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border in February, according to two people familiar with preliminary figures, the highest monthly total since mid–2019.

PURPLE BRACELET

''They run it like a business,'' said Cardinal Brown, which means ''finding more patrons and looking for efficiencies.'' Migrants can pay thousands of dollars for the journey to the United States and human smugglers have to pay off drug cartels to move people through parts of Mexico.

''This is a money-making operation and they have to pay close attention to who has paid,'' she said. ''This may be a new way to keep track.''

Criminal groups operating in northern Mexico, however, have long used systems to log which migrants have already paid for the right to be in gang-controlled territory, as well as for the right to cross the border into the United States, migration experts said.

A migrant in Reynosa—one of the most dangerous cities in Mexico across the border from McAllen, Texas—who declined to give his name for fear of retaliation, showed Reuters a picture of a purple wristband he was wearing.

He said he paid $500 to one of the criminal groups in the city after he arrived a few months ago from Honduras to secure the purple bracelet to protect against kidnapping or extortion. He said once migrants or their smugglers have paid for the right to cross the river, which is also controlled by criminal groups, they receive another bracelet.

''This way we're not in danger, neither us nor the 'coyote,' '' he said, using the Spanish word for smuggler.

One human smuggler who spoke on conditions of anonymity, confirmed the bracelets were a system to designate who has paid for the right to transit through cartel territory.

''They are putting these (bracelets) on so there aren't killings by mistake,'' he said.

Migrants and smugglers say the use of bracelets to designate who has paid for the right to cross the river is a system required by the cartels that control waterfront territory in the conflict-ridden state of Tamaulipas.

In January, a group of migrants were massacred in Tamaulipas state just 40 miles (70 km) west of Reynosa. Twelve local Mexican police have been arrested in connection with the massacre.

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, a migrant in Reynosa said this: ''He paid one of the criminal groups in the city after he arrived a few months ago from Honduras to secure the purple bracelet to protect against kidnapping and extortion.''

''He said once migrants or their smugglers have paid for the right to cross the river, which is also controlled by criminal groups, they receive another bracelet.''

So basically, cartels are going throughout, they are recruiting people to come, charging them thousands of dollars. At each step along the way they have to pay another fee to get across the territory that is controlled by cartels.

One human smuggler who spoke up, of course, on the condition of anonymity, confirmed that the bracelets were a system to designate who was paid for the right to transit through cartel territory. And this is what he said: ''They are putting these bracelets on so there aren't killings by mistake.''

This is what we are allowing, and it is tragic. We can do better than this.

We can mitigate the influence that the cartels are having at our border, and communities throughout my State, in particular, in Texas, and throughout our Nation. We can mitigate this humanitarian and this national security crisis, and I encourage the White House to do so, and for this House to take up legislation to secure our border as well.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(b) of House Resolution 188, the House stands adjourned until 9 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon (at 9 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, March 19, 2021, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

EC-629. A letter from the Congressional Assistant II, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's interim final rule — Loans to Executive Officers, Directors, and Principal Shareholders of Member Banks [Regulation O; Docket No.: R-1740] (RIN: 7100-AG10) received March 18, 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-630. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's correcting amendment — Branch Application Procedures (RIN: 3064-AF54) received March 10, 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-631. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Parent Companies of Industrial Banks and Industrial Loan Companies (RIN: 3064-AF31) received March 10, 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-632. A letter from the Attorney, Regulatory Affairs, Office of the General Counsel, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Fees for Production of Records; Other Amendments to Procedures for Disclosure of Information Under the Freedom of Information Act [Docket No.: CPSC-2020-0011] 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-633. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — State of Michigan Underground Injection Control (UIC) Class II Program; Primary Approval [EPA-HQ-OW-2020-0595; FRL 10018-31-OW] (RIN: 2040-ZA35) 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-634. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Codifying EPA's Adjudicatory Decision on Florida's Clean Water Act Section 404 Program Request [EPA-HQ-OW-2018-0640; FRL-10018-76-OW] 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-635. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval of Source-Specific Air Quality Implementation Plans; New Jersey [EPA-R02-OAR-2019-0720; FRL-10017-00-Region 2] 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-636. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Air Quality Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; State of Maryland; Control of Emissions from Existing Sewage Sludge Incineration Units [EPA-R03-OAR-2019-0527; FRL-10018-21-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-637. A letter from the 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 Standards Second Maintenance Plan for the Scranton-Wilkes-Barre Area [EPA-R03-OAR-2020-0316; FRL-10018-14-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-638. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Department's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Pennsylvania; 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard Second Maintenance Plan for the Johnstown Area [EPA-R03-OAR-2020-0355; FRL-10016-55-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-639. A letter from the 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-640. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Virginia; Negative Declarations Certification for the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard Including the 2016 Oil and Natural Gas Control Techniques Guidelines [EPA-R03-OAR-2020-0283; FRL-10016-88-Region 3] received February 25, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-641. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Texas; Reasonable Further Progress Plan for the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria Ozone Nonattainment Area [EPA-R06-OAR-2020-0300; FRL-10019-45-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-642. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Pennsylvania; 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) Second Maintenance Plan for the Altoona (Blair County) Area [EPA-R03-OAR-2020-0332; FRL-10017-26-Region 3] received February 25, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-643. A letter from the 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-644. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Virginia: Final Approval of State Underground Storage Tank Program Revisions, Codification, and Incorporation by Reference [EPA-R03-UST-2020-0291; FRL 10018-06-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-645. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; GA: Non-Interference Demonstration and Maintenance Plan Revision for the Removal of Transportation Control Measures in the Atlanta Area [EPA-R04-OAR-2019-0661; FRL-10019-92-Region 4] 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 Energy and Commerce.

EC-646. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Ohio; Base Year Emission Inventories and Emissions Statement Rule Certification for the 2015 Ozone Standard [EPA-R05-OAR-2020-0388; FRL-10020-89-Region 5] 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 Energy and Commerce.

EC-647. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality State Implementation Plans; California; Plumas County; Moderate Area Plan for the 2012 PM2.5 NAAQS [EPA-R09-OAR-2020-0534; FRL-10020-36-Region 9] 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 Energy and Commerce.

EC-648. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's interim final determination — Determination to Defer Sanctions; Arizona; Pinal County Air Quality Control District [EPA-R09-OAR-2021-0134; FRL-10020-94-Region 9] 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 Energy and Commerce.

EC-649. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Picarbutrazox; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2017-0653; FRL-10019-99] 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 Energy and Commerce.

EC-650. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (20-4.B) [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2020-0138; FRL-10016-51] (RIN: 2070-AB27) 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 Energy and Commerce.

EC-651. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Texas: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revision [EPA-R06-RCRA-2018-0506; FRL-10019-76-Region 6] 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 Energy and Commerce.

EC-652. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Kansas; Removal of Kansas City, Kansas Reid Vapor Pressure Fuel Requirement [EPA-R07-OAR-2020-0711; FRL-10021-10-Region 7] 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 Energy and Commerce.

EC-653. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Missouri; Missouri Reid Vapor Pressure Requirement [EPA-R07-OAR-2020-0695; FRL-10021-11-

Region 7] 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 Energy and Commerce.

EC-654. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Washington: Inspection and Maintenance Program; Correction [EPA-R10-OAR-2020-0174; FRL-10020-98-Region 10] 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 Energy and Commerce.

EC-655. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Air Quality Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; State of Maryland; Control of Emissions from Existing Sewage Sludge Incineration Units; Correction [EPA-R03-OAR-2019-0527; FRL-10020-90-Region 3] 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 Energy and Commerce.

EC-656. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Fluindapyr; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2018-0551; FRL-10019-19] 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 Energy and Commerce.

EC-657. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Quizalofop ethyl; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2019-0665; FRL-10020-34] 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 Energy and Commerce.

CONSENSUS CALENDAR

Under clause 7 of rule XV, the following motion was filed with the Clerk: Motion No. 1, March 18, 2021 by Mr. Stivers on H.R. 1448

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. PERLMUTTER (for himself, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. CORREA, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. BONAMICI, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. CRIST, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. KILMER, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. TITUS, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. STRICKLAND, Ms. WILD, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. EVANS, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. DEAN, Mr. TONKO, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mrs. DINGELL, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. SPEIER, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Ms. MACE, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. LIEU, Mrs. LURIA, Mr. HIMES, Mr. CROW, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. BARR, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. JONES, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. BEYER, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. CASE, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. BERA, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. STANTON, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. JEFFRIES, and Mr. YARMUTH):

H.R. 1996. A bill to create protections for financial institutions that provide financial services to cannabis-related legitimate businesses and service providers for such businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. JOHNSON OF OHIO (for himself and Mr. PHILLIPS):

H.R. 1997. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve the TRICARE program for certain members of the Retired Reserve of the reserve components; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. CHENEY (for herself and Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia):

H.R. 1998. A bill to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act to allow the interstate sale of State-inspected meat, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. SMITH OF MISSOURI (for himself, Mr. BRADY, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. COMER, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. WENSTRUP, and Mrs. RODGERS of Washington):

H.R. 1999. A bill to delay and offset the sequester under the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 as a result of the enactment of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Oversight and Reform, the Budget, and Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BANKS (for himself, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. BARR, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. BABIN, and Mr. GIBBS):

H.R. 2000. A bill to amend section 230 of the Communications Act of 1934 to clarify that such section does not prevent a provider or user of an interactive computer service from being treated as the distributor of information provided by another information content provider, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. BEATTY:

H.R. 2001. A bill to amend the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to require regulated entities to provide information necessary for the Offices of Women and Minority Inclusion to carry out their duties, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BISHOP OF NORTH CAROLINA (for himself, Mr. PERRY, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. STEWART, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. DUNCAN, Ms. TENNEY, Mrs. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. BIGGS, Ms. HERRELL, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mrs. STEEL, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. OWENS, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Ms. FOXX, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. GUEST, Mr. CAWTHORN, and Mr. MOORE of Utah):

H.R. 2002. A bill to amend the Social Security Act to remove the restriction on the use of funds under the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund to offset reductions in State or territory tax revenues; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mrs. BOEBERT (for herself, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. BABIN, Mr. BROOKS, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. GAETZ, and Mr. PERRY):

H.R. 2003. A bill to enact into law certain executive orders related to immigration and border security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Homeland Security, Armed Services, Oversight and Reform, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. BOEBERT (for herself, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. BABIN, Mr. BROOKS, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. GAETZ, and Mr. PERRY):

H.R. 2004. A bill to provide that no Federal funds may be used to enforce certain executive actions related to immigration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Armed Services, Intelligence (Permanent Select), Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CALVERT (for himself and Mr. CRIST):

H.R. 2005. A bill to amend chapter 139 of title 10, United States Code, to require the Secretary of each military department to identify promising research programs of the Small Business Innovation Research Program or Small Business Technology Transfer Program for inclusion in the future budgets and plans of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CARTER OF GEORGIA (for himself and Mr. O'HALLERAN):

H.R. 2006. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to States to expand or maintain a strategic stockpile of products deemed to be essential in the event of a public health emergency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. CLARKE OF NEW YORK (for herself, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia):

H.R. 2007. A bill to provide for research and education with respect to uterine fibroids, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. CRAIG (for herself and Mr. MAST):

H.R. 2008. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize

certain programs relating to nonpoint source management, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS OF ILLINOIS:

H.R. 2009. A bill to clarify access to courts of the United States for persons seeking redress for a violation of a constitutional right by the United States or any agent, person, or entity acting in the name of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H.R. 2010. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to establish a public health insurance option; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Ms. SCHRIER, and Mr. YOUNG):

H.R. 2011. A bill to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to increase the age of eligibility for children to receive benefits under the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 2012. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to establish a grant program for the installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure and hydrogen fueling infrastructure along the National Highway System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. DEUTCH:

H.R. 2013. A bill to establish the Climate Change Advisory Commission to develop recommendations, frameworks, and guidelines for projects to respond to the impacts of climate change, to issue Federal obligations, the proceeds of which shall be used to fund projects that aid in adaptation to climate change, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GALLAGHER (for himself, Mr. GOLDEN, Mr. MEIJER, and Ms. SPANBERGER):

H.R. 2014. A bill to repeal certain outdated authorizations for the use of military force, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. GALLAGHER (for himself and Ms. SPEIER):

H.R. 2015. A bill 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, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Armed 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 Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN:

H.R. 2016. A bill to amend the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 to develop a study regarding streamlining and consolidating information collection and preliminary damage assessments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN:

H.R. 2017. A bill to modify certain requirements to encourage the recovery of Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN:

H.R. 2018. A bill to waive certain provisions in the case of an emergency declaration under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN (for herself and Ms. PLASKETT):

H.R. 2019. A bill to amend the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 to include certain services in the definition of critical services for purposes of repair, restoration, and replacement of damaged facilities; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN:

H.R. 2020. A bill to provide for an online repository for certain reporting requirements for recipients of Federal disaster assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Small Business, 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. GRIJALVA (for himself, Mr. MCEACHIN, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. CHU, Ms. MENG, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. DEGETTE, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. KAHELE, Ms. BUSH, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. NADLER, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, and Ms. CLARKE of New York):

H.R. 2021. A bill to restore, reaffirm, and reconcile environmental justice and civil rights, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, the Judiciary, Transportation and Infrastructure, Agriculture, and Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HERN (for himself and Mr. COLE):

H.R. 2022. A bill to require asylum officers at United States embassies and consulates to conduct credible fear screenings before aliens seeking asylum may be permitted to enter the United States to apply for asylum, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. HOULAHAN (for herself, Mr. WESTERMAN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. BUCSHON):

H.R. 2023. A bill to authorize a pilot program for dyslexia screening and early literacy intervention using evidence-based services for students suspected of having an early reading deficiency or dyslexia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. HOYER:

H.R. 2024. A bill to establish the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. ISSA:

H.R. 2025. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to increase transparency and oversight of third-party litigation funding in certain actions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JEFFRIES (for himself, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. HUFFMAN):

H.R. 2026. A bill to assist in the conservation of highly endangered amphibian species in foreign countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. JOHNSON OF TEXAS (for herself and Mr. WALTZ):

H.R. 2027. A bill to direct Federal science agencies and the Office of Science and Technology Policy to undertake activities to improve the quality of undergraduate STEM education and enhance the research capacity at the Nation's HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. KILDEE (for himself, Mr. BACON, Ms. BASS, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. KATKO, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MEIJER, Mr. POSEY, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, and Mr. SOTO):

H.R. 2028. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to authorize a program to recognize institutions of higher education that offer outstanding services and programs for foster and homeless youth, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mrs. KIRKPATRICK (for herself, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. BASS, Mr. BEYER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. COOPER, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. KIND, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MENG, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OMAR, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. STANTON, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VELA, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. JONES, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. TITUS, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 2029. A bill to provide that individuals who are beneficiaries of deferred action, deferred enforced departure, or temporary protected status shall be treated in the same manner as citizens of the United States for purposes of determining the eligibility of such individuals to serve as officers or employees of Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI (for himself, Mr. STIVERS, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. BONAMICI, and Mr. STEIL):

H.R. 2030. A bill to establish a postsecondary student data system; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. LAHOOD (for himself and Mr. FERGUSON):

H.R. 2031. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage the transfer of intangible property from controlled foreign corporations to United States shareholders; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LARSON OF CONNECTICUT (for himself and Mr. COURTNEY):

H.R. 2032. A bill to direct the President to use authority under the Defense Production Act of 1950 to ensure an adequate supply equipment necessary for limiting the spread of COVID-19, to require the Director of the Defense Logistics Agency to establish a system for States and localities to access covered items during a covered emergency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. LAWRENCE (for herself, Ms. BASS, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. NORTON, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. CARSON):

H.R. 2033. A bill to amend subpart 1 of part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to ensure that mental health screenings and assessments are provided to children and youth upon entry into foster care; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LAWSON OF FLORIDA:

H.R. 2034. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to forgive the Federal student loans of borrowers meeting certain income requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. LEE OF CALIFORNIA (for herself, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. TONKO, Mr. KILMER, Mr. TRONE, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia):

H.R. 2035. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to mental health services under the Medicare program; 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. LEVIN OF CALIFORNIA (for himself and Mr. FERGUSON):

H.R. 2036. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to formulate a strategy for entering into agreements with foreign countries to develop and commercialize new drugs to address pandemics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. LEVIN OF MICHIGAN (for himself, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. KATKO, Ms. SPANBERGER, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mrs. HINSON, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio):

H.R. 2037. A bill to extend Federal Pell Grant eligibility of certain short-term programs; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. LEVIN OF MICHIGAN (for himself, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. JONES, Mr. NADLER, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. BUSH):

H.R. 2038. A bill to establish a green transportation infrastructure grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. LOUDERMILK (for himself, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. HILL, Mr. DAVIDSON, and Mr. BUDD):

H.R. 2039. A bill to prohibit the Securities and Exchange Commission from requiring that personally identifiable information be collected under consolidated audit trail reporting requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. LOUDERMILK (for himself, Mr. BARR, Mr. EMMER, and Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio):

H.R. 2040. A bill to update thresholds for certain currency transaction reports and suspicious activity reports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER (for himself, Mr. LONG, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. JACKSON, Mr. BABIN, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, and Mr. TIFFANY):

H.R. 2041. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to list fentanyl-related substances as schedule I controlled substances; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY OF NEW YORK (for herself and Mr. CONNOLLY):

H.R. 2042. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to protect Federal employees from retaliation for the lawful use of Federal records, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY OF NEW YORK (for herself, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mr. SARBANES):

H.R. 2043. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to require the Director of the Office of Personnel Management to establish and maintain a public directory of the individuals occupying Government policy and supporting positions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MANN (for himself, Mr. ESTES, Mr. LATURNER, and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas):

H.R. 2044. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 17 East Main Street in Herington, Kansas, as the ''Captain Emil J. Kapaun Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. MCCAUL (for himself, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. KATKO, and Mr. KEATING):

H.R. 2045. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish in the Department of Homeland Security the Biometric Identification Transnational Migration Alert Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mrs. MILLER OF WEST VIRGINIA (for herself, Mr. ARRINGTON, and Mr. MCKINLEY):

H.R. 2046. A bill to enhance the security of the United States and its allies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Financial Services, Oversight and Reform, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MOORE OF ALABAMA (for himself, Mr. BOST, and Ms. MACE):

H.R. 2047. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for Post-9/11 Educational Assistance to members of the National Guard who perform certain full-time duty; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 2048. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to improve the service obligation verification process for TEACH Grant recipients, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. PANETTA (for himself, Mr. SIMPSON, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. LAMALFA, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. TONKO, Mr. TAKANO, and Mrs. DINGELL):

H.R. 2049. A bill to amend the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 to promote reforestation following unplanned events on Federal land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, 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. PASCRELL (for himself, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. TONKO, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. HILL, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. COHEN, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. SIRES, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. POCAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. KILMER, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEGETTE, and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H.R. 2050. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the five-month waiting period for disability insurance benefits under such title and waive the 24-month waiting period for Medicare eligibility for individuals with Huntington's disease; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. CURTIS):

H.R. 2051. A bill to designate methamphetamine as an emerging threat, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN):

H.R. 2052. A bill to amend chapter 11 of title 31, United States Code, to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to annually submit to Congress a report on all disaster-related assistance provided by the Federal Government; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. PLASKETT (for herself and Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN):

H.R. 2053. A bill to amend the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 to extend the provision of assistance for critical services with respect to certain disasters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. PORTER (for herself, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. NADLER, Mr. KATKO, Mr. TRONE, Mr. COLE, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. TAYLOR, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mrs. HINSON, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. COHEN, Mr. RYAN, and Ms. STRICKLAND):

H.R. 2054. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for certain health coverage of newborns; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. QUIGLEY (for himself and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 2055. A bill to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995, the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009, the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, the Financial Stability Act of 2010, and the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to improve access to information in the legislative and executive branches of the Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, the Judiciary, Ethics, Financial Services, the Budget, and Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. RODGERS OF WASHINGTON (for herself, Mr. PALMER, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. BUDD, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. PERRY, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. STEWART, Mr. KELLER, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. OWENS, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. MANN, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Ms. HERRELL, and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota):

H.R. 2056. A bill to provide for a reauthorizing schedule for unauthorized Federal programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Rules, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROY (for himself, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. BROOKS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. POSEY, Mr. BABIN, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. HERN, and Mr. GOHMERT):

H.R. 2057. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require program participation agreements between institutions of higher education and Hanban if a Confucius Institute operates on the campus of the institution; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. RYAN (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. CARTWRIGHT):

H.R. 2058. A bill to establish the Steel Valley National Heritage Area in the States of Pennsylvania and Ohio, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. SARBANES:

H.R. 2059. A bill to amend section 5542 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that any hours worked by Federal firefighters under a qualified trade-of-time arrangement shall be excluded for purposes of determinations relating to overtime pay; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. SARBANES (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Ms. NORTON, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. NADLER):

H.R. 2060. A bill to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to fund job-creating improvements in energy and resiliency for Federal buildings, to enable a portfolio of clean buildings by 2030, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Oversight and Reform, Armed Services, Veterans' Affairs, and Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SCHRADER (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota):

H.R. 2061. A bill to establish an interagency One Health Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SCOTT OF VIRGINIA (for himself, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. KATKO, Mrs. AXNE, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Ms. NEWMAN, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. GROTHMAN, Ms. WILD, and Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH):

H.R. 2062. A bill to amend the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 and other laws to clarify appropriate standards for Federal employment discrimination and retaliation claims, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT OF GEORGIA:

H.R. 2063. A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to modify the authority of the National Labor Relations Board with respect to rulemaking, issuance of complaints, and authority over unfair labor practices; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. SMITH OF NEW JERSEY:

H.R. 2064. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for certain protections for aliens granted temporary protected status or deferred enforced departure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. STEWART (for himself and Mr. CRENSHAW):

H.R. 2065. A bill to amend section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, to require that annual budget submissions of the President to Congress provide an estimate of the cost per taxpayer of the deficit and of the public debt; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mrs. TORRES OF CALIFORNIA (for herself, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. NORTON, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. TITUS, Ms. OMAR, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. GALLEGO, and Mr. SOTO):

H.R. 2066. A bill to provide for the confidentiality of information submitted in requests for deferred action under the deferred action for childhood arrivals program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. TRAHAN (for herself, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. MCKINLEY, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. TRONE, and Mr. TONKO):

H.R. 2067. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to require physicians and other prescribers of controlled substances to complete training on treating and managing patients with opioid and other substance use disorders, and for other purposes; 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. VELÁZQUEZ (for herself and Mr. STIVERS):

H.R. 2068. A bill to create a safe harbor for insurers engaging in the business of insurance in connection with a cannabis-related legitimate business, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ (for herself, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, and Mrs. BEATTY):

H.R. 2069. A bill to amend the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act of 1975 to modify the exemptions from certain disclosure requirements; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ (for herself, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. WATERS, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NEAL, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. MENG, Mr. SIRES, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. BROWN, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. BUSH, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. EVANS, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. OMAR, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. BASS, Mr. MFUME, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. JONES, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. WELCH, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. WILD, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. CARSON, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. TITUS, Mr. CORREA, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. RUSH, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, and Mr. NEGUSE):

H.R. 2070. A bill to recognize the right of the People of Puerto Rico to call a status convention through which the people would exercise their natural right to self-determination, and to establish a mechanism for congressional consideration of such decision, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. POCAN, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York):

H.R. 2071. A bill to amend part D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate covered part D drug prices on behalf of Medicare beneficiaries; 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 Ms. WEXTON (for herself, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. SUOZZI, Mrs. LURIA, Mr. HASTINGS, and Mr. CARSON):

H.R. 2072. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require issuers to make certain disclosures relating to the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. YARMUTH:

H.R. 2073. A bill to place a moratorium on permitting for mountaintop removal coal mining until health studies are conducted by the Department of Health and Human Services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mrs. TORRES of California):

H.R. 2074. A bill to assist Tribal governments in the management of buffalo and buffalo habitat and for the reestablishment of buffalo on Indian lands; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. BASS (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. RUSH, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CARSON, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. TITUS, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. BERA, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. EVANS, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. OMAR, and Ms. JACOBS of California):

H. Res. 251. A resolution reaffirming bilateral and multilateral relations between the United States and African countries and recognizing the importance of diplomatic, security, and trade relations; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CAWTHORN:

H. Res. 252. A resolution commemorating the 100-year anniversary of the fall of Kronstadt, which took place on March 18, 1921; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. HASTINGS (for himself and Mr. MEEKS):

H. Res. 253. A resolution celebrating the heritage of Romani Americans; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, 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. CAROLYN B. MALONEY OF NEW YORK (for herself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. PAPPAS, and Mr. SIRES):

H. Res. 254. A resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the Parthenon Marbles should be returned to Greece; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. TENNEY:

H. Res. 255. A resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to require that any bill or resolution that is not reported from a committee of subject-matter jurisdiction requires a two-thirds vote to be considered as passed; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. VAN DREW (for himself, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. CARL, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. FALLON, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. BABIN, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. BANKS, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. JACKSON, Mr. BUDD, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. OWENS, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. POSEY, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. STEWART, and Mr. CRAWFORD):

H. Res. 256. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the fencing installed around the perimeter of the United States Capitol should be removed and the mission of the National Guard in the District of Columbia in response to the attacks on the Capitol on January 6, 2021, should be ended; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Armed 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.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

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

By Mr. PERLMUTTER:

H.R. 1996.

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

Article I Section 8

By Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio:

H.R. 1997.

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

Article 1 Section 8 of the US Constitution

By Ms. CHENEY:

H.R. 1998.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 3 provides Congress with the power to ''regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.'' [Page H2390]

By Mr. SMITH of Missouri:

H.R. 1999.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 1

Article I, Section 8, clause 18

Article I, Section 9, clause 7

By Mr. BANKS:

H.R. 2000.

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

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress).

By Mrs. BEATTY:

H.R. 2001.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina:

H.R. 2002.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mrs. BOEBERT:

H.R. 2003.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 4: To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization . . .

By Mrs. BOEBERT:

H.R. 2004.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 4: To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization . . .

By Mr. CALVERT:

H.R. 2005.

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

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution, specifically Clauses 1 (relating to providing for the general welfare of the United States) and 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress) of such section.

OR

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 and Clause 18.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:

H.R. 2006.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. CLARKE of New York:

H.R. 2007.

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

Article I; Section 8

By Ms. CRAIG:

H.R. 2008.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 2009.

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

Article I of the Constitution and its subsequent amendments and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H.R. 2010.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress)

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 2011.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 3 provides Congress with the power to ''regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.''

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 2012.

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

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. DEUTCH:

H.R. 2013.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. GALLAGHER:

H.R. 2014.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 11

By Mr. GALLAGHER:

H.R. 2015.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN:

H.R. 2016.

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

The Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the U.S. Constitution, which provide as follows:

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; [. . .]—And

To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the

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

By Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN:

H.R. 2017.

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

The Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the U.S. Constitution, which provide as follows:

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; [. . .]—And

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

By Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN:

H.R. 2018. 1 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the U.S. Constitution, which provide as follows:

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

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

By Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN:

H.R. 2019.

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

The Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the U.S. Constitution, which provide as follows:

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; [. . .]—And

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

By Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN:

H.R. 2020.

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

The Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the U.S. Constitution, which provide as follows:

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; [. . .]—And

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

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 2021.

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

U.S. Const. art. I, sec. 8, cl. 3

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

U.S. Cont. art. IV, sec. 3, cl. 2, sen. a

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rule and Regulations respecting the Territory of other Property belonging to the United States;

By Mr. HERN:

H.R. 2022.

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

Article I, Section VIII, U.S. Constitution

By Ms. HOULAHAN:

H.R. 2023.

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

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

By Mr. HOYER:

H.R. 2024.

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

U.S. Constitution, Article I

By Mr. ISSA:

H.R. 2025.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 9: ''To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court''

Article III, Section 1, Clause 2: The judicial Power shall extend to all Cases, in Law and Equity, arising under this Constitution, the Laws of the United States, and Treaties made, or which shall be made, under their Authority; to all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls; to all Cases of admiralty and maritime Jurisdiction; to Controversies to which the United States shall be a Party; to Controversies between two or more States; between Citizens of different States, between Citizens of the same State claiming Lands under Grants of different States, and between a State, or the Citizens thereof, and foreign States, Citizens or Subjects.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

H.R. 2026.

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

Article I section 8 clause 18 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 2027.

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

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

By Mr. KILDEE:

H.R. 2028.

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

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mrs. KIRKPATRICK:

H.R. 2029.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI:

H.R. 2030.

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

Article 1 Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. LAHOOD:

H.R. 2031.

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

ARTICLE I, SECTION 8, CLAUSE 1

The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises.

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut:

H.R. 2032.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mrs. LAWRENCE:

H.R. 2033.

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

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

By Mr. LAWSON of Florida:

H.R. 2034.

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

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

By Ms. LEE of California:

H.R. 2035.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. LEVIN of California:

H.R. 2036.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. LEVIN of Michigan:

H.R. 2037.

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

Article 1, Section 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. LEVIN of Michigan:

H.R. 2038.

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

Article 1, Section 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. LOUDERMILK:

H.R. 2039.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. LOUDERMILK:

H.R. 2040.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 2041.

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

The Constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts, and excises to pay the debts and provide for the common Defense and general welfare of the United States, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 1. Thus, Congress has the authority not only to increase taxes, but also, to reduce taxes to promote the general welfare of the United States of America and her citizens. Additionally, Congress has the Constitutional authority to regulate commerce among the States and with Indian Tribes, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 2042.

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. 2043.

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 Mr. MANN:

H.R. 2044.

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

The U.S. House of Representatives allows for the renaming of federally owned postal facilities.

By Mr. MCCAUL:

H.R. 2045.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia:

H.R. 2046.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. MOORE of Alabama:

H.R. 2047.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 2048.

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

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

By Mr. PANETTA:

H.R. 2049.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 18

By Mr. PASCRELL:

H.R. 2050.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. PETERS:

H.R. 2051.

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

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. PETERS:

H.R. 2052.

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

Article I, Section 8.

By Ms. PLASKETT:

H.R. 2053.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. PORTER:

H.R. 2054.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. QUIGLEY:

H.R. 2055.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mrs. RODGERS of Washington:

H.R. 2056.

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

Article I, Section 7, Clause 1: ''All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with amendments as on other Bills.''

By Mr. ROY:

H.R. 2057.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. RYAN:

H.R. 2058.

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

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

By Mr. SARBANES:

H.R. 2059.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution under the General Welfare Clause

By Mr. SARBANES:

H.R. 2060.

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

Article I, Section 8 of U.S. Constitution under the General Welfare Clause

By Mr. SCHRADER:

H.R. 2061.

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

Article 1, Section 8, clause 3.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 2062.

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

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

By Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia:

H.R. 2063.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 2064.

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

Article I Section 8 Clause 1 of the US Constitution

By Mr. STEWART:

H.R. 2065.

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

Article I, Section 8 Clause 3

By Mrs. TORRES of California:

H.R. 2066.

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

According to Article 1: Section 8: Clause 18: of the United States Constitution, seen below, this bill falls within the Constitutional Authority of the United States Congress.

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

By Mrs. TRAHAN:

H.R. 2067.

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

Article. I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 2068.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 2069.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

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

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 2070.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

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

By Mr. WELCH:

H.R. 2071.

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

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

By Ms. WEXTON:

H.R. 2072.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. YARMUTH:

H.R. 2073.

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

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

By Mr. YOUNG:

H.R. 2074.

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

Article I, Section 8. Clause 3

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 55: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 67: Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H.R. 69: Mr. RASKIN and Mr. CARL.

H.R. 82: Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. JACOBS of California, and Mr. LAMB.

H.R. 235: Ms. JAYAPAL.

H.R. 263: Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Ms. MACE, and Mr. CARTER of Georgia.

H.R. 288: Mr. GOOD of Virginia.

H.R. 322: Mr. REED.

H.R. 369: Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 379: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 465: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 553: Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 571: Mrs. MURPHY of Florida.

H.R. 586: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 695: Ms. MACE, Ms. TENNEY, and Mr. JACOBS of New York.

H.R. 705: Mr. FEENSTRA.

H.R. 707: Ms. SPEIER and Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 748: Mr. CROW and Ms. STRICKLAND.

H.R. 783: Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 812: Mr. MANN.

H.R. 824: Mr. GOODEN of Texas.

H.R. 825: Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 826: Ms. BASS.

H.R. 845: Mr. RESCHENTHALER.

H.R. 852: Mr. KIM of New Jersey.

H.R. 894: Mr. BERGMAN.

H.R. 1012: Mr. MEEKS.

H.R. 1022: Ms. HERRELL, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 1030: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.

H.R. 1062: Mr. FEENSTRA.

H.R. 1145: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 1182: Ms. NEWMAN.

H.R. 1193: Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. MAST,

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania,

Mr. MEIJER, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, and Mr. MOORE of Utah.

H.R. 1203: Mr. BERGMAN.

H.R. 1226: Mr. LAMALFA and Ms. NEWMAN.

H.R. 1227: Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 1228: Mr. ALLRED and Mr. KINZINGER.

H.R. 1282: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.

H.R. 1297: Mr. MEUSER.

H.R. 1302: Mr. KHANNA and Mrs. AXNE.

H.R. 1313: Mr. SAN NICOLAS and Ms. DEGETTE.

H.R. 1328: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 1333: Mr. ALLRED, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. PHILLIPS.

H.R. 1346: Mr. HIGGINS of New York and Mr. CUELLAR.

H.R. 1352: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 1361: Mr. NEGUSE and Mrs. LURIA.

H.R. 1391: Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. CRIST, and Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 1411: Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. KINZINGER, and Mrs. WALORSKI.

H.R. 1448: Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. COLE, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. JACKSON, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. OWENS, Mr. PFLUGER, Mrs. STEEL, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. ROSS, Mrs. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. POCAN, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. MEIJER, Mr. NEHLS, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. CORREA, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. MANNING, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. LATURNER, and Mr. ISSA.

H.R. 1475: Mr. MEEKS.

H.R. 1496: Mrs. LESKO, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. BIGGS, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. ROUZER, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. BACON, Mr. OWENS, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Ms. HERRELL, Mr. DONALDS, and Mr. WEBER of Texas.

H.R. 1518: Mr. LAMB.

H.R. 1529: Mr. BABIN.

H.R. 1535: Mr. DIAZ-BALART.

H.R. 1551: Ms. BARRAGÁN and Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 1556: Mr. GAETZ and Mr. GUEST.

H.R. 1568: Mr. WEBER of Texas and Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 1592: Mr. BABIN.

H.R. 1603: Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. STANTON, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. Cárdenas, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CROW, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. BASS, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. KIND, Ms. CHU, Ms. BOURDEAUX, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. KAHELE, Mr. COOPER, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. BERA, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. MEEKS, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1607: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. CORREA, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. RYAN, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. EVANS, Mr. VAN DREW, and Ms. GARCIA of Texas.

H.R. 1614: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 1618: Ms. NEWMAN.

H.R. 1630: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 1631: Mr. MCNERNEY and Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 1680: Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H.R. 1699: Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. BABIN, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. KELLER, and Mr. GUEST.

H.R. 1729: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 1748: Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 1752: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1756: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 1790: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 1813: Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. CORREA, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. LEVIN of California, and Ms. NEWMAN.

H.R. 1814: Mrs. LURIA and Ms. MENG.

H.R. 1819: Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 1829: Mr. KELLER.

H.R. 1836: Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 1843: Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Ms. PORTER.

H.R. 1861: Mr. MEUSER and Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 1864: Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 1881: Mr. LAMALFA.

H.R. 1892: Mr. REED, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, and Mrs. SPARTZ.

H.R. 1893: Mr. CASE.

H.R. 1901: Mr. BROOKS and Mr. BERGMAN.

H.R. 1905: Mr. KELLER, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. LYNCH, and Mrs. MCBATH.

H.R. 1944: Mr. JACKSON and Mr. GALLAGHER.

H.R. 1948: Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. NADLER, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. PORTER, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 1964: Mr. PHILLIPS.

H.R. 1974: Ms. SEWELL and Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 1994: Ms. HOULAHAN.

H.J. Res. 12: Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma.

H.J. Res. 25: Mr. BUDD.

H.J. Res. 29: Mr. HUFFMAN and Mr. RASKIN.

H. Res. 43: Mr. BIGGS.

H. Res. 88: Mr. SUOZZI and Mr. DELGADO.

H. Res. 109: Ms. SPEIER, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. KINZINGER, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. TENNEY, Ms. DEAN, Ms. TLAIB, and Ms. TITUS.

H. Res. 153: Mr. WALTZ, Mr. TAYLOR, and Mr. VALADAO.

H. Res. 224: Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BABIN, Mr. PERRY, Mr. STEUBE, and Mr. BUDD.

H. Res. 231: Mr. CASE.

H. Res. 237: Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. WALTZ, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HIMES, and Mr. CORREA.

H. Res. 242: Mr. RASKIN.

H. Res. 243: Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. BANKS, Mr. BERGMAN, Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Ms. CHENEY, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. DUNN, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. HAGEDORN, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. HERN, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. JACKSON, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LAMBORN, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. MANN, Mr. MAST, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. PALMER, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. ROY, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. TURNER, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. BUDD, Mr. CALVERT, Mrs. CAMMACK, Ms. FOXX, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. LONG, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. PERRY, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. WALBERG, and Mrs. BOEBERT.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 167 WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2021 *No. 51*

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BEN RAY LUJÁN, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, today, guide our lawmakers to lead blameless lives by doing what is right. Throughout the day, may they repeatedly ask You to guide them in fulfilling Your purposes for our Nation. Lord, empower them to speak the truth from sincere hearts. Help them to trust in Your loving providence as they strive to be Your faithful followers. Grant that their quest for integrity will inspire them to seek Your divine approval and please You in all that they do.

We pray in Your majestic Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 18, 2021.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BEN RAY LUJÁN, a Senator from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. LUJÁN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 1799

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first, I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A 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.

Mr. SCHUMER. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceedings.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

GEORGIA SHOOTINGS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, the Asian-American community is still reeling from the senseless murder of eight people near Atlanta, six of whom were women of Asian descent. It will be some time before we understand what drove the madman who perpetrated this crime, but there is no doubt that abuse, prejudice, and violence against Asian Americans is on the rise, and it is so un-American and so despicable that we all must be speaking out about this.

The same day that six Asian women were killed in Georgia, the Stop AAPI Hate organization released a report naming 3,800 incidents of hate against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and that is just in 1 year alone.

The fear in the Asian-American community and the threat of violence against its members should be a topic of national conversation.

In the last 4 years—you know, we all know there have been forces of racism, dark forces, that have been often seen in America, but the last 4 years, where Donald Trump, at the very minimum, refused to condemn the bigotry in the instances when he should, have allowed them to come far more up to the surface. It is as if the society's superego that keeps these dark forces down has been greatly diminished or even removed.

It is up to us, particularly under the new President, who fights bigotry at every step of the way—but it is up to all of us to speak out against it and to act against it.

The story of the Asian-American community is quintessentially an American story, and we cannot allow the rising tide of bigotry against them, the intolerance against them, the prejudice against them to go unchecked because in a multicultural society like ours, an attack on any one group is an attack on everyone.

I love the Asian-American community. They are such fine, good American people. The story of the Asian-American community is quintessentially an American story. It is a story of coming here, building strong communities, opening local businesses, churches, civic organizations, and slowly but surely gaining the political representation they so deserve.

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

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Just yesterday, we confirmed a nominee whose parents emigrated from Taiwan to become the U.S. Trade Representative. That is notable and important progress. But, unfortunately, the past few years have shown us that America has not excised the age-old demon of racism, and to too many it has become acceptable, permissible, or just shrug your shoulders. That cannot be.

With respect to the Asian-American community specifically and all communities, we must condemn rhetoric that is racist. In this case, we must condemn any rhetoric that blames the Chinese people for the coronavirus. President Trump did that, despicably, and that notion was too often encouraged by others who repeated his harsh, nasty, and bigoted words.

We must stand beside and stand up for our Asian-American brothers and sisters. Americans of every faith, every color, every gender and sexual orientation must band together against these dark forces of hate. As I said, they are always with us, but somehow after the 4 years of the Trump Presidency, they are rising to the surface and seem too acceptable to too many people. Fight them, fight them, fight them we must.

As we mourn with the people of Georgia, let us recommit ourselves to that most American of creeds that is right above the mantle where you sit, Mr. President, ''e pluribus unum.'' Out of many, one.

America: ''e pluribus unum.'' Out of many, one.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on nominations, today, the Senate will vote to confirm another member of President Biden's Cabinet, Xavier Becerra, to serve as Secretary of Health and Human Services.

In truth, Attorney General Becerra's nomination should not have taken this long. From the moment the Attorney General Becerra was announced as President Biden's pick for HHS, Senate Republicans have tried to derail his nomination. Their arguments almost verge on the ridiculous. They complain loudly that he had no direct experience as a medical professional, even though Republicans voted in lockstep to install Alex Azar, a pharmaceutical executive, who raised drug prices and tried to undermine our Nation's health law as the previous HHS Secretary.

Becerra, by contrast, has decades of standing up for working and middle-class Americans in Congress, fighting to protect and expand Medicare and Medicaid and working to safeguard our healthcare system from attacks by the Trump administration.

As the Biden administration works to defeat this pandemic, the President deserves to have his Cabinet confirmed, especially a post as important as HHS Secretary. I look forward to completing his nomination today.

A few days after Democrats gained control of the Senate, we had big tasks ahead of us right away. I said that we had three important priorities to do quickly: One, the impeachment trial of Donald Trump; two, big and bold COVID relief; and, three, President Biden's Cabinet. We have already finished the first two priorities, and very soon we are going to finish the third.

I want to thank my colleagues, my Democratic colleagues, for working so quickly, so hard, and in such a unified team effort to allow all of this to happen. I am very proud of what we have done in these first few months.

Later today, the Senate will take its first vote on the nomination of Boston Mayor Marty Walsh to be our Nation's Labor Secretary. Early next week, after we confirm him, the Senate will have confirmed every available Cabinet Secretary and many more Cabinet-level appointments besides. That is excellent progress, and, again, I want to thank my colleagues in the Senate on both sides of the aisle for their votes in supporting these fine nominees.

What does it mean? It means the Biden administration will have the personnel in place to implement the American Rescue Plan, finish the fight against COVID–19, and bring our country roaring back. In the meantime, the Senate must continue to work to get the rest of the President's team in place.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now on the American Rescue Plan. As Americans learn more and more about ARP, the American Rescue Plan, the more popular it becomes and the more optimistic Americans feel about our economic recovery.

Across the country, the support for the rescue plan has risen to over 70 percent. In January of this year, before President Biden took office and Democrats assumed the majority of the Senate, more than four in five Americans believed America was on the wrong track; less than one in five said it was on the right track.

Now a majority, 55 percent, believe the country is headed in the right direction. It is back on the right track. That is a dramatic turn rather quickly, but I think it is, in part, because of the good work we have done here in the Senate.

Now we have learned something else: Consumer confidence has increased faster after the passage of the American Rescue Plan than after any of the other stimulus bills passed by Congress, particularly among low- and middle-income Americans, who have suffered the most.

That is fantastic news. Americans at the top have been able to survive the pandemic much more easily than Americans at the lower end of the ladder. For that reason, economists have long feared a K-shaped recovery in which high-income earners recover quickly, while middle- and low-income earners are left behind.

The American Rescue Plan is finally restoring confidence and support for Americans at the middle and at the bottom, helping drive a robust recovery for everyone.

One crucial aspect of that recovery is support for housing. As we all know, during the pandemic, tens of millions of Americans were out of work and drained family incomes. Americans were forced into impossible choices: Do I pay the rent and utilities this month or do I buy another few weeks of groceries?

Sadly, more than 13 million Americans report that they have fallen behind on the rent, especially Black and Brown Americans.

So when Senate Democrats put together the American Rescue Plan, we made one of the most significant investments in housing assistance in recent history: more than $20 billion in emergency aid for low-income renters, those at the greatest risk of eviction; $10 billion to help homeowners behind on mortgages and utilities to avoid foreclosure.

We include crucial support for rural America, homeowners struggling with the mortgage, and Americans, particularly veterans, who have recently fallen into homelessness or at risk of homelessness.

The American Rescue Plan goes further in delivering housing assistance to Tribal Nations and Native Hawaiians, more than any other housing bill in history.

The American Rescue Plan, quite literally, will keep a roof over Americans' heads. It is just one of the many ways the ARP delivers relief to struggling Americans and sets the stage for a supercharged economic recovery.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Yesterday, Secretary Mayorkas testified the ''border is secure and the border is not open.''

Yet the situation on our southern border has required FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, to be called in. So either this is the first time FEMA has been deployed just to admire a situation that is going smoothly or the administration is not being straight with the American people.

Here are the facts. Customs and Border Protection recorded more than 100,000 migrant encounters in February—100,000. That was up 28 percent from January. DHS projects the March totals will keep 2021 on pace for the most border encounters in 20 years. Unaccompanied child arrivals have jumped 63 percent, on pace to shatter all-time records.

This would be a humanitarian crisis under any circumstances, but it is even worse during a global pandemic. These thousands of unaccompanied kids are being housed in three-high bunk beds in facilities now stuffed at more than triple capacity. During the pandemic that is keeping kids out of schools and small businesses from fully reopening, these failing policies have us crowding these kids together down at the border.

And, don't forget, the Biden administration policy directs CBP to release migrants on U.S. soil while they await asylum rulings. That is without—without—a negative COVID test. So good luck to the communities on the border.

This isn't just a health and humanitarian crisis, though. It is a security crisis as well. New reporting suggests that multiple people arrested at the border in recent months have been matched to names on the FBI's terrorist watch list.

Democrats claim this overall influx is not because of their new administration. Well, that would be news to the migrants themselves. Some of these people have told reporters it was Democrats' rhetoric that led them to come. Some have shown up wearing T-shirts with the Biden campaign's logo on them.

Administration officials keep sending mixed messages, repeating phrases from the White House podium like ''now is not the time to come.'' So there will be an appropriate time sometime later for people to enter our country illegally?

Speaking of mixed signals, this week, the House is voting on immigration bills. Are they leaping into action to repair the crisis? No, that is not what they have in mind. They are taking up an amnesty plan that would create a special new pathway to citizenship for illegal immigrants working in certain industries.

So to summarize, the administration can't admit they have caused the crisis. They have yet to address the crisis. And House Democrats are backing policies that would only exacerbate the wrong incentive.

ELECTIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Now, Mr. President, on a completely different matter, I remember distant days long, long ago, way back through the mists of time, when Democrats said it would be wrong for Washington to overturn a State-certified election result.

No, wait a minute. That was 2 months ago. Two months ago, every Democrat, cable news channel, and every liberal newspaper was melting down over some Republicans' efforts to dispute State-certified election results here in Congress. I vocally opposed those efforts myself.

But right now, as we speak, Speaker PELOSI and Washington Democrats are literally trying to overturn a State-certified election here in Congress. That is exactly what they are doing over in the House right now.

The voters of Iowa's Second District spoke in November. They counted the votes. They recounted the votes. The outcome was certified. That is the magic word, ''certified,'' that we heard over and over and over again in November and December.

There was the opportunity to present complaints in court. Sound familiar? But the defeated Democrat passed up the opportunity to go to court. The process played out in a way that every liberal in America spent November, December, and January insisting was beyond question.

Ah, but there is a catch. This time—this time—the Republican won, and the Democrat lost. So Speaker PELOSI and Washington Democrats have set out trying to overturn the result from right here in Congress.

Congresswoman MILLER-MEEKS has been sworn in. She is here. She is working. But Democratic leadership is trying to use brute political power to kick her out and replace this Congresswoman with the Democrat whom she defeated.

You don't often see hypocrisy this blatant and this shameless so quickly.

Naturally, now that the Democrats stand to benefit from this, the concept of Washington overturning a certified election has gone from a massive outrage—a massive outrage—to a minor afterthought for much of the national media.

This is happening at the same time that House and Senate Democrats are pitching a massive takeover of all 50 States' election laws. The same people who are trying to overturn this certified election result want to ram through a bill that would let them control the democratic processes that will determine whether they keep their jobs and their majority in 2 years' time.

This isn't about principle. It is just an attempt to use a temporary majority to pull off a permanent partisan power grab.

Democratic leaders have razor-thin majorities in both Chambers. They are obviously afraid they are going to lose them, so they have decided their top priority is a Washington rewrite of election rules.

The Second District in Iowa is just the appetizer. Soon Democrats want to come for the main course. Every congressional district, all 50 States, every election for every Federal office would have to be run the way liberal Washington lawyers who donate to Democrats prefer.

Voter ID? Their bill bans it unless States implement a huge loophole that makes it meaningless. But ballot harvesting, where paid political operatives can hand in stacks of absentee ballots with other people's names on them? It won't just be allowed; it will be mandatory nationwide.

Those are just two examples from an endless list. Outside special interests are putting tens of millions of dollars behind this.

In fact, some Democrats are so desperate to rewrite the rules of our democracy that many of them want to break the Senate's rules in order to do it. They want to break the Senate's rules in order to rewrite the rules of our democracy all over America. People will argue that it is worth destroying the legislative filibuster over H.R. 1 because the rules that govern our democracy are so important.

Of course, that is backward. The rules that govern our democracy are indeed uniquely sensitive and important. That is why this issue, of all issues, must be addressed in a fair and bipartisan way.

This isn't a uniquely justifiable place to shred the Senate's rules and ram through something partisan. It is a uniquely unjustifiable place to do it.

I worked with Chris Dodd to spearhead the Help America Vote Act back in 2002, a big landmark election bill that made it easier to vote and harder to cheat. It passed the Senate 92 to 2—92 to 2.

That is the kind of consensus you build if you want to tune up our democracy. That's the kind of broad bipartisan support that exists for making it easier to vote but harder to cheat, a far cry—a far cry from overturning a result from the last election and dictating the terms of the next one.

TRIBUTE TO JENNIFER HEMINGWAY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, now on one final matter, this week marks the end of Jennifer Hemingway's service as the Senate's Acting Sergeant at Arms. I am happy and grateful that Jennifer is actually not going anywhere. While she is stepping aside from the top job, as is custom when party control flips, Leader SCHUMER had the excellent judgment to retain Jennifer as the Sergeant at Arms Chief of Staff.

So, instead of a farewell, I just want to offer a few thanks.

I cannot imagine tougher circumstances than those in which Jennifer stepped into in this job. She had already impressed everyone as Deputy Sergeant at Arms, but when the Capitol was breached on January 6, she leapt into action on a whole new level.

It then fell to Jennifer to take the reins during challenging times. Her sure-handed leadership and institutional knowledge helped us get through a safe and successful inauguration just 2 weeks after January 6. Then came the fourth-ever Presidential impeachment trial, and there have been all the critical daily missions the Sergeant at

Arms team fulfills, from physical security to IT infrastructure.

So we were lucky to have such a poised professional on the job, and we are lucky she is sticking around. I know all of my colleagues share their gratitude for Jennifer's superlative service.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Xavier Becerra, of California, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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.

FILIBUSTER

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, once again, we are hearing chatter from some Democratic Senators about abolishing the filibuster. I had hoped we would move on from such talk after multiple Democratic Senators pledged to uphold the filibuster but apparently not. Apparently, some Democrats think that they can pressure or bully those Senators and other Democratic Senators who have expressed reservations into going back on their word.

Let me quote a former Senator on attempts to change filibuster rules in the Senate, and I am quoting:

> We should make no mistake. This nuclear option is ultimately an example of the arrogance of power. It is a fundamental power grab by the majority party. . . . Folks who want to see this change want to eliminate one of the procedural mechanisms designed for the express purpose of guaranteeing individual rights, and they also have a consequence, and would undermine the protections of a minority point of view in the heat of majority excess.

That was former Senator Joe Biden.

Here is what a current Senator had to say on eliminating the legislative filibuster, and again I quote:

> I can tell you that would be the end of the Senate as it was originally devised and created going back to our Founding Fathers. We have to acknowledge our respect for the minority, and that is what the Senate tries to do in its composition and in its procedure.

That was a statement from the current Democratic whip in 2018.

In 2017, 33 Democratic Senators signed a letter urging that the legislative filibuster be preserved—2017.

Of course, Democrats have not limited their support of the filibuster to words; they have supported it by their actions. In the last Congress, Democrats set a record for forcing cloture votes, which is what has to happen in order to end a filibuster. They repeatedly used the filibuster when they disagreed with legislation that Republicans were advancing. They filibustered COVID relief. They filibustered police reform even though Senator SCOTT and Leader MCCONNELL had committed to a robust, bipartisan amendment process. They filibustered pro-life legislation, and they made it very clear that they deeply regretted the fact that they could not filibuster judicial nominees—a situation, I would point out, of their own making. Even without the judicial filibuster, they used every tool at their disposal to slow down judicial nominations.

So, as of last year, Democrats' actions clearly demonstrated their firm support of the filibuster, but now that they have actually taken power here in Washington, albeit by the slimmest possible majority, they are pushing to get rid of it.

Democrats, of course, would like people to believe that this is a principled change; that all of a sudden, they have realized that it is really much better for the country if the majority party gets to do whatever it wants when it is in charge. Well, I just have to say, if you believe that, I have some nice oceanfront property in South Dakota to sell you.

I doubt that there is anyone anywhere in the country who seriously thinks that the Democrats' dramatic 180-degree turn on the filibuster is a principled reversal of their previous position. No, this isn't about principle. It is partisanship. It is political expediency. Democrats' principles haven't changed; their power in the Senate has. They are in charge now. They don't want anything holding them back, like that pesky Senate rule that they have used so often to their advantage.

The truth is, Democrats want a one-sided advantage. Last year, they were perfectly happy to exercise their rights as a minority and filibuster any Republican legislature they didn't like, but now that they are in charge, they want to deny the minority a right Democrats repeatedly exercised when they were in power. They are apparently too shortsighted to see that their proposal could be turned back on them in an instant.

When Democrats abolished the filibuster for judicial nominees, Leader MCCONNELL warned Democrats that they would reap the whirlwind, and they did. Much to Democrats' horror, President Trump ended up being the chief beneficiary of the abolition of the filibuster for judicial nominees, appointing a vast number of conservative judges to the Federal bench.

Several Democratic Senators have openly admitted that they had made a mistake by abolishing the judicial filibuster. The junior Senator from Delaware came to the floor in April 2017 and said he regretted changing the rules in 2013. The senior Senator from Minnesota not only said she regretted changing the rules, she went so far as to say in 2018 that she would support bringing back the 60-vote requirement. Yet now Democrats are apparently ready to abolish—abolish—the legislative filibuster. How have they not learned their lesson? Unless Democrats are so arrogant as to think they will never again be in the minority.

Some Democrats have suggested that we need to abolish the filibuster because otherwise the Senate won't get anything done. Well, not quite. Not quite. It is not that the filibuster could prevent us from getting anything done; it is that it could prevent us from getting everything Democrats want done. That is a big difference.

The truth is, Democrats could easily get something done in the Senate if they were willing to actually work with Republicans. And by ''work with Republicans,'' I don't mean inviting Republicans to join their bills while excluding any meaningful Republican input. I don't mean threatening Republicans to support their bills on pain of having the filibuster abolished or substantially altered. No, I mean genuinely inviting Republicans to the table.

Now, it would mean the Democrats wouldn't get everything they want done, and, of course, Republicans certainly wouldn't get everything we want done, but we could get something done. In fact, we could get some pretty meaningful things done. We could negotiate an infrastructure bill. We could pass section 230 reform, like the bipartisan bill I introduced with Senator SCHATZ yesterday. We could pass police reform legislation, expand domestic manufacturing capacity, and protect election integrity. We could do all of that and more if Democrats would engage in genuine bipartisan negotiation.

Is it really too much to ask that Democrats find 10 Republicans to work with on major legislative items? Everyone would like to pass their unedited agenda just like they want it, but that is not how things are supposed to work, at least not in the U.S. Senate, and it is certainly not how it is supposed to work when, like Democrats, you barely have a majority. The Senate and, indeed, our whole system of government were designed to prevent a partisan majority from steamrolling through its unedited, unchecked agenda.

Let's just talk for a minute about the purpose of the Senate. Actually, let me take a step back and talk about the purpose of our whole system of government.

Our Founders established not a pure democracy, where the will of the majority reigns unchecked, but a democratic Republic. It was their intention

to combine majority rule with representation and protection for the minority. Why? Because the Founders knew very well that it wasn't just Kings who could be tyrants. They knew that majorities could be tyrants, too, and that a majority of citizens could easily trample the rights of the minority. So they put safeguards in place throughout our government, checks and balances to keep the government in check and ensure that minority as well as majority rights were protected.

One of those safeguards was the U.S. Senate. Wary of, to quote Federalist 62, ''the propensity of all single and numerous assemblies to yield to the impulse of sudden and violent passions,'' the Founders created the Senate as a check on the House of Representatives. They made the Senate smaller and Senators' terms of office longer, with the intention of creating a more stable, more thoughtful, and more deliberative legislative body to check ill-considered or intemperate legislation and attempts to curtail minority rights.

As time has gone on, the legislative filibuster has become a key tool in preserving the Founders' vision of the Senate. The filibuster does indeed make it harder to get legislation through the Senate, and that is a good thing. That is what the Founders intended. The Senate was not designed to be a rubberstamp for a partisan agenda; it was intended to check partisanship or, as the Founders might put it, faction.

Now, does the filibuster sometimes stop good legislation from getting passed? Of course it does. Last Congress, it stopped us from passing legislation to protect unborn babies who can feel pain from being killed by abortion. The failure of the Senate to pass that bill, I think, is a tragedy, but just as you don't abolish the burden of proof in criminal cases just because some criminal sometimes escapes justice for lack of evidence, you don't permanently remove protections for minority rights because you might be able to force through a good piece of legislation.

In 2005, when some Republicans were suggesting eliminating the filibuster for judicial nominees, then-Senator Joe Biden said:

> I say to my friends on the Republican side: You may own the field right now, but you won't own it forever. I pray God when the Democrats take back control, we don't make the kind of naked power grab you are doing.

Fortunately, in 2005, Republicans didn't take that step. And in 2017 and 2018, when President Trump was pushing for Republicans, who were in the majority at the time, to abolish the legislative filibuster so he could push through our agenda and we could push through our agenda, we said no.

For the future of the Senate and our system of government, I pray that Democrats will make the same decision.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WYDEN. 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 XAVIER BECERRA

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President and colleagues, very shortly, the Senate will have the opportunity to confirm Attorney General Becerra to be the next Health and Human Services Secretary, and what this means is, after 4 years of going in reverse on health policy, it will be possible to drive and actually make progress for the American people in addressing their healthcare needs—progress in terms of lowering the cost of healthcare. We spent $3.8 trillion last year. So we have to lower costs, and we have to do it in a way that enhances quality, and Attorney General Becerra is going to be laser-focused on the key priorities for the days ahead. We all know that at the heart of that agenda is making it possible to end this pandemic.

Now, central to his agenda is going to be the distribution of vaccines because there are a lot of pieces to the challenge of beating the pandemic, but right at the heart of it is distribution of those vaccines and PPE and bringing together all the people at Health and Human Services and in our country to have a coordinated strategy for dealing with the pandemic.

We didn't have that in the past. I remember—and I am sure the Presiding Officer remembers—at one point, we didn't have any idea who was in charge. One day it was going to be the States. The next day it was going to be Jared Kushner. There was just bedlam for weeks and weeks with respect to who would even coordinate this country's strategy against the pandemic. With Xavier Becerra there, that will not be the case.

I just want—because I see colleagues also wanting to speak—to talk about another crucial aspect about having Xavier Becerra at the Department of Health and Human Services. What he is going to have to do is move quickly to reverse some of those flawed policies of the Trump administration, like junk insurance, barely worth the paper it was written on, the mindless restrictions that were placed on coverage. For example, that made it harder for people to get access to Medicaid. And some of what they did just defied common sense, making it tougher for people to enroll in the Affordable Care Act, and having modest efforts in New Jersey and Michigan and elsewhere to do outreach and to tell people about the availability of coverage.

What in the world is healthcare about? It is about getting coverage out to people, not inventing barriers to their getting care.

Finally, I just want to mention some of the exciting things from the recovery legislation that he will be able to focus on. I am sure my colleague from Michigan is going to be talking about these issues, as well, in the days ahead. But what is going to be done in terms of delivering postpartum care, an area where there has been enormous racial injustice, is going to make a huge difference—a major part of the recovery plan—the home and community-based services, which build on some of the work being done in the community. I remember from my days when I was director of the Gray Panthers, helping seniors and the disabled. And we are so excited about mental health officials and law enforcement officials coming together for what is known as the CAHOOTS Program from my home State, dealing with the racial tensions on the streets.

So Xavier Becerra has been running this mammoth agency in his State. You know, people say: What is his experience? He was on the Ways and Means Committee for years and years, the committee of jurisdiction as it relates to these issues, and then has been in California taking on monopolies, fighting those who would rip off the healthcare system, sticking up for the Affordable Care Act. So he has had frontline experience on these issues.

He should have been confirmed a long time ago, but now we are on the precipice of finally getting somebody who is going to take us forward in that key Agency in terms of meeting the healthcare needs for our colleagues.

When we have this vote shortly, I urge in the strongest possible way for the Senate to vote to confirm Attorney General Xavier Becerra for this crucial position.

I yield the floor to my colleague.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, first, I have to say to my friend and our lead on the Finance Committee how grateful I am for his leadership. We have started out very strongly on the Finance Committee with really important topics. I so appreciated yesterday focusing on nursing homes and what has happened the day before, focusing on advanced manufacturing and jobs, and your efforts today. It is just issue after issue. It is wonderful to have you in this position.

Mr. WYDEN. I thank my colleague.

Ms. STABENOW. And to be your partner in this.

And I so appreciate the leadership of the Senator who is currently in the Chair, from New Jersey, as well.

I rise today, as well, to speak on behalf of an outstanding nominee to lead the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. If there ever was a time we needed an outstanding leader, it is right now.

One of the things I find so interesting is that colleagues on the other side of the aisle say they wish he was a doctor. Well, the previous Health and Human Services Secretary was the former CEO of a drug company. And so, from my

perspective, I am much more comfortable having somebody who fought drug companies to lower prescription drug prices than to have had the person in that job before be the person who actually raised prices on people in his former position and tried to block competition. So he is the right person. Xavier Becerra is the right person for this moment, I believe.

Our Nation is still fighting to emerge from the worst pandemic in our lifetime. It is hard to believe now that it has been over a year that we have been struggling and families have been struggling with this pandemic. Nearly 540,000 American lives are lost. It is hard for me to even say it and have a concept of what that is right now, the number of people who have lost loved ones and friends and neighbors. Countless more have gotten sick. Many more remain sick months later.

The cost to our economy and way of life has been massive. Millions of workers have lost their jobs. Thousands of businesses have closed, too many of them, permanently.

Families are struggling to pay their rent or mortgage, keep the heat on—which is really important in a place like Michigan in the winter—keep the lights on, put food on the table.

Schools are working hard to reopen safely. And, in the meantime, families are doing the best they can to make sure their children can keep up.

It is true that we are making progress. We are making progress. Things are getting better step by step by step.

Thanks to science, we have three very effective vaccines going into the arms of people across our country, and with the American Rescue Plan being signed into law, in fact, help is here. It is here.

So now is the time that, as we focus on getting help to where it is needed, Attorney General Becerra is just the leader to do this as the head of Health and Human Services.

His experience will be a tremendous asset as he works to address the pandemic and make healthcare more affordable. He led the defense in court of the Affordable Care Act, which he helped to write. It was my pleasure to work with him during that process, to work with him as House Members and then to work with him when we were writing the ACA, both in the Ways and Means Committee, in which he sat in the House, and my sitting on the Finance Committee. He protected the healthcare of millions in his position as attorney general. He has taken on drug companies, as I said before, for their high prices and their role in the opioid epidemic. And he has worked to enforce mental health parity in California, which I think is so, so, so important.

So many people are living with mental illness and addiction right now and have been. In January, 41 percent of American adults said they were struggling with anxiety or depression. So things have gotten worse—the pressure on people as a result of what everybody has gone through in the last year. That is up from 11 percent before the pandemic, and more than one in four young people have reported having suicidal thoughts. Meanwhile, communities are seeing more people overdose. Long after the pandemic ends, these behavioral health issues will linger.

Attorney General Becerra began his career as a legal aid attorney supporting clients with mental health issues and substance abuse issues. He knows in his heart and soul how important this is. He will bring that same compassion and dedication to HHS as we work to expand access to care, including through certified community behavioral health clinics, on which I am so proud to have partnered with Senator ROY BLUNT and so many of our colleagues across the aisle to move forward as the new structure for comprehensive, coordinated care in the community. And it is beginning to make a difference, but we have a lot more to do, and we need somebody at the head of HHS who gets it. That is why I so strongly support Xavier Becerra, among so many other reasons.

American families deserve to know that they have someone at the Department of Health and Human Services who has their backs. With Attorney General Becerra, they will know they have someone who has their back.

He is the leader we need to help us end this pandemic, to get people the care they need, to strengthen our healthcare system, and to get our country back on track.

So I look forward to voting for this excellent nominee and putting him to work on behalf of the American people. I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this excellent nominee.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to oppose the nomination for Secretary of Health and Human Services of Xavier Becerra.

As I stand here today, America is still fighting the worst pandemic in a century. More than half a million Americans, as we have just heard, have died of this coronavirus. Life expectancy in our country has actually dropped by a full year. Now, as a doctor, I will tell you that is a significant drop of life expectancy.

In this time of crisis, our Secretary of Health and Human Services may be the single most important member in the President's Cabinet. There are many well-qualified Democrats, in my opinion, who could serve in this position. For example, I voted to confirm President Obama's last Secretary of Health and Human Services, Sylvia Burwell. She was confirmed by a large bipartisan majority.

That is not the kind of nominee that we have this time. In the middle of a crisis, President Biden has chosen someone who is, in my opinion, both unqualified and unfit for this specific job.

First, Attorney General Becerra is unqualified. Let me talk about that. As a doctor, I am deeply concerned that President Biden has nominated someone with no medical or public health experience. He is not a doctor, not a scientist, not a public health official. He is a trial lawyer and a career politician. A global pandemic is no time for on-the-job healthcare training. The Secretary must be ready on day one.

Attorney General Becerra is not only unqualified, I say he is radically liberal in his positions. Attorney General Becerra is the most leftwing nominee for this job, in my opinion, in history. He is an aggressive culture warrior from the radical left. He supports Medicare for All, which would ban private health insurance, and 180 million people who get their health insurance through their jobs would lose it. If his positions go forward and he has his way, American workers would lose that opportunity and that benefit of their jobs.

He has made a name for himself in the Democratic Party for his extreme positions on abortion. During his 24 years in Congress, Attorney General Becerra voted against every restriction on abortion. During his confirmation hearing, Senator DAINES even asked him to name a single restriction he would support. He couldn't name a single one. This record has earned him a ''100 percent'' rating from Planned Parenthood.

As a Congressman, Mr. Becerra even voted against the ban on partial-birth abortion. The Supreme Court, rightly, upheld banning partial-birth abortions in the United States.

This wasn't the only time the attorney general's positions were at odds with that of the current Supreme Court as he was attorney general in California.

During his confirmation hearing, Mr. Becerra claimed he never sued any nuns. That is his quote: ''never sued any nuns.'' He also said he only sued because of California law. Well, both of these statements stretch the truth, to put it mildly.

In 2017, the Trump administration gave a group of nuns an exception from being required to pay for birth control. The nuns say that violates their religious beliefs, having to pay for birth control. Attorney General Becerra then sued the Trump administration to stop them from giving this exemption. Attorney General of California Becerra, the nominee to be Secretary of Health and Human Services, lost at the Supreme Court by a vote of 7 to 2.

One of the jobs of the Secretary of Health and Human Services is to protect the conscience rights of doctors and nurses. Mr. Becerra's record shows he can't be trusted to do that.

There is a well-known case involving Crisis Pregnancy Centers. Now, these are groups that help women facing an unplanned pregnancy. California said

they had to advertise where these women could go to get abortions. Attorney General Becerra brought the full power of the State of California against the pro-life groups. Once again, the Supreme Court of the United States stepped in to stop him.

Mr. Becerra also used the power of his office to criminally prosecute pro-life journalists. A pro-life activist went undercover to investigate Planned Parenthood for trafficking in aborted body parts. His revelations caused outrage across the country. Attorney General Becerra charged him, the undercover reporter, with 15 felony counts.

This was too much even for Attorney General Becerra's liberal hometown newspaper. The Los Angeles Times said:

> It's disturbingly aggressive for Becerra to apply this criminal statute to people who were trying to influence a contested issue of public policy, regardless of how sound or popular that policy may be.

So Attorney General Becerra is a radical liberal on a whole host of issues. As attorney general of California, he sued the Trump administration over 120 different times. That is quite a few. This includes filing nine lawsuits on the very last day of President Trump's administration—the very last day, nine more lawsuits added to the pile.

He sued to try to stop President Trump from building the wall on the southern border. He sued the Trump administration to try to stop fracking on Federal lands in California. This is just the tip of the iceberg. The list goes on and on. When you look at the record, it is clear: Xavier Becerra is out of touch with the views of the American people.

President Biden has chosen an extremely liberal Cabinet. He was forced to withdraw his nominee for Budget Director. His Vice President has been the least bipartisan, in terms of a Senator of record, of any Senator in 2019. And now Attorney General Becerra seems to be the most liberal of them all.

Frankly, his selection, I think, shocked a lot of people across the country. During this pandemic, we need a leader for the Department of Health and Human Services who brings us together as a nation. Instead, the President has chosen a nominee with no public health experience and an extremely partisan record, so I urge my colleagues to reject this unqualified, incredibly liberal nominee.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, President Biden has a lot of duties and obligations and a lot on his plate right now. The important thing that we are involved in, that we are all concerned about, are the nominees, who they are, what the process is, and what leverage do we in the minority have to impact that.

I think that Xavier Becerra is not fit to be our Secretary of Health and Human Services, and I say this because of his appalling track record disrespecting the sanctity of life, blatantly attacking First Amendment rights, and his extreme policy views.

Now, throughout his career, Mr. Becerra has proven he has no shame when it comes to his pro-abortion beliefs. As attorney general of California, Becerra led a yearslong lawsuit targeting the Little Sisters of the Poor. This order of Catholic nuns is devoted to caring for the elderly poor. All they want is to be free to operate in accordance with their religious beliefs, and I think we can all understand that. But Becerra sued the Federal Government to force the nuns—and we are talking about the Little Sisters of the Poor—to provide access to birth control and abortion-inducing drugs, completely disrespecting their religious beliefs.

During his confirmation hearings, multiple Senators asked Mr. Becerra about his lawsuit, and he said:

> I've never sued any affiliation of nuns. [M]y actions have always been directed at the Federal agencies.

But I think it is pretty misleading because he may have sued the Federal Government, but his actions certainly were directed at the nuns.

And that is not his only assault on life. Mr. Becerra also fought against the Trump administration's title X rule in court. We all remember this. This is where he ensured that Federal tax dollars would only go toward family planning clinics that don't offer abortions.

And, during the pandemic, Becerra has been an aggressive advocate of expanding access to chemical abortions, thereby providing abortions by mail that are done at home and without the supervision of a medical provider. And all abortions, in my view—and I know a lot of people don't agree with this, but I think all abortions are bad. But increasing unsupervised access to chemical abortions, which are four times more likely to cause problems and complications for the mother than surgical abortions, shows that Mr. Becerra's concern isn't about health; it is about his pro-abortion agenda.

We shouldn't be surprised. During his time in Congress, Mr. Becerra voted against multiple pro-life bills, including the partial-birth abortion ban, and that was one that was sponsored on both sides. It was a bipartisan bill. It banned the horrific procedure in which a baby is partially delivered and then painfully destroyed.

But Becerra isn't just radical in his support for abortion. He also goes after the First Amendment rights of individuals who disagree with him. I am sure everyone here remembers the shocking, heart-wrenching evidence collected by two undercover journalists in 2015 that showed Planned Parenthood's involvement in selling the body parts of aborted babies. Becerra has chosen to prosecute the journalists rather than take the action to protect babies and investigate the evidence of this behavior.

Becerra also targeted the California pro-life pregnancy centers by forcing them to advertise abortions, in violation of their First Amendment rights. Now, he fought them all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, and he lost.

But he didn't give up. Last fall, he supported California's ban on indoor worship services, also in violation of the First Amendment, and he lost again in the Supreme Court. He doesn't give up. Justice Gorsuch said—and this is a quote from Justice Gorsuch. He said:

> If Hollywood may host a studio audience or film a singing competition while not a single soul may enter California's churches, synagogues, and mosques, something has gone seriously awry.

I agree with Justice Gorsuch in that observation.

Becerra also wants to decriminalize illegal immigration, saying:

> They are not criminals. They haven't committed a crime against someone.

Should he be confirmed to be the HHS Secretary, he would be positioned to give illegal immigrants access to his programs.

So, lastly, I just want to send a message to the pro-life movement, to people in Oklahoma and Americans all around the country who really believe in the sanctity of life. We are not going to give up in trying to block this nomination, and we will do everything we can to stop the confirmation of Xavier Becerra.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

FILIBUSTER

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, earlier today, my friend from South Dakota, the Republican Senator JOHN THUNE, came to the floor and discussed the filibuster. It has been a topic of discussion not only this week but even before. I hope that Senator THUNE will concede that whether you are for the filibuster or against the filibuster, we should certainly be dedicated to the proposition that the U.S. Senate should be a deliberative body that actually considers amendments and legislation on the floor.

Now, what I just said sounds very routine and normal. It is radical when you look at the record of the U.S. Senate. Last year, under the Republican leadership of Senator MCCONNELL, we had 29 amendments on the floor the entire year—29. That was really an improvement over the previous year, 30 percent better than the previous year—22 amendments. What that says to those who may not be familiar with Senate procedure is that the floor is empty and no one is here because we aren't taking up legislation. Why?

So far this year, we have done three things in the Senate: the impeachment trial; the reconciliation bill, the American Rescue Plan by President Biden; and nominations. What do those three things have in common? None of them, not one of them can be stopped by a filibuster. Why aren't we taking up other legislation? Because looming over us is a supermajority requirement of 60 votes to get anything done.

What I have said to my friends on the Republican side of the aisle is, show me that we can make the Senate function. If we can show that with the filibuster, so be it. If we can show it by changing the filibuster, so be it. But let's do something.

We were elected to do things. We were elected to pass an infrastructure bill for America. It has been years since we have done that. We were elected to deal with issues that are fundamental to this country. What about all the student loan debt in this country? Are we going to do anything about it, say anything about it? Nothing is coming to the floor, is it? There are so many issues that we should be taking up that we are not taking up because of the looming specter of the filibuster. That is a reality.

Let me bring that reality close to home. Twenty years ago, I introduced the DREAM Act. I said if you were brought to America as an infant, toddler, child, young person—your family brought you here, you grew up here, you went to school here, and you pledged allegiance to that flag in your classroom every single day—at some point in your life, you ought to have the opportunity to earn your way to be a legal person in America, a citizen in America. I don't think that is a radical idea. In fact, the overwhelming majority of Americans support the idea.

So, DURBIN, let me ask you a question. It has been 20 years. You are supposed to be a legislator. Why haven't you passed this, something that simple and that direct? I haven't made it a law of the land because of one thing: the filibuster. The filibuster. Five times I have brought this measure to the floor of the U.S. Senate and have been stopped by the filibuster; a majority vote every time but never the magic 60, the magic supermajority.

So do I have a problem with the filibuster? Yes, I do. I challenge those who are defending it to show me it can work, to show me we can create bipartisan votes on the floor, actually debate on the floor, amendments on the floor, legislation on the floor. That is not too much to ask. I think that is why we were elected.

I come today to address this issue because the House is expected to vote on the Dream and Promise Act and Farm Workforce Modernization Act. If the Senate is able to join the House in passing these bills, we would be able to make significant immigration legislation progress.

But I want to add that I support comprehensive immigration reform. I believe it is the only honest answer to what we face in America today. I will do my best to do everything I can. There is no excuse for inaction. This broken immigration system needs to be addressed on a bipartisan basis, and an answer is long overdue for Dreamers in this country. I have told you who they are.

When President Obama created DACA for them, some 800,000 came forward, registered with the government, and received legal status to work and freedom from fear of deportation because of DACA.

President Trump eliminated the program. The battle ensued in court. The Supreme Court said that Trump did it wrong, and we are now in the middle ground.

President Biden supports DACA. He has made it clear that it is open for new people to apply. Yet we don't have the final law.

We are dealing with Executive orders when it comes to this important issue. That is why I have decided to come to this floor and to continue to raise the issues of the people who are involved and to introduce my 129th Dreamer story on the floor of the U.S. Senate, which I have done for years.

Diana Andino. She was born in Ecuador. She came to the United States when she was 11 years old. She grew up in Houston, TX. She was quite a student. She graduated in the top 10 percent of her high school class and went on to earn a bachelor's degree with honors from the University of Houston, in biology with a minor in chemistry.

She wrote me a letter, and here is what she said about her dream of becoming a physician:

> I found my calling in medicine after volunteering at a local county hospital while I was in college.

Here is what she said about the difference that DACA made in her life:

> I graduated from college in 2011, and my dream of becoming a physician was truncated by my lack of citizenship status. However, DACA came in place a year later. I was able to apply to school and was accepted at the Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine in Chicago.

Let me just say, hats off to Loyola and their medical school. They have led the Nation in accepting wonderful students just like Diana. They were the first in the Nation to accept DACA applicants. More than 30 have since attended their medical school, and many of them are practicing in underserved areas.

Diana graduated from Loyola Medical School and now is a third-year resident at Loyola University Medical Center. She treats COVID–19 patients with serious complications, such as stroke or major bleeding.

Here is what she said about the COVID–19 pandemic:

> It's been a challenging year not only physically but mentally. Patients with COVID–19 developed multiple neurological complications that we have encountered and continue to learn about. As a neurology resident, I've learned to be flexible as there are so many unknowns we encountered almost daily.

How many times have we said in the last year: Thank God for people just like this woman, who risks her life as a doctor for COVID–19 patients. Our brothers and sisters, our family members, people whom we love are kept alive because Diana is skilled enough and brave enough to go into their rooms and try to save their lives.

We think so much of Diana that we have to debate in the Senate whether she should be a citizen of the United States. There is no debate, as far as I am concerned. She is exactly the kind of person we need in America's future. Send her back to Ecuador? No. Let her stay in her home country of America.

Make the Dream Act a reality. Make it the law of the land. Don't let a filibuster stop it again. When we receive the Dream and Promise Act from the House of Representatives, we will have an opportunity to see if 10 Republican Senators can join us in an effort to finally pass it—I hope more.

As I said at the outset, I support comprehensive immigration reform. I want to try to sit down and have a conversation about the farm labor bill, about those who are here in temporary protected status, about essential workers like Diana who ought to be given a chance to become citizens in this country. That is what the debate is all about.

This empty floor, with no conversation among Senators, is testimony to the fact that this is an aspiration—an aspiration that we can overcome the filibuster, pass the Dream Act and more and do it soon. Lives depend on it. Futures depend on it. The dreams of America are at stake.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SASSE. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

The Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. SASSE. I ask unanimous consent for the RECORD to note that the junior Senator from New Jersey is very dramatic in the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Absolutely, without objection.

Actually, I note one objection from the junior Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. SASSE. I ask unanimous consent to begin the vote now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. I am sorry I might have seen an objection from the Senator.

No, there is no objection.

Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON BECERRA NOMINATION

Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Becerra nomination?

Mr. SASSE. I ask for the yeas and nays.

Senator SCHATZ and I add up to 22.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 125 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Kaine	Sanders
Booker	Kelly	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Sinema
Carper	Luján	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Collins	Markey	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Feinstein	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Hassan	Peters	

NAYS—49

Barrasso	Grassley	Risch
Blackburn	Hagerty	Romney
Blunt	Hawley	Rounds
Boozman	Hoeven	Rubio
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Burr	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Capito	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Shelby
Cornyn	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Cramer	Lummis	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Toomey
Cruz	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Murkowski	Young
Fischer	Paul	
Graham	Portman	

NOT VOTING—1

Hirono

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHATZ). Under previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the next nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Martin Joseph Walsh, of Massachusetts, to be Secretary of Labor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Oregon.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 823

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I rise in support of legislation developed by our colleague, Senator BROWN, and me to protect $1,400 relief payments from being garnished by predatory private debt collectors.

We know that millions of American families are hanging on by a thread. They are counting on these payments to make rent and pay for groceries and medicines.

Now Senator BROWN and I want to include these protections in the American Rescue Plan. We wanted to include them, just like we had done in the December relief bill, but the problem was that Senate rules didn't allow Senator BROWN and me to include these protections in the American Rescue Plan, just like we had done earlier.

If the Senate doesn't pass this bill, predatory debt collectors will continue to seize relief payments for everything from credit cards to medical debt.

And as we talk about this right now, I would like to give an example of what this really means. If you have two parents who have lost their jobs, through no fault of their own, and they can't pay the rent because their relief check has been seized to cover a child's outstanding hospital bills—that is what is going to happen if you don't pass the legislation Senator BROWN and I are advocating.

So I think this one is cut and dry. The Senate will either stand today for the working families who desperately need this help, like that couple who are hurting, through no fault of their own, or the Senate is with private debt collectors reaching their hands into those families' pockets.

Now, these protections that we are talking about were included in the December package, with Republicans fully supporting it. Families' financial situations haven't changed so I hope that Republicans will allow for the passage of this measure offered by Senator BROWN and me. It is just common sense.

And I am going to yield now—the minority is aware—to Senator BROWN. He, too, will have short remarks, and then we will engage with our colleague on the other side.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I thank the senior Senator from Oregon, and I thank the Senator from Pennsylvania too.

We passed the American Rescue Plan, as Senator WYDEN said, to get shots in people's arms, money in people's pockets, get kids back in schools, and people back in jobs. Stimulus checks are already going out the door in Hawaii, in Pennsylvania, in Oregon, and Ohio. More than 100 million checks are already in Americans' bank accounts. We promised in campaigns, we promised in January we would do this and we would do this quickly.

Five million Ohioans are going to get a check. We know predatory debt collectors are already lining up to try to take a cut of those checks. We know it costs more to be poor in this country. So often the debt collectors come after you. Just to cash your check, there often is a fee and all the bank fees that they have.

We passed the rescue plan to put money in people's pockets so they can pay bills and buy groceries and spend money in local businesses. They can buy a washer perhaps made by American workers in Clyde, OH, or new tires for their cars made at Goodyear in Akron, OH. Maybe they are looking forward to throwing a small high school graduation party in their backyard—after they get their vaccines—with a cake and a barbecue from a local restaurant.

That is why we passed these checks, to support families, to support local economies, not to line the pockets of predatory private debt collectors. That is why I appreciate Senator WYDEN's work with us on this bill to protect Americans' stimulus checks from financial predators.

We know how aggressive private debt collectors are. They harass people. They prey on workers trying to make ends meet, and now they want to take this money before it even reaches Americans' bank accounts.

Last year, as Senator WYDEN said, we joined colleagues GRASSLEY, a Republican from Iowa, and SCOTT, a Republican from South Carolina, to pass bipartisan legislation to protect people's money.

It shouldn't be different this time. We are still in a public health crisis. Whether you voted for or against this American Recovery Act is immaterial. We have a choice. Whose side are you on? Are you going to protect workers and their families or are you going to side with debt collectors?

I yield my time back to Senator WYDEN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 823 introduced earlier today. The bill would provide for protection of recovery rebates. I further ask that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, my friend, the Senator from Oregon, suggested that the Senate rules precluded this provision from being addressed in the recently passed bill.

It is actually a little bit more complicated than that. So let's remember how we got here.

Last year, Republicans and Democrats worked together, and we passed five bills, adding up to about $4 trillion, authorizing another several trillion dollars of loans. It was an extraordinary reaction to an extraordinary moment, and Republicans and Democrats came together time and time again.

As the circumstances were changing, we passed new legislation to reflect that—passing a big bill, a trillion-dollar bill nearly, in December. But as soon as our Democratic colleagues had the ability, they decided they weren't interested in any bipartisan legislation

anymore. It was going to be strictly Democrats using the reconciliation process, and that is the only reason that this provision couldn't be addressed because it can't be dealt with under the reconciliation rules.

So now our Democratic colleagues perceive a problem with this legislation, and they would like the Republicans' consent to fix what might have been resolved with some kind of compromise had they pursued the path that we pursued when we were in control.

But let's talk about where we are and what we have done for individuals and families. The unprecedented financial support from the Federal Government has been really amazing. An average family of four has, by now, received stimulus checks of $9,200 and child tax credit checks of $6,000. That is $15,200. By the way, that has gone to people who never lost a penny of income. And if they did lose their job, as in the hypothetical that the Senator from Oregon suggests, then the unemployment benefits, in more than half the cases, paid them more than they made working because of the legislation that we passed. We designed it so they would pay people more not to work than they would make working, in addition to these stimulus checks that they got.

So the result of that is, in the aggregate, personal savings have gone through the roof. It is up by over $1.6 trillion. Total consumer credit is down. The fact is, we more than replaced lost income through the series of bills that were passed.

Now my colleagues want to come here and block a valid, legal claim from being honored with some of this money. And specifically, they want to block these stimulus checks from being subject to garnishment.

So what is a garnishment? That is just when money is withheld from someone because they owe something. They owe money that they haven't paid to someone else, and that someone else has gone to court, made the case, and it has been adjudicated that, yes, this is money that is owed.

So they want to forbid this windfall—which in many, many cases this is a windfall, let's be honest. They want to prevent it from being available to be used for the conventional way that we collect money that is owed. And whom might this affect?

Under this legislation, if it were to pass, it would forbid garnishment of the alimony payment that a needy former spouse relies on. That is a common expense for which garnishment applies. But in this case, the deadbeat former husband who is not paying his alimony payments, who forced his former wife to go to court to get a court order, he has been so far behind, now he gets this big check from the government, and she doesn't even get to catch up on the money that he owes her?

How about the deadbeat dad who is not paying his child support? That is another situation in which the mom, trying to struggle to support those kids, had to go to court and get a court order that his future income would be garnished because he just doesn't pay. Well, he gets this check in the mail, compliments of the taxpayer, and he doesn't have to give her any of that? That is so terribly unfair.

And, you know, in addition to all these direct payments, we have also provided massive financial support in all kinds of ways to alleviate expenses like nutrition assistance, $80 billion; housing assistance, $65 billion; increase of Medicaid, $170 billion; not to mention almost $1 trillion in payroll support so that people could continue to work.

When you pay for all of these things and you still give people money on top of that, I don't think it is unreasonable to ask people to pay their bills, especially their overdue bills to their former wife or to support their kids.

Here is the other thing. At best, this is now a political statement because, as one of many colleagues just alluded to, these payments have already gone out the door—most of them have. The Treasury has already issued probably over $250 billion in stimulus checks. And to the extent that a person was subject to garnishment, the garnishment happens automatically. So it has already happened.

So what does that mean if this bill passed? The legal chaos—I mean, first of all, it would actually allow the deadbeat dad I am referring to, to go back and claim that money back, to claw it back from the account that is meant to support his kids. How is that even possibly fair or reasonable?

This is a bad idea, and for these reasons, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, just briefly. I think the key kind of question—and the checks are still going out, and we want them to get out as quickly as possible, but the key issue here is the Republicans, back in December, wanted to help that couple that I was talking about, the person laid off, through no fault of their own. They wanted to help those folks to make sure their relief check wouldn't be seized to cover a child's outstanding hospital bills.

So what we heard are discussions about all kinds of, you know, other issues, but the fact is, in December, just a few weeks ago—just a few weeks ago—Republicans were supportive of the families Senator BROWN and I are seeking to help today. That is what the question is all about. Will the Senate today help the folks who are hurting that Senator BROWN and I have been talking about?

In December, Republicans said: You bet we are going to be there. Now it is a question, really, of whom the Senate is for. Senator BROWN and I are for those folks who are hurting, and they have been laid off through no fault of their own, and Republicans, unfortunately, with checks still going out—still going out—have decided they are for the private debt collectors.

I think it really shows whose side you are on, and Senator BROWN and I and members of our caucus are on the side of the people who are hurting, through no fault of their own, and we especially care about them at this time when checks are still going out.

I yield the floor.

Mr. BROWN. 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.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF MARTIN JOSEPH WALSH

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to support the nomination of Mayor Marty Walsh to serve as Secretary of Labor.

Across the country, working families are really desperate for help. Even before this pandemic, the deck was stacked against workers and especially against women, workers of color, and workers with disabilities, thanks to an unlivable Federal minimum wage and subminimum wage for tipped workers and workers with disabilities that do leave millions of workers struggling to make ends meet; a pay gap that makes getting by even harder for women, in particular, women of color; a lack of a national paid family, sick, and medical leave policy and quality, affordable childcare for working families; a failure to protect workers from pandemics and workplace accidents and harassment and discrimination and more; and a wave of job loss and economic uncertainty that is upending the lives of workers and retirees across our country.

This pandemic has laid bare the painful fact that while our economy might work for the biggest corporations and wealthiest individuals, it isn't working for working families. And all of these challenges—unsafe workplaces, lost jobs, low wages—are even worse for people of color due to longstanding inequities that are rooted in systemic racism and are widening due to this pandemic.

Our country cannot fully recover from this crisis unless we begin to change that by rebuilding a stronger, fairer economy. And that starts by making sure we have a Secretary of Labor who will actually champion workers and working families.

As a union leader, a State representative, and as a mayor, Mayor Marty Walsh has done just that. He has a clear track record as a collaborative leader who worked across coalitions with labor groups and the business community to build up Boston's middle class. Under his leadership, 135,000 new jobs have been created in Boston.

He fought for a $15 minimum wage and paid leave policies to help ensure women, workers of color, and workers with disabilities can succeed in the workforce and get the pay they deserve.

During this pandemic, Mayor Walsh has continued to show a deep commitment to his frontline workers who have kept this country running by providing funding for emergency childcare and other resources his essential workers needed to weather the pandemic.

And he would bring an important perspective as the first union leader to head the Department in decades.

His unwavering commitment to put workers first was plain to see during our confirmation hearing. In his testimony Mayor Walsh spoke powerfully about the importance of protecting frontline workers who do so much to keep our communities and our country running and rooting out the inequities that have done so much damage to communities of color. Mayor Walsh made clear he will work with Congress to help ensure every worker has a fair, livable wage; a safe workplace; paid family, sick, and medical leave; access to quality, affordable childcare; a secure retirement; and the right to join a union and collectively organize.

I was impressed by his answers during our hearing, and I wasn't the only one. Mayor Walsh's nomination passed out of our HELP Committee with strong bipartisan support in an 18-to-4 vote, and I hope he will now be confirmed with similar, overwhelming, bipartisan support because even before this pandemic and even before President Trump's 4-year crusade against workers, we had a long road ahead to build a truly fair, inclusive economy that works for working families. But, now, not only is the road longer, the clock is ticking.

Workers who are the backbone of our economy have been pushed to the brink. They need us to confirm Mayor Marty Walsh so we have a Secretary of Labor who will take quick action to address the urgent challenges we face and be a valuable partner in helping our economy come back stronger and fairer for all workers.

While we made important progress in the American Rescue Plan to extend unemployment benefits and provide much needed tax relief for those benefits, provide direct payments for families, and protect the pensions millions of workers and retirees depend on and while President Biden is taking important steps to reverse Trump-era rules that undermined workers' rights, this road to recovery is long, and there are still many steps we need to take, including raising the Federal minimum wage to one fair wage of $15 an hour, passing the PRO Act into law to strengthen workers' right to join a union, and passing the BE HEARD in the Workplace Act to protect people from harassment, assault, and discrimination.

We have a lot to do and no time to waste. I urge all of my colleagues to prove to families back home they understand we need a Secretary of Labor we can trust to stand up for workers and not huge corporations. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting to confirm Mayor Walsh.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 842

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, in a moment, I am going to propound a unanimous consent request, but before I do so, I want to make some brief remarks.

As my colleagues know and as several fact checkers have confirmed over the past week, the Democrats' partisan reconciliation bill that became law last week will provide many illegal aliens with $1,400 rebate checks paid for by the American taxpayer. By several estimates, millions of illegal immigrants will get these rebates.

I offered an amendment 2 weeks ago to the Democrats' bill to close this loophole. During debate on my amendment, one Democratic Senator spoke against my amendment, saying that no illegal aliens have Social Security numbers, and therefore the premise of my amendment and my speech was, he said, ''not true.'' In fact, here are the Senator's full remarks from the floor 2 weeks ago:

> Mr. President, the statement from the Senator from Texas is just plain false. Let me be clear. Undocumented immigrants do not have Social Security numbers, and they do not qualify for stimulus relief checks, period.
>
> And just in case you didn't notice, they didn't qualify in December when 92 of us voted for that measure, and they don't qualify under the American Rescue Plan. Nothing has changed.
>
> And for you to stand up there and say the opposite is just to rile people up over something that is not true.
>
> It is not true, and we know what is going on [here]. They want to be able to give speeches and say the checks go to undocumented people. In the circumstance where there is a parent receiving—

At that point, the Senator's time expired.

Following that debate, the Senator in question took to Twitter to double down. So it was not, after an all-night of no sleep, a moment of erroneous comment, but, rather, on Twitter that same Senator tweeted:

> Sen. Cruz's claim is only meant to rile people up over something that's not true. You cannot receive a stimulus check without a Social Security #. That's a fact. Instead of discriminating against mixed-status families, let's prioritize getting more relief to those families.

A second tweet from the same Senator:

> We simply cannot stand by and allow outright falsehoods to be propagated on the Senate floor. It's time for GOP Senators like TED CRUZ to stop trying to rile people up over misinformation.

Well, as John Adams famously said, facts are stubborn things, and it turns out the comments from the Democratic Senator were categorically false and my comments that this bill would send checks to millions of illegal aliens were categorically true.

Numerous fact checkers began looking at the claims. Newsweek initially fact-checked it, and, as is the wont with a fair number of media fact checkers, took the word of the Democrats for it, concluded my statement was mostly false.

Following that, my staff got on the phone with Newsweek and presented them with incontrovertible facts—incontrovertible facts that of the roughly 12 million estimated illegal aliens who are here, roughly 60 percent of them are visa overstays, people who came legally and then overstayed their visa, and a significant percentage of visa overstays have Social Security numbers and will receive checks.

Indeed, that is why my amendment was scored at saving the Federal Government over $600 million, because of the checks that would not go to illegal immigrants if my amendment had been passed.

When Newsweek heard these facts, they did something really quite impressive, admirable. They admitted they were wrong. They revised their fact check, and they changed their fact check from mostly false to true. True, period. No caveats. True. I want to commend Newsweek for demonstrating journalistic integrity. Correcting that fact-check, I am sure, was not an easy decision for them to make, but it was the right decision for them to make.

So, Mr. President, I would ask unanimous consent that we enter this fact-check into the RECORD.

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

[From Newsweek, Mar. 8, 2021]

FACT CHECK: WILL MILLIONS OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS GET STIMULUS CHECKS, AS TED CRUZ SAYS?

(By Graham McNally)

Senator Ted Cruz (R–Texas) proposed an amendment to the American Rescue Plan that would bar illegal immigrants from access to the $1,400 stimulus checks.

His amendment was voted down after Senator Dick Durbin (D–Ill.) criticized Cruz for trying to ''rile people up over something that is not true.''

THE CLAIM

Cruz claimed on Twitter that illegal immigrants would be eligible for the $1,400 stimulus checks included in the American Rescue Plan.

On March 6, Cruz tweeted, ''When the checks go out, millions of illegal immigrants WILL GET $1400 checks.''

He wrote that many people considered illegal immigrants are those who have overstayed their visas, and therefore have Social Security numbers.

Cruz argued that the possession of Social Security numbers will allow unlawfully present individuals to obtain the stimulus money.

THE FACTS

Anyone who pays taxes in the United States as a resident is eligible for a stimulus payment under the American Rescue Plan. That includes non-citizens.

For example, a citizen of Canada who is living and working full time in the U.S. would have a Social Security number and would be eligible for a stimulus payment.

The United States Department of Homeland Security website describes unauthorized immigrants as foreign-born non-citizens who live in the United States without legal residence. Individuals who overstay their visas but pay tax in the United States using a Social Security number can be eligible for stimulus payments. The most recent available data for the number of visa overstays in the United States is from 2019, released by the Department of Homeland Security. It said that 1.21 percent of visas in that year were overstayed, or 676,422 overstays. In 2019, student visas (1.52 percent) had a higher overstay rate than those from Canada and Mexico (.75 percent, 1.27 percent, respectively).

Illegal immigrants would not be eligible to receive a check if they do not have a Social Security number.

Immigrants who overstay their visas no longer are lawfully in the country but retain their Social Security numbers and therefore are eligible to receive a check.

''Technically, if they have overstayed their visa, they are here illegally,'' a spokeswoman for U.S. Customs and Border Protection told Newsweek. ''If a visitor has not been granted an extension of status by USCIS [United States Citizenship and Immigration Services], then they are considered to be overstays and subject to deportable status under 237 of the Immigration and Nationality Act.''

People who qualify as legal residents include those who have passed the green card test (permanent legal residents) or those who pass the substantial presence test. That test requires taxpayers to be physically present in the United States for 31 days of the current year and 183 days for the past three years.

Anyone who has a green card is considered a legal permanent resident, and would be eligible for the stimulus payment.

THE RULING

True.

Cruz's claim that millions of illegal immigrants would receive stimulus payments is true, given the amount of people who have overstayed their visas over the years. Once they overstay, they technically are considered ''illegal.''

Correction, March 9, 4:00 pm EST: The ruling on this story has been corrected to true. A statement from Customs and Border Patrol has been added.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, it is clear and indisputable that a significant number of illegal immigrants will receive checks and are receiving checks right now. All 100 Members of this body were misinformed by the Democratic Senator that no illegal aliens would receive fact checks—would receive, rather, stimulus checks. So I want to give my colleagues a chance to adopt the amendment now, with the correct information, with the true information, with the factual information.

I would note as well, in these deeply partisan times, it is easy for Republicans to throw insults at Democrats; it is easy for Democrats to throw insults at Republicans. Far too much of that occurs.

The Senator from Illinois, who is a friend whom I served with for 9 years, is a talented Senator. I am not here suggesting that when he stood up and spoke on the Senate floor and said things that were absolutely false, that he did so knowingly and maliciously. I would certainly give the Senator from Illinois the benefit of the doubt that he was in error rather than deliberately misstating facts, but the facts are now clear.

We have a rule in this body, rule XIX, to reprimand any Senator who imputes the character or integrity of another Senator. I am not going to seek refuge in that rule, although I think there is an argument that I could. But I will say this, that once the facts have been made clear, I hope my friend from Illinois will show the same principle Newsweek showed—to apologize, to say he was wrong and he is sorry for calling me a liar on the Senate floor and then going to Twitter to do so twice. That would be the right thing to do, to acknowledge an error when it occurred. The Senator from Illinois' statement that no illegal immigrants will receive checks under this bill is categorically false.

For that reason, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to immediate consideration of S. 842, introduced earlier today. I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DURBIN. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the exchange which took place between myself and the junior Senator from Texas has been analyzed from many different directions. The conclusion of CNN based on what he said on the floor and I responded to is as follows:

Cruz said ''every illegal alien in America'' would get a $1,400 check. Durbin responded that Cruz's statement is ''just plain false'' because, he said, ''Undocumented immigrants do not have Social Security numbers, and they do not qualify for stimulus relief checks, period.''

According to CNN:

They were both wrong. Cruz was inaccurate when he said ''every'' undocumented immigrant will get a $1,400 relief check.

Then they go on to say there are people, a discrete class of people, who might have a Social Security number, be undocumented, and receive a check. And because of the clarification and my own investigation afterwards, I will concede their point. I overstated my case.

Here is what it boils down to. In this situation, people have applied for a work visa—not a tourist visa, a work visa to come to the United States. Because of that work visa, they also received a Social Security number. Then they overstayed their visas and still could continue—could possibly continue—to be on the rolls with their Social Security number and receive a check.

I might quickly add, this was a provision that was included in both of the relief bills for COVID–19 signed into law by President Trump, one of which the Senator from Texas voted for, one of which he did not.

So I would ask, how many people are we talking about? Ten? A hundred? A thousand? Ten thousand? I can't find out. They can't give me the number because there isn't a calculation.

So here is the situation. You had to apply for a work visa, be granted the work visa and come to the United States, get a Social Security number, overstay your visa, and then continue to file income tax returns because that is the only way you could qualify for help through these relief packages.

I don't know if that group is ten or a hundred or a thousand, but I have carefully read the provisions that are offered by the Senator from Texas today, and I will tell you he basically says to the American Government, when it comes to cash payments: Stop the presses. Stop the presses. I want to know who these people are, and I don't want you to send them a check.

I don't believe that is reasonable. We have sent out 90 million checks. To stop this while we go through this debate is, I think, unfair.

I don't want these checks to go to people who do not qualify for them any more than he does, but I am not going to stop the issuance of checks to people living in Texas or Illinois in the meantime. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. I would note several things. No. 1, the Senator from Illinois said he didn't know if the number of illegal immigrants getting checks from the Democrats' stimulus bill was in the tens or the hundreds or the thousands. With all due respect, he does know that. It is not in the tens. It is not in the hundreds. It is not in the thousands. JCT, the Joint Committee on Taxation, which is a nonpartisan organization that reports to this Senate and this Congress, scored my amendment as roughly 482,000 illegal immigrants are getting checks under the Democrats' proposal. Two outside organizations have scored it as millions of illegal immigrants.

I would note what Newsweek said, when they corrected their fact-check, and I am going to read a quote:

The Ruling. True. Cruz's claim that millions of illegal immigrants would receive stimulus payments is true, given the amount of people who have overstayed their visas over the years. Once they overstay, they technically are considered ''illegal.''

Nowhere in the Senator from Illinois' remarks was a word of apology for

falsely calling me a liar on the floor of this Senate and on Twitter. That is unfortunate.

What the Senator said right now is also incorrect. The Senator from Illinois said this amendment would halt the payments that are going out. This amendment doesn't do anything of the sort. This amendment restricts sending payments to people who are here illegally. When the Senator from Illinois said he would love to do that, with all due respect, that doesn't withstand even the slightest bit of scrutiny because if he would love to do that, all he had to do was not object, and the American citizens, the people who are here legally, would all get their $1,400 checks, would get them on the exact same timeframe, but those here illegally would not.

Today's Democratic Party supports sending checks to millions of illegal immigrants. They have justified it, as the Senator from Illinois did, by falsely claiming none of them are getting checks. Those are not the facts, as the Newsweek fact-check makes clear.

I would note that a bill that Democratic Senators are trying to push, denominated H.R. 1, what many are calling the corrupt politicians act, would compound that by allowing millions of illegal immigrants to be registered to vote and, no doubt, to cast votes.

This is a political decision that is far outside the mainstream. It is unfortunate, but sadly it reflects where today's Democratic Party is.

I yield the floor.

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 legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 17, Martin Joseph Walsh, of Massachusetts, to be Secretary of Labor.

Charles E. Schumer, Patty Murray, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jeff Merkley, Brian Schatz, Amy Klobuchar, Benjamin L. Cardin, Cory A. Booker, Edward J. Markey, Angus S. King, Jr., Robert P. Casey, Jr., Chris Van Hollen, Sherrod Brown, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Tim Kaine, Tammy Baldwin.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that the nomination of Martin Joseph Walsh, of Massachusetts, to be Secretary of Labor, 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 Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 68, nays 30, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 126 Ex.]

YEAS—68

Baldwin	Graham	Peters
Bennet	Grassley	Portman
Blumenthal	Hassan	Reed
Blunt	Heinrich	Romney
Booker	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Brown	Hoeven	Sanders
Burr	Kaine	Schatz
Cantwell	Kelly	Schumer
Capito	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Sinema
Carper	Leahy	Smith
Casey	Lee	Stabenow
Cassidy	Luján	Sullivan
Collins	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Tillis
Cornyn	Marshall	Tuberville
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cramer	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warnock
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Murray	Whitehouse
Fischer	Ossoff	Wyden
Gillibrand	Padilla	

NAYS—30

Barrasso	Hawley	Rounds
Blackburn	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Boozman	Inhofe	Sasse
Braun	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Crapo	Lummis	Shelby
Cruz	McConnell	Thune
Daines	Moran	Toomey
Ernst	Paul	Wicker
Hagerty	Risch	Young

NOT VOTING—2

Hirono
Kennedy

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. VAN HOLLEN). On this vote, the yeas are 68, the nays are 30.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from West Virginia.

REMEMBERING ROBERT GUTZ THOMPSON

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I rise to honor the life of a noble veteran, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, friend, brother, uncle, and someone I had been fortunate enough to call my dear brother-in-law, Robert Gutz Thompson.

What I always admired about Bob was his unparalleled work ethic and determination to learn and serve and to inspire those around him. Bob was a graduate of the University of Wyoming, Class of 1961. He then joined the military and entered flight training in 1963, and he was designated as a naval aviator in 1964. From the day he was motivated to join the military to his military retirement in 1983, he showcased steadfast dedication and a commitment to excellence that can only be matched by his loving devotion as part of our family.

Bob proudly served our Nation for more than 20 years and leaves behind a distinguished legacy of military history, including service aboard the USS *Intrepid*, the USS *Randolph*, the USS *Lexington*, and the USS *Forrestal*. He flew thousands of flight hours throughout his distinguished career. He trained other pilots. He commanded naval units, and he was deployed multiple times, including to the North Atlantic, the Mediterranean, the Caribbean, and the Arctic Circle. He earned the Navy Achievement Medal for his performance as Landing Signal Officer during a winter deployment to the North Atlantic.

In 1967, he joined the VS–30 squadron and reported to Key West, FL, as an instructor pilot. In 1970, he was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal for recovering aircraft within the Arctic Circle. In 1972, Bob was selected for and attended the Naval War College in Rhode Island and then was assigned to the Naval Air Station Cecil Field, in Florida, to lead the squadron's relocation operations.

In 1976, he served aboard the USS *Forrestal* as operations officer. In 1979, Bob assumed command of the VS–30 squadron, where he deployed with his beloved Diamondcutters to the Mediterranean. Later that year, Bob received orders to the Pentagon to work on what is now known as GPS. His assignments were tough—squadron executive officer, squadron commander, instructor pilot, and so many more—but he was always tougher than they were. It is unbelievable the leader he was to all of those who served and served with pride.

Put simply, Bob was one of the most generous, kind, hard-working, and inspirational people I ever knew. My whole family and I adored Bob ever since he joined the family, and Bob's passing has left a deep impact on all of us. This is also an important time to celebrate Bob's life and the profound feelings of joy and pride that he brought to all of us.

While Bob wasn't born in West Virginia, he certainly was a Mountaineer, through and through, in his heart and soul and was a dedicated fan of his beloved WVU sports teams, especially football and basketball.

When visitors come to our little State, I jump at the chance to tell them we are home to the most hard-working and patriotic people in the Nation. We have fought in more wars; we have shed more blood; and lost more lives for the cause of freedom than most any other State. We have always done the heavy lifting, and no one has ever complained.

We have mined the coal, forged the steel that built the guns and ships and factories that have protected and continue to protect our country to this day.

I am so deeply proud of what West Virginians like my brother-in-law Bob Thompson have accomplished and what they will continue to accomplish to protect the freedoms that we all take for granted and hold so dear.

We have every reason to be proud and to stand tall knowing that West Virginia is the reason Americans sleep peacefully at night. It is because of all of our veterans, past and present, that we can proudly proclaim ''Mountaineers Are Always Free,'' and we are all so very, very proud of our Bob for being a vital part of our legacy.

What is most important is that he lived a full life, surrounded by his loved ones. I extend all of our condolences to

my dear sister Janet, Bob's beloved wife of 56 years; his daughter Mary Jo; his son Peter; granddaughter Isabella; his siblings, Mary, Greg, Kathy, and Clark; his 24 Thompson nieces and nephews; his brothers-in-law John and Rock; sister-in-law Paula; and his 45 Manchin nieces and nephews.

Again, we extend our most sincere condolences for our shared loss of this remarkable—absolutely remarkable person. The unwavering love that Bob had for his family, his friends, and our Nation will live on forever in the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing Robert Gutz Thompson. God rest, Bob.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

FOR THE PEOPLE ACT OF 2021

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I want to join my fellow Senators in remembering Senator MANCHIN's family, his sister, and the rest of his family as they deal with the loss of his brother-in-law.

I want to talk today about a draft I just received—a bill we are actually going to have a hearing on next week—S. 1, the so-called For the People Act.

This bill is the companion act to the House version of H.R. 1. I actually think it is even longer than H.R. 1, which I would have thought impossible. It is over 800 pages. I think they will be introducing the final version in the next day or so, and that is a good thing, since we are supposed to have a hearing on it in the middle of next week.

It packs a lot of what I consider bad changes relating to election administration, campaign finance, redistricting, and so much more into those 800 pages, but there is a lot of space there to pack things in.

I would have to take a lot more time than I have got today to talk about all the things in the bill that I have had concerns about, but I would say, to start with, this idea that one size fits all, this Federal takeover of elections, can't be in the interest of voters in our country.

It would force a single and, I believe, a partisan view of elections and how they should be run in 10,000 different jurisdictions in the country. I don't know how you do that. I don't know how you take 10,000 jurisdictions and try, at the Washington, DC, level in legislation, to determine changes like how they would register voters. Every State, under this bill, would do it exactly the same way—which voting systems they would use; how they would handle early voting and absentee ballots, no matter how long they had been doing it one way that worked for voters in their State; and how they maintain their voter list, whether you can go in and verify whether people on the voter list were still there.

We used to think that was a critically important protection in the election system; that you knew that the voters that had registered to vote in a jurisdiction actually were still in that jurisdiction. It was actually, in every State, a bragging point of responsible election administration. That would largely go away in this bill.

This bill would require States to make ballot drop boxes available for 45 days prior to the Federal election. Those are boxes that—it even designates the locations and tells the local jurisdiction how they need to handle those ballots as they come out of the boxes and would be processed.

Remember, these are not mailboxes. They would be the ballot drop boxes all over the jurisdiction, if you could find one.

It would mandate unlimited ballot harvesting. That is a process where one person could collect and submit as many ballots as they could collect and submit. You know, in recent elections, we have seen ballot harvesting as a real problem in these elections. Not only does one person have your ballot and get that ballot to where it should be, frankly, one of the problems always with ballot harvesting is maybe a person who knows voters pretty well would collect 20 and put 18 in the mailbox or take 18 to the vote counting area and the other two just somehow don't get there.

Unlimited ballot harvesting, prohibited in many States—and, in fact, in recent years the Democratic House of Representatives failed to seat an elected Representative in North Carolina because that person had used ballot harvesting.

The bill would require States to allow felons to vote in Federal elections. If you didn't like that, in this case, you could have two sets of voter registrations, one for Federal elections and one for all other elections.

And, by the way, if you did that, you would also have to have two different sets of ballots for an election day that had both local and State and Federal issues on the ballot.

And this bill would require that all of these changes be made quickly. Even jurisdictions that recently have changed their processes and spent a lot of time talking to people about those changes over maybe 2 years or 4 years would suddenly be told, no, you have to change them one more time. And maybe it is a day here or a day there, but that makes a big difference if you have already got in your mind how far before an election you have to register to vote or transfer your address or things that election administrators work on all the time.

You know, my first elected job was as the county clerk in Greene County, Springfield, MO, where I was the chief election authority. We had a county of about 180,000 people in it, lots of registered voters, but you had to take that very seriously.

And later I was the chief election authority in our State for 8 years as the secretary of state, and I know how much planning goes into the elections. I know how seriously local officials take it.

I also know how difficult it could be if every change you made had to be cleared some way with somebody in Washington, DC.

You know, States can often take years to transition to a new ballot system or transition to a new way they do things. They also can do it very quickly if they need to, and we saw that happen in a number of States last year.

I think this bill, if it did pass, really doesn't allow the time you need for planning.

The diversity of our election system is one of the great strengths of our system. There is bipartisan agreement on that. I have quoted President Obama on this before, but he said in 2016: ''There is no serious person out there who would suggest somehow that you can even rig America's elections, in part, because they are so decentralized and the numbers of votes involved.''

This bill would undo that decentralized strength. It would undo that local and State responsibility for having laws that voters who vote for you understand you need to apply in the fairest and best way you can. The bill would make our system less diverse, less secure.

Unfortunately, this bill doesn't just stop at election administration. It takes the campaign finance system and changes it dramatically.

You know, when the Federal Elections Commission was created in the early 1970s, it was a six-member Commission. It was to be bipartisan. This turns it into a five-member Commission, with whoever is the President being able to appoint the third member on one side to always outvote, if they need to, the two members on the other side.

There have been many times, obviously, in the history of the Federal Election Commission when the vote has been 3 to 3 or 2 to 2, whatever the makeup was at the time. This would do away with that and basically turn the Commission from a bipartisan Commission into a prosecutorial body, where one side always has the majority if they want it. I think voters should and would be very concerned about that.

It would allow the Chair of the FEC to make key staffing changes. It would allow judges to review cases, even when the Commission found no violation of the law.

In addition, the bill would create a system of public financing for political campaigns by matching certain contributions with Federal dollars. The match would be 6 to 1. So in the matchable, low-dollar—whatever you define that to be—contributions, if you raise $100,000 of those contributions, you would have $700,000. Six hundred thousand of those dollars could have been used by the Federal Government for other things rather than to finance politicians in a campaign.

Now, I understand why politicians would like that. I have raised as much money as most people in this body have raised, and, you know, the idea

that just the Federal Government would come in at some point and give me $6 for some percentage of those that I raised might be pretty appealing, but I think it would be wrong.

It takes jurisdiction away from the States into how to draw congressional districts. Now, this is going to be inconvenient if it passes because the Constitution specifically says the State legislatures decide how to draw a congressional district. It doesn't say the Congress of the United States tells the State legislatures how to draw congressional districts, but this bill would do that.

The bill requires redistricting commissions. It dictates who would serve on the commissions. It sets the criteria and the procedures for how you draw the maps. It lays out how the commissions have to take public input.

And if that weren't bad enough—it doesn't stop there—it even determines which courts act on all redistricting cases. And this would be a dramatic change where, again, you have a one-size-fits-all system in a country that clearly is not a one-size-fits-all country.

Since very few States currently have commissions like that, it would set a lot of deadlines that we don't currently have. Districts drawn using 2020 census data would all but be guaranteed to be drawn by Federal courts just because of the time that this bill sets out.

But the Federal court drawing the district isn't the big problem. The big problem is forever you have changed this and forever you have put the DC Circuit as the ultimate circuit to determine all redistricting cases. We have never thought that power belonged in Washington, DC, before, but this bill does.

It is an unprecedented power grab by the Federal Government at the expense of the States. I think it is a transparent attempt to stack elections in favor of one party. Election law should not be about a single party.

If this bill were to pass, it would do nothing, in my view, to bolster public confidence in elections. In fact, I suspect most election officials around the country would begin to say: I would like to be able to do something about that problem, but we will have to clear that with Washington, DC, first.

I think the divisions in the country would be worse, not better. Successful election laws are passed on a bipartisan basis. We did that with the Help America Vote Act after 2000. We provided assistance and some direction with the finances, but we didn't change a single State law after 2016. We left that up to the States. We created bipartisan impact when we did that.

We should continue to put the strength and the security of the country's elections before party. We should continue to oppose the efforts of a single party to make sweeping partisan changes in our election system. I don't talk to anybody who doesn't think that this bill, as a similar bill passed the House, would pass the House on a purely partisan basis. That would be a bad idea.

I encourage my colleagues to look carefully at S. 1, and I think if you do, a majority of the Senate will not support this bill.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa is recognized.

FOREIGN THREAT ASSESSMENT REPORT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, on March 6 of this year, the intelligence community issued its ''Intelligence Community Assessment on Foreign Threats to the 2020 U.S. Federal Elections.'' Based on that report, some in the liberal media have falsely claimed that my and Senator JOHNSON's Hunter Biden-related oversight activity last Congress was based on Russian disinformation. Even Peter Strzok felt the need to chime in on Twitter to say that we received Russian disinformation.

I don't know how many times I have to say it, but such claims are false and misleading. To be precise, Senator JOHNSON and I didn't receive, solicit, or rely upon any information from Andrii Derkach, and we publicly said so many times.

I don't know how many times last fall I was on this floor of the U.S. Senate trying to explain that to the people who were making those accusations. It seems like Strzok pays just about as careful attention to these facts as he did to the Crossfire FISA applications.

Of course, Twitter lets disinformation about the Steele dossier run wild on their platform yet shuts down still unrefuted reporting on Hunter Biden before the 2020 election. In other words, we have a double standard.

Now, regarding Russian disinformation, it wasn't Senator JOHNSON and this Senator that dealt in it. It happens to be very clear that the other side, the Democrats, were dealing with it. Here's one quick example. If you want more, then I would refer you to section 10 of our September 23, 2020, report.

On July 13, 2020, then-Minority Leader SCHUMER, Senator WARNER, Speaker PELOSI, and Representative SCHIFF sent a letter with a classified attachment to the FBI to express a purported belief that Congress was the subject of a foreign disinformation campaign.

The classified attachment to that letter included unclassified elements that attempted, but failed, to tie our work to Derkach. Those unclassified elements were leaked to the press to support a false campaign accusing us two Senators of using Russian disinformation.

Then, during the course of our investigation, we ran a transcribed interview of George Kent. Before that interview, the Democrats acquired Derkach's materials. During that interview, they asked the witness about it. He stated: ''What you're asking me to interpret is a master chart of disinformation and malign influence.''

At that interview, the Democrats introduced known disinformation into the investigative record as an exhibit. More precisely, the Democrats relied upon and disseminated known disinformation from a foreign source whom the intelligence community warned was actively seeking to influence U.S. politics. Yet now—can you believe this?—they accuse this Senator and Senator JOHNSON of doing that very thing. Now let that sink in because there is a case of double standard around here.

It is clear that the Democrats hope that their self-created disinformation campaign would drown out our report and its findings to protect Candidate Biden from the facts. Now that President Biden is in office, the facts aren't going anywhere.

I had an opportunity to serve 28 years in the Senate with Senator Biden. I liked him then; I still like him. But that doesn't mean that I like the double standard the press has toward President Biden and us Republicans.

As President Biden gears up for his first press conference, he ought to answer for the fact that his family was and possibly still is financially connected to Chinese nationals with links to the Communist Party and the People's Liberation Army. Indeed, Hunter Biden reportedly admitted that he was well aware that some of his business associates were connected to the Communist Chinese Government intelligence services. Now, double standard—where is the media in asking serious questions about that?

It has also been reported that emails show Joe Biden and his brother were ''office mates'' with the very same Chinese nationals with links to the Communist regime and the its military. Now, talk about a double standard. Where is the media in asking serious questions about that? Yet they are reporting this very day about things that Johnson and Grassley did about disinformation, which I have told you so many times we never received.

Now there is this interview on television with Tony Bobulinski, publicly stating that Joe Biden was aware of and possibly involved in Hunter Biden's business deals. Talk about a double standard. Where is the media asking serious questions about that?

The Biden family transactions and associations in our September 20 report raised criminal, counterintelligence, and extortion concerns. Yet the media—the liberal media—has ignored all of it and has failed to ask any legitimate questions. Don't you think that we the people have a right to know the answers?

The media certainly seemed to think so in all the doings of the Trump administration. If the story I just laid out here were about Trump, I guarantee you that it would be all over the news.

It is perfectly legitimate and reasonable for Congress and the news media to question the Biden administration

about these global financial transactions and associations. It is perfectly legitimate to ask how they could impact the Biden administration's foreign policy. That is especially true as it relates to China, given the extensive links between the Biden family and that country. Let's see if anyone dares to ask questions at the President's first news conference.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. President, on another subject, I want to discuss the national security threats facing our country.

A recent poll showed 45 percent of Americans acknowledge that China is the greatest threat to the United States. A year ago, that percentage was half that number thinking that China was a threat, the greatest threat to the United States.

Frankly, this year, no other nation came close to what they think about China being a threat—not Russia, not North Korea, not Iran. These were all far behind.

Half of Americans believe China is the world's leading economic power. A record 63 percent say that the economic power of China is a critical threat to the United States.

Now, we all know the American people are smart. They are perceiving exactly what is happening with the United States vis-a-vis China or China vis-a-vis the rest of the world. China wants to supplant our country as the greatest nation and the greatest economy in the world, and China will do it if we are blind to that danger.

Everywhere I see the threat of China's rise minimized. On Tuesday, I saw a very curious thing in the declassified ''Intelligence Community Assessment of Foreign Threats to the 2020 U.S. Elections.'' The intelligence community determined that China did not engage in pervasive election meddling but noted that was in part because China saw the risk associated with doing so.

The intelligence community determined that China would not be excited if President Trump had won the 2020 election because he would ''challenge China's rise.''

The National Intelligence Officer for Cyber Issues, in particular, found that the Government of China wanted former President Trump to be defeated in the general election, preferring ''the election of a more predictable member of the establishment instead.'' And ''China took at least some steps to undermine former President Trump's reelection chances, primarily through social media and official public statements and media.''

Yet some in the news media read this very same report that I read and declared triumphantly and falsely that there was nothing to fear from China in terms of influencing our elections. It is pretty clear why China would not want a President unafraid to assert American national interests. That means demanding reciprocal trade, secure borders, and a defense policy focused on American national interests.

We all know that China has been playing us for suckers. China continues to try to expand its influence globally, including in international bodies like the World Bank and the World Health Organization. It doesn't seek to play by the rules but to exploit its influence for its own advantage at the expense of the United States and probably any free country because they don't like democracy.

In this same assessment I saw that Iran, another enemy, also wanted to defeat a strong American President and sow division. Many others—Lebanese Hezbollah, the Government of Cuba, and the Maduro Government of Venezuela—they all had the very same idea. They all wanted to defeat President Trump. Only Russia seems to have preferred Trump but just according to that assessment—although I remember reading a year ago during the primaries that Senator BERNIE SANDERS was also a favorite of Russia. He had to have a defensive briefing, meaning Senator SANDERS, because Russia wanted to help his campaign.

Also, remember, it was then-Vice President Biden who first announced the naive and disastrous Obama ''reset'' appeasement policy toward Russia. This, coming in the wake of Russia's invasion of our ally, Georgia, arguably gave Putin the idea that he could get away with invading Crimea and Ukraine.

Let's also take this moment to recall that when the Obama Justice Department and the FBI saw threats from Russia during the 2016 election, they didn't do what they did for SANDERS. They didn't defensively brief Trump and his team. Instead, do you know where they went? They opened Crossfire Hurricane and outrageously used briefings to Trump and his associates as intelligence gathering operations, ultimately wasting years of taxpayer money and time.

Abraham Lincoln once said:

> America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we lose our freedoms it will be because we have destroyed ourselves from within.

In fact, the goal of what the KGB calls ''active measures,'' like disinformation since Soviet times, has been to pit Americans against each other to cause us to destroy ourselves.

That brings me to another related point. As I see this seat of democracy fortified with walls and barbed wire while the people, the citizens, and the taxpayers are kept out, I can't help but think about where we will go from here.

Yet the Democrats can only speak of destroying the filibuster during these difficult times. When I hear talk of destroying the filibuster—the very tools that force bipartisanship and ensure that those representing all Americans are heard and that America act as one being abolished forever—I am worried. If the slimmest of majorities is about to impose its will on the other half of the country from inside an armed bunker, the Russians will have achieved their ultimate goal.

We are not our own enemies to be silenced and to be fenced in. We are one Nation, but we must pull together and acknowledge what it means when countries like China and Iran, our enemies and our adversaries, don't want us to put our country's interest first.

FREE SPEECH

Mr. President, then, on my last point, I want to bring up another few remarks on the First Amendment, as I have spoken a couple of times before very recently.

I have come to the floor over the last few weeks to talk about the First Amendment, one of America's most cherished pillars of freedom. Unfortunately, in recent years, we have seen a corrosive culture undermining sacred civic freedoms Americans risk taking for granted. Too often we don't think about the freedoms we have because we were born here.

We can learn a lot from immigrants that come to this country and appreciate Americans for our freedoms. Whenever I go to these citizenship ceremonies we have for immigrants, I always tell them: I wish you would tell—when you hear some American complaining about what is wrong with America, I hope you know from your experience in other lands that you came here for freedom. Remind us of how lucky we are to have what we were born into.

Silencing the free exchange of ideas has infiltrated college campuses and even the American workplace. It has even affected journalism, traditional media, and all across our social media platforms. We all know that not all speech is protected by the First Amendment and, occasionally, we in the United States fall into a discussion about the technical boundaries of the First Amendment when we talk about the meaning and the merits of free speech.

Now, the health of our democracy depends on free speech to foster an informed public, something that I think Thomas Jefferson made very clear. If democracy is going to work, it is going to have to work with an educated public. The rigorous exchange of ideas inform debate on issues affecting our lives and enables individuals to challenge power and also to challenge orthodoxy.

In theory, the institutions of the ''fourth estate'' should be the staunchest defenders of the First Amendment. I think I said it before, but you can't say it too often—and there is probably a 100 different ways you can say it—but I always like to say that journalists are the police of our constitutional system to make sure that everybody and all follow the rule of law. What they bring to the people of this country about how our government functions makes everything very transparent, and when things are transparent, you have accountability.

So as I think about these things, it has been baffling to watch over the last

year as some editors and executives, even at storied institutions, crumble under pressure to police speech, to conform to orthodoxy, and to stifle the exchange of ideas instead of what they should be doing, promoting the contest of these ideas—in other words, speech, orthodoxy, and exchange of ideas—when they are under attack.

It is now old news, but, last summer, a long-time opinion editor of the New York Times was pushed out of his position. For what? For having the audacity to publish an opinion piece written by Senator TOM COTTON. Apparently, a group of readers and employees found Senator COTTON's ideas so upsetting as to warrant the removal of the editor who had the guts to publish them. The paper also issued a several-hundred-word editor's note even expressing regret for publishing the piece in the first place.

If those readers and employees at the Times disagreed so strongly, the public could have learned something by publishing a counter-argument instead of reading about their regret. I, myself, have publicly disagreed with Senator COTTON about a policy idea or two, and I make my points here on the Senate floor. I don't ask for Senator COTTON's resignation, like they had to expunge his or give all sorts of excuses why they published that and they shouldn't have published it.

Instead, what do we have? We had executives at a paper of record scapegoat a colleague for failing to confirm to some yet unexplained orthodoxy versus a rational decision to engage in public debate on their pages.

In January, POLITICO invited a slate of individuals to guest-edit their widely read newsletter, ''Playbook.'' Among those guest editors was Ben Shapiro, a conservative commentator. His name alone was enough to spark a backlash among staffers and even outside commentators. To their credit, the editors of POLITICO did not apologize.

But according to the Washington Post media writer, some POLITICO employees who privately supported the choice to publish Shapiro were ''afraid'' to speak up on staff calls, fearing backlash among colleagues.

Now, that is only two episodes I give you, but these episodes represent a very unhealthy environment where too many think it is prudent to give voice to those with whom they agree or whose views are deemed acceptable.

While the editors did the right thing at one outlet, they didn't at the other. Either way, it probably means that they will be more selective about what is acceptable—what is acceptable—in the future as we do the businesses of our newspapers.

Now, when you worry about what is acceptable, it certainly doesn't serve those principles that I mentioned earlier that ought to be encouraging dialogue, dispute, learning from each other, and educating each other. Now, these may be fairly obscure controversies I just gave you, but they are indicative of a yet wider problem.

Expectations of acceptability and a preference for unchallenged ideas—this all chips away at the most sacred civic freedoms in America. No one learns more by less debate. Neglecting to defend free speech and champion the free exchange of ideas creates a pathway for censorship. Democracy doesn't thrive on censorship.

The institutions of the news media ought to defend the fundamental principles behind free speech and free press at the top of their lungs. The First Amendment is the oxygen of their own existence.

If they were doing their work, there shouldn't have to be a single Senator here in the U.S. Senate giving speeches about why they don't want more free speech and why they want less free speech.

Last fall, the New York Post had a story censored on Twitter a short time before the election. Regardless of what one thinks about the content of that story, the methods of reporting, or even the tone of the writing, the suppression of information like that should alarm both news writers and news consumers. They ought to be more a protector of freedom of speech and freedom of press than a Senator here on the U.S. Senate talking about it.

Many outlets went to work fact-checking or reporting on the topic in their own way. That is all well and good. It is their job. But the public conversation about the censorship devolved into a question of whether Twitter had the legal ability to do what it did instead of a discussion of whether it was the right thing to do, because it wasn't right. Even Twitter's CEO sees that now.

However, there were no fiery defenses of free speech and free press from the mainstream outlets, and those mainstream outlets ought to be the ones talking more about freedom of speech and freedom of press than having Senators on the floor of the U.S. Senate bring it up and say: Why aren't you doing your job? Why aren't you practicing your profession as it ought to be? Why aren't you being the policemen of the system the way you ought to be?

Not even media with caveats were reporting about that Twitter event that I just spoke about. This was a perfect opportunity for journalistic institutions to weigh in, and they should have weighed in. They have a dog in the fight. It should be the bread-and-butter issues for every editorial board across the country—not just the editorial board but the reporters. The lack of this kind of pro-free press and pro-free speech advocacy also contributes to the unhealthy environment that shuns debate and silences dissent.

So what will be the consequences of a media environment where conformity and comfort take precedent over the free exchange of ideas? The first and most obvious is a less rigorous and less informed public discourse and the citizens less informed. Opinions and preferences, especially on matters of public interest, are always improved after being challenged.

If you disagree with the New York Times' editorial board or a pundit for FOX News, that is fine.

It would be better if the public heard all about it. Broader discussions mean broader understanding. Without a broad, vigorous public debate, we lose empathy that results from engaging with somebody else's ideas.

In these divisive times in society, empathy is in low supply. The last thing that we lose in a media environment ruled by compliance and conformity is the grand American tradition of dissent.

Free speech and free press have centuries-long history in America, from Thomas Paine's pamphlets to the tweets spreading across the land this very minute, the revolutionary contest of ideas might take a different shape but remain critical to our civic culture and the continued growth of our Nation and the strengthening of our democracy.

I hope more institutions in the ''fourth estate'' will take an aggressive approach advocating free speech.

Now, I wasn't around when Thomas Paine published ''Common Sense,'' but history and my own experience teaches me two important lessons: The free exchange of ideas strengthens representative government and will, then, help preserve our democratic Republic for generations to come. And that is what this generation should be all about, making it better for the next generation, both from the standpoint of the economy but also for an understanding of our democratic institutions.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar No. 28 and Calendar No. 36; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the Record; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nominations en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nominations of William Joseph Burns, of Maryland, to be Director of the Central Intelligence Agency; and Brian P. McKeon, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Madam President, I rise in opposition to the nomination of William Burns to be Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Communist China is the biggest threat our Nation faces. General Secretary Xi will stop at nothing in his quest for world domination and has made clear that he seeks to push the United States out of the Indo-Pacific and weaken and intimidate his neighbors, including our allies. Communist China continues to threaten to take Taiwan by force.

Communist China is committing a genocide against the Uoghurs and stripping Hong kongers of their basic rights. China sees the United States as its global adversary and is taking the steps necessary to ''win'' the great power conflict of the 21st century. China is taking every opportunity it can around the world to gain influence and exert control.

I am concerned that some past statements and actions by Ambassador Burns indicate an inaccurate view of Communist China and the danger it poses to our Nation and to Americans. Any U.S. official who thinks that China can play a positive role in the world, particularly among developing states or as a contributor to peace and stability, is mistaken. Ambassador Burns has not shown that he understands the threat that Communist China represents.

I am also troubled that Ambassador Burns' view of Castro's Communist regime in Cuba is equally flawed. I cannot support anyone who backed the failed Obama-Biden appeasement policies, which did nothing to help the Cuban people and allowed Havana to extend its reach and expand its control, giving power to other ruthless dictatorships in Latin America.

My opposition to Ambassador Burns' nomination is grounded in our fundamentally different views. Ambassador Burns has not demonstrated that he understands the threats we face around the world and the causes of those threats. We need leaders who will be strong and stand up for American interests in the face of dangerous regimes like Cuba and China, regimes that are committed to harm the United States and our allies.

For all these reasons, Mr. President, I oppose Ambassador Burns' nomination and urge my colleagues to do the same.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Burns and McKeon nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the postcloture time on the Walsh nomination be considered expired and the Senate vote on the confirmation of the nomination at 5:30 p.m., Monday, March 22.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 32.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Shalanda D. Young, of Louisiana, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 32, Shalanda D. Young, of Louisiana, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Charles E. Schumer, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher A. Coons, Jon Tester, Gary C. Peters, Brian Schatz, Sherrod Brown, Patty Murray, Jon Ossoff, Joe Manchin III, Thomas R. Carper, Debbie Stabenow, Martin Heinrich, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Jeanne Shaheen, Mark R. Warner, Kyrsten Sinema.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 39.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Vivek Hallegere Murthy, of Florida, to be Medical Director in the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service, subject to qualifications therefor as provided by law and regulations, and to be Surgeon General of the Public Health Service for a term of four years.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 39, Vivek Hallegere Murthy, of Florida, to be Medical Director in the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service, subject to qualifications therefor as provided by law and regulations, and to be Surgeon General of the Public Health Service for a term of four years.

Charles E. Schumer, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher A. Coons, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jon Tester, Richard Blumenthal, Michael F. Bennet, Sheldon Whitehouse, Sherrod Brown, Jeanne Shaheen, Debbie Stabenow, Thomas R. Carper, Margaret Wood Hassan, Elizabeth Warren, Patty Murray, Alex Padilla, Tina Smith, Tim Kaine.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 40.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Rachel Leland Levine, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 40, Rachel Leland Levine, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Charles E. Schumer, Patty Murray, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jon Tester, Richard Blumenthal, Michael F. Bennet, Sheldon Whitehouse, Sherrod Brown, Jeanne Shaheen, Debbie Stabenow, Thomas R. Carper, Margaret Wood Hassan, Elizabeth Warren, Alex Padilla, Tina Smith, Tim Kaine, Christopher A. Coons.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 38.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of David Turk, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 38, David Turk, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy.

Charles E. Schumer, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher A. Coons, Robert Menendez, Chris Van Hollen, Tammy Baldwin, Thomas R. Carper, Tina Smith, Richard Blumenthal, Ben Ray Luján, Debbie Stabenow, Ron Wyden, Cory A. Booker, Alex Padilla, Jack Reed, Mark R. Warner, Chris Van Hollen, Robert P. Casey, Jr.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 30.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read nomination of Adewale O. Adeyemo, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of the Treasury.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 30, Adewale O. Adeyemo, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of the Treasury.

Charles E. Schumer, Chris Van Hollen, Michael F. Bennet, Jack Reed, Tammy Duckworth, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jeff Merkley, Christopher A. Coons, Richard Blumenthal, Patrick J. Leahy, Amy Klobuchar, Tina Smith, Brian Schatz, Robert Menendez, Richard J. Durbin, Martin Heinrich, Maria Cantwell.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

PPP EXTENSION ACT OF 2021—Motion to Proceed

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order to move to proceed to Calendar No. 11, H.R. 1799.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 11, H.R. 1799.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 11, H.R. 1799, 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.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The 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 motion to proceed to Calendar No. 11, H.R. 1799, 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.

Charles E. Schumer, Patrick J. Leahy, Brian Schatz, Debbie Stabenow, Patty Murray, Martin Heinrich, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Jon Ossoff, Jeanne Shaheen, Mark R. Warner, Kyrsten Sinema, Catherine Cortez Masto, Tina Smith, Ron Wyden, Jacky Rosen, Benjamin L. Cardin.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, March 18, be waived.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that there be 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.

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

CONFIRMATION OF XAVIER BECERRA

• Ms. HIRONO. Madam President, I rise today in support of the nomination of my friend and former colleague Xavier Becerra to lead the Department of Health and Human Services.

Xavier and I served together in the House of Representatives from January 2007 to January 2013. While we sat on different House committees, we were both very involved in one of Congress's most significant achievements during that time—passage of the Affordable Care Act, ACA. The ACA promised to greatly shrink the number of uninsured Americans and rein in health care costs that were increasing rapidly. It also led to false, harsh, partisan accusations by Republicans that the law was going to ration health care and death panels were inevitable.

Despite years of sabotage and dozens of attempts to repeal it, the Affordable Care Act has lived up to its promise: more than 20 million Americans gained

health insurance thanks to the ACA, and the ACA reduced health care spending a total of $2.3 trillion between 2010 and 2017.

As a senior member of the Health Subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee, Xavier Becerra played a significant role to help write and pass the ACA and defended the law from near continuous Republican assault as California's attorney general. Most recently, he has been leading litigation at the Supreme Court to reinstate the ACA after an ideologically-driven district court judge struck down the law in its entirety.

These efforts demonstrate the leadership, experience, and health policy expertise Xavier will bring to the Department of Health and Human Services.

Despite these bona fides, Republican Senators are actively smearing Xavier's reputation and misrepresenting his qualifications to prevent him from becoming the first Latino to serve as HHS Secretary.

First, they claim Xavier isn't qualified because he isn't a doctor. Republicans clearly didn't believe this was a deal breaker when all but one of them voted to confirm Alex Azar—a former executive at Eli Lilly—as Donald Trump's HHS Secretary. I think most Americans would rather have an HHS Secretary like Xavier Becerra, who successfully sued hospitals to lower healthcare costs, than a person in charge of running a pharmaceutical company. Republicans have also claimed that Xavier lacks ''extensive health care experience.'' This is particularly rich coming from the same people who voted to confirm Betsy DeVos to become Education Secretary. She not only had never worked in a public school, she had never even attended one. These same Republicans voted to confirm Rick Perry to become Energy Secretary, when he didn't even know the Department of Energy was responsible for the Nation's nuclear arsenal.

Throughout his 12 terms in the House of Representatives, Xavier Becerra was a leader on health policy issues. He helped write the most sweeping change to our healthcare system in more than a generation, and now, as the California attorney general, he is defending that law in court. He has the experience needed to lead the Department of Health and Human Services.

Republicans are also attacking Xavier's nomination on the grounds that he is somehow ''extreme'' and ''a radical'' because he supports a woman's right to have an abortion. The Supreme Court first recognized a woman's constitutional right to an abortion in 1973. That is nearly 50 years ago. Supporting this fundamental right is anything but radical, it is a position shared by almost 70 percent of the American people. But that hasn't stopped attacks on a woman's right to seek and have one.

What is ''extreme'' and ''radical'' are Republican efforts to undermine this right—if not completely eliminate it. Just last week, the Republican Governor of Arkansas signed a law that bans all abortions unless they are necessary to save the life of the mother. This law is directly contrary to the Supreme Court's command that States cannot prohibit abortion prior to viability. It does not even include an exception for pregnancies that are the result of rape or incest.

The junior senator from Arkansas has called Xavier Becerra ''extreme'' and ''a radical'' for defending a woman's constitutional right to an abortion, while his State wants to force women who have been raped to carry their pregnancies to term. What planet are we living on?

On Thursday night, Xavier Becerra will be confirmed to become the next Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. In any normal world, the vote would be bipartisan and it would be overwhelming. I strongly support his nomination and call on my colleagues to do so as well.●

(At the request of Mr. Schumer, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

● Ms. HIRONO. Madam President, I was necessarily absent for votes on March 18, 2021, so I could return to Hawaii to tend to a family matter.

On March 18, had I been present, I would have voted yea on confirmation: Xavier Becerra, of California, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services, rollcall vote 125.

Madam President, I was necessarily absent for votes on March 18, 2021, so I could return to Hawaii to tend to a family matter.

On March 18, had I been present, I would have voted yea on cloture motion: Martin Joseph Walsh, of Massachusetts, to be Secretary of Labor, rollcall vote 126.●

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING LaGRANGE HIGH SCHOOL

● Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I rise today to speak to the fortitude of the students, faculty, and staff of LaGrange High School. Located in Lake Charles, LA, LaGrange High School educates over 1,000 students and is led by their Principal Monica Guillory. As you may know, on top of a global pandemic, southwest Louisiana was ravaged by two major hurricanes last year. In most cases, people would try to return to some sense of normalcy or return to the status quo following a deadly virus and multiple natural disasters. However, the LaGrange High School girls' basketball team, known as the Lady Gators, would not accept the status quo. Led by head coach La'Keem Holmes, and assistant coaches Patrick Woodard, Sharde Henry, and Sean Andress, these ladies carried their school and community through troubled waters and became back-to-back Class 4A State champions. This is the first school in the Lake Charles area to be State champions back-to-back. These young women gave their community something to rally behind during hard times, the purple and white. What a gift that is. It is my honor to visit them and learn of all the great things they are accomplishing.●

RECOGNIZING OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

● Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at George Mason University, OLLI Mason, its 30th anniversary and on its continuing success in offering educational programming for older Americans in Northern Virginia. Programs like OLLI Mason provide lifelong learning opportunities for seniors interested in maintaining an active intellectual life.

The Learning in Retirement Institute was founded in 1991 to establish educational and social opportunities for a growing base of seniors in Northern Virginia. The Institute soon became affiliated with George Mason University as part of Mason's vision to extend its learning mission in the community. The institute was generously endowed by the Bernard Osher Foundation, a nonprofit that is dedicated to enhancing quality of life in the United States through education and the arts.

What started two decades ago as a member-run Learning in Retirement Center with 100 members operating and teaching out of one room in Mason's Commerce II Building has burgeoned today into a robust, first-rate educational and social institute with 1,100 members.

OLLI Mason's mission is ''to offer its members learning opportunities in a stimulating environment in which adults can share their talents, experiences and skills, explore new interests, discover and develop latent abilities, engage in intellectual and cultural pursuits, and socialize with others of similar interests.'' OLLI Mason has fulfilled this mission by offering retirees in Northern Virginia over 600 courses from arts to zoology, religion to science, as well as excursions and special events.

As the over 50 population across the Commonwealth continues to live longer and healthier lives, I am pleased to recognize OLLI, George Mason University, and the County of Fairfax for their initiative in foreseeing decades ago the critical need to offer programs that meet the needs, expand opportunities, and enhance the quality of life for older Americans across Northern Virginia. I look forward to many more years of their programming success.●

MEASURES REFERRED ON MARCH 17, 2021

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 485. An act to reauthorize the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 1085. An act to award three congressional gold medals to the United States Capitol Police and those who protected the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME ON MARCH 17, 2021

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 1799. An act to amend the Small Business Act and the CARES Act to extend the covered period for the paycheck protection program, and for other purposes.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:42 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1651. An act to amend the CARES Act to extend the sunset for the definition of a small business debtor, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1652. An act to deposit certain funds into the Crime Victims Fund, to waive matching requirements, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 17. Joint resolution removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment.

At 2:05 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1620. An act to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, and for other purposes.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 1799. An act to amend the Small Business Act and the CARES Act to extend the covered period for the paycheck protection program, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communication was laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and was referred as indicated:

EC–643. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Health and Human Services Grants Regulation'' (RIN0991–AC16) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 11, 2021; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 817. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a tax on certain trading transactions; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 818. A bill to provide for media coverage of Federal court proceedings; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 819. A bill to enhance the security of the United States and its allies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

S. 820. A bill to provide an exemption from certain requirements for federally funded projects and activities in areas not in metropolitan statistical areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BURR (for himself and Mr. KING):

S. 821. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish a simplified income-driven repayment plan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 822. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require program participation agreements between institutions of higher education and Hanban if a Confucius Institute operates on the campus of the institution; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 823. A bill to amend the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to provide for protection of recovery rebates; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. 824. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 17 East Main Street in Herington, Kansas, as the ''Captain Emil J. Kapaun Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 825. A bill to establish the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 826. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a Medicare payment option for patients and eligible professionals to freely contract, without penalty, for Medicare fee-for-service items and services, while allowing Medicare beneficiaries to use their Medicare benefits; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. LEE, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. LUMMIS, and Mr. SASSE):

S. 827. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to establish and maintain a public website tracking the expenditures by States of COVID–19 education relief funds; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 828. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of marriage and family therapist services and mental health counselor services under part B of the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Ms. WARREN):

S. 829. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve the TRICARE program for certain members of the Retired Reserve of the reserve components; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 830. A bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to require the Administrator of General Services to enter into a cooperative agreement with the National Children's Museum to provide the National Children's Museum rental space without charge in the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 831. A bill to reauthorize the EB–5 Regional Center Program in order to prevent fraud and to promote and reform foreign capital investment and job creation in American communities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. 832. A bill to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to fund job-creating improvements in energy and resiliency for Federal buildings managed by the General Services Administration, to enable a portfolio of clean buildings by 2030, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KING, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 833. A bill to amend XVIII of the Social Security Act to allow the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate fair prescription drug prices under part D of the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 834. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the distribution of additional residency positions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

S. 835. A bill to provide that the Federal Communications Commission and communications service providers regulated by the Commission under the Communications Act of 1934 shall not be subject to certain provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the National Historic Preservation Act with respect to the construction, rebuilding, or hardening of communications facilities following a major disaster or an emergency declared by the President, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 836. A bill to amend subpart 1 of part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to ensure that mental health screenings and assessments are provided to children and youth upon entry into foster care; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 837. A bill to provide relief to public transportation agencies with projects in the Full Funding Grant Agreement stage of the Capital Investment Grants Program; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. CARPER):

S. 838. A bill to amend section 5542 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that any hours worked by Federal firefighters under a qualified trade-of-time arrangement shall be excluded for purposes of determinations relating to overtime pay; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 839. A bill to establish a postsecondary student data system; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. SASSE):

S. 840. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to increase transparency and oversight of third-party litigation funding in certain actions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 841. A bill to decrease the cost of hiring, and increase the take-home pay of, Puerto Rican workers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. HAGERTY):

S. 842. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that the 2021 Recovery Rebates are not provided to illegal immigrants; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 843. A bill to establish the Committee on Large-Scale Carbon Management in the National Science and Technology Council and a Federal Carbon Removal Initiative, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. KING, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 844. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain amounts paid for physical activity, fitness, and exercise as amounts paid for medical care; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEAHY:

S. 845. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to protect Federal employees from retaliation for the lawful use of Federal records, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. REED, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. LUJAN, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 846. A bill to provide for the confidentiality of information submitted in requests for deferred action under the deferred action for childhood arrivals program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. COONS, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. WARNOCK, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 847. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to eliminate origination fees on Federal Direct loans; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 848. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to improve the service obligation verification process for TEACH Grant recipients, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. KING):

S. 849. A bill to require the Director of National Intelligence and the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency to conduct a study to identify supply chains critical to national security, and for other purposes; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

By Mr. KING (for himself and Ms. WARREN):

S. 850. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require all political committees to notify the Federal Election Commission within 48 hours of receiving cumulative contributions of $1,000 or more from any contributor during a calendar year, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 851. A bill to address social determinants of maternal health; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 852. A bill to provide for further comprehensive research at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke on unruptured intracranial aneurysms; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 853. A bill to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to increase the age of eligibility for children to receive benefits under the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 854. A bill to designate methamphetamine as an emerging threat, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 855. A bill to prohibit the conditioning of any permit, lease, or other use agreement on the transfer of any water right to the United States by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 856. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to create an interdivisional taskforce at the Securities and Exchange Commission for senior investors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 857. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to require the Director of the Office of Personnel Management to establish and maintain a public directory of the individuals occupying Government policy and supporting positions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 858. A bill to establish criminal penalties for aliens who fail to depart before the expiration of their visas; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 859. A bill to terminate the Diversity Immigrant Visa Program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Mr. KAINE):

S. 860. A bill to develop and deploy firewall circumvention tools for the people of Hong Kong after the People's Republic of China violated its agreement under the Joint Declaration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 861. A bill to establish an interagency One Health Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. PAUL, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 862. A bill to create a safe harbor for insurers engaging in the business of insurance in connection with a cannabis-related legitimate business, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 863. A bill to require asylum officers at United States embassies and consulates to conduct credible fear screenings before aliens seeking asylum may be permitted to enter the United States to apply for asylum, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WICKER, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Mr. INHOFE):

S. 864. A bill to extend Federal Pell Grant eligibility of certain short-term programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 865. A bill to recognize the right of the People of Puerto Rico to call a status convention through which the people would exercise their natural right to self-determination, and to establish a mechanism for congressional consideration of such decision, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 866. A bill to amend the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 to promote reforestation following unplanned events on Federal land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 867. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition and celebration of the National Women's Hall of Fame; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. KING):

S. 868. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the five-month waiting period for disability insurance benefits under such title and waive the 24-month waiting period for Medicare eligibility for individuals with Huntington's disease; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 869. A bill to establish the Office of Supply Chain Preparedness within the Department of Commerce to manage the partnership of the United States with private industry and State and local governments with respect to the manufacturing of critical resources, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. BARRASSO, and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 870. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to mental health services under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 871. A bill to strengthen American economic resiliency and equitably expand economic opportunity by launching a national competition, promoting State and local strategic planning, encouraging innovation by the public and private sectors, and by substantially investing Federal resources in research and development; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Ms. WARREN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 872. A bill to restore, reaffirm, and reconcile environmental justice and civil rights, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 873. A bill to establish the Climate Change Advisory Commission to develop recommendations, frameworks, and guidelines for projects to respond to the impacts of climate change, to issue Federal obligations, the proceeds of which shall be used to fund projects that aid in adaptation to climate change, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 874. A bill to establish a green transportation infrastructure grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 875. A bill to make any city or county that has in effect any law or ordinance that is in violation of Federal immigration law ineligible for any Federal grant, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. SMITH):

S. 876. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to require the Secretary of Agriculture to make loan guarantees and grants to finance certain improvements to school lunch facilities, to train school food service personnel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. SHELBY:

S.J. Res. 12. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States which requires (except during time of war and subject to suspension by Congress) that the total amount of money expended by the United States during any fiscal year not exceed the amount of certain revenue received by the United States during such fiscal year and not exceed 20 percent of the gross domestic product of the United States during the previous calendar year; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. RISCH (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. Res. 122. A resolution reaffirming the importance of United States alliances and partnerships; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. KAINE, Ms. WARREN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WARNER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. KING, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. SINEMA, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. CARPER, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. Res. 123. A resolution designating March 2021 as ''National Women's History Month''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. WICKER):

S. Res. 124. A resolution celebrating the heritage of Romani Americans; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 125. A resolution recognizing the heritage, culture, and contributions of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women in the United States; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. COONS, Mr. COTTON, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. Res. 126. A resolution condemning the crackdown by the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party in Hong Kong, including the arrests of pro-democracy activists and repeated violations of the obligations of that Government undertaken in the Sino-British Joint Declaration of 1984 and the Hong Kong Basic Law; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 40

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 40, a bill to address the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality, and inhumanity of slavery in the United States and the 13 American colonies between 1619 and 1865 and to establish a commission to study and consider a national apology and proposal for reparations for the institution of slavery, its subsequent de jure and de facto racial and economic discrimination against African Americans, and the impact of these forces on living African Americans, to make recommendations to the Congress on appropriate remedies, and for other purposes.

S. 51

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 51, a bill to provide for the admission of the State of Washington, D.C. into the Union.

S. 70

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) were added as cosponsors of S. 70, a bill to amend title 32, United States Code, to authorize cybersecurity operations and missions to protect critical infrastructure by members of the National Guard in connection with training or other duty.

S. 127

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 127, a bill to support library infrastructure.

S. 194

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 194, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide treatment for eating disorders for dependents of members of the uniformed services.

S. 295

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 295, a bill to designate residents of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region as Priority 2 refugees of special humanitarian concern, and for other purposes.

S. 324

At the request of Ms. SMITH, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 324, a bill to report data on COVID–19 in Federal, State, and local correctional facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 375

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 375, a bill to impose requirements on the payment of compensation to professional persons employed in voluntary cases commenced under title III of the Puerto Rico Oversight Management and Economic Stability Act (commonly known as ''PROMESA'').

S. 449

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 449, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income certain federally-subsidized loan repayments for dental school faculty.

S. 452

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors 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. 488

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 488, a bill to provide for congressional review of actions to terminate or waive sanctions imposed with respect to Iran.

S. 539

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 539, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on the use of video cameras for patient safety and law enforcement at medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

S. 553

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 553, a bill to require the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to estimate the value of electromagnetic spectrum assigned or otherwise allocated to Federal entities.

S. 598

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 598, a bill to authorize additional monies to the Public Housing Capital Fund of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and for other purposes.

S. 610

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 610, a bill to address behavioral health and well-being among health care professionals.

S. 617

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) were added as cosponsors of S. 617, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the estate and generation-skipping transfer taxes, and for other purposes.

S. 634

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 634, a bill to support and expand civic engagement and political leadership of adolescent girls around the world, and other purposes.

S. 650

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 650, a bill to enable the payment of certain officers and employees of the United States whose employment is authorized pursuant to a grant of deferred action, deferred enforced departure, or temporary protected status.

S. 681

At the request of Ms. SMITH, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 681, a bill to report data on COVID–19 immigration detention facilities and local correctional facilities that contract with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and for other purposes.

S. 715

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 715, a bill to amend the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to require the submission of certain reports, and for other purposes.

S. 717

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 717, a bill to amend the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to impose time limits on the completion of certain required actions under the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 721

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 721, a bill to amend the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to impose time limits on the completion of certain required actions under the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 730

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) 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.

S. 738

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 738, a bill to provide for grants for States that require fair and impartial police training for law enforcement officers of that State and to incentivize States to enact laws requiring the independent investigation and prosecution of the use of deadly force by law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

S. 748

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 748, a bill to provide for an extension of the temporary suspension of Medicare sequestration during the COVID–19 public health emergency.

S. 754

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) were added as cosponsors of S. 754, a bill to provide health insurance benefits for outpatient and inpatient items and services related to the diagnosis and treatment of a congenital anomaly or birth defect.

S. 810

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 810, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the list of diseases associated with exposure to certain herbicide agents for which there is a presumption of service connection for veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam to include hypertension, and for other purposes.

S. 815

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 815, 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. RES. 34

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 34, a resolution recognizing the 200th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating democracy in Greece and the United States.

S. RES. 97

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) 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.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION

By Mr. BURR (for himself and Mr. KING):

S. 821. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish a simplified income-driven repayment plan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, for two Congresses, Angus King and I have introduced bipartisan legislation to streamline and simplify student loan repayment programs. Our proposal would make the current, overly-complicated loan repayment programs easier to navigate and more predictable for both borrowers and the Federal Government.

Today, students are asked to choose between nine different loan repayment plans, each with different eligibility and income requirements. The uncertainty created by too many competing options has made it nearly impossible for the Federal Government to accurately fund the program, leading to billions of dollars in budget shortfalls.

Just last year, the Office of Management and the Budget said the Direct Loan Program would cost $64 billion more than previously anticipated in just a single fiscal year prior to the COVID–19 emergency. The COVID–19 emergency caused $39 billion in additional unplanned for costs to the program through congressional and administrative actions. This is unsustainable, and it is unnecessary.

We need to make it easier for student borrowers to find the best repayment plan that works for them, and we need to make it easier for the Federal Government to accurately account for a program on which so many students depend. The REPAY Act would do just that, and I am here again to introduce this commonsense proposal to help all new borrowers, which represents approximately 20 percent of Federal student loan borrowers each year. This bill has been previously supported by a number of cosponsors, including Senators WARNER, RUBIO, COLLINS, CAPITO, SHAHEEN, CARPER, WICKER, MANCHIN, and PORTMAN.

The REPAY Act would simplify this process by establishing just two, easy-to-understand loan repayment plans.

The first is a fixed 10-year payment option, like most borrowers pay now.

The second is a simplified income-driven repayment plan, which takes into consideration how much a student borrowed verses how much they earn.

First, this plan provides forgiveness of all outstanding debt after the borrower fulfills their obligation to pay monthly on a 20-year term if the student borrowed less than the maximum undergraduate borrowing limit of $57,500 and pay monthly on a 25-year term if the student borrowed more than the undergraduate limit.

Second, this plan provides reasonable expectations for monthly payments. Very low-income borrowers would have a zero dollar payment. No payments are required until a borrower earns above 150 percent of the poverty line, which adjusts by family size and income. Modest-income borrowers would have a very low payment equal to 10 percent of the earnings they make above 150 percent of the poverty line. Higher income borrowers would pay 10 percent on the first $25,000 of discretionary income they earned and 15 percent on any income above that.

A single income-driven repayment plan assures students that there is a reasonable repayment plan available based on their individual earnings. It means students won't be unnecessarily discouraged from pursuing careers that may pay less but for which they have a passion, such as education or social work.

As I said, this is not the first time Senator KING and I have introduced this legislation, but there is added urgency this year because of the COVID–19 pandemic and because of the reckless proposals to simply transfer hundreds of billions in debt from individual borrowers to the Federal Government.

Last year, as the Nation struggled to combat coronavirus, Congress paused loan repayments for all borrowers through September 30, 2020. The Trump and Biden administrations then extended that pause through September 30, 2021. No borrower has been required to make a student loan payment for the last 12 months. As the American economy recovers, however, we cannot continue to pause payments indefinitely or, even worse, erase large swaths of loan balances, regardless of an individual's economic circumstance. Instead, Congress must put forward a commonsense plan that reflects the interests of student loan borrowers and American taxpayers.

I have cautioned Secretary Cardona against pursuing a dangerous proposal to simply forgive student debt through administrative action, an action which neither complies with the Federal Claims Collection Act, the Higher Education Act, or the related regulations. Not only do I think this isn't a legal idea, I don't believe it is a wise one, either. It is reckless policymaking to forgive massive amounts of existing student debt and doing so will create a profound moral hazard. What happens after existing debt is forgiven? Will colleges magically lower their tuition and fees, so no student ever needs to borrow again, or will colleges continue to charge for their services, and will students load right back up on exorbitant debt that 5, 10, or 30 years from now the American taxpayer will be asked to write off once again? This is an unserious gambit that doesn't come close to addressing the real drivers of student debt.

Rather than a flash-in-the-pan trick, I propose that we take up a durable policy solution, which includes the commonsense, bipartisan legislation that Senator ANGUS KING and I are advocating. Our proposal helps ensure student loan repayment programs are understandable and workable for future students who need them. As ranking member of the Education Committee, I will work with our committee's chairman to move this legislation forward. I hope that we will find a willing partner in the White House and at the Department of Education.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. KING, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 844. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain amounts paid for physical activity, fitness, and exercise as amounts paid for medical care; to the Committee on Finance.

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. 844

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 ''Personal Health Investment Today Act of 2021'' or the ''PHIT Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to promote health and prevent disease, particularly diseases related to being overweight or obese, by—

(1) encouraging healthier lifestyles;

(2) providing financial incentives to ease the financial burden of engaging in healthy behavior; and

(3) increasing the ability of individuals and families to participate in physical fitness activities.

SEC. 3. CERTAIN AMOUNTS PAID FOR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, FITNESS, AND EXERCISE TREATED AS AMOUNTS PAID FOR MEDICAL CARE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 213(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''or'' at the end of subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (D) and inserting '', or'', and by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following new subparagraph:

''(E) for qualified sports and fitness expenses.''.

(b) QUALIFIED SPORTS AND FITNESS EXPENSES.—Subsection (d) of section 213 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(12) QUALIFIED SPORTS AND FITNESS EXPENSES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'qualified sports and fitness expenses' means amounts

paid exclusively for the sole purpose of participating in a physical activity including—

''(i) for membership at a fitness facility,

''(ii) for participation or instruction in physical exercise or physical activity, or

''(iii) for equipment used in a program (including a self-directed program) of physical exercise or physical activity.

''(B) OVERALL DOLLAR LIMITATION.—The aggregate amount treated as qualified sports and fitness expenses with respect to any taxpayer for any taxable year shall not exceed $1,000 ($2,000 in the case of a joint return or a head of household (as defined in section 2(b))).

''(C) FITNESS FACILITY.—For purposes of subparagraph (A)(i), the term 'fitness facility' means a facility—

''(i) which provides instruction in a program of physical exercise, offers facilities for the preservation, maintenance, encouragement, or development of physical fitness, or serves as the site of such a program of a State or local government,

''(ii) which is not a private club owned and operated by its members,

''(iii) which does not offer golf, hunting, sailing, or riding facilities,

''(iv) the health or fitness component of which is not incidental to its overall function and purpose, and

''(v) which is fully compliant with the State of jurisdiction and Federal anti-discrimination laws.

''(D) TREATMENT OF EXERCISE VIDEOS, ETC.—Videos, books, and similar materials shall be treated as described in subparagraph (A)(ii) if the content of such materials constitutes instruction in a program of physical exercise or physical activity.

''(E) LIMITATIONS RELATED TO SPORTS AND FITNESS EQUIPMENT.—Amounts paid for equipment described in subparagraph (A)(iii) shall be treated as qualified sports and fitness expenses only—

''(i) if such equipment is utilized exclusively for participation in fitness, exercise, sport, or other physical activity,

''(ii) in the case of amounts paid for apparel or footwear, if such apparel or footwear is of a type that is necessary for, and is not used for any purpose other than, a specific physical activity, and

''(iii) in the case of amounts paid for any single item of sports equipment (other than exercise equipment), to the extent such amounts do not exceed $250.

''(F) PROGRAMS WHICH INCLUDE COMPONENTS OTHER THAN PHYSICAL EXERCISE AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY.—Rules similar to the rules of paragraph (6) shall apply in the case of any program that includes physical exercise or physical activity and also other components. For purposes of the preceding sentence, travel and accommodations shall be treated as a separate component.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 854. A bill to designate methamphetamine as an emerging threat, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Ms. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, nationally, psychostimulant overdose deaths, including methamphetamine-related deaths, increased by nearly 42% between July 2019 and July 2020. This increase is second only to synthetic opioids, a category which includes fentanyl.

My home State of California has been particularly hard hit. Between 2014 and 2019, methamphetamine-caused deaths in San Diego increased from 262 to 546, a stunning 108 percent increase in just five years. Similarly, in Los Angeles County, methamphetamine was involved in 44 percent of all drug overdose deaths in 2018.

Unfortunately, these figures are not unique to California, as other localities throughout the country are also seeing increases.

That is why I am introducing the Methamphetamine Response Act, which was passed by the Senate unanimously during the last session of Congress, with my colleague, Senator GRASSLEY.

This bill does two things. First, it declares methamphetamine an emerging drug threat. Second, it requires the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to develop and implement a national plan that is specific to methamphetamine, in accordance the ONDCP Reauthorization, which I was proud to co-author, and which was enacted in 2018 as part of the SUPPORT Act.

This plan must include: An assesment of the methamphetamine threat, including the current availability of, and demand for, the drug, and the effectiveness of evidence-based prevention and treatment programs, as well as law enforcement programs;

Short- and long-term goals focused on supply and demand reduction and the expansion of prevention and treatment programs;

Performance measures related to the plan's goals; and

The level of funding needed to implement the plan, including an assessment of whether available funding can be reprogrammed or transferred, or whether additional funds are needed.

It is clear that methamphetamine is re-emerging as a major drug threat to our Nation:

Data shows that methamphetamine use is no longer limited to Mid-West and Western States, but is increasingly prevalent in Northeastern States.

Between 2018 and 2019, psychostimulant overdose deaths, including methamphetamine deaths, increased in 27 of the 38 States that provide drug-specific data to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This amounts to a 27 percent increase nationally.

Methamphetamine continues to be highly potent, pure, and cheap. By the end of 2019, its availability and use had both increased.

Between 2016 and 2019, the number of individuals aged 12 and older with a methamphetamine use disorder increased from 684,000 to one million. That's a 46 percent increase in just three years.

Emergency room admissions for suspected stimulant overdoses, including methamphetamine, increased by 23 percent between January 2019 and 2020. These increases occurred in 36 States and the District of Colombia.

Two of the largest methamphetamine seizures on record occurred in 2019: U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) seized 3,000 pounds of methamphetamine at the port of Otay Mesa while the Drug Enforcement Administration seized 2,224 pounds of methamphetamine in Riverside County. Both of these seizures were in California.

Given the increasing size of these seizures, it is not surprising that in the first five months of fiscal year 2021, CBP has already seized more than 75,000 pounds of methamphetamine.

In a one year span, psychostimulants, including methamphetamine, killed more than 21,000 Americans. Absent immediate action and a comprehensive plan, these fatalities will continue to increase.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate and in the House to see Methamphetamine Response Act enacted.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WICKER, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Mr. INHOFE):

S. 864. A bill to extend Federal Pell Grant eligibility of certain short-term programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President. In today's economy, ensuring access to a variety of postsecondary programs has become even more critical in light of the COVID–19 pandemic. As of the end of 2020, more than 10 million Americans were unemployed, and 3. 7 million of those individuals have suffered permanent job loss. These workers will need access to postsecondary education and training to reskill and reenter the workforce. Notably, according to a poll conducted by Strada in June of 2020, Americans strongly prefer nondegree and skills training programs over degree programs as a way to access postsecondary credentials during and post-pandemic.

However, when it comes to higher education, Federal policies are not doing enough to support the demands of the changing labor market. Many of the individuals who enter into skills and job training programs are at the lowest end of the socioeconomic level, yet simply because their goal is to enter the workforce rather than obtain a degree, they are denied access Federal financial aid. The Federal Pell Grant Program—needs-based grants for low-income and king students—can only be used to offset the cost of programs that are over 600 clock hours or

at least 15 weeks in length. While many short-term programs provide high-quality skills training that employers need and recognize, they are not Pell-eligible.

Since the creation of the Pell grant, the profile of today's students has evolved along with the types of post-secondary education and training programs students look to enroll in. Today, 3 7 percent of all postsecondary students are 25 years of age or older, 68 percent work full-or-part-time while attending school and 26 percent have children or dependents. While many of these students enroll in longer-term degree programs, a significant number seek out shorter-term, workforce-oriented training programs that lead to in-demand jobs or stack to longer-term education pathways. These short-term programs allow them to advance their education and skills in a manner that works with their life-situation of working and caring for children and other dependents. Without such programs, many of these students cannot devote the four plus years that many part-time students must spend to get an associates degree, or six plus years to earn a four year degree. Our federal higher education policy must be modernized to meet the needs of students and employers. According to the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, shorter-term educational investments pay off—the average postsecondary certificate holder has 30 percent higher lifetime earnings than individuals with only a high school diploma.

Today, I am pleased to introduce with my colleague, Senator PORTMAN, the Jumpstart Our Businesses by Supporting Students or JOBS Act. The JOBS Act would close extend Pell Grant eligibility to high-quality, short-term job training programs offered at community colleges and other public institutions, so workers can afford the instruction they need to be successful in today's job market. Under the legislation, Pell-eligible job training programs are defined as those providing at least 150 clock hours of instruction time over a minimum of 8 weeks. Eligible job training programs must also provide students with licenses, certifications, or credentials that meet the hiring requirements of multiple employers in the field for which the job training is offered.

The JOBS Act also ensures that students enrolling in Pell-eligible short-term programs are earning high-quality postsecondary credentials by requiring that the credentials meet the standards of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, are recognized by industry or sector partnerships, and align with the skill needs of industries in States or local economies. Job training programs under this Act must also be evaluated by an accreditor and the State workforce board for quality and outcomes. The Virginia Community College System has identified approximately 50 programs that would benefit from the JOBS Act including in the fields of manufacturing, maritime, architecture/construction, energy, health care, information technology, transportation, and business management and administration.

The JOBS Act is a commonsense, bipartisan bill that would help workers and employers succeed in today's economy. As Congress works to help Americans recover from pandemic job losses, I am hopeful that my colleagues will join me in advocating for Pell Grants to be made available to individuals enrolling in high-quality, short-term training programs that lead to industry-recognized credentials and good paying jobs.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 873. A bill to establish the Climate Change Advisory Commission to develop recommendations, frameworks, and guidelines for projects to respond to the impacts of climate change, to issue Federal obligations, the proceeds of which shall be used to fund projects that aid in adaptation to climate change, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 873

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Climate Change Resiliency Fund for America Act of 2021''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COMMISSION

Sec. 101. Establishment of Climate Change Advisory Commission.
Sec. 102. Duties.
Sec. 103. Commission personnel matters.
Sec. 104. Funding.
Sec. 105. Termination.

TITLE II—CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCY FUND

Sec. 201. Climate Change Resiliency Fund.
Sec. 202. Compliance with Davis-Bacon Act.
Sec. 203. Funding.

TITLE III—REVENUE

Sec. 301. Climate Change Obligations.
Sec. 302. Promotion.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) COMMISSION.—The term ''Commission'' means the Climate Change Advisory Commission established by section 101(a).

(2) COMMUNITY OF COLOR.—The term ''community of color'' means a geographically distinct area in which the population of any of the following categories of individuals is higher than the average populations of that category for the State in which the community is located:

(A) Black.
(B) African American.
(C) Asian.
(D) Pacific Islander.
(E) Other non-White race.
(F) Hispanic.
(G) Latino.
(H) Linguistically isolated.

(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ''eligible entity'' includes—

(A) a Federal agency;
(B) a State or group of States;
(C) a unit of local government or a group of local governments;
(D) a utility district;
(E) a Tribal government or a consortium of Tribal governments;
(F) a State or regional transit agency or a group of State or regional transit agencies;
(G) a nonprofit organization;
(H) a special purpose district or public authority, including a port authority; and
(I) any other entity, as determined by the Secretary.

(4) ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY.—The term ''environmental justice community'' means a community with significant representation of communities of color, low-income communities, or Tribal and indigenous communities that experiences, or is at risk of experiencing, higher or more adverse human health or environmental effects.

(5) FRONTLINE COMMUNITY.—The term ''frontline community'' means a low-income community, a community of color, or a Tribal community that is disproportionately impacted or burdened by climate change or a phenomenon associated with climate change, including such a community that was or is at risk of being disproportionately impacted or burdened by climate change or a phenomenon associated with climate change earlier than other such communities.

(6) FUND.—The term ''Fund'' means the Climate Change Resiliency Fund established by section 201(a)(1).

(7) LOW-INCOME COMMUNITY.—The term ''low-income community'' means any census block group in which 30 percent or more of the population are individuals with an annual household income equal to, or less than, the greater of—

(A) an amount equal to 80 percent of the median household income of the area in which the household is located, as reported by the Department of Housing and Urban Development; and
(B) 200 percent of the Federal poverty line.

(8) PROJECT.—The term ''project'' means a project for a qualified climate change adaptation purpose performed by an eligible entity under section 201(b).

(9) QUALIFIED CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PURPOSE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''qualified climate change adaptation purpose'' means an objective with a demonstrated intent to reduce the economic, social, and environmental impact of the adverse effects of climate change.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ''qualified climate change adaptation purpose'' includes infrastructure resiliency and mitigation, improved disaster response, and ecosystem protection, which may be accomplished through activities or projects with objectives such as—

(i) reducing risks or enhancing resilience to sea level rise, extreme weather events, fires, drought, flooding, heat island impacts, or worsened indoor or outdoor air quality;
(ii) protecting farms and the food supply from climate impacts;
(iii) reducing risks of food insecurity that would otherwise result from climate change;
(iv) ensuring that disaster and public health plans account for more severe weather;
(v) reducing risks from geographical change to disease vectors, pathogens, invasive species, and the distribution of pests; and
(vi) other projects or activities, as determined to be appropriate by the Commission.

(10) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Commerce.

(11) STATE.—The term ''State'' means a State, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any other territory or possession of the United States.

TITLE I—CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COMMISSION

SEC. 101. ESTABLISHMENT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COMMISSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established a commission to be known as the ''Climate Change Advisory Commission''.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Commission shall be composed of 11 members—

(1) who shall be selected from the public and private sectors and institutions of higher education; and

(2) of whom—

(A) 3 shall be appointed by the President, in consultation with the National Climate Task Force;

(B) 2 shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(C) 2 shall be appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives;

(D) 2 shall be appointed by the majority leader of the Senate; and

(E) 2 shall be appointed by the minority leader of the Senate.

(c) TERMS.—Each member of the Commission shall be appointed for the life of the Commission.

(d) INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—Each member of the Commission shall be appointed not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(e) VACANCIES.—A vacancy on the Commission—

(1) shall not affect the powers of the Commission; and

(2) shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made.

(f) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which all members of the Commission have been appointed, the Commission shall hold the initial meeting of the Commission.

(g) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at the call of the Chairperson.

(h) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number of members may hold hearings.

(i) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The Commission shall select a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson from among the members of the Commission.

SEC. 102. DUTIES.

The Commission shall—

(1) establish recommendations, frameworks, and guidelines for a Federal investment program funded by revenue from climate change obligations issued under section 301 for eligible entities that—

(A) improve and adapt energy, transportation, water, and general infrastructure impacted or expected to be impacted due to climate variability; and

(B) integrate best available science, data, standards, models, and trends that improve the resiliency of infrastructure systems described in subparagraph (A); and

(2) in consultation with the Council on Environmental Quality and the White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council, identify categories of the most cost-effective investments and projects that emphasize multiple benefits to human health, commerce, and ecosystems while ensuring that the Commission engages in early and meaningful community stakeholder involvement opportunities during the development of the recommendations, frameworks, and guidelines established under paragraph (1).

SEC. 103. COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.

(a) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—

(1) NON-FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—A member of the Commission who is not an officer or employee of the Federal Government shall be compensated at a rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, for each day (including travel time) during which the member is engaged in the performance of the duties of the Commission.

(2) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—A member of the Commission who is an officer or employee of the Federal Government shall serve without compensation in addition to the compensation received for the services of the member as an officer or employee of the Federal Government.

(b) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of the duties of the Commission.

(c) STAFF.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Chairperson of the Commission may, without regard to the civil service laws (including regulations), appoint and terminate such personnel as are necessary to enable the Commission to perform the duties of the Commission.

(2) COMPENSATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Chairperson of the Commission may fix the compensation of personnel without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates.

(B) MAXIMUM RATE OF PAY.—The rate of pay for personnel shall not exceed the rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 104. FUNDING.

The Commission shall use amounts in the Fund to pay for all administrative expenses of the Commission.

SEC. 105. TERMINATION.

The Commission shall terminate on such date as the Commission determines after the Commission carries out the duties of the Commission under section 102.

TITLE II—CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCY FUND

SEC. 201. CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCY FUND.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States the ''Climate Change Resiliency Fund''.

(2) USE OF AMOUNTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall use not less than 40 percent of the amounts in the Fund to fund projects that benefit communities that experience disproportionate impacts from climate change, including environmental justice communities, frontline communities, and low-income communities.

(B) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—All amounts deposited in the Fund in accordance with section 301(a) shall only be used—

(i) to fund new projects in accordance with this section; and

(ii) for administrative expenses of the Commission authorized under section 104.

(3) RESPONSIBILITY OF SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall take such action as the Secretary determines necessary to assist in implementing the Fund in accordance with this section.

(b) CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PROJECTS.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Commission, shall carry out a program to provide funds to eligible entities to carry out projects for a qualified climate change adaptation purpose.

(c) APPLICATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity desiring funds under subsection (b) shall, with respect to a project, submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

(2) CONTENTS.—An application submitted by an eligible entity under this subsection shall include data relating to any benefits the eligible entity expects the project to provide to the community in which the applicable project is performed, such as—

(A) an economic impact; or

(B) improvements to public health.

(3) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall offer technical assistance to eligible entities preparing applications under this subsection.

(d) SELECTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall select eligible entities to receive funds to carry out projects under this section based on criteria and guidelines determined and published by the Commission under section 102.

(2) PRIORITY.—In selecting eligible entities under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities planning to perform projects that will serve areas with the greatest need.

(e) NON-FEDERAL FUNDING REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), in order to receive funds under this section, an eligible entity shall provide funds for a project in an amount that is equal to not less than 25 percent of the amount of funds provided under this section.

(2) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive all or part of the matching requirement under paragraph (1) for an eligible entity, especially an eligible entity performing a project benefitting a low-income community or an environmental justice community, if the Secretary determines that—

(A) there are no reasonable means available through which the eligible entity can meet the matching requirement; or

(B) the probable benefit of the project outweighs the public interest of the matching requirement.

(3) NO-MATCH PROJECTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award not less than 10 percent and not more than 40 percent of the total funds awarded under this section to eligible entities to which the matching requirement under paragraph (1) shall not apply.

(B) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall give priority for funding under subparagraph (A) to an eligible entity performing a project in a community experiencing a disproportionate impact of climate change, including—

(i) an environmental justice community;

(ii) a low-income community; or

(iii) a community of color.

(f) APPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL LAW.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to waive the requirements of any Federal law or regulation that would otherwise apply to a project that receives funds under this section.

SEC. 202. COMPLIANCE WITH DAVIS-BACON ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—All laborers and mechanics employed by contractors and subcontractors on projects funded directly by, or assisted in whole or in part by and through, the Fund shall be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on projects of a character similar in the locality as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of chapter 31 of part A of title 40, United States Code.

(b) LABOR STANDARDS.—With respect to the labor standards described in this section, the

Secretary of Labor shall have the authority and functions set forth in Reorganization Plan Numbered 14 of 1950 (64 Stat. 1267; 5 U.S.C. App.) and section 3145 of title 40, United States Code.

SEC. 203. FUNDING.

To carry out the program under section 201(b), the Secretary, in addition to amounts in the Fund, may use amounts that have been made available to the Secretary and are not otherwise obligated.

TITLE III—REVENUE

SEC. 301. CLIMATE CHANGE OBLIGATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary's delegate (referred to in this title as the ''Secretary'') shall issue obligations under chapter 31 of title 31, United States Code (referred to in this title as ''climate change obligations''), the proceeds from which shall be deposited in the Fund.

(b) FULL FAITH AND CREDIT.—Payment of interest and principal with respect to any climate change obligation issued under this section shall be made from the general fund of the Treasury of the United States and shall be backed by the full faith and credit of the United States.

(c) EXEMPTION FROM LOCAL TAXATION.—All climate change obligations issued by the Secretary, and the interest on or credits with respect to such obligations, shall not be subject to taxation by any State, county, municipality, or local taxing authority.

(d) AMOUNT OF CLIMATE CHANGE OBLIGATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the aggregate face amount of the climate change obligations issued annually under this section shall be $200,000,000.

(2) ADDITIONAL OBLIGATIONS.—For any calendar year in which all of the obligations issued pursuant to paragraph (1) have been purchased, the Secretary may issue additional climate change obligations during such calendar year, provided that the aggregate face amount of such additional obligations does not exceed $800,000,000.

(e) FUNDING.—The Secretary shall use funds made available to the Secretary and not otherwise obligated to carry out the purposes of this section.

SEC. 302. PROMOTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall promote the purchase of climate change obligations through such means as are determined appropriate by the Secretary, with the amount expended for such promotion not to exceed $10,000,000 for any fiscal year during the period of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

(b) DONATED ADVERTISING.—In addition to any advertising paid for with funds made available under subsection (c), the Secretary shall solicit and may accept the donation of advertising relating to the sale of climate change obligations.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For each fiscal year during the period of fiscal years 2022 through 2026, there is authorized to be appropriated $10,000,000 to carry out the purposes of this section.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. SMITH):

S. 876. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to require the Secretary of Agriculture to make loan guarantees and grants to finance certain improvements to school lunch facilities, to train school food service personnel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise to introduce School Food Modernization Act to assist our schools in updating outdated kitchen equipment, allowing them to provide healthier meals to students. I also thank my colleague from Minnesota, Senator SMITH, for cosponsoring this bill.

School meals play a vital role in the lives of so many of our children. As one school nutrition director from Maine recently told me, school meals are the ''foundation for student success.'' Nearly 100,000 schools participate in the National School Lunch program, serving 30 million children each day, helping to prevent hunger. Many children consume up to half their daily caloric intake at school, and some get their most nutritious meals of the day at school instead of at home. Because school meals are a significant source of daily nutrition for so many, we must consistently aim to improve the program to best serve students.

The COVID–19 pandemic has further highlighted the importance of school meals for many families. Across the country, schools and nutrition programs were adapted to remote and hybrid learning models during the pandemic. Nutrition programs in Maine and other states have tirelessly continued to support the nutritional needs of students despite school closures, with many schools offering as many as four or five meal delivery options to ensure families can continue to access food seven days a week. I met recently with school nutrition directors from Maine who said lack of equipment, including access to cold storage, has forced them to be even more creative in continuing to serve children across Maine during COVID–19. Many schools are using stoves from the 1960s and others lack adequate storage facilities to store the large amount of food needed to provide multi-day bulk meal bags for children and families who are learning remotely or attending school only part-time.

The fact is schools built decades ago often lack the equipment and infrastructure necessary to do more than reheat and serve one or two meal options each day. Even before the pandemic, nearly 90 percent of schools needed at least one piece of updated school kitchen equipment. It is estimated that Maine schools alone would need $58.8 million for equipment infrastructure upgrades needed to serve healthy meals to all of our students. The Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, on which I serve, has consistently recognized this need and appropriated $30 million for School Equipment Assistance Grants last year. The School Food Modernization Act would codify and improve this successful grant program to better meet the growing need nationwide.

The School Food Modernization Act seeks to help school food service personnel offer a wide variety of nutritious and appealing meals to all students. First, the bill would provide targeted grant assistance to supply the seed funding needed to upgrade kitchen infrastructure or to purchase high-quality equipment. Second, it would establish a loan guarantee assistance program within USDA to help schools acquire new equipment. Finally, to aid school food services personnel in running successful, healthy programs, the legislation would authorize grants to support training and technical assistance for food service personnel.

Mr. President, I encourage my colleagues to continue supporting school kitchen equipment needs as the Child Nutrition Reauthorization process takes shape. If our children are going to be able to learn and meet their full potential, they need their minds and bodies to be fully nourished. This bill would help us achieve that goal.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 122—REAFFIRMING THE IMPORTANCE OF UNITED STATES ALLIANCES AND PARTNERSHIPS

Mr. RISCH (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 122

Whereas, from the American Revolution, through two World Wars, the Cold War, and the fight against international terrorist organizations, the United States has successfully relied on alliances and partnerships with like-minded countries to further our vital security, political, and economic interests, starting with the Treaty of Alliance with France in 1778 and continuing to the present day;

Whereas these treaty alliances provide a unique strategic advantage to the United States and are among the Nation's most precious assets, enabling the United States to advance its vital national interests, defend its territory, expand its economy through international trade and commerce, establish enduring cooperation among like-minded countries, prevent the domination of Europe or the Indo-Pacific and its surrounding maritime and air lanes by a hostile power or powers, and deter potential aggressors;

Whereas United States treaty alliances advance critical shared interests, including upholding regional stability and security, deterring adversaries, maintaining maritime freedom of navigation, promoting global economic prosperity, combating the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, supporting international institutions and architecture, advancing democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, upholding international law, and promoting shared values and norms;

Whereas the combined strength conferred by treaty alliances enables the United States and its allies to leverage a multinational response to important challenges and advance joint initiatives that tackle global problems with a unity of purpose;

Whereas, after the end of the Second World War, the United States Government strategically invested in building a global network of alliances and partnerships, including through the Marshall Plan in Europe and with our post-war partners in Asia, which helped these countries grow into democratic, prosperous, peaceful nations with whom the United States could effectively partner;

Whereas the United States-Japan, United States-Republic of Korea, United States-Australia, United States-Philippines, and United

States-Thailand alliances are the foundation of regional stability in the Indo-Pacific;

Whereas the United States greatly values other partnerships in the Indo-Pacific region, including with India, Singapore, Indonesia, Taiwan, New Zealand, and Vietnam;

Whereas the United States maintains an unwavering commitment to the defense of Japan under Article 5 of the United States-Japan security treaty, which includes the Senkaku Islands, as recently reaffirmed by President Joseph R. Biden;

Whereas the United States-Japan alliance is one of the most important political, economic, and military alliances in the world, and is crucial to maintaining a favorable balance of power in the Indo-Pacific region and advancing a free and open region characterized by a commitment to democratic governance, the free flow of commerce, and shared rules and norms;

Whereas the United States-Republic of Korea alliance is essential for peace and prosperity in Northeast Asia and critical to closely coordinating to face the challenges posed by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

Whereas the United States-Australia alliance remains an anchor of stability in the Indo-Pacific and the world, while Australia's 2020 Defense Strategic Update and 2020 Force Structure Plan recognize and respond to Australia's evolving strategic threat environment, including by committing to boost its defense spending by 40 percent over the next decade and to bolster its high-end military capabilities, which provides further opportunities for the United States and Australia to boost cooperation on defense and strategic and emerging technologies;

Whereas a strong United States-Philippine alliance is vital to a free and open Indo-Pacific region, the Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT) is important for the security of both nations, and Secretary of State Antony Blinken has reaffirmed former Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo's March 2019 statement regarding the clear application of the MDT to armed attacks against Philippine armed forces, public vessels, or aircraft in the Pacific, which includes the South China Sea;

Whereas the Philippines is of unique geostrategic importance, is a crucial partner in the areas of counterterrorism and maritime security, and plays an important role in upholding regional security in the South and West Pacific, including the First and Second Island Chains, and a strong relationship between the United States military and the Armed Forces of the Philippines, solidified through agreements such as the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement and the Visiting Forces Agreement, is in the national interests of both the Philippines and the United States;

Whereas the United States and Thailand are increasing their defense cooperation to advance shared interests in the Indo-Pacific;

Whereas the United States has an opportunity to strengthen its relationships, including defense relationships, with treaty allies and other partners in Southeast Asia, especially through cooperation that enables these partners to better contend with infringements on their sovereignty, including by encouraging allies to make specific investments to enhance their area denial and mobile defense-in-depth capabilities;

Whereas, in 1949, the United States joined with several European countries to conclude the North Atlantic Treaty, which formed a basis for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), in order ''to safeguard the freedom, common heritage and civilisation of their peoples, founded on the principles of democracy, individual liberty and the rule of law'' and to ''promote stability and well-being in the North Atlantic area'';

Whereas 30 European and North American nations are members of NATO, and all signatories to the North Atlantic Treaty have ''resolved to unite their efforts for collective defence and for the preservation of peace and security'';

Whereas, following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the NATO alliance invoked Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty for the first and only time, reaffirming that an armed attack against one member of the alliance shall be considered an attack against all;

Whereas NATO serves as a force multiplier, reducing the burden borne by the United States, has command structures, training institutions, and multilateral exercises that have generated unprecedented contributions to United States national security priorities and enabled NATO soldiers to serve alongside members of the United States Armed Forces, including through NATO's ongoing support of Operation Resolute Support in Afghanistan, NATO's Kosovo Force, Operation Sea Guardian in the Mediterranean Sea, the capacity-building NATO Mission Iraq, support for African Union missions, and air policing missions in member and nonmember nations of Eastern Europe, and has taken a strong stand against Russian aggression in Eastern Europe;

Whereas, in his February 19, 2021, speech to the Munich Security Conference, President Biden reaffirmed, ''The transatlantic alliance is. . .the strong foundation on which our collective security and our shared prosperity are built. The partnership between Europe and the United States, in my view, is and must remain the cornerstone of all that we hope to accomplish in the 21st century, just as we did in the 20th century.. . .The United States is fully committed to our NATO Alliance, and I welcome Europe's growing investment in the military capabilities that enable our shared defense.'';

Whereas previous Democratic and Republican Administrations alike have recognized that strong, healthy, and politically sustainable alliances require equitable, fair, reasonable, and mutually beneficial burden-sharing arrangements, and that the key to alliance success is a diplomatic and security posture characterized by the effective marshaling of resources and acquisition and deployment of complementary capabilities, such as the increase in defense spending by all NATO nations since the Wales Declaration of 2014, with 11 members now spending 2 percent of their GDP on defense and several more on track to meet that benchmark by 2024;

Whereas the United States' extended nuclear deterrence commitments to NATO and Indo-Pacific allies are foundational to the health, strength, and effectiveness of these alliances and to continued international security and stability;

Whereas maintaining robust United States diplomatic, economic, and defense budgets are critical to advancing cooperation with allies and partners on shared challenges, and deep and precipitous cuts in United States diplomatic, economic, and defense budgets would damage the health, robustness, and effectiveness of United States alliances;

Whereas, in a sign of our shared security objectives and cooperation, our allies and partners have hosted United States military installations and welcomed members of the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas citizens of our allies and partners have sacrificed their lives in support of efforts to combat terrorism and promote security in Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere, and have contributed significant forces to our military endeavors, placing more combat power on the battlefield, while reducing the burden borne by the United States;

Whereas the United States has worked with our allies and partners to mitigate conflict and humanitarian crises around the world, and United States allies have made significant contributions to address humanitarian, food security, health, climate-related, and other pressing challenges around the world;

Whereas the United States and its allies face an increasingly challenging security environment in the 21st century, characterized by strategic competition with revisionist powers such as the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation, which seek to destabilize the international system;

Whereas this security environment demands United States and allied commitment to strengthening and advancing our alliances so that they are postured to meet these challenges, and will require sustained political will, concrete partnerships, economic, commercial, and technological cooperation, consistent and tangible commitments, high-level and extensive consultations on matters of mutual interest, mutual and shared cooperation in the acquisition of key capabilities important to allied defenses, and unified mutual support in the face of political, economic, or military coercion; and

Whereas successive generations of leaders of the United States and its allies have successfully managed the challenges and constraints inherent in alliances, thus ensuring that the benefits of alliances outweigh the costs: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms the enduring commitment of the United States to our treaty allies in the Indo-Pacific region and NATO, as well as to other partners, including our treaty obligations for mutual defense;

(2) emphasizes the primary importance of the United States' relationships, alliances, and partnerships to global peace and prosperity;

(3) recognizes the many contributions that alliances and partnerships have made to advance the interests of the United States and to promote shared interests;

(4) underscores that alliances have enhanced mutual security by jointly sharing in common defense, including the defense of the United States, and that strong alliances and partnerships generate decisive and sustained United States military advantages;

(5) encourages dealing constructively with significant tensions in the United States' alliance relationships to ensure they do not create fissures that adversaries can exploit;

(6) welcomes and seeks to advance the continued collaboration of the United States and our allies and partners to respect and defend the rules-based international order and the values of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law that undergird our common security and prosperity;

(7) reaffirms bipartisan support for equitable and mutually beneficial burden-sharing arrangements, including fair and additional substantive contributions by United States allies, and acknowledges the special measures agreements (SMA) reached by the Biden Administration with Japan and the Republic of Korea, and urges ongoing consultations to consider additional allied contributions beyond the traditional SMA categories and to use these consultations as an opportunity to strengthen our alliances with these two partners;

(8) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to strengthening and boosting our alliances and partnerships in the Indo-Pacific, including to contend with China's growing power projection capabilities and use of coercive and grey-zone tactics, and to jointly develop, regulate, and monitor the

production, use, and protection of strategic and emerging technologies;

(9) encourages the Biden Administration to focus significantly on growing defense cooperation with Australia, especially in light of the country's 2020 Defense Strategic Update, and to build on United States-Japan initiatives that advance alliance defense cooperation that contributes to a free and open Indo-Pacific, and to further boost cooperation with both allies on the research, development, and regulation of strategic and emerging technologies, including defense technologies;

(10) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to the NATO alliance and to NATO efforts to counter Kremlin aggression, including military aggression and attempts to erode democratic institutions in the United States and other NATO member states;

(11) urges the Biden Administration to work with its NATO partners to advance the efforts currently underway within NATO to better prepare the alliance to confront future and emerging challenges, and to continue to encourage NATO nations to contribute more to the alliance and improve their capabilities;

(12) calls upon Indo-Pacific and NATO allies to collaborate with the United States in developing the next generation of defense technologies, including disruptive and emerging technologies, while working together to improve multilateral export controls, common standards for technology security, and norms and standards for new and emerging technologies;

(13) asks all members of NATO, including the United States, to devote significant energy to the development of a new, forward-looking strategy to replace the 2010 Strategic Concept and focus on the many emerging challenges that face the alliance, including China, Russia, and instability on Europe's southern border;

(14) calls on the Biden Administration to ensure United States policy and posture reflects the requirements of extended deterrence to preserve nonproliferation benefits, assure allies, and to deter, and if necessary, respond, across the spectrum of nuclear and nonnuclear scenarios in defense of allies and partners; and

(15) supports maintaining robust diplomatic, economic, and defense budgets as critical to advancing cooperation with allies and partners on shared challenges.

SENATE RESOLUTION 123—DESIGNATING MARCH 2021 AS ''NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH''

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. KAINE, Ms. WARREN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WARNER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. KING, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. SINEMA, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. CARPER, and Mrs. BLACKBURN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 123

Whereas National Women's History Month recognizes and spreads awareness of the importance of women in the history of the United States;

Whereas, throughout the history of the United States, whether in their homes, in their workplaces, in schools, in the courts, or during wartime, women have fought for themselves, their families, and all people of the United States;

Whereas, even from the early days of the history of the United States, Abigail Adams urged her husband to ''Remember the Ladies'' when representatives met for the Continental Congress in 1776;

Whereas women were particularly important in the establishment of early charitable, philanthropic, and cultural institutions in the United States;

Whereas women led the efforts to secure suffrage and equal opportunities for women, and also served in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, labor movements, civil rights movements, and other causes to create a more fair and just society for all;

Whereas suffragists wrote, marched, were arrested, and ultimately succeeded in achieving—

(1) the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which provides, ''The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.''; and

(2) the enactment of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.), which extended the protection of the right to vote to women of color and language minorities;

Whereas women have been and continue to be leaders in the forefront of social change efforts, business, science, government, math, art, literature, music, film, athletics, and other fields;

Whereas women now represent approximately half of the workforce of the United States;

Whereas women once were routinely barred from attending medical schools in the United States, but now are enrolling in medical schools in the United States at higher numbers than men;

Whereas women previously were turned away from law school, but now represent approximately half of law students in the United States;

Whereas, since the American Revolution, women have been vital to the mission of the Armed Forces, with more than 200,000 women serving on active duty and 2,000,000 women veterans representing every branch of service;

Whereas more than 10,000,000 women own businesses in the United States;

Whereas Jeannette Rankin of Montana was the first woman elected to the House of Representatives in 1916 and Hattie Wyatt Caraway of Arkansas was the first woman elected to the United States Senate in 1932;

Whereas Margaret Chase Smith of Maine was the first woman to serve in both Houses of Congress;

Whereas, in 2021, a record total of 144 women are serving in Congress, including 120 women in the House of Representatives and 24 women in the Senate;

Whereas President Jimmy Carter recognized March 2 through 8, 1980, as ''National Women's History Week'';

Whereas, in 1987, a bipartisan group of Senators introduced the first joint resolution to pass Congress designating ''Women's History Month'';

Whereas, in 1987, President Ronald Reagan issued a Presidential proclamation proclaiming March 1987 as ''Women's History Month'';

Whereas, in 2020, Congress passed the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum Act (title I of division T of Public Law 116–260) to establish a national women's history museum on or near the National Mall in Washington, DC; and

Whereas, despite the advancements of women in the United States, much remains to be done to ensure that women realize their full potential as equal members of society in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 2021 as ''National Women's History Month'';

(2) recognizes the celebration of National Women's History Month as a time to reflect on the many notable contributions that women have made to the United States; and

(3) urges the people of the United States to observe National Women's History Month with appropriate programs and activities.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month to recognize the extraordinary achievements of past generations of women, and to pay tribute to the vital role they have played in the political, economic, and social development of this nation.

Women's History Month provides a special opportunity to reflect upon women's countless accomplishments that touch all aspects of our society—from government, to business, the arts and sciences, the military and much more. I look upon the courage our predecessors displayed with great admiration, and I continue to be inspired by those who blazed the trail for women like me.

In December of this past year, I was incredibly proud to see the Smithsonian Women's History Museum Act, which I co-led with Senator SUSAN COLLINS, enacted into law. This law will create a long overdue, permanent museum to collect, study, and create programs that celebrate women's experiences and contributions.

However, the last year also brought with it the loss of a number of pioneering women, including Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg, NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson, and the brave Civil Rights Movement champion Lucille Bridges. Though these icons are no longer with us, their contributions will live on and their accomplishments have shattered glass ceilings for future generations of women. May we honor their work and memory with a commitment to elevate and support future women leaders.

This past election year marked a new high water mark for women in politics, as more women ran for and were elected to office in 2020 than ever before. Of the many notable wins, I was overjoyed to see my friend and former Senate colleague, Vice President KAMALA HARRIS, elected to the nation's second-highest office. The election of more women to places of power is crucial for our continued progress.

I am eager to work with Vice President HARRIS and the 144 women serving in Congress in 2021 to address the challenges before us.

One of our first priorities must be to address the ongoing pandemic, which

has had devastating consequences for the health of our country and economy. The pandemic has also uniquely harmed women and girls—especially women of color. A disproportionate number of women have lost their jobs as a result of the pandemic, and are often unable to maintain work commitments with children learning from home while schools are closed. As far as we have come, this unequal harm borne by women during the pandemic reminds us of the work toward equality that is yet to be done. We must continue our work to ensure fairness and equity for women everywhere.

As we undertake to celebrate Women's History Month, I ask my colleagues to celebrate with me how far we have come and to continue the fight for the progress of all women—especially those who are struggling during these trying times.

Thank you Mr. President and I yield the floor.

SENATE RESOLUTION 124—CELEBRATING THE HERITAGE OF ROMANI AMERICANS

Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. WICKER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 124

Whereas the Romani people trace their ancestry to the Indian subcontinent;

Whereas Roma have been a part of European immigration to the United States since the colonial period and particularly following the abolition of the enslavement of Roma in the historic Romanian principalities;

Whereas Roma live across the world and throughout the United States;

Whereas the Romani people have made distinct and important contributions in many fields, including agriculture, art, crafts, literature, medicine, military service, music, sports, and science;

Whereas, on April 8, 1971, the First World Romani Congress met in London, bringing Roma together from across Europe and the United States with the goal of promoting transnational cooperation among Roma in combating social marginalization and building a positive future for Roma everywhere;

Whereas April 8 is therefore celebrated globally as International Roma Day;

Whereas Roma were victims of genocide carried out by Nazi Germany and its Axis partners, and an estimated 200,000 to 500,000 Romani people were killed by Nazis and their allies across Europe during World War II;

Whereas, on the night of August 2-3, 1944, the so-called ''Gypsy Family Camp'' where Romani people were interned at Auschwitz-Birkenau was liquidated, and in a single night, between 4,200 and 4,300 Romani men, women, and children were killed in gas chambers;

Whereas many countries are taking positive steps to remember and teach about the genocide of Roma by Nazi Germany and its Axis partners; and

Whereas the United States Congress held its first hearing to examine the situation of Roma in 1994: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) remembers the genocide of Roma by Nazi Germany and its Axis partners and commemorates the destruction of the ''Gypsy Family Camp'' where Romani people were interned at Auschwitz;

(2) commends the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum for its role in promoting remembrance of the Holocaust and educating about the genocide of Roma;

(3) supports International Roma Day as an opportunity to honor the culture, history, and heritage of the Romani people in the United States as part of the larger Romani global diaspora; and

(4) welcomes the Department of State's participation in ceremonies and events celebrating International Roma Day and similar engagement by the United States Government.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today, I am introducing, along with Senator WICKER, a resolution that celebrates Romani American heritage.

As a member of the U.S. Helsinki Commission and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Special Representative on Anti-Semitism, Racism and Intolerance, I have long worked to improve the situation of Roma throughout the OSCE region. This includes efforts to advance human rights compliant policing, ending ethnic and religious profiling, supporting diversity and inclusion in the U.S. national security workforce and human rights training for foreign service officers, and supporting free and fair elections in the OSCE participating States. I also supported the appointment of Dr. Ethel Brooks to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum Council, on which I also currently serve.

The resolution we are introducing today does four things.

First, it recognizes and celebrates Romani American heritage. Roma have come to the United States with every wave of European migration since the colonial period. In the United States, there may be as many as one million Americans with some Romani ancestry, whether distant or more recent. Romani people have made distinct and important contributions in many fields, including agriculture, art, crafts, literature, medicine, military service, music, sports, and science.

Second, it supports International Roma Day and the Department of State's robust engagement in activities to that occasion. In 1971, on April 8th, 1971, the First World Romani Congress met in London, bringing Roma together from across Europe and the United States with the goal of promoting transnational cooperation among Roma, combating social marginalization, and building a positive future for Roma everywhere. April 8th is now celebrated as ''International Roma Day'' around the world. U.S. ambassadors and our embassies across Europe are frequently asked to participate in April 8th celebrations across the region. I commend the important work they are doing as they demonstrate U.S. commitment to inclusive societies not only on April 8th, but also throughout the year.

Third, this resolution commemorates the destruction of the so-called ''Gypsy Family Camp'' at Auschwitz. It is estimated that between 200,000 and 500,000 Romani people were killed in death camps and elsewhere throughout Europe. On August 2–3, 1944, Nazis murdered between 4,200 and 4,300 Romani men, women, and children in gas chambers when the Nazis decided to liquidate this camp. A number of governments in recent years have taken important steps to commemorate the genocide of Roma, to remember the victims, and educate future generations. Germany took an important step when it opened in Berlin a memorial for Sinti and Roma victims of National Socialism. I also welcome the Czech government's decision to remove the pig farm at the site of the Lety concentration camp the role of the Museum of Romani Culture in ensuring a proper memorialization of that sensitive site.

Finally, this resolution commends the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum for its critically important role in promoting remembrance of the Holocaust and educating audiences about the genocide of Roma. The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum is the preeminent federal institution dedicated to serving as a living memorial to the Holocaust. I am honored to serve as a member of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum Council, and I welcome the initiatives of the Museum to ensure that Romani victims are remembered and that related scholarship is supported.

I am pleased that Sen. WICKER has joined me in introducing this resolution and urge other colleagues to join us in celebrating Romani American heritage.

SENATE RESOLUTION 125—RECOGNIZING THE HERITAGE, CULTURE, AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF AMERICAN INDIAN, ALASKA NATIVE, AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs:

S. RES. 125

Whereas the United States celebrates National Women's History Month every March to recognize and honor the achievements of women throughout the history of the United States;

Whereas an estimated 3,081,000 American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women live in the United States;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women helped shape the history of their communities, Tribes, and the United States;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women contribute to their communities, Tribes, and the United States through military service, public service, and work in many industries, including business, education, science, medicine, literature, and fine arts;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have fought to defend and protect the sovereign rights of Native Nations;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have demonstrated resilience and courage in the face of a history of threatened existence, constant removals, and relocations;

Whereas more than 6,000 American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women bravely serve as members of the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas more than 17,000 American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women

are veterans who have made lasting contributions to the United States military;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women broke down historical gender barriers to enlistment in the military, including—

(1) Inupiat Eskimo sharpshooter Laura Beltz Wright of the Alaska Territorial Guard during World War II; and

(2) Minnie Spotted Wolf of the Blackfeet Tribe, the first Native American woman to enlist in the United States Marine Corps in 1943;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have made the ultimate sacrifice for the United States, including Lori Ann Piestewa, a member of the Hopi Tribe and the first woman in the United States military killed in the Iraq War in 2003;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have contributed to the economic development of Native Nations and the United States as a whole, including Elouise Cobell of the Blackfeet Tribe, a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, who—

(1) served as the treasurer of her Tribe;

(2) founded the first Tribally owned national bank; and

(3) led the fight against Federal mismanagement of funds held in trust for more than 500,000 Native Americans;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women own an estimated 154,900 businesses;

Whereas these Native women-owned businesses employ more than 50,000 workers and generate over $10,000,000,000 in revenues as of 2016;

Whereas American Indian and Alaska Native women have opened an average of more than 17 new businesses each day since 2007;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have made significant contributions to the field of medicine, including Susan La Flesche Picotte of the Omaha Tribe, who is widely acknowledged as the first Native American to earn a medical degree;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have contributed to important scientific advancements, including—

(1) Floy Agnes Lee of Santa Clara Pueblo, who—

(A) worked on the Manhattan Project during World War II; and

(B) pioneered research on radiation biology and cancer;

(2) Native Hawaiian Isabella Kauakea Yau Yung Aiona Abbott, who—

(A) was the first woman on the biological sciences faculty at Stanford University; and

(B) was awarded the highest award in marine botany from the National Academy of Sciences, the Gilbert Morgan Smith medal, in 1997; and

(3) Mary Golda Ross of the Cherokee Nation, who—

(A) is considered the first Native American engineer of the National Aeronautic and Space Administration;

(B) helped develop spacecrafts for the Gemini and Apollo space programs; and

(C) was recognized by the Federal Government on the 2019 $1 coin honoring Native Americans and their contributions;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have achieved distinctive honors in the art of dance, including Maria Tall Chief of the Osage Nation, who was the first major prima ballerina of the United States and was a recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Kennedy Center;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have accomplished notable literary achievements, including Northern Paiute author Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins, who wrote and published one of the first Native American autobiographies in United States history in 1883;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have regularly led efforts to protect their traditional ways of life and to revitalize and maintain Native cultures and languages, including—

(1) Tewa linguist and teacher Esther Martinez, who developed a Tewa dictionary and was credited with revitalizing the Tewa language;

(2) Native Hawaiian scholar Mary Kawena Pukui, who published more than 50 academic works and was considered the most noted Hawaiian translator of the 20th century; and

(3) Ahtna Athabascan Katie John of Mentasta Lake, who was the lead plaintiff in lawsuits that strengthened Native subsistence fishing rights in Alaska and who helped create the alphabet for the Ahtna language;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have excelled in athletic competition and created opportunities for other female athletes within their sport, including Rell Kapoliokaehukai Sunn, who—

(1) ranked as longboard surfing champion of the world; and

(2) co-founded the Women's Professional Surfing Association in 1975, the first professional surfing tour for women;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have played a vital role in advancing civil rights, protecting human rights, advocating for land rights, and safeguarding the environment, including—

(1) Elizabeth Wanamaker Peratrovich of the Tlingit Nation, who—

(A) helped secure the passage of the Anti-Discrimination Act of 1945 of the Alaska Territory, the first anti-discrimination law in the United States; and

(B) was recognized by the Federal Government on the 2020 $1 coin honoring Native Americans and their contributions;

(2) Zitkala-Sa, a Yankton Dakota writer and advocate, whose work during the early 20th century helped advance the citizenship, voting, and land rights of Native Americans; and

(3) Mary Jane Fate of the Koyukon Athabascan village of Rampart, who was the first woman to chair the Alaska Federation of Natives, a founding member of the North American Indian Women's Association, and an advocate for settlement of Indigenous land claims in Alaska;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have succeeded as judges, attorneys, and legal advocates, including Eliza ''Lyda'' Conley, a Wyandot-American lawyer and the first Native woman admitted to argue a case before the Supreme Court of the United States in 1909;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have paved the way for women in the law, including Native Hawaiian Emma Kailikapiolono Metcalf Beckley Nakuina, who served as the first female judge in Hawaii;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women are dedicated public servants, holding important positions in the Federal judicial branch, the Federal executive branch, State governments, and local governments;

Whereas American Indian and Alaska Native women have served as remarkable Tribal councilwomen, Tribal court judges, and Tribal leaders, including Wilma Mankiller, who—

(1) was the first woman elected to serve as Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation; and

(2) fought for Tribal self-determination and the improvement of the community infrastructure of her Tribe;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have also led their People through notable acts of public service, including—

(1) Kaahumanu, who was the first Native Hawaiian woman to serve as regent of the Kingdom of Hawaii; and

(2) Polly Cooper of the Oneida Indian Nation, who—

(A) walked from central New York to Valley Forge as part of a relief mission to provide food for the army led by General George Washington during the American Revolutionary War; and

(B) was recognized for her courage and generosity by Martha Washington;

Whereas the United States should continue to invest in the future of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women to address the barriers they face, including access to justice, health care, and opportunities for educational and economic advancement; and

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women are the life givers, the culture bearers, and the caretakers of Native peoples who have made precious contributions, enriching the lives of all people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) celebrates and honors the successes of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women and the contributions they have made and continue to make to the United States; and

(2) recognizes the importance of supporting equity, providing safety, and upholding the interests of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women.

SENATE RESOLUTION 126—CONDEMNING THE CRACKDOWN BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY IN HONG KONG, INCLUDING THE ARRESTS OF PRO-DEMOCRACY ACTIVISTS AND REPEATED VIOLATIONS OF THE OBLIGATIONS OF THAT GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKEN IN THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION OF 1984 AND THE HONG KONG BASIC LAW

Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. COONS, Mr. COTTON, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. TILLIS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 126

RESOLUTION

Whereas, on June 30, 2020, the Government of the People's Republic of China unilaterally enacted the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (in this preamble referred to as the ''national security law'') that banned secession, subversion of state power, and foreign interference, charges that were deliberately vague and expansive allowing the Government of the People's Republic of China maximum discretion to criminalize political expression of which it disapproves;

Whereas the national security law was passed without input from the semi-democratic Legislative Council of Hong Kong, or from the Hong Kong people more generally, and with no other attempt to account for the well-founded concerns of the Hong Kong people regarding the sweeping nature of the legislation and its incompatibility with Hong Kong's system of justice and legal protections for fundamental rights and freedoms;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China, the Chinese Communist Party, and the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region have applied the draconian national security law arbitrarily to conduct a crackdown of unprecedented scope and intensity, criminalizing peaceful protests, political dissent, and other forms of nonviolent expression by the people of Hong Kong;

Whereas the objective of the political crackdown is to persecute individuals who have led peaceful pro-democracy movements in Hong Kong and to nullify the fundamental freedoms and human rights guaranteed to the people of Hong Kong under the Joint Declaration of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the Question of Hong Kong, done at Beijing December 19, 1984 (commonly referred to as the ''Sino-British Joint Declaration of 1984''), and the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, adopted April 4, 1990 (in this preamble referred to as the ''Hong Kong Basic Law'');

Whereas, in July 2020, Hong Kong authorities charged 19-year-old activist Tony Chung with ''inciting secession'' on account of peaceful political speech that occurred prior to the enactment of the national security law, and, in October 2020, arrested and imprisoned Chung, who remains incarcerated awaiting trial under the national security law;

Whereas, in July 2020, Hong Kong authorities announced that elections for the Legislative Council scheduled to be held in September 2020 would be postponed for an entire year under the pretense of public health concerns;

Whereas, in August 2020, the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party detained 12 Hong Kong activists at sea, 2 of whom were juveniles, attempting to flee Hong Kong for Taiwan, and, after holding those individuals arbitrarily for 4 months and denying them access to lawyers hired by their families, in December 2020, tried them in a secret proceeding in Shenzhen, China, and, in January 2021, sentenced 10 of the 12 individuals to prison;

Whereas, in November 2020, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress in Beijing, China, the rubber-stamp legislature of the Chinese Communist Party, adopted a decision that unilaterally disqualified Hong Kong legislators who ''publicize or support independence,'' ''seek foreign interference,'' or engage in ''other activities that endanger national security,'' thereby allowing proxies of the Chinese Communist Party in Hong Kong to arbitrarily remove any legislator whose views the Party found objectionable, which they immediately did by removing 4 pro-democracy legislators;

Whereas, in December 2020, a Hong Kong court sentenced prominent pro-democracy leaders and activists Joshua Wong, Agnes Chow, and Ivan Lam to prison for their roles in an ''unauthorized assembly'' in 2019;

Whereas, in December 2020, Hong Kong authorities arrested the founder of Apple Daily and pro-democracy advocate Jimmy Lai on false charges, repeatedly denied him bail, and subsequently charged him with colluding with foreign forces under the national security law;

Whereas, in January 2021, Hong Kong authorities arbitrarily arrested 53 pro-democracy politicians and subsequently charged all but 6 of them with ''subversion'' under Article 22 of the national security law for simply conducting a public opinion poll in July 2020 regarding candidates for the Legislative Council;

Whereas, on February 23, 2021, Hong Kong authorities announced that any candidate for district councilor, the lowest level of officials and the only office that is fully democratic, must be a ''patriot'' and take an oath swearing to uphold the Hong Kong Basic Law and pledge allegiance to the Government of the People's Republic of China, and candidates who engage in ''negative'' behaviors, such as promoting self-determination, composing a referendum, or ''seeking to undermine the Hong Kong government's interest and political structure,'' will be barred from election for 5 years;

Whereas, on February 28, 2021, Hong Kong authorities arrested 47 pro-democracy figures, most of whom are or were elected government officials, with ''conspiracy to commit subversion'' under the national security law for organizing and participating in an informal democratic primary for the Legislative Council;

Whereas, on February 28, 2021, Secretary of State Antony Blinken stated, ''We condemn the detention and charges filed against pan-democratic candidates in Hong Kong's elections and call for their immediate release. Political participation and freedom of expression should not be crimes. The U.S. stands with the people of Hong Kong.'';

Whereas, on March 11, 2021, the National People's Congress in Beijing adopted measures designed to fundamentally undo the existing democratic process in Hong Kong; and

Whereas the people of Hong Kong have repeatedly shown extraordinary dedication to the cause of democracy and freedom for more than 3 decades, and almost continuously since 2014, protesting peacefully in the broiling heat and pouring rain while often enduring tear gas, water cannons, and worse, and have organized their communities, written petitions, tried to stand for office, and volunteered for various forms of civic engagement, and when the police attacked protesters, other Hong Kongers stepped up to serve as medics, legal advisers, and liaisons to the protestors' families: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the crackdown carried out in Hong Kong by the Government of the People's Republic of China, the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and the Chinese Communist Party under the illegitimate and arbitrary pretext of national security and notes that the crackdown violates the legal obligations of that Government under—

(A) the international, legally binding Joint Declaration of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the Question of Hong Kong, done at Beijing December 19, 1984 (in this resolution referred to as the ''Sino-British Joint Declaration of 1984''); and

(B) the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, adopted April 4, 1990 (in this resolution referred to as the ''Hong Kong Basic Law'');

(2) expresses solidarity with the people of Hong Kong, including pro-democracy advocates, independent journalists, lawyers, people of faith, and other targeted groups in Hong Kong;

(3) calls on the United States Government to use all diplomatic means and economic tools available, including targeted sanctions and measures provided for in the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act of 2019 (Public Law 116–76; 22 U.S.C. 5701 note) and the Hong Kong Autonomy Act (Public Law 116–149; 22 U.S.C. 5701 note), to—

(A) impose costs on Chinese Communist Party officials, officials of the Government of the People's Republic of China, and officials of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region responsible for—

(i) the criminalization of political dissent under the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (in this resolution referred to as the ''national security law''); and

(ii) the implementation of the national security law;

(B) provide refuge and safe harbor to those Hong Kongers at risk for persecution, including by designating such individuals as Priority 2 refugees of special humanitarian concern;

(C) demand the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners in Hong Kong, including Joshua Wong, Agnes Chow, Jimmy Lai, Martin Lee, Margaret Ng, Lee Cheuk-yan, Leung Kwok-hung, Benny Tai, Tony Chung, the Hong Kong 12, and all others who have been arrested or detained on account of acts of political expression or speech, and press for all charges against those individuals to be dropped; and

(D) demand the revocation of the political oaths required of civil servants and candidates for district councilor and the Legislative Council of Hong Kong, the reinstatement of the previously disqualified members of the Legislative Council, and the revision of election laws to ensure consistency with Article 26 of the Hong Kong Basic Law;

(4) calls on the United States Government, as it contemplates future bilateral or multilateral agreements with the Government of the People's Republic of China, to take into full consideration the fact that the Government of the People's Republic of China is failing to honor its clear obligations under the Sino-British Joint Declaration of 1984; and

(5) calls on the United States Government to urge the International Olympic Committee to consider relocating the 2022 Winter Olympics from Beijing to another suitable host city located outside of China, on account of the flagrant violations of human rights committed by the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party in mainland China, Hong Kong, the Tibet Autonomous Region and other Tibetan areas, the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, and elsewhere.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I have 8 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority anc Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 18, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 18, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 18, 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 Thursday, March 18, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 18, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 18, 2021, at 1O a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

The Special Committee on Aging is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 18, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MARCH 22, 2021

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 3 p.m., Monday, March 22; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the nomination of Martin Joseph Walsh to be Secretary of Labor as provided under the previous order; further, that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be notified of the Senate's action.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. For the information of Senators, on Monday, after the Senate convenes, we expect to swear in Karen Gibson to be Senate Sergeant at Arms.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order following the remarks of Senator CORNYN.

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

The Senator from Texas.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, whether the administration wants to call it a challenge or a mess—or pick your word—a calculated word choice does not change the magnitude of what is currently happening on our southern border.

Hundreds of unaccompanied children are being detained on a daily basis, completely overwhelming the capacity of the Border Patrol and Health and Human Services to deal with it—witness the two new centers opened up in Midland, TX, in West Texas, and a new one at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center in Dallas that will house approximately 300,000 young men.

At one point, there were more than 4,200 children in custody, nearly 3,000 of them held beyond the 72-hour time limit set by the Flores Settlement. For comparison, there were about 2,600 children in custody at any given time during the peak in 2019, so 2,600 now to 4,200.

In many cases, these children don't make the dangerous journey north with their parents but in the care of human smugglers—coyotes, as they are called. Parents pay these smugglers thousands of dollars to bring their children to the United States.

In some cases, along that long, treacherous journey, whether it is from Central America or from Mexico or anywhere else—because these children are not just limited to Mexico and Central America—these children are kidnapped by the smugglers on their way to the border because they know having a child in their custody will give them preferential treatment and allow them to stay in the country. Sadly, we know that, too often, children are mistreated, abused, or even sexually assaulted on the way to the United States.

There is a lot of work that has to be done from the moment the Border Patrol first encounters these children until they are transferred into the custody of Health and Human Services, but the Border Patrol lacks the physical space or the personnel or the resources to provide this number of children with the care and support they need and also to carry out their duties, especially during a deadly pandemic.

On Monday, I spoke with the Border Patrol sector chiefs and the Office of Field Operations Directors from across Texas. We talked about the surge in unaccompanied children and the cascading consequences this crisis has had on our other border missions.

As Border Patrol officers encounter, transport, and care for these children, they are often invariably diverted from their job securing the border, and so security gaps are left along the rest of the border. This is not an accident. This is really part of the strategy that the human smugglers and drug smugglers have: flood the zone, preoccupy the Border Patrol taking care of children, leaving gaps that can then be exploited, either by more human smugglers or by drug smugglers.

We all know that large amounts of heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine, fentanyl, and the like come across our southern border. Ninety-two percent, according to the DEA, of all the heroin in the United States comes from Mexico.

So these smugglers and their really criminal organizations that ply in different commodities and different things, they flood the system to distract the Border Patrol and then exploit the vulnerabilities to bring people, drugs, weapons, and money across.

One of the Border Patrol chiefs told me that Customs and Border Protection needs to be able to identify and classify the migrants they meet, and it is being strained, which is impacting national security. For example, last Friday when I was in Carrizo Springs and in Laredo with my friend HENRY CUELLAR, a Democrat representing a border district in Texas along the Rio Grande, the sector chief told us that, just so far this year, migrants from 54 different countries were detained coming across the border in the Del Rio Sector. Now, I think that sort of gives you a better idea that this is not just a localized phenomenon; these are criminal networks with really connections all around the world. If you want to come from Mexico, for example, it will cost you a few thousand bucks. If you want to come from Central America, you pay a little bit more of a premium. If you want to come from Europe or a Middle East country, it will cost you even more. But it is only a matter of money because that is the only thing that these smugglers and these criminal organizations care about.

But then people from 54 different countries, some of which are countries of special interest to the United States for national security purposes—54 countries represented just so far this year in one sector, and I am sure the other Border Patrol sectors have similar stories.

What is more, since October, the Border Patrol has encountered more than 4,000 criminal aliens, nearly double the amount from the previous fiscal year in less than half the time. In order to qualify as a criminal alien, you have committed significant crimes, like assault, battery, domestic violence, sexual offenses, even manslaughter and homicide. Of course, these are just the ones we know about and who were actually detained. Many more—we don't know how many more, but many more get through unobstructed across the border.

While Border Patrol is overwhelmed by the sheer number of people crossing

our border, including the alarming number of children sent by themselves, the Border Patrol isn't able to properly surveil or apprehend potentially dangerous individuals and substances.

We have experienced migration surges in the past, most recently in 2014 when President Obama called it a humanitarian crisis and then again in 2019. We know how dangerous the journey to our border is for migrants, especially children. We know that spring and summer are often the busiest time periods. In other words, what we are seeing now is just a foreshadowing of what we expect to see in the coming weeks and months.

We also know that these criminal organizations pay attention to what our leaders are saying here in the United States. Congressman CUELLAR and I, when we were in Carrizo Springs, were able to talk to a number of young men, teenagers, and asked how they heard about the border and their ability to get across. They said, well, they saw it on TV or heard from family members here in the United States or saw it on social media that now is the time to come, with a new administration that is not committed to border security, and so this was the time to make their run across the border.

But these organizations do pay attention, and unfortunately the actions of the Biden administration not only contributed to another surge this year, but they also made likely that it would be bigger than any other in recent memory.

The President campaigned on policies that would lead to this very outcome. After all, when you send a message that migrants can come to the United States even with the flimsiest asylum claims and stay for years until they are resolved and don't even really have to show up for their court hearing because of the backlog of 1.2 million cases in our immigration courts, what do we expect to happen?

What the Border Patrol tells me is that this is a combination of push factors and pull factors. The push factors we are familiar with. Who wouldn't want to come to the United States for a better life? Who wouldn't want to avoid the violence and crime associated with some of the gang activity in Central America? We all understand that. But the pull factors are the sense that you can actually successfully get into the United States through illegal means or by making a false asylum claim and then overloading the system and basically navigate your way into the United States without any negative consequences.

I believe we need to set up a system that honors and respects all legitimate asylum claims, but this isn't it. We need to find a way to move the children and other people claiming asylum to the head of the line so they can present their claims to an immigration judge. But, as you can imagine, only about 10 to 12 percent of the asylum claims are actually granted, and if your only concern is making it into the United States, maybe you don't want to go in front of an immigration judge. But then again, those who don't, the immigration judge, when their appointed court date comes, issues a default order of deportation. So if you had a valid asylum claim that would have been granted by a judge, you have lost that by virtue of your nonappearance at your hearing.

Well, Secretary Mayorkas said we are on track to see the highest number of border crossings in almost 20 years, and I can't say that I am surprised. There is simply no way to rewind time and prevent this crisis from happening, but it is absolutely urgent first that the administration acknowledge it and then work with Congress to address it.

I would encourage the President to follow his own advice, which is to listen to the experts. The experts I listen to when I travel to the border are Border Patrol, Health and Human Services, and the Office of Refugee Relocation. Those are the three Federal Government Agencies that deal with this crisis. I would be glad to welcome him to my State and introduce him to the dedicated men and women along the border who provide valuable services but who simply are overwhelmed and undersourced.

The communities in which they live along the border are beautiful, vibrant communities with outstanding local leaders, but they also feel like they have been abandoned by the Federal Government. They are the ones who are disproportionately impacted when you see a flood of humanity come through their borders, and they try their best, through nongovernmental organizations or just out of simple human mercy and sympathy for the plight of these migrants, to help them any way they can. But they, too, are overwhelmed. They are doing everything they can to manage the crisis, which they had no hand in creating, and they should not be expected to manage it without help from the Federal Government that is, indeed, responsible for our border.

Law enforcement, mayors, county judges, nongovernmental organizations—I have a long list of folks that I would be happy to share with the administration if they would be willing to listen. Indeed, one of the most significant things I think that President Biden could do, like he did after the polar vortex, the big freeze we had in Texas, the 120-year weather event—he was good enough to come to our State and talk to the first responders. I think he would benefit greatly if he made another trip on Air Force One down to the border so he could do what I have had the opportunity to do, and that is to talk to the experts and the people on the ground who understand this crisis and who have some, I think, very constructive ideas about how to deal with it.

REMEMBERING ROGER SOFER

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, on another matter, nearly 20 years ago, I took my first trip to Israel. I had a good stroke of fortune: I met a brilliant, hilarious, opinionated, larger-than-life man named Roger Sofer. Roger was simply unlike anyone I had ever met before or anyone I have met since. He could captivate a room with anything from a serious discussion of national security and Israel-U.S. policies, to stories from his childhood, to jokes that, well, probably shouldn't be repeated here on the Senate floor.

Roger cared deeply about his family, his Jewish faith, and the many friends he earned throughout his life. I consider myself fortunate to be among those friends, and I would like just to share a few words about my friend Roger, who passed away last week.

As the old saying goes in my State, Roger wasn't born in Texas, but he got there as fast as he could. The incredible story of his life began in Queens, NY. It led him to the University of Tampa on a baseball scholarship as a left-handed pitcher and then to Fort Dix with the Army. He then went back to Florida, where he worked as a cabdriver, home to New York as a sales representative, and then finally to Houston, TX, where he lived when he and I met.

Clearly, young Roger was an enterprising guy. He understood the value of hard work, and even more importantly, he learned about the value of relationships. Roger and his friend Dan Steiner started their own financial planning and insurance firm and quickly found success.

Roger truly cared about everyone he worked with—his clients, his employees, and their families.

That personal attention translated into a thriving business and a lot of rewards in recognition to go along with it. But Roger never let work consume his entire life or take away from the people and causes he cared most about.

Roger grew up in a religious home and inherited a deep appreciation of his Jewish faith. His father Hyman was his hero and instilled in him a love of our country, as well as a love of Israel. Hyman would say, ''Don't worry about business, Roger, because if there's no Israel, there will be no business.'' That thought stuck. Throughout his life, Roger fought to secure a brighter future for our friends and allies in Israel.

In the 1980s, Melvin Dow and Stanford Alexander, two giants in the AIPAC community—the American Israel Public Affairs Committee—asked Roger to help grow the pro-Israel committee in Houston. Well, I know Roger never did anything halfway; he poured his heart and his soul into outreach efforts. When you have somebody as outgoing, passionate, and likable as Roger, you are bound to get results.

Roger's work in Houston was so successful that in 2002 he was asked to serve on AIPAC's National Board, a position he would hold for nearly two

decades. Lucky for me, that is how Roger and I ended up on the same trip to Israel in March of 2002. We visited Israel during the Second Intifada, a time of serious violence and unrest. Little did I know at the time I wouldn't just look to Roger for insight during our trip; he would become a trusted friend and source of advice over the next two decades.

Make no mistake, I wasn't the only one who learned from Roger. As a member of AIPAC's National Board, he would make almost monthly trips to Washington, DC—often with a group of Texans—to advocate for a strong future and a strong U.S.-Israel relationship.

Teddy Roosevelt once said, ''Nobody cares how much you know until they know how much you care.'' It only took a few words to realize how much Roger knew because you also saw how much he cared. He cared deeply about Israel, its people, and its success, and became a respected voice on the importance of a strong U.S.-Israel relationship. He didn't care if you were a Democrat or a Republican—if you were willing to listen, he was happy to talk. But meetings with Roger weren't limited to conversations about the Middle East or ongoing political tensions; in typical fashion, he peppered every conversation with a lot of fun too.

It wasn't uncommon for Roger to walk into a meeting with a Senator or a Congressman and show them pictures of his beloved dog, Ginger. It was even less surprising for that person to ask Roger the next time that they saw him, ''So, Roger, how is Ginger doing?'' He was a big animal lover, and along with dogs, his other great love, interestingly enough, was horses. He loved the animals themselves, as well as the atmosphere and energy at horse tracks. He was such a great handicapper that Rice University sent a statistics class with him to a horse track just so they could see how he did it.

Last year, just days after being diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia, Roger was able to witness the moment every horse enthusiast dreams about. A horse he co-owned named Tiz the Law qualified for the Kentucky Derby. That horse would go on to win the Belmont Stakes and place second in the Run for the Roses—one of Roger's proudest accomplishments.

Yes, Roger was a man of many talents: a left-handed pitcher, an expert handicapper, an amateur comedian, a skilled storyteller, and an effective advocate. Above all, though, Roger's greatest skill was his ability to live fully and authentically. He valued his relationships above all else, and he could turn a complete stranger into a friend with just a few words. I believe our friendship was proof of that.

Sadly, I, along with my wife Sandy, send condolences to Roger's beloved family, including his wife Linden; his children, Nicole, Scott, Jennifer, and Rebecca; as well as his grandchildren, Elizabeth, Sam, and Beau.

Roger lived an extraordinary life, and he leaves behind an unforgettable legacy. I am grateful to have known this man.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, MARCH 22, 2021

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday, March 22, 2021.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 3:35 p.m., adjourned until Monday, March 22, 2021.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate March 18, 2021:

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WILLIAM JOSEPH BURNS, OF MARYLAND, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BRIAN P. MCKEON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE FOR MANAGEMENT AND RESOURCES.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

XAVIER BECERRA, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM O'HALLERAN

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2021

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, on March 17, 2021, I was unable to vote for H.R. 1651, the COVID–19 Bankruptcy Relief Extension Act of 2021. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 1651.

CELEBRATING THE HERITAGE OF ROMANI AMERICANS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2021

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, this body has long recognized the accomplishments, unique heritage, and rich diversity of cultures that make up the United States.

Roma have been part of every wave of European migration to the United States from the colonial period to the present day, coming from every part of Europe. There may be as many as a million Americans with some Romani ancestry, whether distant or more recent. Roma enrich the fabric of our nation, tie our country to Europe, and build the transatlantic bond.

Few cultures are as geographically diverse as the Romani people. Romani people trace their ancestry to the Indian subcontinent and settled throughout Europe roughly a thousand years ago. In some places, Roma were subject to expulsion or arrest solely because of their ethnicity. In the Wallachian and Moldovan principalities, Roma were enslaved by the crown, nobility, and monasteries until the founding of modem Romania. Sometimes Roma were subjected to forced assimilation.

Roma were among the many groups of people that suffered at the hands of the Nazis and their allies during World War II. At least 23,000 Roma were brought to Auschwitz; almost all of them perished in the gas chambers or from starvation, exhaustion, or disease. Some Roma also died at the hands of sadistic SS doctors, like Joseph Mengele, who performed inhumane medical experiments on Roma. Approximately 25,000 Roma were deported en masse from Romania to Transnistria by the Antonescu regime in 1942; at least 11,000 of them perished. The Romani collective farms in German-occupied Soviet territory became Romani mass grave sites. It is estimated that between 200,000 to 500,000 Romani people were killed in death camps and elsewhere throughout Europe.

As chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I have supported efforts to acknowledge this tragic past, including by ensuring that survivors and historians have access to relevant archives like those from Bad Arolsen and Lety. I've also ensured that Romani voices have been heard in the Commission's work to advance safe, equitable, and inclusive societies. I welcome the groundbreaking collaboration by the FXB Center for Health and Human Rights at Harvard and the Voice of Roma to collect qualitative and quantitative data about the lived realities and challenges faced by American Roma.

Today I am re-introducing a resolution recognizing and celebrating the heritage of Romani Americans.

This resolution does four things. First, it celebrates Romani American Heritage. Second, it supports International Roma Day and the Department of State's robust engagement in related activities. April 8 marks "International Roma Day" around the world and is a day to celebrate Romani culture and raise awareness of the issues facing Romani people. Third, it commemorates the destruction of the "Gypsy Family Camp" at Auschwitz. Fourth, it commends the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum for its critically important role in promoting remembrance of the Holocaust and educating about the genocide of Roma.

Through this resolution, we celebrate our shared history and applaud the efforts to promote transnational cooperation among Roma at the historic First World Romani Congress on April 8, 1971.

I ask that you join me and cosponsor Chairman GREGORY MEEKS in supporting the resolution.

CONGRATULATING THE FALCONS BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. SCOTT FITZGERALD

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2021

Mr. FITZGERALD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Hustisford Falcons High School boys' basketball team for their record breaking and historic win at the Division 5 state championship earlier this month.

The Falcons convincingly delivered the program's first-ever state championship title. They kicked it off with a 26–5 run over the game's opening 13 minutes and cruised to a 69–35 victory at the final buzzer. When all was said and done, the Falcons finished the game with 11 blocks against the Macks, setting a new record, and finished the entire tournament with 15 blocked shots, breaking yet another state tournament record. This is a game that is sure to go down in the program's history books, each player should be very proud of themselves.

Hustisford is my very own alma mater and I'm proud of these young men on their victory. I applaud Coach Hopfinger and the entire team for bringing home the first-ever gold ball to add to the school's trophy case. This team has overcome many obstacles in the face of the COVID–19 pandemic, but they persevered and brought home impressive hardware to show for it. Congratulations to the Falcons for their hard work all season. This achievement is well deserved.

RECOGNIZING THE FRONTLINE HEALTHCARE WORKERS OF SOUTH DAKOTA

HON. DUSTY JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2021

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize, celebrate, and honor the frontline healthcare workers of the great state of South Dakota.

Some of these South Dakota heroes are: Codi Jean Ackerman, Marie Adams, Larin Michelle Albertson, Savannah Allen, Shiann Jo Allen, Christina Marie Allery, Candace Alvarado, Amber Marie Andersen, Stephanie Ashley Anderson, Laryssa Jean Anderson, Christina Lee Anderson, Angela Marie Andre-Lyle, Hannah Kathleen Annetta Andreae, Tara Rae Andrews, Terri L. Andrews, Donna Kay Appletoft, Erica Marie Arends, Megan Rose Armfield, Shawna Nichol Augustine, Teresa Ann Austin, Rachel Ivy Aydelotte, Karla May Bailey, Jackie Ann Bair, Taylor Marie Baker, Noelle Page Bakley, Brooke Erin Baldwin, Naomi Banks, Brena Kay Banks, Stacey Bannwarth, Kassi Raquel Barington-Steele, Deborah Kay Barnard, Tara Ann Barrick, Miranda Marie Barta, Nicole Barthel, Dena Kay Barton, Kimberly Jo Barton, Robin Elaine Bass, Arlene Batin, Melissa Baumgartner, Kaylee R. Baustian, Marissa Paige Beck, Theresa Beck, Stacie R. Becker, Tara Lee Beckmann, Amy Beek, Ashley Lauren Behl, Vicki Lynn Behrens, Maggie Bell, Jenica Lynn Bender, Erica Rose Bender, Megan Louise Bennett, Kelcey Colene Benson, Mary Margaret Benson, Sarah Jeanne Benting, Tara Leigh Berg, Lydia Michelle Best, Julie Bickett, Lori Ann Bies, Joan Marie Biever, Mary Lynn Blegen, Michele Block, Renae Esther Blume.

Chimere Lanee Board, Sandra Caryl Bohr, Danielle Janae Boluyt, Lindsay Boomsma, Amber Lee Bootsma, Rachelle Bosma, Jessica Leigh Bowar, Rebecca Bracha, Carissa Kelli Brandt, Ashleigh JeAnne Brandt, Kristina Breske, Evelyn Briest, Autumn Grace Brockevelt, Bryan Bronson, Jessica Erin Brown, Natasha Yvonne Broz, Haley Cheyenne Bruske, Kellie Anne Bryant, Kara Lynn Buettgenback, Susan Burckhartzmeyer, Sharon K. Buseman, Courtney Amanda Callejas, Jamie Lynn Carlson, Darla Ann Carlson, Samantha Michelle Carlson, Brenda Rae Carrillo, Debra D. Carter, Jennifer Jo Centineo, Katlyn Marie Chaloupka, Jamie Lynn Cheng, Mia Marie Cherry, Joseph Blake Child, Gaelle Albane Chleborad, Kimberly Kay Christensen, Roxanne Clausen, Cassie Lynn Clausen, Cathleen Patricia Climis, Stephanie Renae Coats, Sarah Elizabeth Cole, Lisa Dawn Conklin, Wendy Dawn Connell, Nicole Anne Conrad, Kelsey Ranae Cordell, Ann

Marie Cornella, Lindsey Marie Cottrell, Paul Joseph Courteau, Gene Cody Crawford, Brittany Ann Crocker, Dionna Lynn Crofts, Cassie Ann Crowser, Laura Lee Curtis, Susan Dahl.

Shannon Dahmen, Kayla Marie Dammer, Gayle Elizabeth Dargatz, Hope Dargatz, Julie Dashay, Joanne Lee Davis, Elana Anne Marie Deboer, Ashley Michelle Decker, Ashton Mae Delbridge, Randi Marie Delbridge, Kathy Den Otter, Aida Denislic, Pywe Der, Krista Derby, Jill Nicole Devries, Jeri Gayle Dieters, Cassandra Jo Dominguez, Alexis Dominguez, Connie Marie Dorris, Brittany Ann Dumdei, Karol Ann Dumdei, Stephanie Lynn Durston, Kari Ann Durward, Hailey Leona Dutenhoffer, Ashley A. Dysthe, Gena Elizabeth Eagle, Shanda Rene Ebright, Candy May Egan, Alyssa Claire Ehlebracht, Nicole Ann Eichacker, Stacy Jane Eichhorn, Carolyn Eisenbeisz, Jana L Ekeren, Susannah Janet Elverud, Lindsey Alysa Emly, Kristen Fahey, Kayla Lynn Farlee, Mandy Jo Farris, Alexandria Avery Farthing, Emily Elsie Faulk, Patricia Feldhus, Jennifer Kay Fenwick, Julie Jean Ferris, Sarah Fideler, Miriah Larae Fincher, Lindsay Rae Finer, Kathryn Joan Fisk-Stricker, Kammi Jo Flemming, Ogliglewin Angel Flying Hawk, Michaela Lynn Flynn, Elizabeth Ann Folkerts, Mikayla Mae Forsting, Amber Lee Fortin, Shari Delores Foster, Janna Renee Foxhoven, Morgan Jane Framstad, Laquasha Ann Franklin, Angela Fuhrer, Kasey Jo Gabler, Katie Rae Gaffer, Jennifer Marie Ganske, Otto Rene Garcia, Sierra Diane Gartner, Katelynn Nicole Gehm, Tina Marie Gehrke, Heidi Jean Gehrke, Jamie L. Genovese, Renee Lea Gerbracht, Annamarie Lynn Geveshausen, Maggie Anna Giese, Polly Jean Gill, MA, Stacey Marie Gilmer, Amanda Sue Glaser, Valerie Jayne Gleason, Sina Marie Glover, Heidi Jo Goldammer, Emma Melisa Gomez, Kassidy Nicole Beach Graber, Brooke Venaye Grajczyk, Paula Meraz Grajeda, Mary Beth Grewing, Jeffrey Joseph Grillo, Blair Shalayne Gross, Christine Grosz, Dena Helen Grotewold, Emma Lynn Kessel Grover, Kayla Mae Gukeisen, Lori Gunn, Angela Crystal Guy, Kristen Beth Haar, Taylor Kae Haas, Tasha Hagman, Kathleen Hahn, Christine Marie Haigh, Alyssa Shantel Halseide, Nicole Diane Hamersma, Ann M. Hamilton, Traci Renae Handke, Nina Renee Hanna, Kayleen P. Hansen, Lori Beth Hansen, Tara Ann Hansen, Jill Hanson.

Laurie J. Hanson, Kara Jean Harris, Jessie Kayleen Harris, Renae Lynn Hartsook, Elizabeth Mae Haug, Sara Corine Haugen, Tami Lee Hawkins, Mary Victoria Hayes, Javan Elizabeth Heath, Shayla Diann Hebb, Tracy Lee Heck, Shaina Cintya Hedeen, Suzanne M. Heflin, Linda R. Heilman, Nicole Marie Hein, Lexi Marie Heinz, Elizabeth Heinzmann, Sheila Kaye Heitman, Hailee Marie Henderson, Mikia Marie Henson, Jaycee Rae Herman, Leighah Faye Hertel, Madysen Marie Hilbrands, Caitlin Erin Hild, Mary Hohn, Theresa Marie Holmquist, Sandra Denise Hoogendoorn, Susan R. Hookie, Kayla Nicole Hooth, Jacquelyn Sue Hopkins, Cheryl Horsley, Heather Hubbard, Kaitlyn Tress Ilse, Julie Lyn Isaak, Deborah Ann Jackson, Sydney Ann Jandahl, Stephanie Janshen, LeeAnn Janssen, Rosemary Kay Jensen, Kelly Rae Jensen, Ashley Nicole Jensen, McKayla Lee Jensen, Taylor Jenevieve Jessen, Mary Jessen, Melissa Marie Jimenez Soto, Samantha Ann Johnson, Carol Juhnke, Rachel Kaczor, Keisha Marie Kahler, Dana Marie Kahler Tuschen, Emily M. Karlstad, Morgan Michele Kaus, Haley Sue Kehn, Jacqueline Cheyanne Killian, Larissa Roseann King, Margaret Mary King, Lucy Wanjiru Kinyua, Lindsey Anne Kitchen, Liliann Mawazo Kiyungu, Bryant Chase Knodel, Patricia Lynn Koch, Stacey L. Koch, Caley Marie Kocmich,

Amy Marie Koeppe, Melissa Koester, Angela Kolb, Amy Marie Koll, Kelly Ann Konda, Brooke Ann Kopfmann, Kelly Renae Kounkel, Amanda Kerubo Kramer, Traci Kramer, Lacy Marie Kreachbaum, Melanie Marie Kreitlow, Danielle Kristin Kuehl, Tracy Frances Kueter, Kelsey Marie Kurtenbach, Wendy Lou Kurtz, Britney Jean Lacroix, Teresa Laleman, Brittany Renae Larson, Cody Lane Larson, Nicole Marie Lassle, Lisa Lawrence, Jessica Marie Lawson, Heather Sarah Lee, Michelle Renee Lehan-Kruger, Kelsie Lee Letcher, Monica Rae Likness, Cara Lynn Lingad, Crystal Lingemann, Rochelle Marie Little, Diamond Dominique Little, Rita Lee Little Thunder, Suzanne A Littler, Devin Dani Livermont, Brenda Locke, Pam Locken, Kimberlie C. Lofano, Amanda Ann Lowinske, Rachel Renee Ludemann, Lori Kay Ludolph, Alisia Jo Ludwig, Katie Lundy, Karen Lee Mack, Kelsey Ann Maeschen, Adela J. Maher, Rebecca L. Malsam, Andrea Nicole Malters, Carla J. Marken, Amanda Beth Marquardt, Karina Hellssy Marquez, Elizabeth Dawn Lee Marrufo, Halie Nicole Martchinske, Meghan Marie Martell, Kimberly Ann Martines, Stephanie Sheryl Martinez, Alyssa Martz, Joni Marie Mathis, Rachel Anne Matthews, Erica Azucena Maya, Artee Bea McCaskill, Susan E. McClure, Amanda Susette McGovern, Amy S. McGovern, Jennifer Elizabeth McKee, Mackayla Lynn McKinney, Erica Lynn McVay, Justice Erica Mehlhaff, Carla Meints, Diane Gail Meland, Holly Mentele, Kayla Jo Mentele, Donna Merkel, Ashley Lynn Merkel.

Stephanie Lorraine Merritt, Amanda Mertes, Pamela Mettler, Sara A. Meyer, Tammy Sue Meyer, Genelle K. Micke, Erika Louise Miller, Cheryl L. Miller-Woody, Michelle Mitchell, Tara Ashley Mize, Chelsea Lynn Moe, Linda Mohr, Nichole J. Mommer, Brittany Morgan Morris, Nicole Ann Morton, Betty J. Mostek, Tanya Nicole Mulder, Sydney Marie Mullin, Paige Carroll Musel, Yoni D. Myers, Lori J. Nasers, Tonya L. Nelson, Terami Nespor, Dawn Ness, Sherry Newton, Kadie Jean Nickerson, Kendra Renee Nieman, Billie Jean Norton, Kari B. Novak, Ella Odland, Casey Renae Oleson, Katee Jo Olinger, Kristi Jo Oliver, Maggie Lorelei Olson, Denise Ione Olson, Stephanie J. Olson, Erin Jean Olson, Carlee Rose Olson, Amanda Valerie Osburn, Kristin Ann Osman, Jessica Rae Oswald, Rebecca Lynn Otto, Janet Elaine Otto, Rebecca Ann Paluch, Keysha Briana Panitzke, Rochelle Evonne Pedersen, Nichole Marie Pederson, Jolene Penning, Abigail Lee Perry, Emily Ann Peters, Tammy Lee Peters, Lisa Petersen, Sarah Kathryn Peterson, Danielle Petrocco, Allison Rose Phillips, Alison Marie Pierce, Linda Rae Pokorney, Stacia Poppens, Lindsey Marie Porch, Donna Preheim, Nora Jean Przybilla-Otis, Dannielle Jo Pullan, Tracy Pulse, Richard Christopher Alan Abbott Radtke, Sarah Jo Rahn, Stephanie Raile, Connie Rajewich, Callie Kathleen Ramsey, Josephine Rand, Marissa Faith Randall, Sammi Jo Christine Rasmussen, Christina Katherine Reed, Shaniah Marlene Reilly, Jayden Treasa Reiman, Stephanie Christine Revier, Alyssa Kay Reyelts, Jennifer Marie Reyes, Miranda Jo Richmond, Jennifer Dawn Roberts, Kimberly Ann Roberts.

Catherine Marie Robinson, Edith Rodriguez, Holly Marie Roelfs, Wendy Jane Rogers, Kelly Kay Rogers, Lorri Ann Rombough, Regina Marie Ronfeldt, Shannon Spring Roubideaux, Mindy Marie Ruble, Elise Nichole Rucker, Taya Louise Runge, Trista Marie Rybak, Melanie Marie Rye, Myranda Lea Sandbulte, Stephanie Jo Sargent, Stephanie Leann Saucedo, Katie Sayler, Laura Michelle Schaefer, Kimberly Carol Schamens, Nicole Catherine Schindler, Carrie Anne Schlosser, Shaina Rachele Schmeichel, Kyla Schmidt, Paula Schmidt, Angela Lynn Schmit, Sara Marie Schneider, Agnes Schoeberl, Kathryn Elizabeth Schortzmann, Kimberlee Lynn Schulz, Stacey Schulz, Tracy Schurdevin, Lisa Schwans, Racheal Michelle Scott, Mandy Lynn Senger, Christine P. Sewell, Carley Jean Shepherd, Ashley Nicole Sherman, Sydney Fay Siemonsma, Baily Rochelle Siglin, Shannon Marie Siverling, Melissa Christine Skipton, Renee Dawn Skoglund, Megan Constance Slattery, Kaylee Marie Smidt, Codi J. Smith, Teri Jo Smith, Jamie Leigh Smith, Amanda J. Sorgdrager, Maxi Southard, Stephanie Kay Spain, Kacey Alen Spittle, Phyllis Ann Spitzer, Sharon Stafford, Roberta Louise Stanley, Adrea Marie Stanton, Lori May Sterrett-Gardner, Amanda Michelle Stoterau, Kayla Marie Sturgeon, Shelby Elizabeth-Mai Kalani Svenson, Dolly Gene Swearingen, Taylor Anne Swisher, Alicia Mae Szczesny, Courtney Rachell Taylor.

Samantha Jo Terry, Melody Rae Tesch, Stacey Lea Texley, Alexandrea Carol Thallas, Dalinda Rae Theroux, Amber Osterkamp, Abigail Ostrander, Sharyn Ostrem, Stacy Ott, Jennifer Otto, Julie Otto, Latoya Oubre, Abby Ouellette, Paige Overweg, Darissa Overweg, Camila Oveson, Julie Oyan, Leislie Pacheco Zenon, Lori Page, Taryn Pagel, Elizabeth Pagone, Bradley Painter, Dana Painter-Ward, Dawn Palmer, Roberta Palmer, Abby Palmlund, Rochelle Palmquist, Kelsey Pankonin, Mikaela Pannell, Patricia Pape, Susan Parker, James Parker, Jamie Parker, Aria Parker, Alexandra Parker, JoAnn Parks, Macaela Parmely, Stacey Parrent, Jordan Parr-Hess, Misty Parrow, Geri Paslay, Elizabeth Patterson, Shawn Patton, Christina Paul, Rica Pauli, Michelle Paulson, Tonya Pavlisick, Grace Payne, Estel Pearce, Aspen Pease, Marti Pederson, Susan Pena, Joyce Permann, Paul Perrin, Patricia Person, Mollie Pesola, Sandra Peters, Christine Peters, Taylor Peters, Monique Peters, Dianne Petersen, Treva Petersen, Sarah Petersen, Nicole Peterson, Trudy Peterson, Deborah Peterson, Monica Peterson, Shawn Peterson, Terri Peterson, Dana Peterson, Leslie Peterson, Abigail Peterson, Angela Peterson, Joslin Peterson, Todd Peterson, Angela Peterson, Kristina Peterson, Teshian Peterson, Christina Petik, Madison Petrotto, Victoria Pettyjohn, Kathy Pfaff, Laura Pfeiffer, Cathy Phan, Linda Picek, Sheila Pierce, Darlene Pierce, Michelle Pierce, Kassi Pierce, Melissa Pierson, Sheri Pigors, Heather Pike.

Ashley Pike, Paula Pillatzki, Becky Pitts, Jozlynn Pitts, Tracy Plecity, Kristin Plucker, Cera Plucker, Stefanie Plummer, Sue Podoll, Cindy Pohl, Rebecca Pollreisz, Alena Pomponi-Rennich, AnneMarie Poncelet, Roanna Pope, Ashley Popham, Susan Poppen, Amanda Poste, Danielle Potter, Mary Potts, Jennifer Powell, Alexa Powell, Emmy

Powers-Dinger, Debra Prange, Laura Preheim, Meghan Preston, Andrea Preszler, Jodi Price, Roxann Price, Carolyn Priest, Jamie Pringle, Lorraine Prisinger, Amy Prisinger, Lorella Pritt, Carrie Prokop, Laura Pruett, Jennifer Prugh, Ann Pruitt, JoAnne Pryor, Jayde Puck, Jessica Puckett, Ashley Puetz, Sarah Pugh, Kally Pulse, Brenda Punt, Joshua Punt, Callista Putnam, Kristin Putnam, Judi Quinn, Sandra Rabenhorst, Patricia Rada, Emerald Rademacher, Vicky Radke-Williams, Elizabeth Raecke, Jackie Ragatz, Christopher Ragels, Arti Rai, Melissa Ralfs, Nancy Rambow, Kelli Ramerth, Amy Ramos, Lavonne Randall, Joyce Randolph, Nanette Rasmussen, Kate Rasmussen, Jamie Rath, Dawn Rauert, Kristin Ray, Amy Raymer, Roxanne Redday, Carmel Redshirt, Lisa Reeves, Kelly Reeves-Romero, Jennifer Regan-Hamilton, Susan Rego, Alexis Reich, Dorian Reichenberg, Michael Reiffenberger, Annette Reiman, Ginger Reiners, Cathy Reinert, Jessica Reinert, Beverly Reisdorff, Jayden Reiser-Millard, Tristen Remington, Linda Remund, Linda Renberg, Sarah Renner, Regina Rethke, Kari Rettig, Casey Rettke, Makenzie Revell, Julissa Reyna, Lorelei Reynolds.

Payton Reynolds, Miranda Reynolds-Snodgrass, Sidney Rhinehart, Karrie Richards, Cozette Richardson, Jennifer Riddley, Stephanie Rieck, Katie Riely, Cassidy Riggs, Jennifer Rikala, Cara Riker, Nicole Rima, Marisol Rios, Linda Rishovd, Keather Risken, Julie Roach, Nicole Roach, Kate Roberts, Paulena Robinette, Kimberly Robinson, Jean Rodell, Tania Rodriguez, Jacqueline Roe, Taylor Roemen, Kristin Rogers, Sara Reann Rogers, Paige Rogge, Amber Roggenkamp, Samantha Rokusek, Kerri Rollag, Angel Rollag, Sandra Rolston, Alicia Roman, Chantel Rome, Tracy Ranke, Melanie Rosa, Giselle Rosado Rivera, Jo Rose, Kathryn Roselles, Angela Rosemore, Sherry Rosenau, Anna Rosencranz, Caylor Rosenlund, Barbara Ross, Connie Rossow, Lyla Roth, Tracie Roth, Julie Rothschadl, Karmen Roti, Ann Roubideaux, Jessica Rowley, Reagan Rozell, Connie Rum1, Melody Running, Wallace Running Eagle, Christina Runs Against, Whitney Runs Against, Bailey Rupp, June Ruppelt, Melanie Rusche, Maddie Rusche, Megan Rush, Ashly Russell, Amanda Russell, Sarah Russell, Jennifer Rutlidge, Jacqueline Ryerse, Ethan Saboe, Lorinne Sachau, Miranda Saffel, Kate Saknikent, Haley Salberg, Alicia Salguero, Emily Salguero, Cortney Salmonson, Janine Salverson, Treva Sammons, Jessica Sanchez, Kittina Sandall, Christopher Sanderson, Angela Sanderson, Jennifer Sanderson, Jody Sandine, Shellee Sandmeier, Bonny Sandvik, Geneva Saner, Carolyn Sanford, Katie Sangster, Norma Santema, Jennifer Santos, Sarah Sarff, Danielle Sauer, Roseanna Sawtell, Theresa Saydee, Mary Sayler, Kelsey Saylor, April Schaefer, Michelle Schaeffer, Jennifer Schaeffer, Sara Schaller, Jennifer Schaunaman, Ashley Scheessele, Joan Schell, Amber Schell, Gary Schepel, Karen Scherff, Amanda Scheutzow, Janette Schiager, Karolyn Schildhauer, Joann Schladweiler, Sarah Schlaht.

Robin Schlechter, Rhonda Schleich, Cindy Schlueter, Cheryl Schmidt, Joann Schmidt, Mary Schmidt, Deborah Schmidt, Bobbie Schmidt, Brittany Schmitt, Paula Schmitz, Chelsea Schmoll, Cassandra Schnathorst, Alyssa Schneider, Cassandra Schneider, Cathy Schneider, Lesli Schneider, Kathy Schnell, Wendy Schnider, Caitlin Schoenfelder, Donna Scholten, Tegan Schooler, Regan Schoon, Krystal Schreier, Laura Schuchardt, Elaine Schuldt, Bonnie Schulte, Tiffany Schulte, Julie Schultz, Justice Schultz, Janet Schurman, Karen Schuyler, Brandy Schwab, Melissa Schwan, Clay Schweitzer, Bernice Scott, Jill Scott, Kashmir Scott, Tammy Scott, Laura Scott, Neva Scoular, Tonya Sears, Jessica Sechser, Cassidy Segich, Chelsey Sehr, Joyce Selland, Marcella Semmler, Allison Senior, Amanda Serck, Jeffrey Severson, Beverly Sexton, Jane Sexton, Pamela Seyer, Danielle Sharp, Becky Shatter, Alexis Shenk, Michael Shepperd, Matthew Sherry, Amanda Sherwood, Tracey Shilman, Patty Shinabarger, Mary Shoemaker, Renae Shoemaker, Justin Shoop, Madison Shorb, Mary Shoun, Lorna Shull, Kayla Shumaker, Caitlin Siegel, Mary Sieh, Marcia Siemonsma, Kellie Sigdestad, Patty Siglin, Hannah Sikkink, Debb Sime, Kobe Simmons, Marcia Simon, Abigail Simon, Elizabeth Simonsen, Ruth Sinkgraven, Nicole Sinkie, Tyra Sinkie, Jill Sisson, Sarah Sjomeling, Jeannie Skillman, Donna Skinner, Julie Skogen, Carissa Skogstad, Brandee Skroch, Clarissa Skyberg, Darla Slack, Alexandria Slagle.

Noah Slettum, Nicole Slevin, Linda Slowey, Michael Slowey, Lacey Small, Echo Smit, Carol Smith, Betty Smith, Janet Smith, Diane Smith, Lisha Smith, Michelle Smith, Elizabeth Smith, Sarah Smith, Ashley Smith, Shari Smith, Makenzie Smith, Roxann Snyder, Abby Snyder, Desirae Snyder, Jaya Snyders, Kristina Sokol, Larissa Sokolosky, Holly Solem, Cassie Sommerland, Kalina Sommerstedt, Sophia Sommervold, Hannah Soukup, Savannah Sowards, Sharon Spaniol, Janet Spearman, Genevieve Spears, Chastity Spiry, Brenda Splett, Kelsie Spotanske, Starla Spotted Horse, Mary St Pierre, Erika Stack, Erica Stafford, Emily Stafford, Penny Stahl, Laura Stahl, Penny Stands, Diane Stangohr, Patricia Starkey, Elizabeth Stearns, Geraldine Steckelberg, Kalissa Steffen, Laura Steichen, Brenda Steiger, Lyndsey Stekl, Isabella Stelzle, Bonnie Stephens, Michelle Stephens, Janice Stepp, Lynda Stern, Charlene Sterner, Amy Stevens, Susan Stewart, Haley Stewart, Christie Stewart, Rhonda Stewart, Debra Stofferahn, Tami Stokes, LaToya Stokes, Kelsey Stoltenberg, Sara Stonefield, Melessa Stonehouse, Jessica Storevik, Tara Storm, Debbie Storms, Destiney Storms, Shayna Storms, Katelyn Story, Cherie Stoterau, Sasha Stover, Megan Straatmeyer, Cheryl Strang, Arianna Street, Steven Streeter, Margaret Streier, Molly Strnad, Shelly Strohfus, Sonja Stroman, Rachel Stromseth, Ashley Strong, Kimberly Stroschein, Michelle Strout, Anna Struck, Carrie Struckman, Liberty Ann Strutz, Jessie Stubbe, Sandra Stuntebeck, Rachel Sturgeon, Leona Stygles, Carmen Sudbeck, Brianna Sudenga.

Nancy Suedmeier, Kimberley Sukstorf, Kelsey Sumners, Hannah Sumption, Julia Sundblad, Aryn Sundquist, Lisa Sundstrom, JaeShaun Sutton, Roger Svanda, Tracy Sveeggen, Shelby Svenson, Patricia Swain, Antoinette Swan, Erin Swan, Ellen Swank, Tammy Swanson, Kelly Swanson, Mari Swanson, Wynter Swanson, Judy Swartz, Alyssa Swearingen, Casey Swearingen, Siana Swedlund, Roxann Sweeter, Kathy Swenson, Barbara Swenson, Lori Swett, Sandra Sykora, Sheila Syverson, Michelle Syverson, Jenna Szymanski, Barbara Szymonski, Antonia Tamayo, Jessica Tant, Stacy Tarrell, Linda Taylor, Patricia Taylor, Katherine Taylor, Brittany Tebbe, Kathy Teeslink, Dawn Teeslink, Melissa Tempel, Casey Tempel, Jennifer Tennermann, Dana Tenold, Denise Terry, Kristi Terwee, Barbara Thaler, Ryan Thames, Erin Theis, Jennifer Thelen, Jessica Thepsilik, Keanna Thesenvitz, Debra Theunissen, Anna Thibodeau, Mary Thiga-Peck, Lesia Thomas, Holly Thomas, Malissa Thomas, Karly Thomas, Marissa Thomes, Justin Thompson, Sara Thompson, Terri Thompson, Brian Thompson, Wendy Thompson, Alicia Thompson, Corrine Thompson, Amy Thompson, Lindsey Thompson, Brenna Thompson, Gina Thorne, Heidi Thorpe, Jordan Thorsby, Ashlee Thorson, Courtney Thraen, Terri Thurman, Jessica Tieszen, Tim Tilberg, Manessa Tilley, Brittany Tillma, Sara Tillma, Kristi Timm, Shannon Tipton, Lyndsay Tipton, Jackie Tish, Nyah Titterington, Kenda Titze, Cassie Tjaden, Holly Todd, Macy Tolley, Nina Tamic, Pamela Tonneson, Emiley Tooley, Shevada Tools, Ashley Topping.

Jacqueline Torkelson, Lynn Toupal, Susan Tousley, Brittney Townsend, Makenzie Traufler, Macy Trautner, Mandi Trebbe, Janel Trego, Barbara Trhlin, Marie Trowbridge, Becky Trudeau, ZoAnn Trumbull, Sarah Trygstad, Bonnie Tschetter, Sydney Tschetter, Shauna Tunheim, Zenia Turcios, Christina Turgeon, Cheryl Turo, Tonia Turpin, Carmela Tuttle, Mary Tuttle, Marisa Twait, Marva Twohearts, Marlene Tyson, Lisa Uhre, Karin Uhrich, Sharon Ulrich, Melody Underberg, Ashley Uptagrafft, Kathryn Uthe, Hannah Valentine, Jenna Vallette, Cameron Van Beek, Kathleen Van Fossen, Rena Van Hofwegen, Jessica Van Roekel, Nicole Van Westen, Sarah VanBriesen, Sue Vande Kamp, Lisa Vandemore, Jenna VandenBos, Chelsea Vanderlinde, Amy Vanderpol, Samantha Vanderpol, Maria Vandewalle, Lundia Vankpana, Andrea VanOsdel, Heather Vanotterloo, Merry VanRoekel, Patricia Vanstralen, Rebecca Vargason, Amybeth Varilek, Karen Yams, Sarah Vavruska, Jeffrey Veen, Robin Veflin, Agnes Velasco, Emily Venner, Jessica VenOsdel, Jayne Verhey, Stephanie Vermaas, Dee Vermeulen, Linda Vermeulen, Mark Verner, Margaret Verville, Regina Vest, Lana Vevig, Dawn Vilhauer, Lezlie Vilhauer, Hazel Vilhauer, Eunice Vinales Escobar, Jeani Vincent, Cheri Vogt, Robert Voje, Jesse Volek, Karma Vollmer, Denise Volmer, Kailey VonEye, Carolyn Voog, Miranda Vore, Anna Voss, Peggy Vostad, Kasie Vostad, Susan Vowell, Anna Voyles, Teri Waagen, Patricia Wagner.

Kayla Wagner, Tiara Wagner, Deborah Wahl, Amanda Waite, Deanna Waldron, Lulu Waletzki, Tandy Walker, Lori Walker, Lisa Walker, Betty Walker, Kaitlyn Walker, Sean Wallace, Kendra Wallace, Elizabeth Walter, Jessica Walter, Maranda Walter, Rose Walters, Connie Jo Walters, Emily Walther, Karina Ward, Angela Ware, Darla Warkenthien, Kylee Warrick, Carol Warwick, Lanette Washenberger, KayeLynn Waterman, Marlajean Waters, Diliam Watson, Ralph Webb, Rosemary Weber, Bethany Weber, Nicole Weber, Jessica Weber, Stephanie Weber, Jessica Webster, Vicki Weeldreyer, Cari Wegner, Angela Weidenbach, Brittany Weidmann, Lisa Weisbeck, Christine Weischedel, Mary Weisenburger, Rebecca Weismantel, Pamela Welch, Kathleen Welch-

Patterson, Susan Welder, Julia Welding, Gayla Wells, Joy Welsh, Mikayla Wendorff, Lindsey Wenger, Peggy Werdel, Danielle Werkmeister, Kayleen Werner, Traesha West Carlisle, Chantell Westberg, Emily Westfield, Sally Westphal, Danelle Wetsit, Hidie Wetzler, Stephanie Weyer, Jean Whalin, Donnel Wheeler, Tina Whipple, Jenny White, Nora White Eagle, Tiffany White Eyes, Bonnie Whitebull, Karen Whitford, Teri Whitham, Debra Whitlock, Shannon Whitney, Doreen Whitney, Andrea Whittington, Jennifer Wickherst, Kelly Wiehr, Alissa Wiest, Sandra Wilcox, Katelyn Wilde, Macie Wiles, Brenna Wilke, Julie Williams, Kimberly Williams, Phyllis Williams, Bernadette Willuweit, Geraldine Wilson.

Kerri Wilson, Georgia Wilson, Clarissa Wilson, Heather Wilson, David Winchell, Jessica Wingen, Sarah Winter, Donna Winters, Haley Winters, Julia Wipf, Michaela Wipf, Hunter Wirkus, Abby Wiskur, Patti Witkop, Judy Witkowski, Nancy Wittmeier, Mindy Wixon, Yvonne Wohlhueter, Sherry Woitzel, Tiffany Wojahn, Kathryn Wolf, Rick Wolf, Theresa Wolf, Muriah Wolf, Jeffrey Wolfe, Erin Wolfe, Sheila Wolff, Robert Wollman, Janet Wollman, Krista Wollman, MaClay Wollschlager, Whitney Wollschlager, Cynthia Wolter, Saynora Woltjer, Teresann Wong, Allen Wong, Debra Wood, Dawnita Wood, Alyssa Wood, Dalice Woodard, Makayla Wooledge, Barbara Worrall, Hannah Wozniak, Roselyn Wright, Kayla Wulf, Sarah Wulff, Lenaya Wurtz, Jessica Yada, Alecia Yaggie, Patricia Yanzick, Tracy Yeargan, Melissa Yecha, Crystal Yonker, Madison Young, Charlene Young-Cunningham, Grace Yount, Shannon Ysker, Danielle Yuhas, Karen Zacharias, Susan Zam, Jessica Zavala, Treva Zellers, Linda Zemlicka, Heather Zens, Tessa Zens, Amber Ziebart, Tamera Zimbelmann, Shannon Zimiga, Makayla Zirbel, Mellissa Zirpel, Rhonda Zomer, Marilyn Zomer, Colleen Zweep, Alison Aadahl, Briana Aadland, Juliana Aadland, Mackenzie Aalbu, Debra Aalderks, Rachel Aamold, Danielle Aanenson, Amber Aanenson, Emily Aanenson, Kierstin Aanenson, Colleen Aaron, Kelli Aarstad, Josey Aasby, Amanda Aasheim, Paula Abbas, Caitlin Abbink, and Karla Abbott.

Over the past year they have faced challenges most of us cannot even imagine. They have shown incredible resolve in the face of adversity. They have shown us all how to seek positivity and hope in each day as we weather the storms that come our way.

I couldn't be more thankful to represent the incredible people across South Dakota and all over the nation who work hard each day, not for fame, not for recognition or for money, but for the betterment of their communities. This is what makes America strong. I am grateful for the opportunity to recognize these hard-working individuals.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF TOLEDO BEING NAMED THE TOP METROPOLITAN AREA

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2021

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Toledo, Ohio, for being selected by Site Selection Magazine as a Top Metropolitan Area in the United States. Toledo has shown what a strong community with the ambition to bring new investment to the area can do to create opportunities for the metropolitan area.

In order to be considered a metropolitan city for this particular award, the area must have a population ranging from 200,000 to 1 million. Toledo was selected for this award by Site Selection because of the new business investments brought to the metropolitan area. In 2020, Toledo had an estimated $2.2 billion worth of projects that are expected to create 3,500 jobs.

Fostering a cooperative environment between businesses and local government has resulted in continued economic growth in the area. Toledo has brought millions in investments from businesses including Amazon, Stellantis, General Motors, Libbey Glass, and many more. The great work that Toledo has done despite the COVID–19 challenge is inspirational and shows the incredible work that is occurring in Northwest Ohio.

Congratulations to Toledo, on being named a Top Metropolitan Area.

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE-SAVING ACTIONS OF PAUL, PHILLIP, PATRICK AND BENJAMIN MOTYLINSKI

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2021

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Paul, Phillip, Patrick, and Benjamin Motylinski of Dundee, Michigan. Their heroic efforts are worthy of commendation.

On Sunday, February 29th Paul Motylinski was driving down Custer Road in Monroe County, Michigan when he noticed someone had fallen through the ice of a nearby pond. He responded quickly by calling 911 and phoning his brothers who were at his mother's house nearby.

Together, the brothers got a hold of a small boat to help get the victim out of the water. As two of them used the boat to reach the victim, the other two brothers used a rope to pull them all back to shore.

The eighty-one year old man was taken to ProMedica Hospital in Monroe and is expected to recover fully thanks to the life-saving efforts of the Motylinski brothers.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in thanking the Motylinski brothers for their efforts that saved a life. We are grateful for Benjamin and Paul Motylinskis continued service to the Michigan community in their role as firefighters with the Dundee Township Fire Department and also to Phillip and Patrick Motylunski for rising to the occasion when lives were at stake. I am proud to commemorate their efforts here today.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. LOTTIE MAE SMITH

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2021

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mrs. Lottie Mae Smith, a lover of children, an outstanding resident, and a true Christian spirit. Mrs. Smith was born in Lake Village, Arkansas, a few miles from where I was born, raised and grew up. Mrs. Smith like many others who grew up in rural Southeast, Arkansas migrated to Chicago, Illinois seeking a better life. Mrs. Smith confessed Christ at an early age in Lake Village where she was a member of the Woodson Temple Church. Once in Chicago she united with True Vine Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Reverend C.L. Cavers where she served on the Mother's Board and the Pastor's Aide Ministry. She initially worked as a Cashier at Market Basket Super Market but because of her love for children she switched careers and worked as a Nanny for the rest of her career until retirement. Lottie was a loving wife, mother, and friend. She married the love of her life Chuck Smith in 1972 and they were inseparable. She leaves to mourn her daughters Loretta K. Brady, Jovanda Schafrik and Charlene Markham and Godson Larry Young, a host of grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and friends.

HONORING LEONEL G. LOPEZ

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2021

Mr. VELA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Leonel G. Lopez for earning the prestigious Eagle Scout rank from the Boy Scouts of America. Only four percent of Boy Scouts achieve the rank of Eagle Scout, which requires dedication, service, leadership, and integrity.

A Brownsville native, Leo is the son of Leonel Lopez and Elia Cornejo Lopez. He is a proud member of Boy Scouts Troop 6 in Brownsville, TX and attends Veterans Memorial High School.

Leo has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities including camping, fishing, and hunting. Over the 12 years that Leo has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, church, and community. Most notably, Leo has contributed to his church community through his Eagle Scout project.

I applaud Leo's diligence to complete the lengthy review process that accompanies becoming an Eagle Scout. An important part of that process is completing a community service project. As a man of faith, Leo chose his community service project with guidance from his church leaders at Holy Family Catholic Church, where he has been an altar server since he was eight years old. Leo's project included cleaning and repainting every guideline, arrow, and handicap marker in his church's parking lot. Leo's initiative to remedy this problem demonstrates his leadership and his desire to contribute to his community.

I proudly commend Leo for his achievements with the Boy Scouts of America. He understands the importance of commitment and perseverance, and I know that he will continue to demonstrate these qualities in his future endeavors. I ask my colleagues to join me and my community in recognizing Leonel G. Lopez and wishing him continued success as an Eagle Scout and in completing his final year of high school.

RECOGNIZING SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING DAY

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2021

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Friday, March 26, 2021 as International Social Emotional Leaming Day. On the last Friday of this month, partners from around the world will come together to showcase Social Emotional Leaming, or SEL, and promote the practice in support of their schools, organizations, and communities.

SEL is the process through which all young people and adults acquire and apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions, and achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions.

SEL advances educational equity and excellence through authentic school-family-community partnerships to establish learning environments and experiences that feature trusting and collaborative relationships, rigorous and meaningful curriculum and instruction, and ongoing evaluation. SEL can help address various forms of inequity and empower young people and adults to co-create thriving schools and contribute to safe, healthy, and just communities.

The competencies of SEL develop throughout our lives and are essential to success in our schools, workplaces, homes, and communities and allow individuals to contribute meaningfully to society. SEL can be taught and developed throughout childhood, adolescence, and beyond.

Supporting SEL is a wise use of public resources, because there can be long-term social and economic benefits to society from the implementation of evidence-based SEL. I have seen first-hand the benefits of this practice on students in my Congressional District with the Warren City Schools. I'd also like to recognize SEL40H for their great work on this issue in Ohio.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Friday, March 26th as International SEL Day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2021

Mr. HUIZENGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today regarding a missed vote. Had I been present for Roll Call vote number 84, On Agreeing to the Rep. Wagner of Missouri Part B Amendment No. 40, I would have voted Yea.

HONORING BEVERLY ERSKINE AS IOWAN OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2021

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Beverly Erskine, the program manager of the VA Central Iowa Health Care System Women's Veteran Program, as Iowan of the Week. Women are the fastest-growing population within the veteran community, and the Women's Veteran Program at the Central Iowa VA gives the heroines who served in uniform access to a full continuum of health care from primary care to mental health services.

With Beverly's leadership, the Women's Veteran Program provides critical services and resources that help our female veterans lead healthy lives, including: inpatient medical, surgical, and mental health care; physical rehabilitation; substance abuse treatment; longterm care and pharmacy services; and on-site mammogram services that offer 3–D imaging. Beverly and her team also arm program patients with helpful information and skills that they can use in their daily routines to better take care of themselves through the Whole Health Program. Mindfulness practices, yoga, and Tia Chi are just a few of the offerings in Whole Health to help female service members thrive. And to protect women veterans from potentially dangerous domestic situations, Beverly and her team provide careful, confidential screening conducted by trained Intimate Partner Violence colleagues.

One of the most special components of the Central Iowa VA Women's Veteran Program is the baby shower program Beverly and her colleagues facilitate each year. They invite women veterans who are pregnant, spouses of Veterans, Veterans who have adopted, and those who have had invitro fertilization to a special baby shower thrown in their honor. Attendees receive gifts, originally donated from partner organizations in Iowa, that help the expectant mothers prepare for the arrival of their newborns. The event is promoted during Women's Health Week and it offers the health care system to give back to those who have already sacrificed so much. As much as it makes the expectant moms feel special, it's truly a highlight for Beverly in her work.

Women's History Month is an opportunity to highlight some incredible work being done by women for women in communities across our country. Beverly is a shining example of how empowering female leaders creates opportunity for our nation to reach its full potential. I will never stop fighting in Congress to expand opportunities for women like Beverly and those who served our nation in uniform and am proud to support programs like the one Beverly leads for our women veterans. It is my honor to name Beverly Erskine our Iowan of the Week.

IN RECOGNITION OF ERNIE ROBERT YANKE'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. SCOTT FITZGERALD

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2021

Mr. FITZGERALD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ernie Robert Yanke of Pewaukee, Wisconsin to celebrate his 100th Birthday. Mr. Yanke has lived a profoundly honorable life and lives up to the title of the Greatest Generation. His life's work deserves recognition and reflection as we mark this important milestone.

Mr. Yanke is a World War II veteran, father, husband, and beloved friend to many. He is best known for is tolerance, compassion, and optimism, although life was not always easy for him. Growing up, Mr. Yanke had very little; he was born to German immigrants in New Britain, Connecticut and moved from one crowded dwelling to another and often stood in long food lines for government issued cheese. Mr. Yanke often felt he escaped accidental death through sheer luck, but he credits the Army with saving his life.

During his time serving in the Army, Mr. Yanke led a decorated military career, rising to the rank of staff sergeant. He was part of the 76th Division in Patton's Third Army and was involved in the battle to rescue the besieged U.S. forces in the Battle of the Bulge. He recalls his hands freezing to the handle of a machine gun he manned atop a truck, firing all night to stave off the enemy. He was among the first troops to enter a concentration camp to provide relief to those held there.

While in the Army, Mr. Yanke first met his wife Eileen Quillin at a USO dance. The minute he saw her, he told her he was coming back after the war to marry her. He did exactly that. Together, Mr. and Mrs. Yanke raised a wonderful family of four children in Wisconsin.

Following his retirement, Mr. Yanke and Eileen spent the 25 years in Port Charlotte, FL, and traveled all over the world. Today, he has two daughters, four adult grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews as well as friends of all ages who he considers family.

As he celebrates his 100th birthday, Mr. Yanke is still a picture of health and demonstrating the core traits the Army taught him. Every day, you can find him doing his daily" 1,000 reps" with his 1.51b weights. I join Mr. Yanke's family in celebrating the 100th birthday of this remarkable man.

RECOGNIZING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF LEGENDARY FOOTBALL COACH RICHARD ''SPARKY'' ADAMS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2021

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a legendary football coach Richard ''Sparky'' Adams, Sr. Mr. Adams was born March 24, to Lee and Josephine Adams. The three-sport athlete graduated from Silver Creek High School before majoring in physical education at Brockport State. After securing his college degree during

the Korean War, ''Sparky'' enlisted in the U.S. Naval Reserves and was assigned to the USS *Randolph* as a signalman.

Rising to the rank of Ensign 3rd Class, his fourteen months on the USS *Randolph* came to an end in the summer of 1954. On returning home, Richard Adams began teaching physical education and coaching football as well as basketball at Monroe High School. In 1956, he started teaching physical education for the Kenmore public schools, started at Kenmore East in 1959, totaling 30 years of teaching in the Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda School District.

''Sparky'' and Jean Rathmann met in 1955, married in 1956, and spent the next sixty-four years together until her passing last year. Their three children, Richard Jr., Penny Jo, and Amy Leigh, as always, took solace in their father's weirds: ''if you get knocked down, pick yourself up and try to do better next time.''

''Sparky'' and Jean had connected immediately; not only did they marry after ten months, but she became a frequent confidant for his coaching schemes. With the assistance of his wife and the legend Jules Yakapovich, Coach Adams became a legend in his own right when he concluded his high school coaching in 1977 with four consecutive league championships.

His résumé also includes hundreds of college athletes and college football coaching offers. In fact, he would go on to coach Buffalo, Canisius, and eventually Buffalo State, where he paired with head coach Jerry Boyes to end his college coaching tenure like his high school career; the Bengals went deep into the playoffs and ensured ''The Legend'' went into retirement with a bang. He retired at age 70 but continued his tour of local football teams as an assistant coach at Benjamin Franklin Middle School alongside his best friend and coach Lou Reuter.

Coach Adams may have sparked many of his athletes' and students' careers, but the soon-to-be nonagenarian also molded their morals with his mentorship. The sailor from Silver Creek made such a mark that his name is now emblazoned on Kenmore East's football field—Coach Dick ''Sparky'' Adams Field will remind future athletes of the coach who cared more for character and confidence than championships.

Richard Towne Adams, Sr. went by many names—Ensign to the Navy; teacher to his students; coach to his athletes; husband to Jean; and father to three. But perhaps there's just one name that can encapsulate what he meant to everyone he met and to those who didn't get the pleasure: Happy 90th to ''The Legend'' Sparky Adams.

HONORING THE MIDWAY BARBER SHOP

HON. TED BUDD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2021

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the Midway Barber Shop in Davidson County, North Carolina. After 50 years in business, Midway Barber Shop saw its last customers on March 13, 2021.

John Faust opened the Mid way Barber Shop in May of 1970 and Davidson County has been better off ever since. He had a tremendous impact on the lives of those who came into his shop. John was a man of character that put family and faith at the center of his life. One customer remarked, ''He wasn't just my barber, he was my friend, my confidant, and my encourager.''

To Kent Phillips, he was a dedicated friend and mentor. John hired Kent in 1978 not long after Kent finished high school and Kent has worked at the barber shop ever since. Philips said of his boss, ''In 38 years of working together, we never had a cross word,'' he said. ''If you could not get along with that man, you needed to look at yourself in the mirror.''

The Midway Barber Shop represented more than just a place to get a haircut: it was a community institution. In this business, people were more than just customers, they were known as friends and family.

Madam Speaker, the Midway Barber Shop was a gem of Davidson County. Our community is sad to see it go, but thankful for its years of service.

MSI STEM ACHIEVEMENT ACT

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2021

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the MSI STEM Achievement Act, which is cosponsored by Mr. WALTZ.

There is no denying the fact that our success as a nation is closely tied to our capacity to build and sustain a highly-skilled workforce, one that is equipped to take on the pressing challenges of the 21st century and to maintain our leadership in the global economy.

Today we are facing grave challenges on many fronts. We are battling a deadly pandemic and a severe economic downturn. We are racing to find sustainable sources of energy and working to mitigate the destructive impacts of climate change. We are fighting against attempts to undermine our democracy by threats both foreign and domestic. Our future prosperity and security are further threatened as competitors like China outpace our investment in scientific research and make rapid advances in critical technologies like advanced communications, quantum computing, and artificial intelligence.

To solve these problems, we need a cadre of trained scientists and engineers pushing the boundaries of what we know and what we can achieve. We need computer scientists and economists, biologists and mathematicians, engineers, chemists, and social scientists. So far, we have gotten by with a STEM workforce that does not represent the diversity of our nation. However, that is not a sustainable path forward.

Compared with their proportions in the U.S. population, members of racial and ethnic minority groups are significantly underrepresented among STEM degree earners. Less than 25 percent of all bachelor's degrees and 9 percent of doctorates in STEM are earned by underrepresented minority students. Despite representing 18 percent of the U.S. population, just 9 percent of bachelor's degrees in mathematics and physics are earned by Hispanics. In nearly all STEM fields, the proportion of STEM bachelor's degrees earned by Black students has either stagnated or declined since 1996. Black students earned only 4.8 percent of bachelor's degrees in engineering in 1996. Today, that share is 3.9 percent. In the past two decades, representation of Black students among bachelor's degree earners in computer science has fallen from 9.9 percent to 8.7 percent.

The challenges we face today demand a dramatic expansion of the STEM workforce, one that is inclusive of talented students of all races, ethnicities, and socioeconomic backgrounds. Fortunately, the nation's minority serving institutions (MSIs) have paved the way with proven approaches for the recruitment and retention of students from marginalized groups in STEM studies. The National Academy of Sciences released a report in 2018 highlighting the outsized contributions made by MSIs, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), and Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs). For instance, HBCUs make up only 3 percent of the nation's colleges and universities, but graduate 28 percent of African American students earning bachelor's degrees in the physical sciences, 26 percent in mathematics, and 25 percent in the biological sciences. However, these institutions have been hit hard by the COVID–19 crisis and more investment and targeted outreach is needed to enable MSIs to fully realize their potential to contribute to the STEM workforce.

The bill directs the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to compile an inventory of competitive funding programs at Federal science agencies targeted to MSIs and recommend steps for agencies to increase the participation and the rate of success of MSIs in these programs. The National Science Foundation is directed to support research to better understand the contributions of MSIs, disseminate and scale up successful models, and identify effective approaches to building the STEM education and research capacity of under-resourced MSIs. The Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) is directed to issue policy guidance to Federal science agencies for outreach to raise awareness of funding opportunities and provide guidance on competing for funding. OSTP is also directed to develop a strategic plan to increase the capacity of MSIs to compete for federal research and STEM education funding.

Our STEM skills shortage is holding us back. As Chairwoman of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology I am determined to change that situation. The way I see it, we have two possible futures: one in which we rise to the moment and leverage all of our human capital, and one in which our capacity for innovation and our standing in the world continue to erode. I know which future I want to see happen, and I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2021

Mr. MORELLE. Madam Speaker, I regrettably missed Roll Call vote 86 H.R. 1620 The

Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2021 on March 17, 2021. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF DAVID AND DOROTHY WINEGAR

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2021

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of David and Dorothy Winegar, residents of Manchester, New Hampshire.

The Winegars have shared decades of life and love together, meeting in the Biology department at Hofstra University in the late 1960's and marrying on April 12, 1971. Since that date, their family has grown to include two loving daughters and several beloved pets.

Together, they've enjoyed many adventures, celebrated great achievements, and persevered through life's challenges. Avid explorers, the Winegars have embraced the arts and the world around them as they've traveled domestically and internationally and have seen over 25 Broadway productions. They instilled a love for the arts and a sense of curiosity in their daughters, sharing an admirable love for both culture and nature.

After raising their family on Long Island, New York, the Winegars chose to retire to Manchester, New Hampshire, where they have enthusiastically joined the community and made a home for themselves. Mr. Winegar retired from a career in international sales and marketing and now serves on the Manchester Palace Theater Advisory Board, while Mrs. Winegar retired from an illustrious career in education, teaching biology at both the high school and college levels. May their 50 years of love and commitment continue to serve as an inspiration to us all.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I want to wish Mr. and Mrs. Winegar a very happy 50th anniversary. I truly hope they enjoy a wonderful celebration with their family.

HONORING FORMER NEW YORK STATE SENATOR AND U.S. AMBASSADOR H. DOUGLAS BARCLAY FOR HIS LIFETIME DEDICATION TO IMPROVING THE LIVES OF FELLOW NEW YORKERS AND ALL AMERICANS

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2021

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor former New York State Senator and former U.S. Ambassador H. Douglas ''Doug'' Barclay for his lifetime achievements in both the private sector and public service.

A New Yorker through and through, Doug dedicated his entire life to the people of New York State. While he was born in New York City in 1932, his parents quickly returned to Pulaski, New York in Oswego County and Doug became the 7th generation to live on the beloved family farm. Doug graduated from Yale University and Syracuse University College of Law, subsequently practicing at an esteemed Syracuse law firm, now Barclay Damon, LLP, as a named partner for over 40 years. He was elected to the New York State Senate in 1964 and served the people of Oswego County for 20 years, until 1984. Doug will always be remembered as a compassionate and caring representative for whom no constituent's concern was too small. He championed meaningful legislation reform around criminal justice, court reform, housing, and economic development matters. From his years in the U.S. Army to the New York State Senate to his appointment as the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of El Salvador during President George W. Bush's Administration, Doug's positive impact and exemplary leadership extended far beyond his cherished North Country home.

Doug was an extraordinary leader in his community and genuinely cared for those around him. He offered sage advice to candidates seeking office in New York State and became a renowned and well-respected figure in the Republican Party. He and his wife, Dee Dee, were committed to giving back locally by raising funds for county emergency services and by supporting families with children with disabilities. The Barclays fostered a strong sense of service within their own family and Doug's son, Will, has followed closely in his father's footsteps. Will was elected to the New York State Assembly in 2003 and is now serving as the Assembly Minority Leader. Ever the family man, Doug was an integral part of the North Country community and will be greatly missed. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to recognize his remarkable leadership and life.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF FINDLAY BEING NAMED THE TOP MICROPOLITAN COMMUNITY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2021

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Findlay, Ohio, for being named the Top Micropolitan Community in the United States for the seventh year in a row by Site Selection Magazine. Findlay has routinely shown what a strong community with a commitment to prosperity can do through implementation of their renowned ''Findlay Formula.'' The city's focus on this formula continues to pay dividends and serves as an example to communities across the country.

In order to be considered a micropolitan city, the area must have a population ranging from 10,000 to 50,000. Over 550 of these cities were evaluated on business growth and economic sustainability. Findlay was able to secure this award for the seventh year in a row because of their focus on job creation, new construction, and capital investment that met Site Selection's criteria. In 2020, Findlay had an estimated $150 million in capital investment, which contributed to the creation of 1,000 new jobs.

Fostering a cooperative environment between businesses and local government has resulted in continued economic growth in Findlay. Over the past seven years, Findlay has completed 200 projects and produced 6,000 new jobs through an estimated 1.5 billion dollars in investment. This success would not be possible without the partnership and cooperation between the City of Findlay, the Findlay-Hancock County Economic Development office, the Hancock County Commissioners, and the entire Findlay community .

Congratulations to Findlay for another year as the nation's top-ranked Micropolitan Community.

FAREWELL TO AMBASSADOR KAZYKHANOV

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2021

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, as co-chair of the U.S.-Kazakhstan Caucus, I rise today to bid farewell to Ambassador Erzhan Kazykhanov, who will be departing the United States at the end of this month and has faithfully served as Kazakhstan's Ambassador to the United States during the past four years. He will be greatly missed by myself and all who have had the pleasure of working with him. He has consistently shown a great sense of enthusiasm for the job as well as a deep appreciation for the importance of the U.S.-Kazakhstan bilateral relationship.

Ambassador Kazykhanov is a career diplomat who began his career in the Foreign Ministry's Protocol-Political Division. He was Chief of the Division before being assigned his first international posting as first secretary/counselor at Kazakhstan's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York City, from 1995 to 2000. He then returned home to Kazakhstan to serve as the Director of the Department of Multilateral Cooperation from 2000 to 2003. Following that posting, he returned to New York City as Kazakhstan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations and as non-resident Ambassador to Cuba from 2003 to 2007.

Kazykhanov was then named Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and served as assistant to the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. In late 2008, he was posted to Austria to serve as Ambassador to Austria and Permanent Representative to international organizations located in Vienna, such as the International Atomic Energy Agency and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization. He held that position through 2011 before returning to Kazakhstan to eventually become Minister of Foreign Affairs and an Assistant to the President.

Beginning in 2014, he served as Ambassador to the United Kingdom, and then presented his credentials as Ambassador to the United States in 2017. During his tenure in Washington, D.C. he has focused a great deal of time on expanding economic cooperation between Kazakhstan and the United States. He has travelled throughout the country meeting with multiple American companies to highlight opportunities for well-known U.S. brands and entities to establish operations in Kazakhstan as a gateway for new or expanded access to Central Asian markets.

Ambassador Kazykhanov has also played a crucial role in elevating the bilateral relationship between the United States and

Kazakhstan. This commitment to a continued cooperation across multiple platforms was cemented in the 2018 document, ''United States and Kazakhstan: An Enhanced Strategic Partnership for the 21st Century,'' which outlines the goals and priorities of the bilateral agenda and sets a long-term vision to support future cooperation.

Ambassador Kazykhanov holds a bachelor's degree in Oriental Studies from Saint Petersburg State University and a Ph.D. in History from Al-Farabi Kazakh National University. He has authored many articles focused on Kazakhstan's foreign policy, economic diplomacy, and multilateralism, among other topics. He speaks Russian, English and Arabic, and has received numerous awards and recognitions for his years of service.

Both he and his wife, Danara, who have two children, will be greatly missed by the Washington diplomatic corps and by all who know them in Washington, D.C. Along with my fellow Caucus co-chairs, we wish them both the greatest success and happiness as they return to Nur-Sultan. And as the Ambassador prepares for his new role as a senior advisor to the President, we hope that he will continue to emphasize the importance of the bilateral relationship between the United States and Kazakhstan.

CONGRATULATING THE RED RAIDERS BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. SCOTT FITZGERALD

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2021

Mr. FITZGERALD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Wauwatosa East High School boys' basketball team for winning the Division 1 state championship earlier this month.

What started as a nail biter with the Red Raiders trailing the Papermakers 27–26 at the half, ended with a triumphant turnaround by the Wauwatosa East team on their way to a 62–44 victory. The Red Raiders shot an impressive 71 percent from the floor in the second half and finished at 55 percent for the game. This marks the Red Raiders fourth state championship win in the program's 17th tournament appearance and their first appearance in the tournament since 2008.

I applaud Coach Arndorfer and the entire team for a terrific season. This team overcame many obstacles in the face of the COVID–19 pandemic, but they persevered and brought home the win. Congratulations to the Red Raiders, or as they call themselves, the ''band of brothers.'' This achievement is well-deserved.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRED KELLER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2021

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, I was unable to attend a vote called on March 17, 2021. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 89.

OBITUARY: ARTHUR F. WALSH

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2021

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, Arthur ''Art'' Francis Walsh passed away early in the morning of February 24, 2021 in Salisbury, MD. Art was a good man, a loving husband, a loyal father, who loved his family and served his country and community. He had a great career. He enjoyed life and a good joke. He made people laugh; enjoyed golf, children, and pets; and had friendships that lasted his entire life. He loved and was loved. His final days were difficult, but he slipped into the arms of God peacefully in his sleep and we are thankful.

Art was born on April 13, 1942, to Marion Veronica Walsh (nee Kiernan), a mother of six, and Howard John Walsh Sr., a Deputy Sheriff and Detective with the New York Police Department, in the South Bronx neighborhood of New York, NY.

He often shared memories of his carefree days of his youth playing stickball and rambling around the neighborhood with his siblings and hundreds of other Irish Catholics kids, walking home for lunch from P.S. 35, watching baseball at nearby Yankee Stadium and vexing the clergy of St. Angela's School and Powell Memorial Academy.

Art enlisted in the Marine Corps, trained at Paris Island, SC, then served in the Marine barracks at 8th and I Streets in Washington, DC, where he was meritoriously promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal and was selected for the Marching Twenty-Four unit, performing silent precision exhibition drills. As a member of the Marine Corps Honor Guard, Art served presidential support duty for President John F. Kennedy.

Art then completed six years in the Marine Reserves and joined the New York Telephone Company, where he built a 30-year career, rising from an installer of rotary phones to a regional manager overseeing fiber optic cable and high-speed internet.

With his first wife, Barbara, Art enjoyed many nights bowling, gathering with friends and having fun throughout McLean Avenue in Yonkers and all over Manhattan. Together, they moved to the mountains of Ringwood, NJ. He participated in that community as a member of the Knights of Columbus, local Republican politics, the Ringwood Board of Health and St. Catherine's Parish. His home and pool offered summers away from the city for his sister-in-law Georgann, nieces Stephanie and Donna and nearly nephew Eddie. He loved people and wanted to help improve their quality of life. Art's large family circle included step-nieces, ex-sister-in-laws, childrens' friends, and friends held as family.

Art was a wonderful father to Brian and Andrea and dearly loved sister-in-law Georgann. He played, explored the woods and laughed. He hosted swim lessons, went to little league games and daddy-daughter dances. He made it possible for each, plus six step-grandchildren, to graduate college, pursue successful careers and begin families of their own. He taught us to help others, to apply our capable hands to any problem we faced, to work hard, listen, look others in the eye and give respect to all the people you encounter in this world.

Art was blessed to find great happiness in retirement with his wife Carole Benner Walsh, moving to the Eastern Shore of MD, where they enjoyed 20 years of fun. Together, Art and Carole traveled, played golf and celebrated with friends and enjoyed the beaches of Maryland, their dog Charlie, and life as grandparents to their expanded family.

Many thanks go to the care providers at Lakeside at Mallard Landing for their kindness, care and loyalty throughout the last two difficult years.

So, raise a glass, say a prayer and give thanks to a good man, a Marine, a son, a brother, a father, a husband, a grandfather, a friend . . . to a life well lived . . . and, to quote Art, ''keep smilin''.

Art is survived by his wife Carole Benner Walsh; children Brian O. Walsh (and Natasha) and Andrea Walsh Silva (and Nicholas); his sister-in-law Georgann Russo, step-children Jeffrey D. Benner (and Rochelle) and Cheryl Oursler (and George), and his siblings Howard Jr., Virginia, and Maureen Walsh and was predeceased by siblings Patrick and Loraine. Numerous multigenerational nieces and nephews; and his four grandchildren and six step-grandchildren that brought him great joy will sadly miss him.

REMEMBERING RAYMOND J. KAPPER

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2021

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Raymond J. Kapper, who passed away at his Florida home on March 14, 2021 at the age of 84.

Ray Kapper dedicated his professional career to serving his community. Whether serving the citizens of the City of Akron as an elected official or young men and women as a coach and administrator, he put the greater-good above his own aspirations.

He began his professional career as the athletic director for the Catholic Youth Organization and as head football coach at St. Mary's High School before moving on to the Firestone Tire & Rubber Company where he served as employee activities director. Mr. Kapper was elected to serve the City of Akron first as a ward councilman and then as councilman at-large. He ultimately was elected by his peers to serve as the president of the council.

In 1984, Ray was appointed to serve as service director. In that position he oversaw the City of Akron's Engineering Bureau, the Public Works Bureau, the Sewer Bureau, and the Water Bureau. Mr. Kapper retired from the City of Akron in 1992.

In retirement, Ray continued to work in the community and support the causes that were most important to him. He was especially proud of his work with The First Tee of Akron, a youth mentoring program that provides educational programs that build character and instill life-enhancing values through the game of golf. He most enjoyed time spent with family and friends and cheering on his beloved New York Yankees.

Mr. Kapper is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 63 years, Barbara; his children,

David (Jennifer) Kapper, Deborah (Kelly) Dodson, Jon (Nancy) Kapper, and Christopher (Collen) Kapper; grandchildren, Abbie, Alex, Charlie, Hannah, Ben, Frances, Nicole, and Kevin; great grandchild Violet; and brothers Dick, Tom, and Glenn. He was preceded in death by his parents Raymond and Marcine, and his grandson, Andrew.

I cannot thank Ray enough for his dedicated service to the City of Akron and Summit County. It is a great honor to represent the people of Akron in this chamber, and Mr. Kapper deeply exemplified the spirit of the city. My deepest condolences go out to his family and to all whose lives were touched by Ray.

REMOVING THE DEADLINE FOR THE RATIFICATION OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I rise in support of equality and the principle that our Constitution was designed, not to shore up the dominance of the historically powerful, but to ensure the rights of all and to foster a society in which each of us is free to shape our future based on our abilities. The resolution today seeks to remove the deadline Congress put in place for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. While ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment is imperative to enshrine equal rights for women, I do not believe it is necessary to strike the deadline for ratification. However, by voting on this legislation, we may imply that it is necessary for Congress to lift a self-imposed deadline in order for the ratification to be effective. I do not prescribe to this view.

Congressional authority to propose Amendments to the Constitution and the mode of ratification is outlined in Article V of the Constitution. Article V requires two-thirds of the House and Senate to propose an amendment. Congress can choose ratification through three-fourths of the state legislatures or state ratifying conventions. Once the amendment is proposed to the states, there is no Constitutionally imposed time limit on the ratification process. Article V of the Constitution is silent with regard to when a state must consider and ratify an amendment. In fact, the ratification process for the 27th Amendment took more than two hundred years.

Historically, Congress has ratified amendments without specific time limitations. The first amendment to contain a time limit was the 18th Amendment, which established the prohibition of alcohol. The text of the 18th, 20th, 21st, and 22nd Amendments each contained language limiting the time frame for ratification. In contrast, the text of the Equal Rights Amendment ratified by the states does not contain a time limit. It is the proposing clause sent to the states for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment which contains a seven-year time limitation. Notwithstanding a lower district court ruling to the contrary, the language of a proposing clause is not legally binding. The ratification process of the Equal Rights Amendment was properly before the states and was reasonable and sufficiently contemporaneous. Therefore, having been ratified by Virginia and a sufficient number of other states pursuant to Article V, the ERA, in my judgement, has become part of the Constitution.

This resolution is unlikely to add to the argument that the ERA has been ratified, and, because it implies that the deadline needs to be removed, it may strengthen arguments against because if the deadline is binding, then passage of this resolution in the House, without passage in the Senate, certainly does not cure that defect. And even with Senate concurrence, the effect of the resolution on state ratifications between the deadline and the removal of the deadline is unclear. So the passage of the resolution in the House and Senate will at best add confusion to the debate and at worst will strengthen arguments against the conclusion that the ERA has been ratified. Nevertheless, forced with a vote, it makes more sense to vote in favor than to oppose the resolution.

Regardless of the outcome of this resolution on the ERA itself, the fight for equality must continue. Women still face hurdles in the pathways to success. On average, women still earn less than men for the same job functions. Pregnant women often lack basic protections and reasonable accommodation in the workplace. Perhaps most concerning of all, violence against women is still widespread and undermines the educational and social potential of women and young children in this country.

I am proud to have worked with my Democratic colleagues in the House to pass legislation to remedy these inequalities. The House recently passed the Protect the Right to Organize Act (H.R. 842) which protects workers who are trying to form a union. While in most of America, women earn less than men, women and men working under a union contract receive equal pay for equal work. We have worked to fill the gaps in the patchwork of existing laws governing how and when workers take time off to care for themselves and their families. Expanding the Family and Medical Leave Act to cover more working parents and low wage workers who are currently excluded from leave policies is a top priority.

There are other initiatives being considered to address inequities. Nearly two thirds of minimum wage workers in the United States are women. The Raise the Wage Act (H.R. 603) will raise the income levels of the most economically insecure households and would be a step in the right direction towards pay equity. The Pregnant Worker's Fairness Act (H.R. 1065) is important legislation that will provide reasonable accommodations to pregnant women in the workforce. The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (H.R. 1620) which expands protections and provides critical funding for victim services, law enforcement training, and data collection, is now pending in Congress.

However, even if all this legislation were to become law, it would not be the same as amending the Constitution to guarantee women equal rights. Discrimination in the workplace, violence in the home, and institutional barriers require systemic legal and cultural change. Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment provides an additional legal tool for combatting discrimination on the basis of sex.

We will continue the fight for equality and work towards a more inclusive and equitable society.

HERMAN ROBERTS—BLACK BUSINESSMAN, CIVIC LEADER, CHICAGO ICON

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2021

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of Chicago's brightest lights who recently passed away at the age of 97, Mr. Herman Roberts. The Chicago Sun-Times wrote that Herman Roberts came to Chicago with nothing during the "Great Migration and ended up a tycoon". At one time or another he owned 35 taxis, eight motels, a nightclub, which swung with some of the world's greatest stars, a bowling alley, a skating rink, and oil wells on a 2000-acre ranch in Oklahoma. Mr. Roberts grew up as one of six children in Beggs, Oklahoma, around his age of about 12 his family moved to Chicago where he went to Burke Elementary and Englewood High School on the southside of the city. After high school he went into the taxicab business and built a fleet in the Black Community when and where white owned cabs usually would not transport Black patrons. In the early 1950's he opened his first lounge, the Lucky Spot and a few years later The Roberts Show Lounge in a garage building where he had once housed his taxicabs. Mr. Roberts was a genius at booking and showmanship. Stars like Nina Simone, Dinah Washington, Sarah Vaughan, Sammy Davis Jr., Jackie Wilson, Sam Cooke, Red Foxx, Moms Mabley, Dick Gregory and others were regular features. In 1960, he built his first motel on 63rd Street, then six more. In 1974, he installed a removable stage in the parking lot and brought in stars like Count Basie, Billy Eckstine, Ramsey Lewis, Della Reese and Nipsey Russell to name a few. Mr. Roberts did not only spend time looking after his business in Chicago; but also spent time at the ranch in Oklahoma. At its peak his ranch had several oil wells, 100 horses, pigs, French breed of cattle and peacocks. In addition to everything else that Mr. Roberts was and did, the Roberts Motel 500 Room was a major launching pad for the official kick off of The Harold Washington Campaign for Mayor which changed Chicago Politics forever. I say congratulations to Mr. Herman Roberts on all his outstanding achievements and thanks to his children and grandchildren for keeping his legacy and spirit alive, especially to his daughter Sharla Roberts, Director of Procurement Diversity at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2021

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I missed the vote on Roll Call No. 84 on March 17, 2021. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 84.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUIE GOHMERT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2021

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, this morning I was notified of a death in my family for which I had been legally designated to make all of the arrangements and decisions. It came unexpectedly and I have scrambled to get back to Texas on the first accessible plane. For this reason, I am missing the votes today, and will miss the votes tomorrow.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRIS JACOBS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2021

Mr. JACOBS of New York. Madam Speaker, on March 17, 2021 I missed the vote on H.R. 1652, the VOCA Fix to Sustain the Crime Victims Fund Act of 2021. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 89.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2021

Mr. NORCROSS. Madam Speaker, during the vote on final passage of H.R. 1620—the Violence Against Women Act, I was detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 86.

CONGRATULATING THE PIRATES BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. SCOTT FITZGERALD

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2021

Mr. FITZGERALD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Pewaukee Pirates High School boys' basketball team for winning the Division 2 state championship earlier this month.

In the state championship game, the Pirates played incredibly well, never once trailing in the contest as they raced out of the gate with an eight-point lead. They hit shot after shot as they built on their lead. The Pirates closed the first half with an impressive 12–0 run on their way to a 54–37 win. This remarkable victory is the Pewaukee team's first state championship win and their second appearance in the tournament.

I applaud Coach Burkemper and the entire team for their first state championship title. This team has overcome many obstacles in the face of the COVID–19 pandemic, but they persevered and brought home impressive hardware to show for it. Congratulations to the Pirates for their hard work all season. This achievement is well-deserved.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CONSIDER TEACHERS ACT OF 2021

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to introduce the Consider Teachers Act of 2021, which would improve the service obligation verification process for Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program recipients. The Senate passed a version of this bill last Congress, and Senators MIKE BRAUN and KYRSTEN SINEMA are introducing the Consider Teachers Act of 2021 today.

The TEACH Grant Program was created by the federal government in 2007 to attract the best and brightest to the teaching profession in underserved communities. The TEACH Grant Program provides up to $4,000 a year in grants to students who agree to serve for at least four years as a full-time teacher in a high-need field in a public or private elementary or secondary school that serves low-income families. The obligation to teach four years must be completed within an eight-year period. Those who do not fulfill their service requirement but have been given grants have their grants converted into Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loans, which must be paid back with interest. These loans cannot revert to grants.

According to the Office of Management and Budget, 66 percent of the grants are converted into loans. Though 21,000 recipients have completed the program without conversion, 94,000 recipients have had their grants converted to loans. Those conversions are often triggered by small paperwork issues, such as submitting the annual form one day late or missing a date or signature.

In 2018, the U.S. Department of Education (Department) released a reconsideration process for recipients who had their grants converted into loans but had either fulfilled, or could still fulfill, their teaching requirements. The Department also turned back the clock to allow teachers who left the TEACH Grant Program once their grants were converted to give them more time to complete their requirements. These changes allowed the Department to lift the debt of 2,300 recipients.

This bill would codify this reconsideration process and mandate that the Department continue to implement it, creating a safeguard from changes in Department leadership. This bill would also outline yearly deadlines and notification requirements to rectify some of the TEACH Grant Program's previous administrative mishaps. Furthermore, with the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, many recipients have had trouble finding qualifying work. This bill would create a grace period for these individuals by extending the fulfillment period by three years for anyone who was fulfilling their obligations when the coronavirus pandemic began.

This past year has given us all a hard lesson in the invaluable service that teachers and educators provide to our society. As many young students have turned to homeschooling and remote learning, we have all come to appreciate the hard work and incredible talent of our teachers, who foster the mental, physical and emotional growth of our children every day. This bill ensures that that pipeline of talent for the teaching profession remains strong and that we do not unduly burden TEACH Program recipients, who have dedicated themselves to serving our most vulnerable communities.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate confirmed the nomination of Xavier Becerra, of California, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Senate confirmed the nomination of William Joseph Burns, of Maryland, to be Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1623–S1659

Measures Introduced: Sixty bills and six resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 817–876, S.J. Res. 12, and S. Res. 122–126. **Pages S1643–45**

Measures Considered:

PPP Extension Act—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 1799, to amend the Small Business Act and the CARES Act to extend the covered period for the paycheck protection program. **Page S1641**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Adewale O. Adeyemo, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of the Treasury. **Page S1641**

Walsh Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Martin Joseph Walsh, of Massachusetts, to be Secretary of Labor. **Pages S1631–39**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 68 yeas to 30 nays (Vote No. EX. 26), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S1635**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senate resume consideration of the nomination at approximately 3 p.m., on Monday, March 22, 2021; and Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination at 5:30 p.m. **Page S1640**

Young Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Shalanda D. Young, of Louisiana, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget. **Page S1640**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Martin Joseph Walsh, of Massachusetts, to be Secretary of Labor. **Page S1640**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S1640**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S1640**

Murthy Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Vivek Hallegere Murthy, of Florida, to be Medical Director in the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service, subject to qualifications therefor as provided by law and regulations, and to be Surgeon General of the Public Health Service. **Page S1640**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Shalanda D. Young, of Louisiana, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget. **Page S1640**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S1640**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S1640**

Levine Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Rachel Leland Levine, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services. **Pages S1640–41**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Vivek Hallegere Murthy, of Florida, to be Medical Director in the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service, subject to qualifications therefor as provided by law and regulations, and to be Surgeon General of the Public Health Service. **Page S1641**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S1640**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S1640**

Turk Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of David Turk, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy. **Page S1641**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Rachel Leland Levine, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services. **Page S1641**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S1641**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S1641**

Adeyemo Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Adewale O. Adeyemo, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of the Treasury. **Page S1641**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of David Turk, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy. **Page S1641**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S1641**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S1641**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 50 yeas to 49 nays (Vote No. EX. 125), Xavier Becerra, of California, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services. **Pages S1626–31, S1659**

William Joseph Burns, of Maryland, to be Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Brian P. McKeon, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources. **Pages S1639–40, S1659**

Messages from the House: **Page S1643**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Page S1643**

Executive Communications: **Page S1643**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S1645–47**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S1647–56**

Additional Statements: **Page S1642**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S1656–57**

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—126) **Pages S1631, S1635**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 3:35 p.m., until 3 p.m. on Monday, March 22, 2021. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1657.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

DOD PLANNING, PROGRAMMING, BUDGET AND EXECUTION PROCESS

Committee on Armed Services: Committee received a closed briefing on the planning, programming, budget, and execution process of the Department of Defense from Brendan W. McGarry, Defense Budget Analyst, Pat Towell, Defense Policy and Budget Specialist, and Lawrence Kapp, Military Personnel Policy Specialist, all of the Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress.

21ST CENTURY ECONOMY: FINANCIAL SYSTEM AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the 21st century economy, focusing on protecting the financial system from risks associated with climate change, including S. 563, 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, after receiving testimony from Gregory Gelzinis, Center for American Progress, and Benjamin Zycher, American Enterprise Institute, both of Washington, D.C.; Nathaniel Keohane, Environmental Defense Fund, New York, New York; Marilyn Waite, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, Menlo Park, California; and John

Cochrane, Stanford University Hoover Institution, Stanford, California.

FIGHTING FORCED LABOR

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine fighting forced labor, focusing on closing loopholes and improving customs enforcement to mandate clean supply chains and protect workers, after receiving testimony from Joe Wrona, United Steelworkers, Buffalo, New York; Martina E. Vandenberg, The Human Trafficking Legal Center, and Julia K. Hughes, U.S. Fashion Industry Association, both of Washington, D.C.; and Leonardo Bonanni, Sourcemap Inc., New York, New York.

SOLARWINDS SUPPLY CHAIN ATTACK

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the SolarWinds supply chain attack, focusing on the Federal perspective, after receiving testimony from Christopher J. DeRusha, Federal Chief Information Security Officer, Office of Management and Budget; Brandon Wales, Acting Director, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Department of Homeland Security; and Tonya Ugoretz, Acting Assistant Director, Cyber Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice.

COVID–19 FEDERAL RESPONSE UPDATE

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the COVID–19 response, focusing on an update from Federal officials, after receiving testimony from Anthony Fauci, Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health, David Kessler, Chief Science Officer, COVID Response, Peter Marks, Director, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration, and Rochelle Walensky, Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, all of the Department of Health and Human Services.

COVID–19 HEALTH CARE NEEDS

Special Committee on Aging: Committee concluded a hearing to examine COVID–19 one year later, focusing on addressing health care needs for at-risk Americans, after receiving testimony from Anand S. Iyer, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham; Amy Houtrow, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Anthony Jackson, Roper St. Francis Healthcare, Charleston, South Carolina; and Sandra Harris, AARP Massachusetts, Boston.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 79 public bills, H.R. 1996–2074; and 6 resolutions, H. Res. 251–256, were introduced. **Pages H1578–82**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H1584–85**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

American Dream and Promise Act of 2021: The House passed H.R. 6, to authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain aliens, by a yea-and-nay vote of 228 yeas to 197 nays, Roll No. 91. **Pages H1507–27, H1567–68**

Rejected the Jordan motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on the Judiciary by a yea-and-nay vote of 203 yeas to 216 nays, Roll No. 90. **Pages H1526, H1567**

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117–4 shall be considered as adopted. **Page H1507**

H. Res. 233, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 1620), (H.R. 6), (H.R.1603), (H.R.1868), and the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 17) was agreed to Tuesday, March 16th.

Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2021: The House passed H.R. 1603, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for terms and conditions for nonimmigrant workers performing agricultural labor or services, by a yea-and-nay vote of 247 yeas to 174 nays, Roll No. 93. **Pages H1527–60, H1569–70**

Rejected the Fischbach motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on the Judiciary by a yea-and-nay vote of 204 yeas to 218 nays, Roll No. 92. **Pages H1560, H1569**

Pursuant to the Rule, the amendment printed in part C of H. Rept. 117–12 shall be considered as adopted. **Page H1527**

H. Res. 233, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 1620), (H.R. 6), (H.R. 1603), (H.R. 1868), and the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 17) was agreed to Tuesday, March 16th.

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure:

Protect Democracy in Burma Act of 2021: H.R. 1112, amended, to require a report on the military coup in Burma. **Pages H1560–63**

Question of Privilege: Representative McCarthy rose to a question of the privileges of the House and submitted a resolution. Upon examination of the resolution, the Chair determined that the resolution qualified. Subsequently, the House agreed to the Hoyer motion to table H. Res. 243, removing a certain Member from a certain committee of the House of Representatives, by a yea-and-nay vote of 218 yeas to 200 nays with 3 answering ''present'', Roll No. 94. **Pages H1570–71**

Suspension—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measure under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

Condemning the military coup that took place on February 1, 2021, in Burma and the Burmese military detention of civilian leaders, calling for the release of all those detained and for those elected to serve in Parliament to resume their duties: H. Res. 134, condemning the military coup that took place on February 1, 2021, in Burma and the Burmese military detention of civilian leaders, calling for the release of all those detained and for those elected to serve in Parliament to resume their duties. **Pages H1563–66**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H1507.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Five yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1567, H1567–68, H1569, H1570, and H1571.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Committee Meetings

APPROPRIATIONS—OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch held a budget hearing on the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights. Testimony was heard from Susan Tsui Grundmann, Executive Director, Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.

EFFORTS TO ADDRESS MARINE PLASTIC POLLUTION THROUGH RECYCLING

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled ''Efforts to Address Marine Plastic Pollution Through Recycling''. Testimony was heard from Ginger Spencer, Public Works Director, Phoenix, Arizona; and public witnesses.

COVID OUTBREAKS AND MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES: EVALUATING THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS' PANDEMIC RESPONSE AND THE WAY FORWARD

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled ''COVID Outbreaks and Management Challenges: Evaluating the Federal Bureau of Prisons' Pandemic Response and the Way Forward''. Testimony was heard from Michael Carvajal, Director, Federal Bureau of Prisons.

UNMANNED SYSTEMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces held a hearing entitled ''Unmanned Systems of the Department of the Navy''. Testimony was heard from Jay Stefany, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Research, Development and Acquisition, Department of the Navy; Vice Admiral James Kilby, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, Warfighting Requirements and Capabilities, Department of the Navy; and Lieutenant General Eric M. Smith, Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps.

FIGHTING FOR FAIRNESS: EXAMINING LEGISLATION TO CONFRONT WORKPLACE DISCRIMINATION

Committee on Education and Labor: Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services; and Subcommittee on Workforce Protections held a joint hearing entitled ''Fighting for Fairness: Examining Legislation to Confront Workplace Discrimination''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE CLEAN FUTURE ACT: INDUSTRIAL CLIMATE POLICIES TO CREATE JOBS AND SUPPORT WORKING COMMUNITIES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change held a hearing entitled ''The CLEAN Future Act: Industrial Climate Policies to Create Jobs and Support Working Communities''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

BY THE NUMBERS, HOW DIVERSITY DATA CAN MEASURE COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Diversity and Inclusion held a hearing entitled ''By the

Numbers, How Diversity Data Can Measure Commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion''. Testimony was heard from Thomas DiNapoli, Comptroller, New York; Daniel Garcia-Diaz, Managing Director, Financial Markets and Community Investment Team, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

ASSESSING THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN SAUDI ARABIA

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and Global Counterterrorism held a hearing entitled ''Assessing the Human Rights Situation in Saudi Arabia''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

A YEAR OUT: ADDRESSING INTERNATIONAL IMPACTS OF THE COVID–19 PANDEMIC

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''A Year Out: Addressing International Impacts of the COVID–19 Pandemic''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Homeland Security: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 1833, the ''DHS Industrial Control Systems Capabilities Enhancement Act of 2021''; H.R. 1850, the ''Supporting Research and Development for First Responders Act''; H.R. 1870, the ''Strengthening Local Transportation Security Capabilities Act of 2021''; H.R. 1871, the ''Transportation Security Transparency Improvement Act''; H.R. 1877, the ''Security Screening During COVID–19 Act''; H.R. 1893, the ''Transportation Security Preparedness Act of 2021''; and H.R. 1895, the ''Transportation Security Public Health Threat Preparedness Act of 2021''. H.R. 1833, H.R. 1870, and H.R. 1877 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 1850, H.R. 1871, H.R. 1893, and H.R. 1895 were ordered reported, without amendment.

DISCRIMINATION AND VIOLENCE AGAINST ASIAN AMERICANS

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties held a hearing entitled ''Discrimination and Violence Against Asian Americans''. Testimony was heard from Senator Duckworth, and Representatives Matsui, Chu, and Meng; and public witnesses.

REVIVING COMPETITION, PART 3: STRENGTHENING THE LAWS TO ADDRESS MONOPOLY POWER

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial, and Administrative Law held a hearing entitled ''Reviving Competition, Part 3: Strengthening the Laws to Address Monopoly Power''. Testimony was heard from Rebecca Kelly Slaughter, Acting Chairwoman, Federal Trade Commission; Diane P. Wood, Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit; Phillip Weiser, Attorney General, Colorado; Noah Phillips, Commissioner, Federal Trade Commission; Doug Peterson, Attorney General, Nebraska; and a public witness.

RESTORING ABANDONED MINE LANDS, LOCAL ECONOMIES, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing entitled ''Restoring Abandoned Mine Lands, Local Economies, and the Environment''. Testimony was heard from Representatives Cartwright and LaHood; Todd Parfitt, Director, Department of Environmental Quality, Wyoming; and public witnesses.

LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE TEXAS BLACKOUTS: RESEARCH NEEDS FOR A SECURE AND RESILIENT GRID

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Lessons Learned from the Texas Blackouts: Research Needs for a Secure and Resilient Grid''. Testimony was heard from Juan Torres, Associate Laboratory Director, Energy Systems Integration, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Department of Energy; and public witnesses.

THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY NAVIGATORS IN REACHING UNDERSERVED BUSINESSES

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Underserved, Agricultural, and Rural Business Development held a hearing entitled ''The Role of Community Navigators in Reaching Underserved Businesses''. Testimony was heard from Bruce Strong, State Director, Small Business Development Center, St. Paul, Minnesota; and public witnesses.

BUILDING SMARTER: THE BENEFITS OF INVESTING IN RESILIENCE AND MITIGATION

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management held a hearing entitled ''Building Smarter: The Benefits of Investing in Resilience and Mitigation''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

BEYOND DEBORAH SAMPSON: IMPROVING HEALTHCARE FOR AMERICA'S WOMEN VETERANS IN THE 117TH CONGRESS

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled ''Beyond Deborah Sampson: Improving Healthcare for America's

Women Veterans in the 117th Congress''. Testimony was heard from Kameron Mathews, Assistant Undersecretary for Health, Clinical Service, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

HEARING WITH THE IRS COMMISSIONER ON THE 2021 FILING SEASON

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Oversight held a hearing entitled ''Hearing with the IRS Commissioner on the 2021 Filing Season''. Testimony was heard from Charles P. Rettig, Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury.

Joint Meetings

VSO LEGISLATIVE PRESENTATIONS

Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs and House Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committees concluded joint hearings to examine the legislative presentation of veterans services organizations, after receiving testimony from Harold J. Roesch II, Vincent Lawrence, Patrick Murray, and Ryan Gallucci, all of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States; Jan Brown, AMVETS; Michael F. Fulton, Fleet Reserve Association; Nancy Menagh, Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.; Fawn R. Sharp, National Congress of American Indians; and Richard D. Kingsberry, National Association for Black Veterans.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 2021

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Readiness, hearing entitled ''Investing in an Organic Industrial Base to Support Service Modernization Plans'', 11 a.m., Webex.

Subcommittee on Cyber, Innovative Technologies, and Information Systems, hearing entitled ''Department of Defense Electromagnetic Spectrum Operations: Challenges and Opportunities in the Invisible Battlespace'', 3 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, Central Asia, and Nonproliferation, hearing entitled ''America's Way Forward in the Indo-Pacific'', 10 a.m., Webex.

Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, Full Committee, organizational meeting, 9:45 a.m., Webex.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

3 p.m., Monday, March 22

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate expects to swear in Karen Gibson as Senate Sergeant at Arms.

Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Martin Joseph Walsh, of Massachusetts, to be Secretary of Labor, and vote on confirmation thereon at 5:30 p.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Friday, March 19

House Chamber

Program for Friday: Consideration of H.R. 1868—To prevent across-the-board direct spending cuts.

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