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 toll, 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.
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 recognize 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 in 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 day-worker 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.

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 eastern 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 for Congressman Van Hilley’s 2002 bid for Governor.

His work as a journalist, writing columns and analyzing policy for Knox TN Today, WATE, and back at the Knoxville News Sentinel. Frank
March 18, 2021

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE
H1505

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 Batavia and Niagara Falls, Nicho 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. MCCARTHY). Members are reminded to observe decorum when speaking before the House.

FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York 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 committee handles the 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 priorities 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 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 want 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, some one in the United States needs blood every 2 seconds. Less than 36 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 there are 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 40 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

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(b) 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 17, 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 for permanent resident status.
Sec. 105. Restoring the 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 deportation.
Sec. 203. Clarification.

TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISIONS
Sec. 301. Definitions.
Sec. 302. Submission of biometric and biographical 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 appointment 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 a parent who is a lawful permanent resident as an alien par

(2) WAIVER OF GROUNDS OF INADMISSIBILITY.—With respect to any alien under this section, 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 (8) 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 not more than the cost of processing the application, subject to the exemption under section 303(c).

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

(8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)) if—
(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 106(c)(2), if the alien is subject to registration under such Act.

(c) Conditional Nonimmigration 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 106(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 would be punishable in a court of the State or local criminal jurisdiction 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 was not present during the 10-year period preceding the date on which the alien applied for adjustment of status under this title; or

(A) notice of the proposed revocation; and

(B) the Secretary, based on clear and convincing evidence, determines that the alien does not meet the requirements under subparagraph (A).

(2) Prior to the revocation, provides the alien with not less than 90 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.

(3) The Secretary shall have a rebuttable presumption that the alien is not entitled to the benefit of such status.

(4) The Secretary shall provide a rebuttable presumption that the alien is not entitled to the benefit of such status.

(5) The Secretary shall provide a rebuttable presumption that the alien is not entitled to the benefit of such status.

(b) Military Selective Service.—An alien who is 18 years of age or older 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 subsection (D) of such subsection. The Attorney General or the Secretary may not commence any new case proceeding against such an alien.

(c) Military Selective Service.—An alien who is 18 years of age or older 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 subsection (D) of such subsection. The Attorney General or the Secretary may not commence any new case proceeding against such an alien.

(G) Judicial Review of a Provisional Denial.—

(A) In general.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if an applicant provides good cause for not contesting a provisional denial under this paragraph, including the evidence relied upon to support the determination, the Secretary shall

(B) The Secretary shall have a rebuttable presumption that the alien is not entitled to the benefit of such status.

(5) Military Selective Service.—An alien who is 18 years of age or older 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 subsection (D) of such subsection. The Attorney General or the Secretary may not commence any new case proceeding against such an alien.

(G) Judicial Review of a Provisional Denial.—

(A) In general.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if an applicant provides any other provision of law, if an applicant provides good cause for not contesting a provisional denial under this paragraph, including the evidence relied upon to support the determination, the Secretary shall

(B) The Secretary shall have a rebuttable presumption that the alien is not entitled to the benefit of such status.

(5) Military Selective Service.—An alien who is 18 years of age or older 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 subsection (D) of such subsection. The Attorney General or the Secretary may not commence any new case proceeding against such an alien.
(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.—A 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, at an institution of higher education 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;

(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 from an area career and technical education school providing education at the postsecondary level;

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

(v) has been present in the United States and been present in the United States as an alien lawfully admitted for temporary resident status, and be present in the United States, as an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

(b) TREATMENT FOR PURPOSES OF NATURALIZATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of title III of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.), an alien lawfully admitted for 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 an alien lawfully admitted for 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 resident status on a conditional basis under section 244(c)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1154a(c)(2)); or

(ii) subject to the exceptions described in subsections (a)(2) and (a)(3)(B) of this section, alien has not 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.—Section 102(b)(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 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 585 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and 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 enactment of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (division C of Public Law 104-208; 110 Stat. 3009-346).

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 PROTECTOR 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 resident status, an alien described in subsection (b) if the alien—

(1) applies for such adjustment, including submission of a petition 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 (b)(2), is not admissible under paragraphs (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, an alien who last habitually resided in such state) with a designation under section 244(c)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1154a(c)(2)); or

(B) 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 paragraphs (1), subparagraphs (A), (C), and (D) of paragraph (2), subparagraphs (D) through (G) of paragraph (6), or paragraph (10)(D) of section 244(c)(2) 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 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 in accordance with the cost of processing the application, but does not exceed $1,140.

(C) BACKGROUND CHECKS.—The Secretary may not grant an alien permanent resident status on a conditional basis under this section until the requirements of sections 302 and 303 are satisfied.

(D) 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(c)(4) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a(c)(4)) is amended by striking 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) the term "as having been inspected and admitted into the United States, and”;

(2) has been continuously physically present in the United States for a period of not less than 3 years; and
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) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.—The term “department” 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 for childhood arrivals as provided pursuant to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals policy announced by the Secretary of Homeland Security on June 15, 2012.

(5) ABILITY.—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 215A(h) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1183a).

(7) COMPLETED SCHOOL.—The term “completed school” has the meaning given such terms in section 4101 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” means an institution of higher education outside of the United States.

(10) POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIAL.—The term “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 such term in section 101 of title 10, United States Code.

(b) TREATMENT OF EXPUNGED CONVICTIONS.—For purposes of paragraphs (a) and (b) of section 237(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229a) and section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(g)), any conviction for expunged conviction, or in effect, 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’s application for 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. The Secretary shall 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 Secretary may not adjust the status of an alien who appears to the Secretary to be inadmissible under this Act or who has been admitted law enforcement background checks are completed to the satisfaction of the Secretary.

SEC. 303. LIMITATION ON REMOVAL; APPLICATION OF NUMERICAL LIMITATION AND OTHER CONDITIONS ON ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.

(a) LIMITATION ON REMOVAL.—An alien who applies for the purpose of relief under this Act shall be given a reasonable opportunity to apply for such relief and may not be removed unless, subject to section 236(c)(2), a final decision establishing ineligibility for relief is rendered.

(b) APPLICATION.—An alien present in the United States who has been 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 if the alien shall not be required to file a separate motion to re-open, reconsider, or vacate the order of removal. If the Secretary approves the application, the alien shall be eligible to apply for 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) HUMANITARIAN PURPOSES.—An applicant may be exempt 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 alien files an application under this Act, that is less than 150 percent of the Federal poverty line;

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

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

(e) EMPLOYMENT.—An alien whose removal is stayed pursuant to this Act, who may not be placed in removal proceedings pursuant to this Act, who has been granted paroled in place, or who has been granted an application for adjustment of status 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 be included in the computation of any period in the United States for any period exceeding 180 days; and

(b) APPLICATION.—An alien whose removal is stayed pursuant to this Act, who may not be placed in removal proceedings pursuant to this Act, who has been granted paroled in place, or who has been granted an application for adjustment of status under this Act, shall, upon application to the Secretary, be granted an employment authorization document.

(c) STAY OF REMOVAL.—An alien who has been ordered removed or permitted to depart voluntarily from the United States who 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 if the alien shall not be required to file a separate motion to re-open, reconsider, or vacate the order of removal. If the Secretary approves the application, the alien shall be eligible to apply for 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) 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 alien files an application under this Act, that is less than 150 percent of the Federal poverty line;

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

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

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

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 commencement of this Act, the Secretary shall provide to aliens who have applied for adjustment of status under this Act a process by which an alien may seek administrative appellate review of an application for adjustment of status, or a revocation of such application.

(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, before this Act in an appropriate United States district court.

(c) STAY OF REMOVAL.—

(1) GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3), 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 the alien’s eligibility 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 notify any 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:

(a) A passport or national identity document from the country of origin that includes the alien’s name and photograph.
(b) A school identification card that includes the alien’s name and photograph, and school records from a public or private school that the alien is or was enrolled at.
(c) A Uniformed Services identification card issued by the Department of Defense.
(d) Any immigration or other document issued by the United States Government bearing the alien’s name and photograph.
(e) Any other document bearing the alien’s name and photograph.
(f) 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)(2), 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 returns.
(13) Insurance policies.
(14) Bannet papers, 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—

1. 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;
2. The name, address, and telephone number of the affidavit; and
3. Any other evidence determined to be credible by the Secretary.

(d) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING QUALIFICATION FOR HARDSHIP EXEMPTION.—To establish that an alien who has satisfied the earned income requirement 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 affidavit; and
2. The nature and duration of the relationship between the affidavit and the alien.

(e) 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 or other service from the appropriate Uniformed Service; or
4. Health records from the appropriate Uniformed Service.

(f) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING QUALIFICATION

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

1. Establish compliance with such requirement; and
2. Have been maintained by the Social Security Administration, the Internal Revenue Service, or any other Federal, State, or local government agency.

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—

1. Bank records;
2. Business records;
3. Employer or contractor records;
4. Records of a labor union, day labor center, or organization that assists workers in employment;
5. Sworn affidavits from individuals who are not related to the alien and who have direct knowledge of the alien’s work, that contain—
   (A) the name, address, and telephone number of the affidavit; and
   (B) the nature and duration of the relationship between the affidavit and the alien.

SECTION 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 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, 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.
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) REQUIREMENTS FOR ADJUSTMENT 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 implementing the Act.

SEC. 309. CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION.

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

(b) PUBLICITY 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 with respect to 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) upon 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 and for the adjustment of status provided in section 101(c)(11), or without the conditional basis as provided in section 101(c)(2), including—

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

(B) a provisional denial under this Act; 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 101(c)(2)); and

(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 101(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 101(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 the purposes of this Act.

(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 101(c)(2)) shall not preclude the alien from seeking any status under any other provision of law for which the alien is otherwise 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 provision for national security purposes; or

 SEC. 313. ANNUAL REPORT ON PROVISIONAL DEACIAL AUTHORITY.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act and 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;

(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.

GENTLEMAN FROM NEW YORK

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to review 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 residence (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 VELAZQUEZ, 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 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 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 remove the Dallas Convention Center; the administration Committee compiled 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 answer is not what the American people have gained 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 sub-Committee 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 has plagued the lives of our Nation’s 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, in spite of the critical role they play in our community, 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.

The Dream and Promise Act has the support of Democrats, Republicans, and Independents, as well as businesses, organized labor, faith leaders, 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.

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 10,000 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 beاما 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 and I, 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 DACA—they have a legal status and go down to apply for their driver's license, and they are denied. That is a recipe for disaster.

Mr. Speaker, 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 United States by DHS for committing two misdemeanors to discourage another generation of young people from ever coming back will mean that a former Bill in the House that I reintroduced this fall, the Stopping Border Surges Act earlier this year and introduced the Stopping Border Surges Act earlier this week.

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.
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 walked 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 that 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 CDNI for the $3,000 or $7,000 to move that little girl. And the 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 immigration. Meanwhile, Dreamers 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 sound larger.

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 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 shining sea 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.

Immigrants are a reason why America became the world’s most powerful and most prosperous country. For 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.

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 former, our 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, but certainly those cartels 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.
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 gave, 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 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 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. It hastens 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 this 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 gave 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 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? The number 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 the 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 waited an entirely too long 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 the same.

But Congressman Gallego, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Intelligence and Special Operations—and
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, only 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 around. 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 FAC, 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. It is a fierce fight.

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 hiring 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 should care if 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 refused 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 is not Trump who is preventing our children from hearing 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 Padino, 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 cartels making a lot of money; there are people who are still living in fear; there are cartels making a fortune off the parts and disadvantaging America.

We are in the middle of a pandemic where people are not being tested but still being allowed to sell off their parts in the States. I am not 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 1½ 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 seeing today is as much fearmongering 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 codeos 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 is supported by 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 and 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 gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. GROTHMAN).

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, we take up this bill a time when most 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 public 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 lifesaving 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 to refugees. 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 ability for my sister and I to 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 is not the Dream Act, while we already know to be true that their homeland 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 the important right, ultimately, the privilege of citizenship. Sometimes that important distinction can be overlooked.

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 as 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 611,000 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 convicted of multiple misdemeanors. If this bill is signed into law, adults from

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 bill 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 co-sponsor of legislation to extend the full promise of America to Dreamers, and as 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 comprehensive immigration reform bills 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 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 them in the U.S. 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. 

The second title of the bill, American Promise Act of 2019, contains provisions related to persons eligible Temporary Protected Status (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.

Passing this 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 United States 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 DED-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 deportation action for children alone 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 306,300300 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 it makes it easier for states to provide in-state 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 a presence since the date required); (2) were granted TPS; (3) were granted DED; (4) were employed; and (5) have spent the total time in the United States.

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 by better utilizing 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. 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.

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 happens to America when we allow our children and our youth to remain and thrive.

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 thank 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 I 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 Congressman 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 is something that is 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 experience of our Members.

As I mentioned, Chairwoman ROYBAL-ALLARD was under the leadership of one of the predecessors of our Members from Arizona, Congressman Ed Pastor. The Dream Act was under the leadership of one of the predecessors of our Members.

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 is something that is within the experience of our Members.

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Chairwoman NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ has the “promise.” This is Dreamers and promise. She has the promise, TPS and DED—again, very important to our country.

I was so pleased to hear this morning CAPTAIN 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 protected 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 that 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. The Dream Act was under the leadership of one of the predecessors of our Members.

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. The Dream Act was under the leadership of one of the predecessors of our Members.

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

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 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. DAVIS). The gentleman from Ohio has 13 minutes. The gentleman from New York has 14 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 Pferrinus, 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 10-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. 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 we are at 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 those same permissions if the applicants with multiple convictions, even if the court has excluded, attempted a moratorium on deportations, and those convictions if the applicants with multiple convictions, even if the court has excluded, attempted a moratorium on deportations.

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 first responders. 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 county.

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.

Mr. JORDAN. 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 this? This is 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?

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman 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 even acknowledging it.

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 visited 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 fashion to secure the border and then move on.

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 yield 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 path 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 yield 1 minute to the 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 an American life 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 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 an American life 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. LEGGER FERNANDEZ).

Ms. LEGGER FERNANDEZ of New Mexico. 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 notion to require 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 that 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 8 3/4 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 do not 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 your vote. It is equal to all of those 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. GARCIA).

Mr. GARCIA. 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 keep 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 yield 30 seconds, and I 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 of 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. Ask the people who have witnessed 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 Chairwoman 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 GARCIA 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 where millions 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 drugs 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. SCHAUKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAUKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, there is no doubt the American Dream and Promise Act is a cross-need 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 yield 30 seconds to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. RUZ). Mr. RUZ. 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 technologists, 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 by day.

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. RUZ. Madam Speaker, I thank the Congressional Hispanic Caucus members. Congresswoman LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, Congresswoman NYDIA VELAZQUEZ, 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. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize that 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 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
Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “no.”

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “no.”

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

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

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

Reject this bill.

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the passage of H.R. 6, the American Dream and Promise Act of 2021. This is a crisis for the country.

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

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

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

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I’m proud to support H.R. 6, the American Dream and
Promised 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 a pathway to citizenship for 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 support 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 living in fear of deportation. They deserve this, and I urge all Members to support the American Dream and Promise Act.

Ms. VELAZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill, the Dream and Promise Act. Let me thank Speaker PELOSI, Chairman NAZARIO, Chairwoman LODFORD, 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 and very much look forward to finalizing that piece 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 co-workers, 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, it’s 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 far 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 their families and 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 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.

The legislation that we are debating today 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 devotion 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 take it 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 uncertainty 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 revealed that 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 determined to contribute in their own way to improve the lives of 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, and this 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 reads 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 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 street gang, or 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 all 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 ALIENS FOUND INELIGIBLE FOR ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.

Notwithstanding sections 102(c), 202(b)(3), and 238(f) of this Act, and any other provision of law, any alien who has been found ineligible for adjustment of status shall be denied based on criminal, national security, gang, or public safety grounds, as set out in section 102(c) or 202(b)(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 motion appeared to have it.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(a) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays have been ordered on the following:

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question are 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 non-immigrant 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:

1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.
2. Repealing provisions.
3. Taxes.
4. Certification.
5. Designated worker status.
6. Eligibility.
7. Requirements.
8. Registration.
9. Registration of foreign labor recruiters.
10. Electronic verification.
12. Exemptions.
15. Miscellaneous.

TITLE I—SECURING THE DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE

Subtitle A—Temporary Status for Certified Agricultural Workers

101. Certified agricultural worker status.
102. Terms and conditions of certified status.
103. Extensions of certified status.
104. Determination of continuous presence.
105. Employer obligations.
106. Administrative and judicial review.

Subtitle B—Optional Earned Residence for Long-Term Workers

111. Optional adjustment of status for long-term agricultural workers.
112. Payment of fees.
113. Adjudication and decision; review.

Subtitle C—General Provisions

121. Definitions.
122. Rulemaking; Fees.
123. Background checks.
124. Protection for children.
125. Limitation on removal.
126. Documentation of agricultural work history.
127. Employer protections.
128. Correction of social security records; conforming amendments.
129. Disclosures and privacy.
130. Penalties for false statements in applications.
131. Dissemination of information.
132. Exemption from numerical limitations.
133. Reports to Congress.
134. Grant program to assist eligible applicants.

TITLE II—ENSURING AN AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE FOR THE FUTURE

Subtitle A—Reforming the H-2A Temporary Worker Program

201. Comprehensive and streamlined electronic H-2A platform.
203. Agency roles and responsibilities.
204. Worker protection and compliance.

TITLE III—ELECTRONIC VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY

301. Electronic employment eligibility verification system.
302. Mandatory electronic verification for the agricultural industry.
303. Coordination with E-Verify Program.
304. Fraud and misuse of documents.
305. Technical and conforming amendments.
306. Protection of Social Security Administration programs.
307. Report on the implementation of the electronic employment verification system.
308. Modernizing and streamlining the employment eligibility verification process.
309. Rulemaking and Paperwork Reduction Accountability

TITLE IV—AUTHORIZATIONS, ENHANCEMENTS, AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS

401. Extension of the temporary worker program.
402. High demand occupations.
403. Expansion of the temporary worker program.
404. Extension of the temporary worker program.

TITLE V—APPLICATION, ADMINISTRATION, AND ENFORCEMENT

501. Authority and responsibilities.
502. Administrative and judicial review.
503. Reporting requirements.

TITLE VI—IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT CONFORMING AMENDMENTS

602. Exemptions.
604. Rulemaking.
605. Miscellaneous.

TITLE VII—FURTHER CONSIDERATION

701. Further consideration of H.R. 6 is postponed.
702. Report 117–12 is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of H.R. 6 is postponed.
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 and the Farm Service Agency offices throughout the United States shall not prejudice any future application filed by the alien—

(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) 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 of a final administrative decision regarding such application, the alien may travel outside the United States for a temporary purpose; and

(A) written notice that describes the basis for the administrative decision; and

(B) such other evidence as the alien may need to travel outside the United States for a temporary purpose.

(3) CLARIFICATION.—Nothing in this title prohibits any future application filed by the alien—

(A) except as provided in section 126(c), has performed agricultural labor or services under subsection (a); or

(B) has not met the required period of agricultural labor or services described in paragraph (1) if the alien—

(i) valid, unexpired documentation of certified agricultural worker status; and

(ii) has not been denied a request for 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.).

(4) WAIVER FOR LATE FILING.—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.

(5) STATUS FOR WORKERS WITH PENDING APPLICATIONS.—

(A) 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.

(B) 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 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 121a(b)(1)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(I));

(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

(3) shall be subject to the rules applicable to individuals who are not lawfully present set forth in section 1003(a)(9) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(b)(1)(C)), pending a final administrative decision on the application.
SEC. 106. 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) EXTENT 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 control of the alien, 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. 107. 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 an employer record 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. 1255(m)).

SEC. 108. 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) ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW IN IMMIGRATION COURT.—Each record of an alien’s application for certified agricultural worker status under this subtitle, an application to extend such status, revocation of such status, or a record of an administrative appeal 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 authorized by section 102 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) the alien is a principal alien under section 101(b); and
(B) the alien has not become ineligible for adjustment to lawful permanent resident status, an alien’s 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 resident status under this subtitle if—
(i) an application for adjustment of status under this subtitle has been filed by the spouse or child; and
(ii) the spouse or child is not ineligible for adjustment to lawful permanent resident status under section 101(b).

(B) PROTECTIONS FOR SPOUSES AND CHILDREN.—The Secretary shall establish procedures to—
(i) process applications for adjustment of status for lawful permanent resident status for the spouse and children of an alien described in paragraph (1); and
(ii) allow an alien to be granted adjustment of status under section 101(b).

(C) DOCUMENTATION OF WORK HISTORY.—An applicant for adjustment of status under this section shall provide evidence of work history that has been previously accepted by the Secretary in connection with an approval of extension of certified agricultural worker status.

(2) PENALTY FOR FALSE STATEMENT.—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)).

(b) 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 renders 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 to persons 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); and
(3) may not be considered unlawfully present under section 121(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))).

(c) 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.

(d) WITHDRAWAL OF APPLICATION.—The Secretary shall, upon request, 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 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 adjustment of status under this Act or under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

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 assigned to 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)), unless 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 performed in connection with any agricultural worker program.

(3) APPLICABLE FEDERAL TAX LIABILITY.—The term ‘applicable Federal tax liability’ means all Federal income taxes assessed in accordance with procedures established by the Secretary for a certified agricultural worker to pay any fee or penalty that the Secretary may assess under this title if the 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.

(4) 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.

(5) ANY OTHER DOCUMENTATION.—Any other documentation designated by the Secretary for such purpose.

(c) EXCEPTIONS FOR EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may grant certified agricultural worker status to an alien who has otherwise met the requirements of this section if the 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; or

(ii) ends 90 days after the date on which such public health emergency terminates.

(2) EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES.—If in determining whether an alien has met the requirement under section 101(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 is unable to perform the required agricultural labor or services due to—

(A) pregnancy, parental leave, illness, disease, disability, 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 not 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 (2)(F) 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 work

(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 performed in connection with any agricultural worker program.

(3) APPLICABLE FEDERAL TAX LIABILITY.—The term ‘applicable Federal tax liability’ means all Federal income taxes assessed in accordance with procedures established by the Secretary for a certified agricultural worker to pay any fee or penalty that the Secretary may assess under this title if the 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.

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(ii) ends 90 days after the date on which such public health emergency terminates.

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(A) pregnancy, parental leave, illness, disease, disability, 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 not 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 (2)(F) 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.

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(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 work

(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 performed in connection with any agricultural worker program.

(3) APPLICABLE FEDERAL TAX LIABILITY.—The term ‘applicable Federal tax liability’ means all Federal income taxes assessed in accordance with procedures established by the Secretary for a certified agricultural worker to pay any fee or penalty that the Secretary may assess under this title if the 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.

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(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.

(5) ANY OTHER DOCUMENTATION.—Any other documentation designated by the Secretary for such purpose.

(c) EXCEPTIONS FOR EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may grant certified agricultural worker status to an alien who has otherwise met the requirements of this section if the 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; or

(ii) ends 90 days after the date on which such public health emergency terminates.

(2) EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES.—If in determining whether an alien has met the requirement under section 101(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 is unable to perform the required agricultural labor or services due to—

(A) pregnancy, parental leave, illness, disease, disability, 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 not 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 (2)(F) 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 work
SEC. 128. CORRECTION OF SOCIAL SECURITY RECORDS; CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 268(c)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 406(c)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking "or" and inserting "or" in the case of a sentence that includes such a statement; and

(ii) has partially completed the requirement under section 111(a)(1)(A); and

(ii) 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) LIMITATION ON PROTECTION.—The protections of subsection (a) shall not apply if the employer fails to provide employment records to the alien that are determined to be fraudulent.

SEC. 129. DISCLOSURES AND PRIVACY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not disclose 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 reviews) 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 reviews), 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 the Federal agencies if the Commissioner deems the information necessary for the purpose of immigration enforcement.

(1) for assistance in the consideration of an application under this title; and

(2) to identify or prevent fraudulent claims or schemes; or

(3) for national security purposes; or

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

(d) PRIVACY SECURITY.—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—

(I) 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 statement 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

(II) 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.—Any 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)).

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 government agencies, 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 work sites.

(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 status of—

(a) any individual who is granted certified agricultural worker status under the Farm Work Modernization Act of 2021; and

(b) any individual who applied for adjustment of status under the Farm Work Modernization Act of 2021.

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 the Farm Work Modernization Act of 2021, 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 the Farm Work Modernization Act of 2021, and the number of dependent spouses and children included in such applications;

(3) the number of principal aliens who applied for an extension of their certified agricultural worker status under the Farm Work Modernization Act of 2021, 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 the Farm Work Modernization Act of 2021, 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 petitions;

(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-2 status.

SEC. 134. GRANT PROGRAM TO ASSIST ELIGIBLE AGENCIES.

(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 assistance 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 the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2906 et seq.)) that has demonstrated qualifications, experience, and expertise in providing quality services to farm workers and their families.

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

(1) information 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) not less than 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 shall use up to $10,000,000 from the Immigration Examinations Fee Account under section 502(a)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (excluding a recipient of funds under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2906 et seq.)) that has demonstrated qualifications, experience, and expertise in providing quality services to farm workers and their families.

(e) USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary shall use the funds appropriated under this section (A) to establish an electronic platform through the 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) enable an employer to submit 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 regarding the number and manner of efficient and secure processing of H-2A visas and petitions for admission.

(2) OBJECTIVES.—In developing the platform described in paragraph (1), the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of the State, and United States Digital Service, shall streamline and improve the H-2A petition process, including—

(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, including those causing delays 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 submitted in support of 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 not be adversely affected, to perform the agricultural labor or services described in the petition; and

(2) the employment of the H-2A worker in such capacity 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 who seeks to employ 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 shall have described the 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 H-2A worker.

“(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 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 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 not be adversely affected, to perform the agricultural labor or services described in the petition.

“(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.

“(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 work performed 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 PROTECTION LAWS.—The employer shall comply with section 204 of the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2021.

“(9) COMPLIANCE WITH FOREIGN LABOR REVIEW LAWS.—The employer shall comply with subtitle C of title II of the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2021.

“(10) RECRUITMENT REQUIREMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The employer may satisfy the recruitment requirement described in subsection (b) by offering a job to an alien who is not a United States citizen or national.

“(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 of recruitment described in subsection (b). The employer shall—

(B) FORMER WORKERS.—At least 45 days before each start date identified in the petition, the employer shall—
area of intended employment for which an H-2A worker is sought (excluding workers who were terminated for cause or abandoned the work-site); and

(3) Not find such job opportunity in a conspicuous location or locations at the place of employment.

(2) 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 in the State of 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 place of employment.

(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 placed 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 in subsection (b), the employer shall provide employment to any qualified United States worker who applies for 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, 30 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), the start date established 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 a position under subsection (h)(1)(C).

(iii) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding clause (i), the employer may offer a job opportunity to an H-2A worker who is an alien granted certified agricultural worker status under title I of the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2021 if the worker was employed by the employer in each of 3 years during the most recent 5-year period.

(3) RECRUITMENT REPORT.

(A) 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) HIRE OR LOSE.—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.

(4) RECRUITMENT REQUIREMENTS.

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each employer under this section will offer the worker, during the period of authorized employment, wages that are at least equal to—

(1) the agreed-upon collective bargaining wage;

(2) the adverse effect wage rate (or any successor wage rate established under paragraph (7));

(3) the prevailing wage (hourly wage or piece rate); or

(4) the Federal or State minimum wage.

(B) ADVERSE EFFECT WAGE RATE DETERMINATIONS.

(4) 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 Statewide 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), (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.

(5) WORKERS PAID ON A PIECE RATE OR OTHER INCENTIVE BASIS.—If an employer pays by the piece rate or other incentive method and recommends 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 requiring discrimination from material changes in production methods.

(6) GUARANTEE OF EMPLOYMENT.

(A) OFFER TO WORK.—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 worker is placed 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 wage order as stated in the job offer that 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 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 as a work day) are paid at a work week wage (Sub-bath, or on Federal holidays) may be counted by the employer in calculating whether the period of guaranteed employment has been met.

(C) ABANDONMENT OR 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).

(6) 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 or 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 such order 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 every effort 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 (h)(2).

(7) WAGE STANDARDS AFTER 2021.

(A) STUDY OF ADVERSE EFFECT WAGE RATE. Beginning in fiscal year 2022, 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 ensure that wages of United States farm workers in occupations in which H-2A workers are employed;

(iii) whether alternative wage standards would be more appropriate in the absence of applicable local or State standards, or in the absence of applicable local or State standards, State authority to promulgate, enforce, or maintain health and safety standards related to the commencement of labor or services.

(iv) whether any changes are warranted in the current methodologies for calculating the adverse effect wage rate and the prevailing wage.

(v) recommendations for future wage protection under this section.

(B) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than October 1, 2020, the Secretary of Agriculture and the 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 the 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 2021.—Upon publication of the report described in subparagraph (A), the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with and the approval of the Secretary of Labor, shall make a rule to establish a process for annually determining the wage rate for purposes of paragraph (1)(B) for fiscal years after 2021. Such process shall be designed to ensure that the determination of H-2A wages 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 complies with applicable local or State standards or other substantially similar class of habitation: Provided, That in the absence of applicable local standards, State standards shall apply, or to the place of next 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 from which the worker came to work for the employer, or to the place of next employment, if the worker was not provided 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 paragraph (1), for transportation and subsistence provided for by the employer pursuant to the job order, 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

(ii) the most economical and reasonable common carrier transportation charges and subsistence costs for the distance involved.

(B) DISTANCE TRAVELLED.—For travel to and 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.

(C) 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—

(i) be in writing in English, and to the extent practicable, other languages common to a significant portion of the workers if they are not fluent in English; and

(ii) be posted conspicuously 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 hazards.

(f) TRANSPORTATION REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) TRAVEL TO PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT.—A worker who is employed in a job order that involves seasonal or temporary work 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 to the place of next 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 from which the worker came to work for the employer, or to the place of next employment, if the worker was not provided 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 paragraph (1), for transportation and subsistence provided for by the employer pursuant to the job order, 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

(ii) the most economical and reasonable common carrier transportation charges and subsistence costs for the distance involved.

(B) DISTANCE TRAVELLED.—For travel to and 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—

(i) be in writing in English, and to the extent practicable, other languages common to a significant portion of the workers if they are not fluent in English; and

(ii) be posted conspicuously 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 hazards.

(h) PETITIONS IN VIOLEATION OF STAGGERED ENTRY.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), an employer may file a petition in violation of staggered entry in the same occupational classification and same area of intended employment with multiple start dates if—

(A) the petition involves temporary or seasonal employment and no more than 10 start dates;

(B) the multiple start dates share a common end date; and

(C) the petition involving staggered entry.

(ii) NO MORE THAN 120 DAYS.—(A) No more than 120 days separate the first start date and the final start date listed in the petition, and

(B) the multiple start dates arise from variations in labor needs associated with the job opportunity identified in the petition.

(iii) LABOR CONTRACT.—The employer may not file a petition described in clause (i) unless the labor contractor or the employer of its agricultural producers association has notified the Secretary of Labor that it is operating in a State in which joint employment and liability between the labor contractor and its contractors is otherwise established.

(C) PETITIONS INVOLVING STAGGERED ENTRY.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), an employer may file a petition in violation of staggered entry in the same occupational classification and same area of intended employment with multiple start dates if—

(A) the petition involves temporary or seasonal employment and no more than 10 start dates;

(B) the multiple start dates share a common end date; and

(C) the petition involving staggered entry.

(ii) NO MORE THAN 120 DAYS.—(A) No more than 120 days separate the first start date and the final start date listed in the petition, and

(B) the multiple start dates arise from variations in labor needs associated with the job opportunity identified in the petition.

(iii) LABOR CONTRACT.—The employer may not file a petition described in clause (i) unless the labor contractor or the employer of its agricultural producers association has notified the Secretary of Labor that it is operating in a State in which joint employment and liability between the labor contractor and its contractors is otherwise established.

(C) PETITIONS INVOLVING STAGGERED ENTRY.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), an employer may file a petition in violation of staggered entry in the same occupational classification and same area of intended employment with multiple start dates if—

(A) the petition involves temporary or seasonal employment and no more than 10 start dates;

(B) the multiple start dates share a common end date; and

(C) the petition involving staggered entry.
"(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 certification or disqualification 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 an application for expedited review is received, issue a final determination on the labor certification that was denied in whole or in part because of the availability of able, willing and qualified workers if the employer, after consultation with 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.

"(F) APPROVAL.—Upon approval of a petition under this section, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall enter an order of approval, and notify the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, that such an order will be issued, that the petition is approved, and that it may be filed in court.

"(G) CERTIFICATION IMPACT AND BENEFICIARY DETERMINATION.—In determining the number of beneficiaries or the denial of the petition with respect to the association or other members, the Secretary of Agriculture or Secretary of Labor shall jointly establish by regulation procedures for the certification of the number of beneficiaries or the denial of a petition under this section, or the revocation of such a certification.

"(H) REQUISITE—When issuing a final determination under this section, the Secretary of Labor shall consider appropriate factors, including—

"(i) any changes in the real wages paid to agricultural workers in the commodity and occupation in question, the Secretary of Homeland Security may, consistent with the provisions of this subsection, appoint a petitioner for an H-2A worker to perform agricultural services or labor that is not of a temporary or seasonal nature.

"(ii) Non-temporary or seasonal needs. The determination of whether an association or other member participated in, had knowledge of, or reason to know of, the violation.

"(iii) Annual adjustments. For each fiscal year referred to in clause (i), the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, shall establish a numerical limitation for purposes of clause (i). Such numerical limitation may not be set at a rate more than 12.5 percent compared to the numerical limitation applicable to the immediately preceding fiscal year. In establishing such numerical limitation, such regulations shall consider appropriate factors, including—

"(A) the demonstrated shortage of agricultural workers;

"(B) the level of unemployment and underemployment of agricultural workers during the preceding fiscal year;

"(C) the number of H-2A workers employed by the association in the fiscal year following the fiscal year referred to in subparagraph (A) and for each of the following 5 fiscal years and for each of the following 2 fiscal years may not exceed 20,000.

"(D) roles of agricultural associations. The Secretary of Agriculture and Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall jointly establish by regulation procedures for the certification of the number of beneficiaries or the denial of a petition under this section, or the revocation of such a certification.

"(E) MINIMUM ALLOCATION FOR CERTAIN DETERMINATIONS.—The Secretary of Labor shall notify the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture and Secretary of Labor, that an alternative allocation would better accommodate demand for visas. Any unused visas in the fiscal year shall be added to the allocation for the subsequent fiscal year.

"(F) LIMITATION.—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 fiscal year shall be added to the allocation for the subsequent half of the same fiscal year.

"(G) RESTRICTION.—The Secretary of Labor may not issue a visa under this section 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.

"(H) LIMITATION.—The Secretary of Labor may not issue a visa under this section 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 fiscal year shall be added to the allocation for the subsequent half of the same fiscal year.

"(I) RESTRICTION.—The Secretary of Labor may not issue a visa under this section 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 fiscal year shall be added to the allocation for the subsequent half of the same fiscal year.
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 to the worker’s family member.

(6) **WORKPLACE SAFETY PLAN FOR DAIRY EMPLOYEES.**

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—If an employer is seeking to employ an alien in agricultural labor for services in the dairy industry pursuant to this subsection, the employer must report incidents consistent with the requirements under section 1904.30 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) require workers (other than the employer’s family members) who are hired to attend a training to complete annual 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;

(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.

(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) who are hired to attend a training to complete annual 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;

(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.

(7) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (A) and to the exceptions in subparagraph (C), any H–2A worker who—

(i) is the beneficiary of an approved petition, filed under section 214(b)(3)(H)(i) or (F) for preference status under section 203(b)(3)(A)(ii);

(ii) is eligible to be granted such status but for the annual limitations on visas under section 214(b)(3)(A)(ii);

(iii) may apply for, and the Secretary of Homeland Security may grant, an extension of such non-immigrant status until the Secretary of Homeland Security has made a 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;

(iv) is the beneficiary of an approved petition, filed under section 214(b)(3)(H)(i) or (F) for preference status under section 203(b)(3)(A)(ii); and

(v) is the beneficiary of an approved petition, filed under section 214(b)(3)(H)(i) or (F) for preference status under section 203(b)(3)(A)(ii), and

is also engaged in the worksite and provided to employees prior to the commencement of labor or services.

(8) **ELIGIBILITY FOR H–2A STATUS AND ADMISSION TO THE UNITED STATES.**

(A) **DISQUALIFICATION.**—An alien shall be inadmissible 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—

(AA) 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

(ABB) otherwise violated a term or condition of admission into the United States as an H–2A worker.

(B) **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.

(C) **period of authorized stay.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—An alien admitted 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 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) **Exempptions.**—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall deduct absences from the required period of authorized stay of an H–2A worker in the following cases—

(i) if the alien’s period of authorized stay is extended as a result of a violation giving rise to the obligation to pay wages or other benefits, including any assessment of interest, to the effects of a governmental, State, or local proceeding, for the payment of wages and benefits, including any assessment of interest, to an H–2A worker; or

(ii) if the alien’s period of authorized stay is extended as a result of a violation giving rise to the obligation to pay wages or other benefits, including any assessment of interest, to the effects of a governmental, State, or local proceeding, for the payment of wages and benefits, including any assessment of interest, to an H–2A worker.

(9) **eligibility and primary for the benefit of the worker’s wages.

(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 commonly used by the workers, if they are not fluent in English, which sets out the rights and protections for workers employed pursuant to this section.

(A) **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, if the alien is an immigrant worker, to the United States District Court for the 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 if the worker 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. The number of workers the labor contractor seeks to employ and the wages such workers are required to be paid.

(2) **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 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 wages and other benefits, shall be used for further appropriation until expended to support the enforcement of this section.

(4) **Prohibition against employers 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 the worker’s government- or employer-provided expenses.
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 prospectively employing H–2A workers for their services as a contractor or foreign labor recruiter has sought or collected such payments, the employer shall terminate any contracts with such contractor or recruiter.

‘‘(m) ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor is authorized to take 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) 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) FILINGS.—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, fees and costs in violation of this section, damages, and civil money penalties. The Secretary is also authorized to impose other administrative remedies, including the 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 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, discharge, or in any other manner discriminate against, an employee, including a former employee or an applicant for employment, because the employee—

(A) refusing to furnish 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; or

(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; or

(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, that is intended in the judgement of the Secretary of Labor to facilitate the prompt issuance of a visa by the Department of State (if required) and the admission of H–2A workers to the United States; or

(E) has disclosed information to the employer that is—

(A) recruiting United States workers for labor or services which might otherwise be performed by H–2A workers, and including by ensuring that State workforce agencies are sufficiently funded to fulfill their functions under this section; or

(B) enabling the Secretary of Labor to make determinations and certifications under this section and under section 212(a)(5)(A)(ii); or

(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) facilitating 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 inspections under this section, the Secretary of Labor shall have responsibility for—

(1) consulting with State workforce agencies to—

(A) review and process job orders; and

(B) facilitate the recruitment and referral of able, willing and qualified United States workers so that the availability of the United States labor market 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); and

(3) 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); the Secretary of Labor shall be responsible for—

(4) investigations and preventing complaints consistent with section 218(m) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1188(m));

(5) processing and investigating complaints made by a worker in the same occupational classification as the beneficiary of an approved petition, ensuring that the petition named beneficiaries qualify for such employment, including obligations 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.

(2) 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.


(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 classified worker for whom 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, 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 employed.

(7) 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 account established under section 243b of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1251b) to facilitate the prompt issuance of a visa by the Department of State (if required) and the admission of H–2A workers to the United States; or

(C) determining whether the employment of an H–2A worker is sought.

(2) APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated for each fiscal year such sums as may be necessary to—

(A) recruiting United States workers for labor or services which might otherwise be performed by H–2A workers, and including by ensuring that State workforce agencies are sufficiently funded to fulfill their functions under this section; or

(B) enabling the Secretary of Labor to make determinations and certifications under this section and under section 212(a)(5)(A)(ii); or

(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) facilitating the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out the Secretary of Agriculture’s duties and responsibilities under this section.”. 

H1357
shall be deposited as offsetting receipts into the account amounts—
(A) collected as a civil penalty under section 210(m)(3)(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) for the period described in section 206(b)(3) of the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (29 U.S.C. 1811), shall be available to the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Labor to conduct audits of H–2A-certification programs, shall be available to the Secretary of Labor to conduct activities in connection with labor certification under section 218 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, and shall be available to the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Labor to conduct audits of State administration in carrying out activities in connection with labor certification under section 218 of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

(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) ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—Amounts available under paragraph (1) shall be available in addition to amounts of required bond amounts that are determined by the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, such sums as may be necessary for each fiscal year to carry out this subparagraph.

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.).

(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:

(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:

(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 rates and piece 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 regions, states, or other areas of agricultural employment;
(6) whether, and the manner in which, the adverse effect wage rate varies based on the perception of workers in a geographic region that are H–2A workers;
(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.

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 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, and job opportunities of United States farm workers;
(2) whether, and the manner in which, the adverse effect wage rate increases or decreases when compared to the wages of workers in the United States that are not subject to the adverse effect wage rate;
(3) whether any potential impact of agents the adverse effect wage rate varies based on the perception 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 rates and piece 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 regions, states, or other areas of agricultural employment;
(6) whether, and the manner in which, the adverse effect wage rate varies based on the perception of workers in a geographic region that are H–2A workers;
(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; and
(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.

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 the Interior, shall designate a State, or States, as a pilot area for the purpose of testing the effectiveness of a program to permit the entry of agricultural workers into the United States for periods of time less than one year.

(h) 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 in subsection (b) the following new sub-paragraph (2) after redesigning the subsequent subsections accordingly:

(‘‘(b)(2) There shall be a rebuttable presump-
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, employers registered with the Secretary of Agriculture. Notwithstanding the requirements of section 218 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, such regulation shall provide that employers registered with 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 type 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 through similar 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 Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, may determine 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 designated by the Secretary to seek designation as registered agricultural employers. Reasonable fees may be assessed commensurate with the cost of processing applications for designation. A designated employer 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 for 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 216 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1186(a)).

(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 illness 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 shall be eligible to seek designation as registered agricultural workers. A nonimmigrant who has been previously admitted to the United States in H–2A status may apply for portable H–2A status, and maintained such status during previously admitted to the United States in H–2A status, and maintained such status during periods of up to 3 years for the duration of the nonimmigrant 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.

(B) LIMITATIONS ON AVAILABILITY OF PORTABLE H–2A STATUS.—

(i) INITIAL OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT REQUIRED.—No alien may be granted 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.

(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 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) TRANSFER TO NEW EMPLOYMENT.—At the cessation of employment with a registered agricultural employer or upon the expiration of the nonimmigrant status under the program, a portable H–2A worker who no longer maintains such status may apply for 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.

(D) TRANSFER TO NEW EMPLOYMENT.—At the cessation of employment with a registered agricultural employer or upon the expiration of the nonimmigrant status under the program, a portable H–2A worker who no longer maintains such status may apply for 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.
amended by striking section 101(a)(15)(H)(i) except
subsection (b) of such section and inserting
clause (i), except subsection (b), or (ii)(a) of section 101(a)(15)(H)(i).

Subtitle B—Retention and Construction of
Foreclosed Rural 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. 245. HOUSING PRESERVATION AND REVITALIZATION PROGRAM.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall carry out a program under this section for the preservation and revitalization of multifamily rural 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 2 years of the date of such notice, setting forth the specific actions and measures that are available to facilitate the extension of the loan term or the options available to the assisted 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 6 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 determines to be 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.

“(i) reducing or eliminating interest;

“(ii) deferring loan payments;

“(iii) subordinating, reducing, or repairing outstanding loan debt; and

“(iv) providing other financial assistance, including advances, payments, and incentives (including reducing or eliminating the requirement for previous owners to meet various conditions) required by the Secretary.

“(d) RENEWAL OF RENTAL ASSISTANCE.—When the Secretary determines 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 agreement for a property financed under this section, the Secretary shall obtain a restrictive use agreement that obligates the owner to operate the project in accordance with this title.

“(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 property, 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 agreement for a property if the project owner reasonably deems it impossible to satisfactorily restructure in accordance with subsection (c) and the project was operating with rental assistance under section 521, the Secretary may restructure 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.—An 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 for 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 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).

“(f) MULTIFAMILY HOUSING TRANSFER TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE.—Under the program under this section, the Secretary shall 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.

“(g) 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 transferred the property pursuant to subsection (c), a tenant residing in such project shall have 18 months prior to loan maturation or payment to transfer to another rental project originally financed under sections 514 or 516, and the owner of the initial project may rent the tenant's previous unit to a new tenant without income restrictions.

“(h) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Of any amounts made available for the program under this title for any fiscal year, the Secretary may use not more than $1,000,000 for administrative expenses for carrying out such program.

“(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated for the program under section 521 for fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

“SEC. 222. ELIGIBILITY FOR RURAL HOUSING VOUCHERS.

Section 542 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490a) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 542a. ELIGIBILITY FOR RURAL HOUSING VOUCHERS.

“Provisions relating to the housing assistance under section 514, 515, and 516 Projects.—The Secretary may make housing vouchers available under this title to households whose income is at or below the income limit determined under section 514 and avoiding on behalf of eligible families residing in other rental projects originally financed under section 514 or both sections 514 and 516 of this Act.

“SEC. 223. AMOUNT OF VOUCHER ASSISTANCE.

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Agriculture $50,000,000 for fiscal year 2022 for improving the technical assistance 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. 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 (B):—

“(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 rural rental projects originally financed under section 514 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 $5,000,000 for fiscal year 2022 for improving the technical assistance 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 MAINTAINING 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 514 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;

“(B) set forth the specific actions and mechanisms by which such goals will be achieved;

“(2) set forth specific performance goals and measures by which progress towards achievement of each goal can be evaluated;

“(3) set forth specific performance goals and measures by which progress towards achievement of each goal can be evaluated;

“(4) provide for detailed reporting on outcomes; and

“(5) 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 assistance on behalf of eligible families residing in other rental projects originally financed under section 514 or both sections 514 and 516 of this Act.

“(B) during which the owner may use such assistance authority to provide assistance on behalf of an assisted family that is residing in the same rental project that the assisted family resided in prior to such termination; or

“(C) in the case of any assisted family, the Secretary shall provide assistance on behalf of eligible families residing in other rental projects originally financed under section 514 or both sections 514 and 516 of this Act.

“SEC. 227. INTRODUCTION OF AFFORDABLE RENTAL PROJECTS.

Section 515 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1484, 1485) is amended by—

“(1) by striking “(b)” after “(a)” and inserting “(b)”;

“(2) by striking “a property financed under section 515” and inserting “a property financed under section 514”;

“(3) by striking “or both sections 514 and 516” and inserting “section 514”;

“(4) by striking “(b)” after “(a)” and inserting “(b)”;

“(5) by striking “a property financed under section 514” and inserting “a property financed under section 515”;

“(6) by striking “a property financed under section 515” and inserting “a property financed under section 514”; and

“(7) in subsection (c), by striking “a property financed under section 515” and inserting “a property financed under section 514”.

“SEC. 521. ELIGIBILITY FOR RURAL HOUSING VOUCHERS.

Section 542 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490a(3)(G)(ii)(I)) has been foreclosed, or has matured after September 30, 2005, or residing in such property assisted under section 514 or both sections 514 and 516 that is owned by a nonprofit organization or public agency.

“SEC. 228. AMOUNT OF VOUCHER ASSISTANCE.

This section may be cited as the “Strategy and Investment in Rural Housing Preservation Act of 2021.”
(1) in subparagraph (l), by striking “and” at the end; (2) by redesignating subparagraph (j) as subparagraph (k); and (3) by inserting after subparagraph (l) the following new subparagraph: “(l) 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. 1490l), without regard to subsection (b) of such section, and applicable appropriation amounts.”

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 $232,000,000 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 to the authority under subsection (a).”

“(2) SECTION 516 GRANTS FOR FARMWORKER HOUSING.—There is authorized to be appropriated $28,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2031 for rental assistance agreements entered into or renewed pursuant to 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)) and agreements entered into in lieu of debt forgiveness or payments for eligible households as authorized by section 506(c)(5)(D)).”

SEC. 229. LOAN AND GRANT LIMITATIONS.

Section 514 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1483) 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 amount awarded per project shall not be less than $5 million.”

SEC. 220. OPERATING ASSISTANCE SUBSIDIES.

Subsection (a)(5) of section 521 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490a(5)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (4), by inserting “of the Secretary of Agriculture” after “the Secretary”;

(2) in paragraph (5), by striking “30 percent” and inserting “50 percent”;

(3) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking “10 percent” and inserting “25 percent”;

(4) in paragraph (6), by striking “10 percent” and inserting “25 percent”; and

(5) in paragraph (8), by striking “5 percent” and inserting “15 percent”.

SEC. 232. COVERED HOUSING PROGRAMS.

Paragraphs (8), (9)(C), (10), (11), and (12) of section 411(a) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12491(a)(3)) are amended—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of section 411(a) (34 U.S.C. 12491(a)(3)); and

(2) by striking “or” at the end of section 411(a) (34 U.S.C. 12491(a)(3)).
any matter required to be disclosed under this subtitle.

(3) REQUIRED DISCLOSURES.—The foreign labor recruiter shall ascertain and disclose to the worker the worker’s native language, 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 name of the foreign labor recruiter conducting the recruiting on behalf of the employer, including any subcontractor or agent involved in such recruiting.

(B) the identity of any registered agent or work contract under section 218 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, including all assurances and terms of employment.

(C) a statement in a form specified by the Secretary—

(i) describing the general terms and conditions associated with an H–2A visa and maintaining H–2A status;

(ii) affording the protection 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 reviewing complaints 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 under this subtitle, including procedures for reviewing complaints to the Secretary of State, filing a complaint with the Secretary of Labor, or filing a civil action.

(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 subsection (b)(1)(C)(i) 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 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 against any of 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 has reason to believe is engaging in foreign labor recruiting activities.

(7) EMPLOYEES, AGENTS, AND SUBCONTRACTORS.—The foreign labor recruiter shall consent to be liable for the conduct of any agent or subcontractor of any level in relation to the foreign labor recruiting activity of the agent or subcontractor 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 civil action, if such service is made in accordance with the appropriate Federal due process.

(d) TERM OF REGISTRATION.—Unless suspended or revoked, a registration under this section shall be valid for 2 years.

(e) APPLICATION FEES.—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) ENFORCEMENT NOTIFICATION.—(A) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than once every 2 years, the Secretary shall provide the names and addresses of all foreign labor recruiters engaged to perform foreign labor recruiting activities on behalf of the employer, whether the foreign labor recruiter provides recruitment; 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 2 years, of the identification of its subcontractor, agent, or foreign labor recruiter employed in any foreign labor recruiting activity for, or on behalf of, the foreign labor recruiter.

(g) ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE.—

(1) LISTED FOR FOREIGN LABOR RECRUITER NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary of Labor, 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 other countries and on websites maintained by the Secretary of Labor, regularly updated lists—

(A) of foreign labor recruiters who hold valid registration under this subtitle, 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;

(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;

(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 applicable.


(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); and

(B) ensure that the applicant has a copy of the approved job offer or work contract; and

(C) note in the application file whether the foreign labor recruiter has a valid registration under this section; and

(4) if the foreign labor recruiter holds a valid registration, review and include in the visa application file, the foreign labor recruiter’s disclosure required by subsection (c)(3).

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 non-immigrant 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) AUTHORITY TO DENY 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 subcontractor 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 this subsection 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 3 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 date an application for registration is filed and has taken sufficient steps to prevent future violations of this subtitle.

(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 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; and

(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 receiving a 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 registering.

(2) AUTHORITY TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE.—The Secretary of Labor is authorized to take other such actions, including issuing subpoenas and conducting appropriate investigations, as may be necessary to assure compliance with the terms and conditions of this subtitle.
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 foreign labor recruiter, or any employer that does not meet the requirements under subsection (d)(1), in any court of competent jurisdiction.

(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.

(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—

(II) the court may award statutory damages to be awarded under subsection (b) to a plaintiff—

(A) for violations of a single provision of this subtitle (or of a regulation under this subtitle) that constitute only one violation for purposes of this subsection to determine the amount of statutory damages due a plaintiff; and

(B) if such complaint is certified as a class action the court may award—

(aa) in general—(I) 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) to seek remedial action, including injunctive, and

(C) BOND.—To satisfy the damages, fees, and costs found owing under this paragraph, the Secretary shall release as much of the bond held in any court of competent jurisdiction—

(A) to seek remedial action, including injunctive, and

(B) for damages in accordance with the provisions of this subtitle.

(C) 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 are in violation of section 303(a)(4) of the Farm Work-

(d) EMPLOYER SAFE HARBOR.—

(I) 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

SEC. 251. EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION SYSTEM.

(a) EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION SYSTEM.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security (referred to in this section as the 'Secretary') shall establish the electronic verification system (referred to in this section as the 'System'), patterned on the E–Verify Program described in section 403(a)(2) 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 403(a)(4) of the Farm Work-

(II) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts deposited into the H–2A Foreign Labor Recruiter Compensation Account 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 are in violation of section 303(a)(4) of the Farm Work-

(III) to seek remedial action, including injunctive, and

(C) BOND.—To satisfy the damages, fees, and costs found owing under this paragraph, the Secretary shall release as much of the bond held in any court of competent jurisdiction—

(A) to seek remedial action, including injunctive, and

(B) for damages in accordance with the provisions of this subtitle.

(II) 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 are in violation of section 303(a)(4) of the Farm Work-

(III) to seek remedial action, including injunctive, and

(C) BOND.—To satisfy the damages, fees, and costs found owing under this paragraph, the Secretary shall release as much of the bond held in any court of competent jurisdiction—

(A) to seek remedial action, including injunctive, and

(B) for damages in accordance with the provisions of this subtitle.

(II) 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 are in violation of section 303(a)(4) of the Farm Work-

(III) to seek remedial action, including injunctive, and

(C) BOND.—To satisfy the damages, fees, and costs found owing under this paragraph, the Secretary shall release as much of the bond held in any court of competent jurisdiction—

(A) to seek remedial action, including injunctive, and

(B) for damages in accordance with the provisions of this subtitle.
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, establish 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 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.

(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 of such actions to 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 has been revoked.

(D) ADDITIONAL IDENTITY AUTHENTICATION TOOL.—The Secretary shall develop, after publication in the Federal Register and an opportunity for public comment, additional security measures 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 sign and submit to the System the account number that is not valid for employment.

(F) 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)(ii), compares the name and social security account number of all persons and entities that have submitted such identifying information to the System and the date of each query run, and the System response for each query run.

(G) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE.—The Secretary shall provide a process 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.

(H) 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.

(I) process for non-users.—(A) MANDATORY USERS.—Except as otherwise provided by 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 399(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 hiring, recruiting, or referring for a fee for employment in the United States.

(C) REQUIREMENTS FOR USE.—(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 must attest, under penalty of perjury, on a form designated by the Secretary, that the individual is 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.

(2) RECORDING IDENTIFICATION AND OTHER PERSONALLY IDENTIFYING INFORMATION.—

(A) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION.—A document described in this subparagraph is an individual’s—

(i) United States passport or passport card;

(ii) resident alien card;

(iii) foreign passport containing temporary evidence of lawful permanent residence in the form of an official I-551 (or successor) stamp or other evidence of permanent residence in the United States; or

(iv) any other document approved by the Secretary.

(B) ACCEPTABLE DOCUMENTS.—

(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 IDENTIFICATION.—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 or other evidence of permanent residence in the United States; or

(iv) any 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 or a proposed employment is not in conflict with any restrictions or limitations identified in the documentation;

(vi) passport from the Federal Government 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.

(B) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING NONIMMIGRANT ADMISSION.—

(iii) foreign passport containing temporary evidence of lawful permanent residence in the form of an official I-551 (or successor) stamp or other evidence of permanent residence in the United States; or

(iv) any 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 or a proposed employment is not in conflict with any restrictions or limitations identified in the documentation;

(vi) passport from the Federal Government 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.

(C) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING UNION MEMBERSHIP.—

(iii) foreign passport containing temporary evidence of lawful permanent residence in the form of an official I-551 (or successor) stamp or other evidence of permanent residence in the United States; or

(iv) any 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 or a proposed employment is not in conflict with any restrictions or limitations identified in the documentation;

(vi) passport from the Federal Government 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.

(D) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING UNION MEMBERSHIP.—

(iii) foreign passport containing temporary evidence of lawful permanent residence in the form of an official I-551 (or successor) stamp or other evidence of permanent residence in the United States; or

(iv) any 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 or a proposed employment is not in conflict with any restrictions or limitations identified in the documentation;

(vi) passport from the Federal Government 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.

(E) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING UNION MEMBERSHIP.—

(iii) foreign passport containing temporary evidence of lawful permanent residence in the form of an official I-551 (or successor) stamp or other evidence of permanent residence in the United States; or

(iv) any 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 or a proposed employment is not in conflict with any restrictions or limitations identified in the documentation;
("(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), or

"(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 to entity.—If an 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 the date of the receipt of the notice described in clause (ii), or in writing in a language understood by the individual and on a form designated by the Secretary, that the System 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 reemployed, whichever occurs first.

"(III) Presumption of Violation for Continued Employment.—If a person or entity receives a final nonconfirmation regarding an individual's identity or employment authorization not later than 3 business days after the date of the receipt of the notice described in clause (ii), the notice to the individual, and the individual shall acknowledge receipt of such notice in a manner specified by the Secretary.

"(I) Exception.—An individual may 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 acknowledge receipt of such notice.

"(a) refuses to acknowledge receipt of such notice; or

"(b) acknowledges in writing, in a manner specified by the Secretary, that the individual will not contest the tentative nonconfirmation; or

"(c) fails to contest the tentative nonconfirmation within the 10-business-day period beginning on the date the individual received such notice.

"(II) Tentative Nonconfirmation.—

"(i) Notice.—If a person or entity receives notice described in clause (ii), 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).

"(ii) Compromise of Violation for Continued Employment.—If a person or entity continues to employ an individual after receipt of a final nonconfirmation, the Secretary, in consultation with the Commissioner, shall impose an administrative penalty of $250 to $500 per notice described in clause (ii), should the Secretary subsequently determine, in consultation with the Commissioner, that the person or entity failed to provide the individual with an opportunity to contest the tentative nonconfirmation. Failure to notify the Secretary in accordance with this Clause shall be deemed a violation of section 274A(a)(1).
pursuant to subsection (a)(4)(C).

(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 is compliant with the requirements of this section, absent a showing of knowledge for purposes of paragraphs (1)(A) 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 occurred, imprisoned for not more than 18 months, or both.

(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(1)(1) and the provisions of any other law relating to immigration, for any employment-related violation of paragraph (2)(A) or (2) of section 274A(a), the offender shall be fined not more than $5,000 for each unauthorized alien with respect to whom such a violation occurred, imprisoned for not more than 18 months, or both.

(7) ELECTRONIC VERIFICATION COMPENSATION ACCOUNT.—Civil money penalties collected under this section 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)(H)(iii).

(8) DEBARMENT.—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, contract or cooperative agreement, the Secretary or Attorney General shall 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 Acquisitions.

(9) EXCEPTION FOR PATTERN OR PRACTICE 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.

(10) 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.

(11) ORDER TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.—The Secretary or Attorney General shall advise all agencies or departments holding a contract, grant, or cooperative agreement in accordance with the debarment standards and pursuant to the debarment procedures set forth in the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

(12) CONSTRUCTION.—The term ‘‘List of Parties Excluded from Federal Acquisitions’’ includes a person or entity that has been debarred from all Federal Acquisitions.

(13) AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the investigative, prosecutory, or civil enforcement authority of any Federal, State, or local Government.

(14) AUTHORITY TO REFER.—In the case of a person or entity that is convicted of a crime under section 274A, such person or entity may be referred to the Secretary or Attorney General 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.

(15) NO NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION CARD.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize, directly or indirectly, the issuance of national identification cards or the establishment of a national identification card.

(16) USE OF NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION CARDS.—A person or entity may not otherwise reverify the identity and employment authorization of the individual of or to ensure the secure, appropriate, and non-discriminatory use of the System.
"(D) REVIEW.—Any decision to debar a person or entity in accordance with this subsection shall be appealable 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 that is inconsistent with this section.

"(g) UNFAIR IMMIGRATION-RELATED EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES AND THE SYSTEM.—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 or take any adverse employment action with respect to that individual due to a tentative nonconfirmation issued by the System;

"(D) to use the System to verify the identity and employment eligibility of a current employee, including an employee continuing in employment, other than reverification authorized under subsection (e);

"(E) to use the System to discriminate based on national origin or citizenship status;

"(F) to willfully fail to provide an individual with an order under this subsection;

"(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) EMPLOYMENT 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 by any other provision of law.

"(3) CIVIL MONEY PENALTIES FOR DISCRIMINATORY CONDUCT.—Notwithstanding subsection 274B(a)(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; and

"(B) 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 a single 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 a government error or omission, as set forth in subsection (b)(4)(F)(iii)(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 whose rights are violated by 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 date before the date described in section 303(a)(4)), from seeking early compliance on a voluntary basis.

"(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 began, and ‘other remuneration commenced’.

"(j) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended, is amended by striking 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 date described 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, the date that is 12 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, the date that is 15 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, the date that is 18 months after completion of the application period described in section 101(c).

"(d) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

"(1) REVIEW.—Subsection (a) shall apply to a person or entity utilizing the System for agricultural employment in the United States until the application period described in section 133 and other relevant data, that a significant number of applications under section 101 remain pending.

"(2) ELECTRONIC ACCESS FOR TENTATIVE NONCONFIRMATION REVIEW PROCESS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall coordinate with the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with the Commission 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 the 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) COORDINATION WITH E-VERIFY PROGRAM.—In accordance with section 274E(b)(3)(A)(viii) 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 and provide evidence and access to 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)(13)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as inserted by section 301 of this Act.

"(4) 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.—Subtitle A of title IV of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note) is repealed.

"(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents, 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.

"(c) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any Federal, State, or local law, Executive Order, rule, regulation, or delegation of authority, or any other provision of law, to any immigration or citizenship status 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 for a fee an individual for agricultural 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 are currently utilizing 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 date before the 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 upon a report described in section 133 and other relevant data, that a significant number of applications under section 101 remain pending.

"(6) EXCEPTED PERSONS.—The applicability of this subsection shall be construed to prohibit persons or entities that are currently utilizing 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 date before the date described in section 303(a)(4)), from seeking early compliance on a voluntary basis.

"(7) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social Security, shall establish an advisory committee to provide advice to the Secretary on matters relating to the implementation of this section.
Formed in paragraph 274(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 described in section 274E of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as inserted by section 301 of this Act.

(c) FORMER E-VERIFY MANDATORY USERS.—Beginning on the effective date in subsection (a)(1), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall require employers required to participate in the E-Verify Program described in section 304(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note) before such date.

2. Section 403(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “identification document,” and inserting “identification document or document meant to establish employment authorization,” in paragraph (1), by striking “identification document or document meant to establish employment authorization,” in paragraph (2), by inserting “identification document or document meant to establish employment authorization,” in paragraph (3) of such section.

(a) UNLAWFUL EMPLOYMENT OF ALIENS.—Section 274A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a note) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “identification document or document meant to establish employment authorization,” in paragraph (1), by striking “identification document or document meant to establish employment authorization,” in paragraph (2), by inserting “identification document or document meant to establish employment authorization,” in paragraph (3) of such section.

(b) UNFAIR IMMIGRATION-RELATED EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES.—Section 274A(b)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a note) 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,”.

(a) FUNDING UNDER AGREEMENT.—Effective for fiscal years beginning on or after October 1, 2021, and the Secretary shall ensure that an agreement is in place which shall—
yield myself 2½ minutes.

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, the bill, 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 essential for our national security, and thus, national security. As domestic food outputs decline, our farmers have been more dependent on food imports. The COVID–19 pandemic further exposed vulnerabilities of travel restrictions and food contamination. The first recognizes that we have had food output disruptions in 2021, the highest food prices 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.

This bill extends amnesty, green cards, and a path to citizenship to somewhere between 1 and 2 million legal 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.

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 LAMAR, and many others on the Republican side of the aisle. I worked with JIM COSTA, JIMMY PANEUTA, 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.

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 National'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, and it is 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.

Why H.R. 1603 is the right solution.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support our farmers and our farmworkers by supporting this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. McCLINTOCK), the ranking member of the Immigration 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 2 million illegal immigrants working in agriculture and their families in a more generous way that will depress wages, not just in agriculture, but in every field of the economy for years to come.

Ms. LOFGREN. 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 LAMAR, and many others on the Republican side of the aisle. I worked with JIM COSTA, JIMMY PANEUTA, 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.

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 National’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, and it is 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 urge my colleagues to support our farmers and our farmworkers by supporting this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.
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 family have the legal right to applying for legal permanent residence if they choose.

The second provision streamlines an existing program, the H-2A program, so that it 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, American Seed Trade Association, 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 organizations 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; AgCredit Farm Credit Services, business Henderson County (NC); Agricultural Council of California; Agri-Mark, Inc.; Alabama Farmers Cooperative, Inc.; Alabama Nursery and Landscape Association; Almond Alliance; Almagamated Sugar Company; American AgCredit; American AgriWomen; American Beekeeping Federation; American Dairy Cooperative; American Mushroom Institute; American Pistachio Growers; American Seed Trade Association; American Sheep Industry Association; Anderson Valley Dairy Producers Trade Association; Arizona Nursery Association; Associated Milk Producers Inc.; Aurora Organic Dairy; Bluebird Rancho Farms; Bongards’ Creameries; CoBank: Colorado Dairy Farmers; Colorado Nursery and Greenhouse Association; Colorado Potato Legislative Association; Cooperative Milk Producers Association; Cooperative Nursery and Greenhouse Association of America; Dairy Farmers of America, Inc.; Dairy Producers of New Mexico; Dairy Producers of Utah; Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin; Dairyland Dairy Cooperative; Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery; Farm Credit East; Farmers Cooperative; FarmFirst Cooperative; Federation of Employers and Workers of America; First District Association; Florida Agri-Women; Florida Citrus Mutual; Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association; Idaho Nursery and Growers Association; Idaho Strawberry Growers Association; Idaho Tomato Exchange; Food Northwest; Food Producers International; Freshman’s Association; Freshman’s 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; Glambia Nutritional; Idaho Alalfa/Clover Seed Commission; Idaho Alalfa/Clover Seed Growers Association; Idaho Apple Commission; Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry; Idaho Bankers Association; Idaho Cattlemans’ Association; Idaho Dairy Growers’ Association; Idaho Grain Producers Association; Idaho Grower Shipper Association; Idaho Milk Products Board; Idaho Mint Growers Association; Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association; Idaho Producers Association; Idaho Potato Commission; Idaho Sugarbeet Growers; Idaho-Orange Fruit & Vegetable Association; Illinois Green Industry Association; Indiana Nursery and Landscape Association; Idaho 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 (NE); Leitz Farms LLC/Fred Leitz (WI); 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 Association; Greenhouse Association, Inc.; Massachusetts Nursery and Landscape Association, Inc.; MBG Marketing; McCain/USAID USAID/USAID; Michigan Greenhouse Growers Council; Michigan Milk Producers Association; Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association; Midwest Greenhouse & renovation Improvement Association; Midwest Dairy Coalition; Milk Producers Council; Milk Producers Cooperative Association; Minnesota Milk Producers Association; Missouri Green Industry Alliance; Montana Nursery and Landscape Association; Montana State Farm Bureau (CA); Mount Joy Farmers Cooperative Association; Napa Vintners Association; National Alf-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 Growers Assn.; New England Apple Growers’ League; New England Apple Landscapers Contractors Association; New Jersey Nursery & Landscape Association; New Mexico Chapter, Colorado Nursery and Greenhouse Association; New York Farm Bureau; New York State Flower Industries; New York State Vegetable Growers Association; Nezperco Prairie Grass Growers Association; Nishe Farmers League; North American Blueberry Council; North Carolina Dairy Producers Association; North Dakota Farmers Union; North Carolina Potato Association; Northeast Dairy Farmers Cooperatives; Northeast Dairy Producers Association, Inc.; Northeastern Milk Producers Cooperative; Northern Plains Potato Growers Association; Northwest Ag Cooperatives Council; Northwest Dairy Association/Darigold; Northwest Horticulture Association; Ohio Apple Marketing Program; Ohio Dairy Producers Association; Ohio Fruit Growers Marketing Association; Ohio Landscapers Association; Ohio Nursery & Landscape Association; Ohio Produce Growers Marketing Association; Oklahoma Nursery & Landscape Association; Olives 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; Pennsylvaniania Cooperative Potato Growers; Pennsylvania Landscape and Nursery Association; Pennsylvania Alfalfa Growers of Michigan, Inc; Prairie Farms Dairy, Inc.; Professional Dairy Managers of Pennsylvania; Reiter Affiliated Companies; Rhode Island Nursery and Landscaping; San Diego County Farm Bureau (CA); Scotto 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).

Tulip Growers of California; Sunsweet Growers Inc.; Tennessee Farmers Cooperative; Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council; Texas Association of Growers; 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 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; West午erside United States Fruit Institute; WineAmerica; Wisconsin Landscape Contractors Association; Wisconsin Potato & Vegetable Growers Association; Yuma Fresh Vegetable Growers 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.
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 aliens 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 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. This is the 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.

Not surprisingly, 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 help people who, yes, are stuck in a system for which we created the system, for which we created the system, because it is so badly broken. You then agreed with that.

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 to be able to work legally in this country; and it is vital to this world.

Madam Speaker, I urge passage of the Stopping Border Surges Act earlier this week. 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 take more responsibility for that people do it fair and treat 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. I urge you 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, giving criminals, 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.

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 birthplace 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 yield the gentlewoman from California (Ms. Lorefgren) 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 $35,000 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 begin 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 backs, 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 Against Women Act to actually 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.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I ask for support of H.R. 1603.

Mr. STANTON. 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.

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. Applicants do 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 ("TFUW") 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 Subchairwoman 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, 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 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 law that 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 job. We need to work as 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 work that is good 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 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.

What 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 real problems 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 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman 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.

This bill does 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 by the time we have 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, 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: Make no mistake, these bills today are another clear message that you are viewed as replaceable.

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 from California. They know the needs of their constituents. That is why I came to Congress, to do those things, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

This, again, is a wonderful bill. We are an agricultural country. We are arguably the best in the world, because we have the best farm workers that we could ask for. 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 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 bipartisan work on behalf of farmworkers, without which this bill would not be possible. I sang her praises earlier as a former teacher of mine. 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 here only, 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 in 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 legislation today is a good step towards 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—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 for 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 proposed 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. I leave you 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 centuries 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 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 corner of the globe and every corner of the earth. 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, we harvest the sweat of a million hands; we breathe life into dreams. We create the future only through the courage and hard work of men and women who take the necessary steps to build a better world.”

On this anniversary, I urge a strong bipartisan vote.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania).

Mr. THOMPSON. Madam Speaker, as Republican leader of the House Committee on Agriculture, I have the opportunity to speak with producers nationwide, and, overwhelmingly, they see 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 help address the shortfall 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 for our farmers 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 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 illegal immigration 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 our 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 grow laboratory. As we such 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.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (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. NADLER. 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 have 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.

The bill 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 ag 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 studies show it 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 for workforce. The same lanes 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.

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. 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 workers 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 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. 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 was raised for the first time ever in the history of this country to live 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. Farmers 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 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. Farmers 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.

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Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGren).

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I 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 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 rise to support 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. This is really about is an opportunity to fix a part of a broken immigration system.

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Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGren).

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I 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 in Congress will have done our job for our agriculture and for our Nation that both rely on immigrants for our future.
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 which 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 class. 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 unintentional 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 relief and redress, 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 this 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.

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 being none, Ms. LOFGREN.

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 gentlewoman 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, Odilla and Martin, were farmworkers. It is very hard work. It is one of those types 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 the border 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 speak—

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.

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 that 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 non-agricultural 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 or more.

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.

**MYTH:** Adjusted workers are treated identically by U.S. employers, thus requiring employers to hire them. This replaces 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 workers—but have previously been unable to utilize the program. Without this bill, year-round 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 workforce.

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 need workers but have previously been unable to utilize the program. Without this bill, year-round agriculture has no access to a legal 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, but reduces the inspection to every two years. The bill provides $11 billion in additional funds to stabilize the existing workforce by giving legitimate farmworkers a chance to get a five-year Certified Agricultural 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 leave 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 proves to be worthy in agriculture, they can apply for a green card after four years.
offset costs for grower-provided and other farmworker housing.

**MYTH:** This bill establishes a new bureaucratic complaint-investigation process that allows complaints to be filed.

**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 right for H–2A workers under the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (MSPA).

**FACT:** Currently, H–2A employers must comply with MSPA 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 employees under MSPA (including 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 statute, H–2A workers already get this. There is nothing new in this bill. Many state-based claims have longer statutes.

**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), the DOL 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 farm workers were turned away for lawful reasons.

**FACT:** Nothing new 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:** The bill permits employers to quickly fix application deficiencies, as with current law. The bill, however, improves this process by creating a new emergency procedure for those issues that are fixed and laborer and worker 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 job.

**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, tripling federal funding for USDA Section 514/516 rural housing and grant programs, and doubling the funding for the rural rental assistance program. The bill also reduces the cost of providing housing to H–2A workers by making operating assistance subsidies available to 516/516 property owners who house H–2A workers.

**MYTH:** Mandatory E-Verify just for agriculture means thousands of year-round employees 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 it is 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 fields.

**FACT:** This bill does not create an immediate path to permanent residence. First, it creates a temporary legal status that can be renewed only once. Second, the bill provides the option of earning permanent residence through continued agricultural work, but it would take at least 10 years to do so. Therefore, the bill establishes a three-year path to permanent 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:** This bill puts AEWR into law after 2029 with no increase or decrease in caps.

**FACT:** After year 10, the AEWR requirements 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 fields.

**FACT:** This bill provides a way for the current workforce to get right with the law, which means it is 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.

**FACT:** This bill provides a way for the current workforce to get right with the law, which means it is 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.

**FACT:** The DOL already has authority to conduct post-certification investigations and to impose sanctions on employers that violate the certification agreement. The bill would codify this existing authority in the H–2A program.

**MYTH:** The bill provides new authority for the DOL to assess fines, 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 individuals who have previously been debarred and are habitual violators of the program’s requirements.

**MYTH:** This bill creates a new bureau to regulate farm labor.

**FACT:** There is no new process established in this bill. It simply codifies existing regulations.

**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, tripling federal funding for USDA Section 514/516 rural housing and grant programs, and doubling the funding for the rural rental assistance program. The bill also reduces the cost of providing housing to H–2A workers by making operating assistance subsidies available to 516/516 property owners who house H–2A workers.

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. After all, as the 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—workers who work to feed our country and our way of life—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 sufficiently high to reflect the market rate 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, to ensure 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 increase, albeit modestly. While the 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 increase 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, the 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 rights, and 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 when an H–2A worker brings a civil lawsuit alleging a violation under the MSPA.

The Clerk read as follows:

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 continue 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.

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, 2020, 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 parliamentary associations 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 United States Department of State assessed that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of Burma's ruling party, and President Win Myint, the head of government, were deposed in a military coup on February 1, 2021.

(4) As part of the military coup, the Burmese military declared an emergency, suspended the civilian-led government, and detained newly elected Members of Parliament.
in the capitol, Naypyidaw, thereby usurping the role of the democratically elected gov-
ernment and parliament.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.
It is the sense of Congress that—
(1) due to the Burmese military’s seizure of
power through the detention of State
Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi, President Win
Myint, and other government leaders, Burma
is not represented by a democratically-elect-
ed government;
(2) the inability of newly elected Members
of Parliament to begin their official mandate
due to the Burmese military’s actions di-
rectly threatens the democratic trajectory of
Burma’s Parliament, and thereby the coun-
try;
(3) the will and determination of those
duly-elected Members of Parliament who are
taking it upon themselves to continue serv-
ing 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 nul-
lified the international collaborative rela-
tionships that have supported and strength-
ened Burma’s democratic transition, including the Burmese parliament’s partnership with HDP.

SEC. 4. POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES REGARD-
ING 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 soci-
ety members, and to support a return to Bur-
ma’s democratic transition;
(2) instruct, as appropriate, representatives
of the United States Government to use the
voice, influence, and assets of the United
States at the United Nations to hold ac-
countable those responsible for the military
coup in Burma; and
(3) urge with the Association of South-
east Asian Nations (ASEAN) and ASEAN
member states to promote a return to Bur-
ma’s democratic transition and democratic
values throughout Southeast Asia, and sup-
port the centrality of ASEAN within the re-
gional 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 For-
eign Relations and the Committee on Ap-
propriations of the House of Representatives
and the Committee on Foreign Relations and
the Committee on Appropriations of the Sen-
ate a report on the military coup in Burma,
including a description of efforts to imple-
ment the policy specified in section 4.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant
to the rule, the gentleman from New York
(Mr. MEEKS) and the gen-
tleman 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 unam-
ionous consent that all Members have 5 legisla-
tive days within which to revise and extend their remarks and in-
clude extraneous material on H. R. 1112, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there
objection to the request of the gen-
tleman 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 thank-
ing Mr. CONNOLLY for this impor-
tant bill before us today.

The Protect Democracy in Burma Act of 2021 is a timely measure that en-
forces the United States is not silent
when a military coup supplants democ-
rracy. It also directs strong U.S. en-
gagement with our partners at the U.N.
and ASEAN because we are always stronger when we act together.

In 2015, decades of brutal military rule gave way to what many hoped
would be a new era of reform and de-
cratization in Burma. That hope was short-lived, and the Tatmadaw
began to show its true colors as it en-
gaged 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 Bur-
ma’s democratic experiment.

By all accounts, Burma’s November
2020 parliamentary elections were cred-
ible, and claims of widespread fraud
have been debunked by election-mon-
toring authorities. The United States
views the 2020 elections as the stron-
gest possible terms, the actions of the Burmese mili-
tary and its violent crackdown and killing of protesters. But we cannot
stand alone.

To be most effective, the United States
must work with our partners in the
region in condemning the Tatmadaw’s brutal actions in sup-
porting 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 demo-
cracic transition. It also ensures re-
porting to Congress so that we can properly review U.S. policy.

Madam Speaker, this is a very impor-
tant bill that sends a message to the
people of Burma and the entire world, and I urge my colleagues to sup-
port this measure.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the bal-
ance of my time.

Mr. MCCaul. Madam Speaker, I yield
myself such time as I may con-
sume.

Madam Speaker, on February 1, Bur-
ma’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 com-
uncations blackouts, curfews, and
pressive demictions to stifle opposition.
They have used live ammunition against peaceful protestors. Hundreds
have been killed and thousands de-
tained. At the same time, the lead
position to the Burmese military, the
National League for Democracy, is fac-
ing massive repression. NLD members
have been rounded up and charged with
baseless crimes, including NLD’s lead-
er, 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. I encourage the country to befriend
with southeast nations to promote
Burma’s return to democracy.

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

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I yield
5 minutes to the gentleman from Vir-
ginia (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
House before the country’s new par-
liament 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 sen-
ior NLD leaders. In one fell swoop, the
military plunged this national democ-
racy into renewed political turmoil
just as it was emerging from five de-
cades 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 civil-
ian 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 trag-
ically by images of anger and tears and
bloodshed.

The military takeover has jeopard-
ized hard-won progress on everything,
from infrastructure or education in-
cluding the country’s fragile peace process. It seeks to snuff out the
hopes of the Burmese people for a bet-
ter 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 and joined 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.

There 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 and other leaders 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 3 minutes to the esteemed gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support 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 MECKS and Ranking Member McCaul for their leadership. As chair of the House Democracy Partnership, 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 MECKS and Ranking Member McCaul for their leadership. As chair 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, inclusive body, the National Democratic Institute. The International Republican Institute had begun to work on local government. 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, 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 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. MECKS. 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.

This is a worthy act of condemnation. I also support H. Res. 134, a 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
Madam Speaker, again, I want to thank Mr. CONNOLLY for introducing 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:

Whereas the military of Burma (herein-after 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, allowed 25 percent of the seats in the Tatmadaw, conferring powers on the army that had 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 disqualification 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 pro-democracy 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 a state of emergency;

Whereas the Tatmadaw has restricted freedom of movement, telecommunications, and the media, limiting access to information and news from Burma during a political and public health crisis;

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 and news from Burma during a political and public health crisis;

Whereas, on January 31, 2021, the Secretary-General and the United Nations Secretary-General strongly condemns the detention of State Counselor 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 state of emergency, and warns that the Tatmadaw’s actions are a direct assault on the country’s transition to democracy and the rule of law; and

Whereas protests opposing the coup have swept Burma;

Whereas the House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed Mr. C. Habot’s resolution. With over 60 Republican colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution. I support it and urge my colleagues to do the same, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

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

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valued member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and author of this important resolution.  

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman MEESKS and 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 the first congressional hearings on 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 H. Res. 537, which decried the violence and brutality against the Rohingya people, amounting to crimes against humanity.  

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for his leadership on this as well.  

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. LEVIN and I introduced con-

demning the Burmese military's February 1 coup against the civilian gov-

ernment. 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 number of detentions in many instances are horri-

ble.  

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 de-

termine their own leadership and their own course of action for their own families and their children and grand-

children.  

I would honor—the whole world really should honor—the courage of the Burmese people who have been peace-

fully protesting for quite some time.  

Many of you have seen the riveting image of a Catholic nun, Sister Ann Rose Nu Tawng, 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 at least some hope is that opposite Sister Ann Rose, two of the offi-

cers, who are presumably Buddhists, also got down on their knees in re-

sponse that this ought to be peaceful and not violent.  

I urge all of our international partners to join us in those efforts.  

The most glaring example of basic religious persecution, Mr. Speaker, is the oppres-

sion 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 Chris-

tians. I have met many of them over the years.  

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Ranking Member CHABOT for authoring this resolution with me, as well as Subcommittee Chairman BERA, Chairman MEESKS, 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.
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 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 actions. They are registering 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 freedom of speech, the protection of the people must be recognized across the globe.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

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 an Associated Press 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 to enter 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 Aryanani Manning, a spokeswoman for the embassy.

Thein Zaw had not been seen by his lawyer or any of his family members since his arrest. Testimony 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 prison.

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 after 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 in a prison holding as he was handcuffed and then taken away.

According to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, 28 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 photographer was arrested Thursday while taking pictures of a protest in the city of Taunggyi. A photo provided to the news site shows a man strapped against a wall with his 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.

“Mr. Speaker, I yield my self the balance of my time.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the 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.

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

Mr. Speaker, it is imperative 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 of 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.** The yeas and nays are ordered.

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

NAYS—216

Not voting—10

Yeas and nays are ordered.

The question was taken; and the ayes appeared to have it.

Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes have it.

The question is on the passage of the bill.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, on that I state that on March 18, 2021, I missed one as above recorded.

The motion to recommit was re-ordered, and the yeas and nays were ordered as above recorded.

Stated for: Mr. JORDAN. 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 RECORD PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

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

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(c) 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

NAYS—197

Not voting—5

The following representative voted for the bill:

Mr. Jordan. 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.

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

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 vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 228, nays 197, not voting 5, as follows: [Roll No. 91]

YEAS—228

NAYS—197

Not voting—5

The following representative voted for the bill:
Latrece Powell shares her memories of her time in Congress and expresses gratitude for the opportunity to serve. She highlights the role of the Deputy Floor Director and the importance of diversity and unity in Congress. The tribute includes a quote from Representative Thompson on the significance of having a black woman as a deputy floor director.
FARM WORKFORCE MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2021

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Thompson of Mississippi), pursuant to clause 1(b) 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, as now reported.

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 motion to recommit offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mrs. FISCHBACH) on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will now resume.

The Speaker 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—yea 204, nay 218, not voting 7, as follows:

[The roll call is not transcribed here.]

NOT VOTING—7

[Names of members not voting are not transcribed here.]

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama changed his vote to "yea." Mr. ROGERs of Alabama changed his vote 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

[Names of members recorded are not transcribed here.]
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 247, nays 174, not voting 8, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yea</th>
<th>Nay</th>
<th>Not Voting</th>
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<tr>
<td>247</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>8</td>
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The result of the vote was announced by the Clerk, and the SPEAKER pro tempore declared the bill passed.
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 demand the yeas and nays.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 218, nays 99, as follows:

[Roll No. 94]

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

H1571

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 reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

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 reconsider was laid on the table.

[Continued]
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.

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 capital 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.

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 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.

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. Bost) on themotion of Mr. Bost, and by unanimous consent: the SPEAKER pro tempore 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.
March 18, 2021

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

H1573

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 an Army 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.

Fondly remembered 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 the 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 Club 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 his 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 and to the Capitol.

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 to this unprecedented threat.

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 unconfirmed, 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 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 and form working relationships. As a former Marine, 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 situation 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 of 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.

Aside from halting construction on the border wall as performed by President Trump, the Biden administration
Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. POSEY). 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 system and this administration continues down this reckless road.

Rather than abandoning border security, the Biden-Harris administration must abandon 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. Speaker, I yield to the good gentleman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER).

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 good woman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER). 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 you 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. 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. They have concluded numerous cartels 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 or frei citizens 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 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 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. Possey for his comments. It is interesting 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 migrants from Yuma County on a daily basis has opened up a spigot of border crossings into my great State of Arizona.
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 and into inhumane 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 gentleman from Texas (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 they are calling out. They are calling out. They 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. He said, “This bill is not amnesty. 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 Demo-
Illegal immigrants should not be allowed to enter our country to begin with, and a wall would help do just that. But we have to do more. We have to put an end to this. People created in the image of God. We are a compassionate Nation, we recognize that everyone on this planet are people created in the image of God. We want people to prosper everywhere. We want every nation to prosper, and that is why we are so intent on second policies and get tough on illegal immigration. It is why we are so intent on second policies and get tough on illegal immigration. It is why we are so intent on second policies and get tough on illegal immigration.

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, we are in need of 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 landscape near Penitas, Texas, hundreds of colored plastic wristbands ripped off by migrants litter the ground, signs of what U.S. borderofficials say is a growing trend among powerful drug cartels and smugglers paying to cross illegally into the United States.

The plastic bands—red, blue, green, white—some labeled arrivals or entries in Spanish by migrants crossing 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 thebracelets 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 paying status or affiliation with smuggling groups’, Dyman told Reuters.

The differing smuggling techniques come as Democratic President Joe Biden’s administra-

tion has sought to reverse restrictive immigration policies set up by his prede-

cessor, former President Donald Trump. But recent com-

patriot 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 data, the highest monthly total since mid-2019.

PURPLE BRACELET

“They run it like a business,” said Cardinal Brown, which means “finding more pa-

trons 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 particular territory, as well as for the right to cross the border into the United States, migration experts said.

One 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 brace-

let:

“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 condi-

tions 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.”

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 miti-

gate this humanitarian and this na-

tional 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 198, 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-1760) (RIN: 7100-AG10) received March 18, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 301(a)(4)(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 (RIN: 3064-AC45) 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-AP31) 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-633. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s direct final rule — Control of Emissions from Existing Sewage Sludge Incineration Units (RIN: EPA-R02-OAR-2019-0720; FRL-10017-31-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-634. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Approval and Promulgation of the Air Quality Standard Second Maintenance Plan for the Scranton-Wilkes-Barre Area (RIN: EPA-R03-OAR-2020-0077; FRL-10016-59-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 interim final determination — Deterioration to Defer Sanctions; Arizona; Pinal County Air Quality Control District (RIN: EPA-R09-OAR-2020-0134; 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-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 Nonattainment Area (RIN: EPA-R06-OAR-2020-0380; 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-650. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Picarbutrazox; Pesticide Tolerances (EPA-HQ-OPPP-2017-0653; FRL-10019-51) 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 Programs for Solely Hazardous Waste (HWT) and Reclamation of Certain Chemical Substances (204-B) (RIN: EPA-HQ-OPPT-2020-0238; FRL-10016-51) 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 (RIN: EPA-R07-OAR-2020-0207; FRL-10021-32-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-653. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Air Plan Approval: Ohio; 2009 Year Emission Inventory Requirements and Emissions Statement Rule Certification for the 2015 Ozone Standard (RIN: EPA-R05-OAR-2020-0388; FRL-10020-89-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.
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE
March 18, 2021

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule xii, public bills and resolutions of the titles hereafter introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. PELMUTTER (for himself, Mr. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. JOYOX of Ohio, Mr. CORREA, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. BONAMICI, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. GARZTE, Mr. CRISS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. VARGAS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. HOULIHAN, Mr. KILMER, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. TITUS, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. ROBINSON of West Virginia, Mr. HOFFMAN, Mr. NIXUE, Ms. STRICKLAND, Ms. WILD, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mr. DEFRANCO, Mr. EVANS, Ms. MURPHY of Massachusetts, Mr. GHLALYA, Mr. MEKES, Ms. DEAN, Mr. TONKO, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. GOHAN, Mr. ROGERS of Wisconsin, Ms. TLAIR, Mr. PITTERS, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mrs. DINGELL, Miss RICK of New York, Mr. RISCHENTHALER, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. D’SCOTT, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. SPEIGHT, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Ms. MACK, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. GARCÍA-ELIAS, Mr. LUBY, Mr. HIMS, Mr. CROW, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. KINNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. RUSKIN, Mr. HAYES, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. MCCLINSTOCK, Mr. DESAI, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PASCHEL, Mr. ADAMS of Georgia, Mr. KRISHNA MOORTHY, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. BRENNAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. DEBENE, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. QUNLEY, Mr. CARE, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. BERA, Miss GONZALEZ-COLÓN, Ms. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. LOUISIAN of Missouri, Mr. STANTON, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. JEFFRIES, and Mr. YAMOUTH:

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 Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio (for himself and Mr. PHILIPS):

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. WENSTROPP, and Mrs. ROBINSON of Wisconsin):

H.R. 1999. A bill to delay and offset the sequester under the Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2002 in order to pay for 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 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. BARIN, 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.

H.R. 2001. A bill to amend the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act 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 Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina (for himself, Mr. PERRY, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mrs. BOBERT, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. STEWART, Mr. WALBER, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. HARNESS, Mr. WILLOW of Georgia, Mr. MIKIE of New Jersey, Ms. GREEKE of Georgia, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. BIGGS, Ms. HERRELL, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mrs. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. OWENS, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. FOXX, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. LA MALFA, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GUEST, Mr. CATHWORTH, and Mr. MOORE of Utah):

H.R. 2002. A bill to amend the Social Security Act to provide for restrictions 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. BOEFT (for herself, Mr. GOMPERT, Mr. BARN, Mr. BROOKS, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. BIrs, Mr. GAERTZ, and Mr. PERRY):

H.R. 2003. A bill to enact into law certain executive orders relating 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, 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. BOEFT (for herself, Mr. GOMPERT, Mr. BARN, Mr. BROOKS, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. BIrs, Mr. GAERTZ, and Mr. PERRY):

H.R. 2004. A bill to provide that no Federal funds may be used to take any executive actions related to immigration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Homeland Security, 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 19 of title 31, United States Code, to authorize 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, Mr. ELLIS of Illinois, Mr. WATSON-COHEN, and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia):

H.R. 2007. A bill to provide for research and education grants with respect to dialects and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. CRAIG (for herself and Mr. STEWART):

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 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 Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H. R. 2010. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to establish a public option for health insurance; to establish a public insurance option; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. DELAURIO (for herself, Ms. SANCHEZ, Miss GONZALEZ-COLON, Ms. PELSON, Mr. DE LA ROCHA, and Mr. MURPHY):

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 for 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.

By Mr. YOUNG:

H. R. 2014. A bill to repeal certain outdated authorities; to establish a use of military force, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. GALLAGHER (for himself and Mr. WILSON of Washington):

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 Committees on Appropriations, 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. GONZALEZ-COLON:

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 GONZALEZ-COLON:

H. R. 2017. A bill to modify certain requirements relating to the recovery of Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Miss GONZALEZ-COLON:

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 GONZALEZ-COLON (for herself and Ms. PLASKETT):

H. R. 2019. A bill to amend the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 to clarify in the definition of critical services for purposes of repair, restoration, and replacement of damaged facilities; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms GONZALEZ-COLON:

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 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. McCAIN, Ms. BARRAGAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. ESPLAINT, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. CHU, Ms. MENG, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. BLUNT-RUSHFORD, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. BEATTY, Mr. KAHELE, Ms. BUSH, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. NADLER, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. FLORIDA, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, and Ms. CLARK 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 Transportation and Infrastructure, 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, for asylum, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. HOULAHAN (for herself, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. BUCHCHON):

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. HOVER:

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. ISAIAH:

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. MURPHY):

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 Armed Services.

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. GARRARINO, Mr. GRATSCH, Mr. KATKO, Ms. LANGEVIN, Ms. LAWRENCE, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MELDER, Mr. POSEY, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, and Mr. SORO):

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. BARRAGAN, Ms. BASS, Mr. BRYER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. CABRERA, Mr. CAROLINA, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. COOPER, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. ESPLAILLAT, Mr. GALLEGOS, Mr. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GUTIERRES, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. JAYAPAL, Mr. KIND, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Ms. LOFUREN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MCKINNEY, Mr. MEETS, Mr. MENG, Ms. MOUTON, Ms. NOERTON, Ms. OMAR, Ms. PANTETTA, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. SCRAFFORD, Mr. SMYTH of Washington, Mr. STANTON, Mr. SUZIZUI, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. VARNA, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. WATSON-COLEMAN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. JONES, Ms. MATSU, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. TUTTLE, 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. SHIRRIFF, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. MEANSKH:

H. R. 2030. A bill to establish a postsecondary student data system; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. LAHODD (for himself and Mr. FERGUSON):

H. R. 2031. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage the transfer of intellectual 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 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 Financial Services.

By Mr. WILSON of Colorado, Mr. PERlmutter, Mrs. WATERS, Mr. WELKER, Mrs. BROWN, Mr. RYAN, and Mr. BACH:

H. R. 2033. A bill to authorize the Defense Logistics Agency to establish a system for the transfer of intellectual property from United States controlled foreign corporations to United States shareholders; to the Committee on Education and Labor;
By Mrs. LAWRENCE (for herself, Ms. BASS, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. HAYES, Mrs. NORTON, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. CARSON):

H.R. 2043. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to expand eligibility for Post-9/11 Educational Assistance for Critical Services with respect to the National Guard, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mrs. MILLER OF WEST VIRGINIA (for himself, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia):

H.R. 2045. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act to require the applicable Secretary 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 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 Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on 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 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. SCHERR, Mr. LAVALFA, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. TONKO, Mr. TAKANO, and Ms. GREENE):

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, 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. PASCHELL (for himself, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. MCCOLLUM, Mr. TONKO, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. HILL, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. COHEN, Ms. BEATTY, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. CICILLINE, Mr. SHRES, Mr. WESTWATER, Mr. POOTANIGIORGI, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. KILMER, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Alabama, Ms. DIXIT+EYRE, and Mr. GRILJALVA):

H.R. 2050. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the five-year waiting period for Medicare eligibility for individuals with Huntington's disease; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PETIT (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. PETIT (for himself and Miss GONZALEZ-COLON):

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 Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. PLASKETT (for herself and Miss GONZALEZ-COLON):

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 Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. PORTER (for herself, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. RATKOWSKI, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. TRESEMEIRO, Mr. POOTANIGIORGI, Mr. BARRAGAN, Ms. HINSON, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. GRILJALVA, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. BASS, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. DEGETTE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. RYAN, and Ms. STRICKLAND):

H.R. 2054. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employees 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, and the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995, the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, the Dunn Hunter National Protection 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. RUSO, Mr. NORRAN, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. PERRY, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. STEWART, Mr. KELLER, Mr. ARBINGTON, Mr. OWENS, Mr. COTTO, Mr. RANN, Mr. MELAJAKI, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. WEBB, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. HERZELL, and Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois):
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. STEWART, Mr. BROOKS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. GARTZ, Mr. POSHY, Mr. BARNIN, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. HENN, and Mr. GORMERT):
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 is established on the campus of the institution; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. RYAN (for himself, Mr. TUCKER, Mr. CARSTEN, 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. SARBNES:
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-service arrangement shall be counted for purposes of determinations relating to overtime pay; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. SARBNES (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Ms. NORTON, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. BLUNT ROCHSTER, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. CARDENAS, Ms. MTSU, 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 re-iliability of 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 Committee 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. JOHNSON of South Dakota:
H.R. 2061. A bill to establish an inter-agency forum for Federal purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Forestry, 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. BO NAMI, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. KATKO, Mrs. AXNE, Miss GONZALEZ-COLON, Mr. NEWMAN, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. GROTHMAN, Ms. WILD, and Mr. HOL LINGSWORTH):
H.R. 2062. A bill to amend the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 and other ‘statutes as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SCOTT OF VIRGINIA (for himself, Mr. BLUNT ROCHSTER, Mr. DOGOCCIT, Mr. VEASLY, Mr. SCANLON, Mr. JONES, Mrs. TORRES OF CALIFORNIA, Mr. WEXTON, Ms. TROY, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Mr. SHAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. WILD, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. DESCHAMPS, Mr. ESCOBAR, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. CARSON, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. BROWN, 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. NEUISE):
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, Mr. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. GALLLEG0, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULZ, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. PINSKER, Mr. RUZ, 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, 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. WEXTON (for herself, Mr. SHEPARD, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. LUNA, 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 business of Xinjiang Uyghur; and legitimate business, 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 Rules.

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 Mr. NORTON (for herself, 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. VASSEY, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. BERA, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. WALTERS, Ms. PANETTA, Mrs. KHANNA, Ms. PRESSLY, Mr. NUSSLE, Ms. OMAR, and Ms. JACOBS of California):
H. Res. 252. A resolution reaffirming bilateral and multilateral relations between the United States and African countries and recognizing the importance of diplomatic, security, trade, and commercial relations; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. CAWTHORN:
H. Res. 253. 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. 255. 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. MENENDEZ, Mr. MALATOLITOLI, Mr. PAPPAS, and Mr. SIRIEUX):
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. WEXNER of Ohio, Mr. CARL of Texas, Mr. BOGGS, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN OF FLORIDA, Mr. FALCON, Mr. TIPPANY, Mr. HABIN, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. WESTHMAN, Mr. OBRONVILLE, Mr. BANKS, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mrs. HAHR, Mr. JACKSON, Mr. BUD, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. OWENS, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. GISBS, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. POSSEY, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. GODDEN of Texas, Mr. HICK 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 attack 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. PELLMUTTER:
H.R. 1996. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

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

By Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio:
H.R. 1997. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the 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."

By Mr. BANKS:
H.R. 1999. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 1 provides Congress with the power to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States.

By Mr. SMITH of Missouri:
H.R. 2000. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 7 provides Congress with the power to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States.

By Ms. CLARKE of New York:
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. CARTER of Georgia:
H.R. 2002. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mrs. ROBERT:
H.R. 2003. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 4 provides Congress with the power to establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization .

By Mr. CALVET:
H.R. 2004. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 4 provides Congress with the power to establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization .

By Mr. CALLERY:
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 and 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress) of such section.

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, 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 I, 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 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. DeSALVATIER:
H.R. 2012. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 1 provides Congress with the power to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States.

By Mr. GALLAGHER:
H.R. 2013. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, 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 I, Section 8, Clause 11.

By Mr. GALLAGHER:
H.R. 2013. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Miss GONZALEZ-COLON:
H.R. 2016. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

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.

To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the
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 18 and 19 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 regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes;

U.S. Const. art. I, sec. 8, cl. 19, 20

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 2042.

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 regulate commerce among the States and with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. LEVIN of Michigan:

H.R. 32.

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

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 regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes;

U.S. Const. art. I, sec. 8, cl. 2, sub. a

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rule and Regulations respecting the Territory or 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:


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 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 I, 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 I, Section 8

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:

By Mr. MANN:

H.R. 2034.

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. 2035.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. LOUDERMILK:

H.R. 2036.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. LOUDERMILK:

H.R. 2037.

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

By Mr. LOUDERMILK:

H.R. 2038.

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

By Mr. MANN:

H.R. 2039.

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

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 2040.

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

By Mr. LEVIN of Michigan:

H.R. 2041.

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

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, 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 Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 2042.

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

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, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 2043.
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. 265.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mrs. Miller of West Virginia:

H.R. 266.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. Moore of Alabama:

H.R. 347.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mrs. Maloney:

H.R. 388.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. Clay:

H.R. 461.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. Clarke of New York:

H.R. 478.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. DeSaulnier:

H.R. 67.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. Raskin and Mr. Carter:

H.R. 82.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. Cooper:

H.R. 250.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. DeGette:

H.R. 271.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. Welch:

H.R. 272.
H.R. 1328: Mr. JONES.
H.R. 1333: Mr. ALLRED, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. GOTTREIB, and Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 1346: Mr. HIGGINS of New York and Mr. CUELLAR.
H.R. 1352: Ms. WASSEMER SCHULTZ.
H.R. 1361: Mr. NEUSS and Mrs. LURIA.
H.R. 1353: Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 1411: Mr. BERKMAN, Mr. KINZINGER, and Mrs. WALORSKI.
H.R. 1448: Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. COLE, Mr. NORTON, Mr. JACKSON, Mr. TONY GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. OWENS, Mr. PFLEGER, Mrs. STEELE, Ms. PFRENSTRA, Mrs. Kim of California, Mr. TERRS of New York, Ms. ROSS, Mrs. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. FOCA, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. MEIJER, Mr. NEILS, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. CORREA, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. MANNING, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. OBERNIKOLT, Ms. LATURNER, and Mr. KASS.
H.R. 1475: Mr. MEeks.
H.R. 1496: Mrs. LESKO, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. GOISAR, Mr. BIDDA, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. ADHROLT, Mr. ROUZER, Mrs. McClaire, Mr. BACON, Mr. OWENS, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. 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. 1531: Ms. BARRAGAN and Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 1536: Mr. GAETZ and Mr. GUEST.
H.R. 1568: Mr. WEISS of Texas and Mr. STIVERS.
H.R. 1562: Mr. Babin.
H.R. 1603: Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. STANTON, Mr. NEUSS, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. LER of California, Ms. LEHIN FERNANDEZ, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CROW, Mr. TERRS of New York, Ms. PINEO, Mr. KUSTER, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. BASS, Mrs. DEMING, Mrs. TERRS of California, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. KIND, Ms. CHU, Ms. BOURDEAUX, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. PASSARELLI, Mr. KAHELE, Mr. COOPER, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. HERNÁNDEZ, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. BEKA, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. MEeks, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1607: Ms. HERRERA BUETLER, 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: Mr. NEWMAN.
H.R. 1630: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 1631: Mr. MCNERNEY and Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 1630: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 1696: Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. BABB, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. KELLER, and Mr. GUEST.
H.R. 1729: Mr. ROYNEY DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 1748: Mr. WALLER.
H.R. 1752: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1756: Mr. NORTON.
H.R. 1790: Mr. GRJALVA.
H.R. 1813: Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. CORREA, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mr. LEVIN of California, and Ms. NEWMAN.
H.R. 1814: Mrs. LURIA and Ms. MENQ.
H.R. 1819: Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 1829: Mr. KELLER.
H.R. 1836: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 1843: Ms. SCALON, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. SARRABES, 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. SPAETZ.
H.R. 1893: Mr. CASE.
H.R. 1901: Mr. BROOKS and Mr. BERGMAN.
H.R. 1905: Mr. KELLER, Mr. PRESSLEY, Mr. LYNCH, and Mrs. MCBATH.
H.R. 1944: Mr. JACKSON and Mr. GALLAGHER.
H.R. 1948: Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. 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. GALLARDO, Mr. OBERTOL, Mr. KINZINGER, Miss Rice of New York, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. NEUSS, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. TENN, Ms. DEAN, Ms. TLAIB, and Ms. TITUS.
H. Res. 153: Mr. WALTZ, Mr. TAYLOR, and Mr. VALADAO.
H. Res. 224: Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BAHN, Mr. PERRY, Mr. STEUH, and Mr. BUDD.
H. Res. 231: Mr. CASI.
H. Res. 237: Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. WALTZ, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HUMAS, and Mr. CORREA.
H. Res. 242: Mr. RASKIN.
H. Res. 243: Mrs. HERSHBERGER, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. MCCINTOCK, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BARDERSON, Mr. BANKS, Mr. BERKOM, Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. CAFFER of Georgia, Ms. CRENNY, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. DESJARLATS, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. DUNN, Mr. FRENSTRE, Mr. FITZGERALD, Ms. 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. LAMSON, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Ms. MALLOTAKIS, 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, Mr. TANNER, Mrs. WAONIR, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. BARD, Mr. BUDD, Mr. CALVET, Mr. CAMMACK, Mr. FOXX, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. GOMBERT, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. LON, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. WINSTHURP, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. WILLS of Texas, Mr. PERRY, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. WALSBERG, and Mrs. BOBERET.
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 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.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE.

Mr. LUJÁN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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 super ego 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.
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 end of the Trump Presidency, they are reemerging and not 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. For example, the Attorney General Becerra was announced as President Biden’s pick for HHS, Senate Republicans have tried to derail his nomination. Their arguments almost verve 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. 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, 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, just over 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 draining family incomes. Americans were forced into impossible choices: Do I pay the rent and utilities this month or 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, alongside 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 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 am anxious to comment on the order for the quorum call being made.

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. Mr. President, 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 admit 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 kids 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 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 the pale. But the defeated Democrat passed up the opportunity to go to court.

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 leaders who donate to Demo- crats 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 des- perate to rewrite the rules of our de- mocracy 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.

This is the kind of consensus you build if you want to tune up our democracy. That’s the kind of broad bipartisanship 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 dictator 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 Cap-itol 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 months after January 6. Then came the fourth-ever Presidential impeachment trial, and there have been all the critical daily missions the Sergeant at

March 18, 2021

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE
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 OPENING 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.
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 who页面被截斷...
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 snatch away 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 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 имpetuent 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 abandon the burden of proof in criminal cases just because some criminal sometimes escapes justice because 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 minority 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 roll be called.

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 will be an expert in this area, an expert 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, the entire 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 President 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—for me, the most important part of the Affordable Care Act, which 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 inequity, is going to be 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. He is 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 of our communities.

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 Democratic member, I am grateful for your 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 half of an outstanding nominee to lead a mammoth agency in his State, the Senator who is currently in the Chair has been running the Department of Health and Human Services. If there ever was a half of an outstanding nominee to lead a mammoth agency in his State, the Senator who is currently in the Chair has been running the Department of Health and Human Services. If there ever was a half of an outstanding nominee to lead a mammoth agency in his State, the Senator who is currently in the Chair has been running the Department of Health and Human Services.
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 California 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 clear that 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 health 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 overwhelmed.

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 addiction. 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.

That is what we're doing. That will 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. As an American, I have 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 kind of person that 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 California.

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 know this 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 to head a department that is 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. Another point: 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, which is why I gave 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 of birth control 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 suit against the organization cost almost $1 million, resulting in 120 different suits. That is quite a few. This includes filing nine lawsuits on the very last day of President Trump’s administration—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 nominee. He was forced to withdraw his nominee for Budget Director. His Vice President has been the least bipartisan, in terms of a Senator in 2019. And now Attorney General Becerra seems to be part of them.

Frankly, his selection, I think, shocked a lot of people across the country. During this pandemic, we need a leader who actually considers the routine and normal. It is radical when you look at the quorum call be rescinded.

Becerra's extreme selection, I think, shocked a lot of people across the country. The Los Angeles Times noted that "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.

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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 can familiarize 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 me is that the 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. We take 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 you care or you 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 why I have decided to come to the floor of the U.S. Senate, 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 immigration 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. I have learned to be flexible as there are so many unknowns we encountered almost daily.

So do I have a problem with the filibuster? Yes, I do. I challenge those who are defending it to show me we can create bipartisan legislation. If we can create bipartisan legislation, we can show me that we care or we can make the Senate function. It has been 20 years. You are supposed to do more than just sit in this chamber and debate. We are supposed to get things done. We are supposed to pass bills. We are supposed to have a government. We are supposed to pass bills. We are supposed to have a government. When President Obama created DACA for them, some 800,000 came forward, registered with the government, and received a work permit 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 those 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.

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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. I have 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 come 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.

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.

Mr. Sasse. I ask unanimous consent 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 adopt and consent to the Becerra nomination?

Mr. Sasse, I ask for the yeas and nays.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I announce that the Senate from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 49, as follows:

[Roll Call Vote No. 125 Ex.]

**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.

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 as 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 you an example of what this really means. If you have two patients 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, 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.

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 arms, to get 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 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.
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.

Some of my 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 I think the way we are doing 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 and 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 work. In addition, they have been able to offset 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 bill is 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 people because they owe something. They paid fewer taxes than they should have 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 tangled.

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, $49 billion; unemployment insurance, $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 not only unfair but is a bad idea. It would pay 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?

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, is unlikely to 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 that needs to be asked is whether 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 fact that a person is 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 there for. I care 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 working 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.

S1632  CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE  March 18, 2021

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, we were 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 wonderful work, confronting the struggle 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 the 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.

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 to help our state and our 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 meet 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. He said that the best chance to put us on the road to recovery is to strengthen workers’ right to join a union, and passing the PRO Act to protect people from harassment, assault, and discrimination.

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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 you and me.

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 an economic impact payment under the most recent available data for the number of visa overstays in the United States for 2019, released by the Department of Homeland Security. It said that 1.21 percent of visas in that year were overstayed, or 567,422 overstays. In 2019, student visas (1.52 percent) had a higher overstay rate than those from Canada and Mexico (1.76 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 lawful 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. Since 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—and 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 am just trying to offer 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. I am asking him to do a third. 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. 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 tourist visa, not 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 just want to 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 think 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 checks. Stop the checks 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 422,000 illegal immigrants getting checks under the Democrats’ proposal. Two outside organizations have scored it as millions of illegal immigrants.

I would note what Newsweek said, where 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...
The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 68, nays 30, as follows:  

[Rollcall Vote No. 126 Ex.  ]

YEAS—68

BALDWIN Graham    GRAHAM Peters
Bennet Grassley    PORTMAN Portman
Bennet Grassley    Portman
Bernemen Hickenlooper    Roberts
Blunt Heinrich    ROMNEY Romney
Booker Hickenlooper    ROSS Rosen
Brown Heinrich    ROY Kaine
Burr Kaine    Sanders
Cantwell Kelly    Schumer
Capito King    Shaheen
Cardin Klobuchar    Sinema
Carper Leahy    Smith
Casey Lieb    Stabenow
Cassidy Luxan    Sullivan
Collins Manchin    Tester
Coons Merkle    Toomey
Cornyn Marshall    Van Hollen
Curtman Masto Menendez    Warner
Cramer Merkle    Washburn
Duckworth Murkowski    Wyden
Durbin Murphy    Young
Feinstein Murray    Young
Fischer Ossoff    Young
Gillibrand Padilla    Young

NAYS—30

Barnesoo Roy    Rounds
Blackburn Hyde-Smith    Rubio
Boozman Inhofe    Sasse
Brum Johnson    Scott (FL)
Cotton Lankford    Scott (SC)
Crappo Lummiss    Shelby
Cruz McConnell    Shumer
Daines Moran    Toomey
Ernst Paul    Wicker
Hagerty Risch    Young

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  

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 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 always was 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 who have fought for us; 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 take great pride in our legacy. 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 Manhattan Towns.

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 can forever be found 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, his good friend Bob Thompson.

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. It is 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 because I am opposed to having 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 want 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 election. Those 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, there were no 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 go, but the State 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. The two 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 thematching, low-dollar—whatever you define that to be—contributions, if you raise $100,000, 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.

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. Who would make the decision 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 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 Election Commission was created in the early 1970s, it was a 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 2 or 3 to 0, whatever the makeup of the members 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 matching, low-dollar—whatever you define that to be—contributions, if you raise $100,000, 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.
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 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 States 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. It could be a really long 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 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 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 an unverified source.

I raised Hunter Biden’s foreign affiliations. Since very few States currently have redistricting commissions, the intelligence community tasked the FBI to express a purported belief that there were Russian disinformation elements, included in the Steele dossier, which were run wild on their platform yet shut 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.

For 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 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 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 anywhere.

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 doublings of his business associates in Ukraine and the 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 Party and Chinese 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 Joe Biden 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 China and the United States. 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 might 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 has taken 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 differently. 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 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 President Trump and sow division. Many others—Lebanese Hezbollah, the Government of Cuba, and the Maduro Government of Venezuela—they all had the 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 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. 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 United States, I become more and more worried.

If the slimmest of majorities is about to impose its will on the other half of the country from inside an armored 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 and 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 words from 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 what 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, 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 United States Government, and 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 vigorous exchange of ideas informs debate on issues affecting our lives and enables individuals to challenge power and also to challenge orthodoxy.

In theory, the institutions of the “people’s government” 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 those 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 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 permission to talk about that Twitter event that I quoted, or even 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, 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 the role of an aggressive public conversation about the censorship involved 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 to consider the full implications 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 orthodoxy rule? That is the question at the heart of reform, and exchange of ideas? The first and most obvious is a less rigorous and less informed public discourse and the citizen's 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. You 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 than before—talking more about free speech and freedom of press than a Senator here on the U.S. Senate talking about it.

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 representation and 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.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar No. 25 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 to 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 Uighurs 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.

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 postcuro 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. 36.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

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.

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 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.

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.

We, the undersigned Senators, in accord-
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.


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.

CONFIRMATION OF XAVIER BECERRA

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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

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.

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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion 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.

EXECUTIVE MOTION

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.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. 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.)

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 repeal 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 has 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 scarring 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 vice president and CEO of 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 choose.

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.

(Vote explanation)

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, rollover 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, rollover 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, 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. The school worked 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 LaKeem 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 great team that is. It is an 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 Boher 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.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

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 bills and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

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.

H.R. 1632. 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.

MESSAGE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

At 2:06 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.

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. SCHUETZ (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 817. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a tax on certain loan transactions; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LEE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. MARKET):

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. HORVAT, 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:

S. 822. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require program participation agreements between institutions of higher education and Hasbani if a Confucius Institute operates on the campus of an 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. MORA (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 Hertington, 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. MENENDEZ (for himself and Ms. MUKROWSKI):

S. 826. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a Medicare prescription drug coverage for Medicare beneficiaries who are low-income, 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 Reserve components; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Ms. 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. LIEBY):

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 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. CARIDN, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAIN, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KING, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STARKNOW, 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.

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.
S. 835. A bill to provide that the Federal Communications Commission and communications service providers regulated by the Commission in 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 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. STARR, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. CASEY): S. 836. A bill to amend subpart I of part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to ensure that mental health screenings and assessment and treatment of individuals in foster care, and upon entry into foster care, to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. PADDILA, Ms. KLOBUCAR, 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. CARDIN): 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 from all 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. CORKIN, 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 civil lawsuits; 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. RISCH): S. 842. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that the 2021 Recovery Rebates are not provided to illegal residents of the United States; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself and Ms. COLLINS): S. 856. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to create an interagency task force at the Financial Stability Oversight Council to oversee the recovery of firms, 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 political appointive 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 Visa Program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Mr. KAINES): S. 860. A bill to develop and deploy firewalls circumventing tools for the people of Hong Kong from the People's Republic of China and to require the Director of National Intelligence to provide reports with respect to the enforcement of the 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 political appointive positions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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 obtain credible and persuasive evidence before making a determination that an alien 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. KAINES (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. BROWN, Mr. MURkowski, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mrs. COTTON): S. 863. A bill to require asylum officers at United States embassies and consulates to obtain credible and persuasive evidence before making a determination that an alien 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. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. KING, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. WICKER): S. 884. 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. THUNE (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. KING, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. WICKER): S. 885. 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. CASSIDY, Mr. CASEY, Mr. RICH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. VAN HOLLAN, Ms. KLOBUCAR, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. CARDEN, Mr. Lujan, and Mr. REYES): S. 846. A bill to provide for the confidentiality of information submitted in requests for 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. WARBURG, and Mr. WARREN): S. 847. A bill to amend the Higher Education Amendments of 1992 to establish a registry of origin 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 Amendments of 1992 to require the Secretary of Education to develop a methodology for the monitoring of 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. WARRREN): 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 contributions of $200 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; 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. CRAPAO): S. 855. An act 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.
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.

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.

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.

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 adaptation to climate change, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 874. A bill to establish a green transportation infrastructure grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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 Federal grants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. HINCHEN):

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. BERNSTEIN, Mr. Kaine, Ms. WARREN, Ms. Klobuchar, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WARRER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. EINSTEIN, Ms. CAPITO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. STARK, Mr. KING, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HINCHEN, Rich, Mrs. SINEMA, Ms. GILLIBRAND, Ms. SMITH, Ms. HUDE-Smith, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. LUMMUS, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. CARPER, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. Res. 123. A resolution designating March 2021 as “National Women’s History Month”;

S. Res. 124. A resolution celebrating the heritage of Hawaiians; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BERNSTEIN, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. CORTez Masto, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. HINCHEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. Kaine, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KING, Mr. KLOBuchar, Mr. LUZAN, 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. WARRER, 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. HARRIS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. COTTON, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. INHOPE, Mr. MARKY, 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.
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. 324

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 slave labor performed under title III of the Puerto Rico Oversight Management and Economic Stability Act (commonly known as “PROMESA”).

S. 375

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. 449

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. 452

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. 488

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. 539

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. 553

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 use of the Public Housing Capital Fund of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and for other purposes.

S. 598

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. 610

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. 617

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. 634

At the request of Ms. Cortez Masto, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. Murphy) was added as a cosponsor of S. 660, a bill to authorize the payment of certain officers and employees of the United States whose employment is authorized pursuant to a grant of deferred action, deferred enforcement, or temporary protected status.

S. 660

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. 681

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. 715

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. 717

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. 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. 721

At the request of Mr. Brown, the name 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. 730

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. 738

At the request of Mrs. Shaheen, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. Smith) and the name of 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. 748

At the request of Mr. Padilla, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mrs. Sullivan) was added as a cosponsor 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. 754

At the request of Mr. Tester, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. Carpenter) 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. 810

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 extend the Small Business Act and the CARES Act to extend the covered period for the paycheck protection program, and for other purposes.

S. 815

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. 34

At the request of Mr. Risch, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. Sullivan) was added as a cosponsor of
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 would be required if earnings fall below 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. It is a consequence 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 again and again of 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 simply 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 unseemly 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. BURBANK, Mr. BARRASSO, MS. CAPITO, MR. CRAZER, 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. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The bill as ordered to be printed in the RECORD as follows:

SEC. 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) amounts paid 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,

(iii) for equipment used in a program (including a self-directed program) of physical exercise or physical activity.

(B) LIMITATION.—The aggregate amount treated as qualified sports and fitness expenses with respect to any taxpayer for any taxable year shall not exceed $2,500. This limitation applies 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—

(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) MENTAL EXERCISE VIDEOS, ETC.—Videos, books, and similar materials shall be treated as described in subparagraph (A)(i) 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) LIMITATIONS.—Any components other than physical exercise and physical activity.—Rules similar to the rules of paragraph (6) shall apply in the case of any program of 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. 864. A bill to designate methamphetamine as an emerging threat, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Ms. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, national psychostimulant overdose deaths, including methamphetamine-related deaths, increased by nearly 42% between July 2019 and July 2020. This increase is second only to synthetic opioid—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.

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.

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, a 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. CARR, Mr. COONS, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. HASSAN, Mr. HEEVEN, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MORA, Mrs. SHAINES, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABERN, 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—meant 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 postsecondary education and training programs students look to enroll in. Today, 37 percent of all postsecondary students are 25 years of age or older; 69 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 high school-to-college 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—on average, certificate holders have 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, shorter-term job training programs offered at community colleges and other public institutions that workers can afford to pay for, and 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 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 shorter-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, shorter-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.

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. 203. Funding.

TITLE III—REVENUE

Sec. 301. Climate Change Obligations.

Sec. 302. Provisions.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) COMMUNITY.—The term “Community” 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 community whose residents are disproportionately impacted by climate change, a community of color, a Tribal community that is disproportionately impacted or burdened by climate change or a community where climate change has a disproportionate impact, 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 of 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 risk 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.
TITILE 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) Composition.—The Commission shall be composed of 11 members—
(i) Federal Employees.—A member of the Commission who is not an officer or employee of the Federal Government shall be selected from the public, private, and non-profit sectors of the economy, and shall be an energy expert with relevant experience and expertise.
(ii) Non-Federal Employees.—A member of the Commission who is not an officer or employee of the Federal Government shall be selected from the public, private, and non-profit sectors of the economy, and shall be an energy expert with relevant experience and expertise.

(c) TERMS.—Each member of the Commission shall be appointed for the term of office provided by law, and shall serve without compensation.

(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 shall be filled by the President in the same manner as the original appointment was made.

(f) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 30 days after the date of original appointment, the Chairperson of 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—
(a) 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 by climate change;
(B) integrate best available science, data, standards, models, and trends that improve the resiliency of infrastructure systems described in subparagraph (A);

(b) in consultation with the Council on Environmental Quality and the White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council, identify the most cost-effective investments and projects that emphasize multiple benefits to human health, commerce, and ecosystems while ensuring that the other agencies 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.—

(b) COMPENSATION OF STAFF.—

(c) SECRETARY.—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.

(d) APPLICATIONS.—

(e) FUNDING.—The Commission shall carry out projects for a qualified climate change adaptation purpose.

(f) SEC. 104. FUNDING.
The Commission shall carry out projects for a qualified climate change adaptation purpose.

(g) SEC. 105. TERMINATION.
The Commission shall terminate on such date as the President determines after the date on which the duties of the Commission under section 102.

TITILE II—CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCY FUND

SEC. 201. CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCY FUND.
(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF FUND.

(b) USE OF FUND AMOUNTS.

(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

(d) SEC. 202. COMPLIANCE WITH DAVIS-BACON ACT.

(e) SEC. 203. LABOR STANDARDS.
Secretary of Labor shall have the authority and functions set forth in Reorganization Plan Number 14 of 1950 (60 Stat. 1207; 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 amounts made available to the Secretary and are not otherwise obligated.

TITLE III—REVENUE

SEC. 301. CLIMATE CHANGE OBLIGATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide for the Secretary's delegate (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 subsection shall be $20,000,000.

(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 $500,000,000.

(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 issued under this title in order to generate additional funds necessary to meet the climate change obligations issued under this title.

(b) DONATED ADVERTISING.—In addition to any advertising paid for with funds made available under subsection (c), the Secretary shall accept the donation of advertising related 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. 767, 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 kitchen facilities, to train school food service personnel, and for other purposes; 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 co-sponsoring this bill.

The School Food Modernization Act would allow schools to have 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 provide nutritious meals to all 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 during times of need.

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.
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, Australia, Japan, South Korea, and Southeast Asian countries; Whereas the United States maintains an unwavering commitment to the defense of Japan; Whereas 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 shared security and prosperity, 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 the United States-Philippine alliance is one of the oldest and most important alliances in the Indo-Pacific region, the Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT) is important for the security of both nations, and Secretary of State Antony Blinken has reaffirmed the United States-Philippine alliance as a cornerstone of our collective security and our shared prosperity. The partnership between Europe and the United States, in my view, is a human right and 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 Allies and our partners in Europe, 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 capabilities, which can lead to an 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 working to meet the NATO Alliance's 2 percent goal; 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 region, while Australia’s 2020 Defense Strategic Update and 2020 Force Structure Plan recognize and respond to Australia’s continued strategic 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 security in the Southeast Asian and Western Pacific, including the First and Second Island Chains, and a strong relationship between the United States and Philippine Armed Forces. The 68th Philippine Independence Day in July 2021, through agreements such as the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement and the Visiting Forces Agreement, is in the national interest of both the Philippines and the United States; Whereas the United States and Thailand are increasing their defense cooperation to advancing shared security in the Indo-Pacific; Whereas the United States has an opportunity to strengthen its relationships, including defense relationships, with treaty allies and partners throughout the Indo-Pacific, especially through cooperation that enables the parties to better contend with infringements on their sovereignty, including by empowering allies to make specific investments to enhance their area denial and mobile defense-in-depth capabilities; Whereas, in 1949, the United States joined with other nations through the alliance of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to further the cause of democracy against totalitarianism (NATO), in order “to safeguard the freedom, independence, and security 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 have “resolved to unite their efforts for collective defense 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 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 and other allies, through training and operations, that produce effective and interoperable forces capable of defeating threat actors; Whereas, in his February 19, 2021, speech to the Munich Security Conference, President Biden reaffirmed, “The transatlantic alliance is once again the cornerstone of a world order based on the rule of law that undergird our common prosperity;” 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 region, while Australia’s 2020 Defense Strategic Update and 2020 Force Structure Plan recognize and respond to Australia’s continued strategic 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. 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The 68th Philippine Independence Day in July 2021, through agreements such as the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement and the Visiting Forces Agreement, is in the national interest of both the Philippines and the United States; Whereas the United States and Thailand are increasing their defense cooperation to advancing shared security in the Indo-Pacific; Whereas the United States has an opportunity to strengthen its relationships, including defense relationships, with treaty allies and partners throughout the Indo-Pacific, especially through cooperation that enables the parties to better contend with infringements on their sovereignty, including by empowering allies to make specific investments to enhance their area denial and mobile defense-in-depth capabilities; Whereas, in 1949, the United States joined with other nations through the alliance of the North Atlantic Treaty Organizati...
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, abroad, or in the armed services, 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 it is 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.”

(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 movements, mass movements, emerging technologies, including disruptive and emerging military, economic, and defense budgets as well as new and emerging technologies;

(3) urges the people of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.”;

(4) eliminates sex discrimination in military service, 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.”

(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 movements, mass movements, emerging technologies, including disruptive and emerging military, economic, and defense budgets as well as new and emerging technologies;

Whereas women once were turned away from attending medical schools in the United States, but were now enrolled in medical schools in the United States at higher numbers than men;

Whereas previously were turned away from attending medical school 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 Jeanette 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 joint resolution to pass Congress designating “Women’s History Month”;

Whereas, in 1987, President Ronald Reagan issued 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 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 reflect upon 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 on our nation’s second-highest office. The election of more women to Congress in 2021 to address the challenges before us.

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...
Whereas Roma have been a part of European migration to the United States since the colonial period and particularly following the abolition of the enslavement of Roma in the historic Romanian principalities; Roma live across the world and throughout the United States; the Roma people have made distinct and important contributions in many fields, including agriculture, art, crafts, literature, medicine, military service, music, sports, and science; where, 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; and 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 Roma 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 commends the destruction of the so-called “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;

(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 foreign 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. Roma 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 in 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 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 of future generations. Germany took an important step when it established 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 Senator WICKER has joined me in introducing this resolution and urge other colleagues to join us in celebrating Romani American heritage.

S. RES. 124

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 so-called “Gypsy Family Camp” where Romani people were interned at Auschwitz;
are veterans who have made lasting contributions to the United States military;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have broken down historical gender barriers to enlistment in the military, including—
(1) Inupiat Eskimo sharpshooter Laura Belza Wright of the Alaska Territorial Guard during World War II;
(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 contributed to the economic development of Native Nations and the United States as a whole, including Elouise Cobell of the Blackfeet Nation, 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 30,000 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 one new business 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) Picky 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 Isabell Kauakea 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, Gilbert Morgan Smith medal, in 1997; and
(3) Mary Golda Ross of the Cherokee Nation, who—
(A) was credited with revitalizing the Tewa language;
(B) was awarded the highest award in marine botany from the National Academy of Sciences, the Gilbert Morgan Smith medal; and
(C) was recognized by the Federal Government on the 2020 $1 coin honoring Native Americans and their contributions.

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have made significant contributions, enriching the lives of all the peoples of the United States: Now, therefore,

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.


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. MARKET, 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 rejected 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 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 is contrary to commitments made in the Sino-British Joint Declaration of 1984, the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and the Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (commonly referred to as the "Sino-British Joint Declaration of 1984"), and the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and the Law 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 December 2020, sentenced prominent pro-democracy politician 2 refugees of special humanitarian concern;

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 the 10 others who were arrested 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 opposition candidates who "publicly or implicitly 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 Jimmy Lai, and in January 2021, sentenced 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 and the Legislative Council to be held in September 2021, will require them to 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.", and the Basic Law of the People's Congress in Beijing adopted measures designed to fundamentally undo the existing democratic process in Hong Kong; and

Whereas the Chinese Communist Party in mainland China, Hong Kong, done at Beijing December 19, 1984 (in this preamble referred to as the "Sino-British Joint Declaration of 1984"), and the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, approved March 30, 1990 (commonly referred to as the "Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region"), and the Sino-British Joint Declaration of 1984; and

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 pretex 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, journalists, 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 2020 (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 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 Public 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;

(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 in another country in an 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 and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 18, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.
March 18, 2021

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

S1657

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 Monday, March 22, 2021, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, March 22, 2021, at 2 p.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 Monday, March 22, 2021, at 3 p.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 Monday, March 22, 2021, at 2 p.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 Monday, March 22, 2021, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS’ AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans’ Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, March 22, 2021, at 4 p.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 Monday, March 22, 2021, at 4:30 p.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 Kareem 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 daily 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 distracted 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, pre-occupy 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, 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 are detaining 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 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.

Before Border Patrol is overwhelmed by the sheer number of people crossing

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.
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 for the past 20 years, and 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 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. Well, they told us it was 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 is 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 most 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 overwhelming 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 had 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 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 in 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 are 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. I am not 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 and understand the 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 and yet he was just the man I had 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. He 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 cab-driver, 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 cared about our 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 life. He loved his family 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 community 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 likeable as Roger, you are bound to get results.

Although 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 Congressperson 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.
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 commemoates 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 Chairwoman GREGORY MEKES 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.


Chimere Lane Board, Sandra Caryl Bohr, Danielle Vanjea Boluyt, Lindsay Boomsma, Amber Lee Bootsmma, Rachelle Bosma, Jessica Leigh Bowar, Rebecca Bracha, Carissa Kelli Brandt, Asheleigh JeAnne Brandt, Kristina Breske, Evelyn Briest, Autumn Grace Brockvelett, Bryan Bronson, Jessica Erin Brown, Natasha Yvonne Broz, Haley Cheyen- enne Brunke, Kellie Anne Bryant, Kara Lynn Buettgenbach, Susan Burckhartzmeyer, Shar- on K. Buseman, Courtney Amanda Callejas, Jamie Lynn Carlson, Darla Ann Carlson, Samantha Michelle Carlson, Brenda Rae Carrillo, Debra De Carra, Jennifer Jo Centineo, Katlyn Marie Chaloupka, Jamie Lynn Cheng, Mia Marie Cherry, Joseph Blake Child, Gaeble Albane Chleborad, Kimberly Kay Christensen, Roxanne Clausen, Cassie Lynn Clausen, Cathleen Patricia Clirmis, Stephanie Renae Coats, Sarah Elizabeth Cole, Lisa Dawn Conlin, Wendy Dawn Connell, Nicole Anne Conrad, Kelsey Ranae Cordell, Ann


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 the Motylinski brothers.

I applaud Leo's diligence to complete the lengthy review process that accompanies becoming an Eagle Scout. Leo has contributed to his church community in 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 Leopold 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 Learning Day. On the last Friday of this month, partners from around the world come together to showcase Social Emotional Learning, 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 firsthand the benefits of this practice on students in my Congressional District with the Warren City Schools. I’d also like to recognize 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 Iowaan of the Week. Women are the fastest-growing population of veterans, and the Women’s Veteran Program at the Central Iowa VA provides 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; long-term 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 can use in their daily routines to better take care of themselves through the Whole Health Program. Mindfulness practices, yoga, and Tai 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 who have adopted, and those who have had involtro 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 expectant mothers preparation for the arrival of their newborns. The event is promoted during Women’s Health Week and it offers the expectant mothers valuable resources and support through a variety of organizations.

The Central Iowa VA Women’s Veteran Program is committed to providing comprehensive care and support to women veterans and their families. They serve veterans from primary care to mental health services, and ensure that women veterans have access to the care they need to 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.

As he celebrates his 100th birthday, Mr. Yanke is a World War II veteran, father, husband, and beloved friend to many. He is best known for his 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 on 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, Florida, 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 consider him 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 1.5lb weights. I join Mr. Yanke’s family in celebrating the 100th birthday of this remarkable man.

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 his 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 on 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.

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RECOGNIZING ROBERT YANKE’S 100TH BIRTHDAY

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 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 at 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 words: “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. Coach Adams 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 Midway 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 Ken Johnson, 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. Phillips said of his boss, “In 38 years of working together, we never had a cross word.” he said. “If you could do it, 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 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, mathematicians 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 5 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 increase the nation’s minority serving institutions’ 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 regretfully 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 have faced many adventures, celebrated great achievements, and persevered through life’s challenges. Amid 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 Barclays 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 sons have followed closely in their 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 he was named Kazakhstan’s 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 and other 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 tournament since 2008.

Art was born on April 13, 1942, to Marion Veronica Walsh (nee Kierman), 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 visting 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 Streets in Washington, DC, where he was eventually 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.

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 Diana, and many step-nephews and nieces. Art loved people and wanted to help improve their quality of life. Art's large family included step-nieces, ex-sister-in-laws, children's 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 success and begin families of their own. He taught us to have others to, to always use our hands to help, 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 grandchildren.

Many thanks 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 pre-deceased 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,
The ratification process of the Equal Rights Amendment provides an additional legal tool for women to fight for equality. It is a great honor to represent the people of Akron and Summit Country. 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 grandfathers, 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. The passage 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 of the Equal Rights Amendment by the states does not contain a time limit. It is the proposing clause that 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 this 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 to women’s access to 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, a couple of well-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 taxi 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, Sammyn 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, Delia Reese and Nipsy Russell to name a few. Mr. Roberts did not only spend time in the 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 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 YE A on Roll Call No. 84.
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — Extensions of Remarks
March 18, 2021

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. The vote on final passage of H.R. 1620—the Violence Against Women Act, I was detained. 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. 89.

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 Burkemer 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 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.
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.

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.

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.

Walsh Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Martin Joseph Walsh, of Massachusetts, to be Secretary of Labor.

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 68 yeas to 30 nays (Vote No. EX. 126), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.
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.

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

Turk Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of David Turk, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy.

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.

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

Adeyemo Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Adewale O. Adeyemo, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of the Treasury.

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.

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

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.

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.

Messages from the House:

Measures Placed on the Calendar:

Executive Communications:

Additional Cosponsors:

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Additional Statements:

Authorities for Committees to Meet:

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—126)

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. 565, 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...
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — DAILY DIGEST

March 18, 2021

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.

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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.

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.

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.

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.

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. Pursuant to the Rule, the amendment printed in part C of H. Rept. 117–12 shall be considered as adopted.

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.

**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.

**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.*

**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.

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**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**


**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

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 Under served, 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.


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.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE
Axne, Cynthia, Iowa, E271
Budd, Ted, N.C., E272
Chabot, Steve, Ohio, E273
Cole, Tom, Okla., E274
Davis, Danny K., Ill., E270, E275
Dingell, Debbie, Mich., E270
Fitzgerald, Scott, Wis., E267, E271, E274, E276
Gohmert, Louie, Tex., E276
Hastings, Alcee L., Fla., E267
Higgins, Brian, N.Y., E271
Huzenga, Bill, Mich., E271
Jacobs, Chris, N.Y., E276
Johnston, Dusty, S. Dak., E267
Johnson, Eddie Bernice, Tex., E272
Katz, John, N.Y., E275
Keller, Fred, Pa., E274
Latta, Robert E., Ohio, E270, E273
Morelle, Joseph D., N.Y., E272
Norcross, Donald, N.J., E276
Norton, Eleanor Holmes, The District of Columbia, E276
O'Halleran, Tom, Ariz., E267
Pappas, Chris, N.H., E273
Ryan, Tim, Ohio, E271, E274
Scott, Robert C. "Bobby", Va., E275
Stefanik, Elise M., N.Y., E273
Vela, Filemon, Tex., E270

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March 18, 2021

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