House of Representatives

The House met at 7 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. BARRAGÁN).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 13, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

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

Holy God, be with us this evening as we reconvene from having honored our fallen brother to resume the business of the day. In this profound instance, we are struck by the mystery that is life—that within a few short moments, we can move from observing how precious and precarious one individual’s life is, only to return to the routine but necessary running of an entire country.

In times like these, we come to truly value the people with whom we serve and the paths we trod together. We pray with the Psalmist that You would teach us to number our days—to make each one count.

Grant us a heart of wisdom, that when we are met with perilous danger, we would know Your strength. And when we are faced with the tedious duties of a day, at times overwhelmed by the futility of our efforts, may we remain unwavering in our commitment.

We pray Your kindness to fall upon us, O Lord, that the work of our hands would have effect and that our well-intended actions serve Your ultimate purpose. May we in all that we encounter this day and all days, have the faith to proclaim, “the grass withers and the flowers fade, but the Word of our God endures forever.”

We pray in the strength of Your sovereign name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BASS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. BASS 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.

COMUNICATION FROM CHAIR OF COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the chair of the Committee on Ethics:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ETHICS,
April 12, 2021.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: On February 23, 2021, the Committee on Ethics (Committee) received appeals from Representative Andrew Clyde of two fines imposed pursuant to House Resolution 73. The appeals were received before the Committee adopted its written rules. The Committee informed Representative Clyde on March 9, 2021, that it had adopted its rules.

A majority of the Committee did not agree to the appeals.

Sincerely,

THEODORE E. DEUTCH,
Chairman.

JACKIE WALORSKI,
Ranking Member.

COMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 13, 2021.

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 13, 2021, at 11:47 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 27. That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 28.

With best wishes, I am, Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk.

PREVENTING PAYGO SEQUESTRATION

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 1888) to prevent across-the-board direct spending cuts, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF MEDICARE SEQUESTRATION.

(a) Extension.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3709(a) of division A of the CARES Act (2 U.S.C. 901a note) is amended by striking “March 31, 2021” and inserting “December 31, 2021.”

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall take effect as if enacted as part of the CARES Act (Public Law 116–136).

(b) OFFSET.—Section 251(a)(6)(C) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901a(6)(C)) is amended—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3709(a) of division A of the CARES Act (2 U.S.C. 901a note) is amended by striking “March 31, 2021” and inserting “December 31, 2021.”

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall take effect as if enacted as part of the CARES Act (Public Law 116–136).

(b) OFFSET.—Section 251(a)(6)(C) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901a(6)(C)) is amended—

(1) IN clause (i)—

(A) by striking “first 6 months” and inserting “first 6 months”;

(B) by striking “4.0 percent” and inserting “2.0 percent”;

(C) by striking “and” at the end;

(ii) in clause (ii)—

(A) by striking “second 6 months” and inserting “6-month period beginning on the day after the last day of the period described in clause (i)”—

(B) by striking “0.0 percent,” and inserting “4.0 percent; and”;

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(iii) with respect to the remaining ½ month in which such order is so effective for such fiscal year, the payment reduction shall be 0.0 percent.”.

SEC. 2. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

(a) RURAL HEALTH CLINIC PAYMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1331(f)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395f)(3) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in clause (i), by striking subclauses (I) and (II) and inserting the following:

“(I) with respect to a rural health clinic that had a per visit payment amount established for services furnished in 2020—

(aa) the per visit payment amount applicable to such rural health clinic for rural health clinic services furnished in 2020, increased by the percentage increase in the MEI applicable to primary care services furnished as of the first day of 2021; or

(bb) the limit described in paragraph (2)(A); and

(ii) in clause (ii), by striking “under clause (I)” and inserting “under subclause (I) or (II) of clause (i), as applicable,”; and

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

“(B) a rural health clinic described in this subparagraph is a rural health clinic that—

“(i) as of December 31, 2020, was in a hospital with less than 50 beds and after such date such hospital continues to have less than 50 beds (not taking into account any increase in the number of beds pursuant to a waiver under subsection (b)(1)(A) of section 1135 during the emergency period) and was in subsection (g)(1)(B) of such section; and

“(ii) as of December 31, 2020, was enrolled under section 1866(i) (including temporary enrollment during such emergency period for such emergency period); or

“(III) submitted an application for enrollment under section 1866(i) (or a request for such a temporary enrollment for such emergency period) that was received not later than December 31, 2020.”.

(b) ADDITIONAL AMOUNT FOR CERTAIN HOSPITALS.—Subsection (b) of section 1866(j) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 2011 (Public Law 111–152), as amended by section 4721(e) of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, and amended by section 607 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2021; or

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (b) shall take effect as if applied under section 4721(e) of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, and amended by section 607 of the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Balanced Budget Refinement Act of 1999 (Public Law 106–113) shall apply in determining whether a payment adjustment for a hospital in a State referenced in section 4721(e) of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 during a fiscal year shall be considered consistent with subsection (c).”.

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend remarks and insert extraneous material into the Record on passage of this Act.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, today, the House meets on the heels of huge milestones for our country: more than 180 million vaccine shots in Americans’ arms and more than 150 million rescue checks in Americans’ bank accounts.

As the resources included in the American Rescue Plan continue to strengthen our Nation’s fight against COVID-19 and deliver critical relief to American families, today’s legislation will ensure our healthcare providers—who have been on the front lines of this pandemic—are supported during this difficult time.

Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress came together to provide financial support to healthcare providers by temporarily pausing the sequestration of the Medicare program created by the Budget Control Act of 2011. This pause, originally enacted in the CARES Act and then further extended in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, was slated to expire on March 31, 2021. Today’s legislation will extend the suspension through the end of this year.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased that this bill received bipartisan support in the Senate, and it is my hope that it will receive broad bipartisan support in this Chamber.

However, I would be remiss if I did not state my disappointment that the needed legislative fix to exclude the American Rescue Plan from the statutory paygo scorecard was dropped from the Senate, and it is my hope that it will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, the legislation before us today is clearly a wiser course of action than that which my House Democrat colleagues pursued just a few weeks ago. As a reminder, despite House Republicans specifically raising the concern over Demo-   

Democrats were taking with the healthcare of America’s seniors, our Democrat colleagues first dismissed the fact that their recently enacted $1.9 trillion bailout bill would lead to billions in cuts to Medicare. Then, after passing their bill, and after the President signed into law a plan that would lead to $36 billion in cuts to Medicare, Democrats suddenly felt compelled to acknowledge that fact.

Unfortunately, when they chose to act, Democrats chose a course of action that completely failed. I say chose that course of action because they could have protected America’s seniors and offset the impact to the budget by adopting the Protect Seniors and Cut Waste Act put forward by House Repub-   

publicans, which would:

Stop benefits and payments to prisoners and illegal immigrants; stop funds from the bailout bill for the National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities; stop special handouts for Federal employees; and rescind billions in bailouts that go to State governments.

Our Democrat colleagues were unwilling to accept sensible approach. They wanted to simply pretend $1.9 trillion in spending is not happening and erase the evidence.

Thankfully, the Senate, in a bipartisan vote of 90–2, agreed to the bill that is before someone the floor today legislation that avoids mandating the Budget Control Act’s reduction in Medicare spending that is otherwise set to begin this month. It offsets and achieves those savings by extending future funding restraints an additional year.

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I thank the gentleman from Kentucky for allowing me to offer a motion to instruct that indicated that we would not stop direct funding from going to our local jurisdictions, which we fought. And every time I see my mayor and local officials, they are smiling for that direct funding—$1.4 billion to smaller jurisdictions like Jacinto City and the Houston Independent School District getting millions of dollars.

Madam Speaker, this particular amendment is important because Democrats don’t cut Medicare. We are standing here today to make sure that nothing happens to our seniors and Medicare.

Madam Speaker, I support this legislation.

Madam Speaker, as a senior member of the Committees on the Judiciary, on Homeland Security, on the Budget, and as the Member of Congress for a congressional district that has experienced the worst of the COVID–19 as a public health emergency and economic catastrophe, I rise in support of Senate Amendment to H.R. 1868.

I do so because this legislation retains language included by Congress in the CARES Act and subsequent legislation to address the COVID–19 pandemic. Medicare plans and providers are receiving payment rates that are approximately 2 percent higher than what they otherwise would have received during this time.

This pause in the operability of sequestration was slated to expire on March 31, 2021, but H.R. 1868 extended the suspension through December 31, 2021; the Senate Amendment to that legislation reduced that pause time to the end of fiscal year 2021, or September 30, 2021.

It is very disappointing that the provision in H.R. 1868 passed by House excluding the budgetary effects of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, from the scorecards established by the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go (PAYGO) Act of 2010 and preventing across-the-board cuts to numerous direct spending programs were not included in the amendment passed by the Senate.

But as a member of the Budget Committee, I will be working tirelessly with Chairwoman Yarmuth and my colleagues to ensure that Congress designates as an emergency or otherwise excludes from the PAYGO scorecard the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to avert sequestration.

Madam Speaker, Congress has never permitted sequestration to affect the Medicare trust fund and it certainly will not allow it now, just when help is arriving under the American Rescue Plan Act to put shots in arms, money in pockets, kids in school, and workers back on the job.

It is worthwhile to explain why the American Rescue Plan Act is the most transformative legislation in more than a half century and easily the most transformative legislation in 2021, from the scorecard that established by the Pay-As-You-Go Act.

First, it is $1.9 trillion, which is an American Rescue Act.

Second, the lion’s share of $3.3 trillion will come directly to the City of Houston and Harris County.

Third, H.R. 1319, the American Rescue Plan Act, is a landmark, life-saving legislation that will provide urgently-needed resources to defeat the virus, put vaccines in people’s arms, money into families’ pockets, children safely back into classrooms, and people back to work.

With tens of millions of Americans infected, more than half a million lives lost, over 18 million Americans unemployed and millions more hungry and food and housing insecure, thanks to the work of congressional Democrats in the House and Senate and the Biden administration, at last the people of the United States and my home state of Texas can be assured that Help is On the Way.

In simple terms this life-saving and life-enhancing legislation puts vaccines in arms, puts money in people’s pockets, puts children safely back in school, and it will put workers back in jobs.

Put Money in People’s Pockets: The plan finishes the job on the President’s promise to provide $2,000 in direct assistance to households across America with checks of $1,400 per person, following the $600 down payment enacted in December. The plan will also provide direct housing assistance and unemployment insurance so that 18 million American workers can pay their bills and support 27 million children with an expanded Child Tax Credit and more than 17 million low-wage workers through an improved Earned Income Tax Credit.

Put Children Safely Back in School: The plan delivers $170 billion for education and $45 billion for childcare providers. This includes a $130 billion investment in K–12 school re-opening and making up for lost time in the classroom, with funds that can be used for such things as reducing class sizes, modifying spaces so that students and teachers can socially distance, improving ventilation, implementing more mitigation measures, providing personal protective equipment and providing summer school or other support for students that help make up lost learning time this year. The plan also provides more than $40 billion for higher education.

More is what the American Rescue Plan Act means for the State of Texas, Houston, and Harris County. An estimated $16.7 billion will come to the State of Texas. The lion’s share of $3.3 billion will come directly to the City of Houston, and Harris County will receive a similar share of $5.667 billion, thanks to a provision in the law I helped secure that created the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund and appropriated $45.5 billion.

$1.4 billion in direct payments is allocated to smaller jurisdiction like Jacinto City.

Houston Independent School District can expect to receive close to $100 million ($993,198 million to be more precise). The law specifically allows this funding to be used:

1. To respond to the pandemic or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, and aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality.

2. For premium pay to eligible workers performing essential work (as determined by each
I want to commend my colleagues and House Speaker NANCY PELOSI for her leadership and President Biden for signing into law the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, and I urge all Members to join me in voting to pass the bill before us, the Senate Amendment to H.R. 1975, and to reconvene in order to ensure the extension of the budgetary effects of the American Rescue Plan Act from the scorecards established by the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go (PAYGO) Act of 2010, thus precluding the implementation of direct across the board cuts in spending.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I will just say that Republicans don’t cut Medicare. In fact, the Biden bailout bill that was passed cut $36 billion a year in Medicare. Yet, the Senate Democrats have not done anything in regard to those Medicare cuts to seniors in the Biden bailout bill. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, as the gentleman from Missouri mentioned early on, this bill passed the Senate by a 90-2 margin, and I anticipate it will pass the House by a significant margin as well.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question was taken.

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 384, nays 38, not voting 6, as follows:

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Ms. HERRELL and Mr. FERGUSON changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. JOHNSTON of Ohio, GREEN of Tennessee, and BURCHETT changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(b) of House Resolution 188, the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow for morning-hour debate and noon for legislative business.

Thereupon (at 7 o’clock and 50 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, April 14, 2021, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker’s table and referred to the following:

EC-758. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the retirement of Vice Admiral Brian B. Brown, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(e)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 289); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-759. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Revised Cross-State Air Pollution Rule Update for the 2008 Ozone NAAQS (EPA-HQ-OAR-2020-0272; FRL-1001-23-Region 4) received March 26, 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-761. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Air Quality Designations for the 2019 Primary Sulfur Dioxide (SO2) National Ambient Air Quality Standard — Round 4 (EPA-HQ-OAR-2020-0037; FRL-10018-98-OAR) (RIN: 2060-AU61) received March 26, 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-762. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s correcting amendment — Amendment and Clarification of Final Designations for Areas Under Division Symptoms; Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; California; South Coast Moderate Area Plan and Reclassification as Serious Nonattainment Area; Final Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Designation of Areas For Air Quality Planning Purposes; California (EPA-HQ-OAR-2019-1415; FRL-10019-97-Region 9) received March 26, 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-763. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Air Plan Approval; Wisconsin; Partial Approval and Partial Disapproval of Air Plan (EPA-HQ-OAR-2016-0674; FRL-10021-25-Region 5) received March 26, 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-764. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Air Plan Approval; Pennsylvania; 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard; Final Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Other Technical Amendments (EPA-HQ-OAR-2019-0815; FRL-10010-97-Region 4) received March 26, 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-765. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Final Cross-State Air Pollution Rule; Revised Cross-State Air Pollution Rule; South Carolina: Final Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (EPA-R05-OAR-2016-0321; FRL-10021-28-Region 3) received March 26, 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-766. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — South Carolina: Final Cross-State Air Pollution Rule — Revised Cross-State Air Pollution Rule Update for the 2008 Ozone NAAQS (EPA-HQ-OAR-2020-0272; FRL-1001-23-Region 4) received March 26, 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-767. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Motor Vehicle Air Conditioner Refrigerant Phaseout System Service (EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0597; FRL-1001-48-SOAR) (RIN: 2060-A075) received March 26, 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-768. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Air Quality Designations for the 2019 Primary Sulfur Dioxide (SO2) National Ambient Air Quality Standard — Round 4 (EPA-HQ-OAR-2020-0037; FRL-10018-98-OAR) (RIN: 2060-AU61) received March 26, 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-769. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s direct final rule — State of Michigan Uniform Injection Control Program; Primary Approach (EPA-HQ-OAR-2020-0959; FRL-10018-91-SOAR) (RIN: 2040-ZA35) received March 26, 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-771. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Improvements for Heavy-Duty Engine and Vehicle Exhaust Emission Standards, and Other Technical Amendments (EPA-HQ-OAR-2019-0907; FRL-10018-52-OAR) (RIN: 2060-AU62) received March 26, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-772. A letter from the Director, Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting two (2) actions on nominations, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3339(a); Public Law 106-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-414); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-773. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties for 2020; (EPA-R05-OAR-2020-0620; FRL-10021-40-Region 7) received March 26, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-774. A letter from the Chairman, Surface Transportation Board, transmitting the Board’s final rule — Civil Monetary Penalties; Final Action (emergency rulemaking, under 49 CFR 1017 (Sub-No. 6)) received March 26, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-775. A letter from the Chair, Regulatory Cooperation Coordination Division, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department’s Major final rule — Modification of
Registration Requirement for Petitioners Seeking To File Cap-Subject H-1B Petitions; delay of effective date ([CIS No.]: 2850-21; Docket No.: USCIS 2020-0039) (RIN: 1615-AC01) received February 23, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-776. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — National Primary Drinking Water Regulations: Lead and Copper Rule Revisions; Delay of Effective Date ([EPA-OE-WV-2016-0694; FRL-10019-00-OW]) (RIN: 2040-AP76) received March 26, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-777. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — National Primary Drinking Water Regulations: Lead and Copper Rule Revisions: Final Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rulemaking; Final Proposed Rule; and Final Rule (RIN: 2040-AP76) received March 26, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. MOORE of Alabama:

H. R. 2457. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the disapproval by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of courses of education offered by public institutions of higher learning that do not charge veterans the in-State tuition rate for purposes of certification for the Educational Assistance Program; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. AUCHINCLOSS:

H. R. 2458. A bill to amend the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to clarify that the definition of a debt collector includes, in all cases, a person in a business the principal purpose of which is the collection of security interests; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. LANGEVIN):

H. R. 2459. A bill to require the Secretary of Labor to award grants for promoting industry or sector partnerships to encourage industry growth and competitiveness and to improve worker training, retention, and advancement as part of an infrastructure investment; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina (for himself, Mr. DE SAULNIER of California, Mr. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina, and Ms. STEVENS):

H. R. 2460. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to authorize borrowers to separate joint consolidation loans; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. BUTTERFIELD (for himself and Mr. GUTHRIE):

H. R. 2461. A bill to direct the Government Accountability Office to evaluate appropriate coverage of assistive technologies provided to patients who experience amputation in each case for consideration of such provisions as are subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COHEN:

H. R. 2463. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require the TSA to offer certain secondary screenings of passengers prior to a physical inspection if an object of concern is detected, and to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Ms. CRAIG (for herself, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MORELLE, and Mr. COX):

H. R. 2464. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand eligibility for low-income subsidies under part D of the Medicare program; to improve energy and commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. DELIÉRO (for herself, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mrs. AXN, Mr. BARRAGAN, Mr. BASS, Mrs. BRATY, Mr. BEKA, Mr. BETTER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BUSH, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CARSON, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. CHU, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARK, Mr. CLEVER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COOPER, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. CROW, Mr. DAVIES of Illinois, Ms. DEAN, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. DELBENE, Mrs. DE MINGO, Ms. DE SAULNIER, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. MICHAEL P. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. EVANS, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. GALLEGEO, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Ms. GOMEZ, Mr. GRALVA, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. JACOBS of California, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JOHN son of Georgia, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JONES, Mr. KAHLEI, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KEATING, Ms. KELLY of California, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KLIBER, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. KRISHNASWAMI, Mr. LAMB, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. LIEU, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. MATSU, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. MCCLURE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCINNERY, Mr. MEIKS, Ms. MENO, Mr. MORFEK, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. MURDOCH, Mr. NZURE, Ms. NEWMAN, Mr. NORDSTROM, Mr. OCASIO-CORTZ, Ms. OMA, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PASCHELL, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PINOHER, Mr. POCA, Mrs. PORTER, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RASKIN, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. ROB, Mr. ROB, Mr. CHRI, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. RUSH, Mr. RYAN, Mr. SARLAND, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SCANLON, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. SCHIER, Mr. SEWELL, Mr. SIEBEL, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SOTO, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. STRICKLER, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. TITUS, Mr. TLAB.
H.R. 2467. A bill to allow certain veterans to use high occupancy vehicle lanes, including toll lanes, to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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. GARAMENDI (for himself, Ms. KAPUR, Mr. FUCALO, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. SCHAOKOWSKY, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. RYAN, Mr. TONKO, Mr. MRVAN, and Mr. CIULLENE):

H.R. 2467. A bill to ensure that certain materials used in carrying out Federal infrastructure aid programs are made in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, Energy and Commerce, Financial Services, Homeland Security, and Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GOOD of Virginia (for himself, Mr. BROOKS, Mr. BUD, Mrs. HERRELL, Mr. HARRISON of Georgia, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. BUCK, Mr. LAMALFA, Mrs. BORRETT, and Mr. LAMBORN):

H.R. 2466. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Transportation and of the Interior from using high occupancy vehicle lanes, including toll lanes, to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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. GUTHRIE (for himself, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, and Mr. COMER):

H.R. 2470. A bill to designate certain future interstate and high priority corridors in Kentucky, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. JEFFRIES (for himself and Mr. WALTZ):

H.R. 2471. A bill to measure the progress of post-disaster recovery and efforts to address corruption, violence, and press freedom in Haiti; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio (for himself, Mr. BALDERSHON, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. LATTI, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. TURNER, and Mr. WENSTUP):

H.R. 2472. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6222 Cadiz Jewett Road in Cadiz, Ohio, as the "John Jordan Post Office" to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio (for himself, Mr. BALDERSHON, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. LATTI, Mr. RYAN, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. TURNER, and Mr. WENSTUP):

H.R. 2473. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 275 Penn Avenue in Youngstown, Ohio, known as the "Howard Arthur Tibbs Post Office"; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Ms. KUSTER (for herself, Mr. SMITH of Connecticut, and Mr. PALMER):

H.R. 2474. A bill to amend the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976 to provide for the Secretary to pay certain amount risk premiums for loan or loan guarantees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:

H.R. 2475. A bill to allow certain veterans to use high occupancy vehicle lanes, including toll lanes, to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GARAMENDI (for himself, Ms. KAPUR, Mr. FUCALO, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. SCHAOKOWSKY, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. RYAN, Mr. TONKO, Mr. MRVAN, and Mr. CIULLENE):

H.R. 2468. A bill to expand and improve access to trauma-informed mental health interventions for newly arriving immigrants at the border, to alleviate the stress of and provide education for immigrants and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on 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. O'HALLERAN (for himself and Mr. WESTERMAN):

H.R. 2461. A bill to establish a grant program to improve safety on high risk rural roads, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. PANETTA:

H.R. 2462. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax credits for microgrid property; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. KILMER, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. LOWESTHL, Mr. BERA, Mr. SCHAOKOWSKY, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

H.R. 2463. A bill to amend title 48, United States Code, to include affordable housing incentives in certain capital investment grants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. PORTER (for herself, Ms. DELAIO, Mr. GHJALALI, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. KAHANNA, Mr. NEUSS, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Mr. COHEN):

H.R. 2481. A bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act and title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require pharmacies to disclose any differential between the cost of a prescription drug based on whether certain individuals use prescription drug coverage to acquire such drug, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee of 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. QUIGLEY (for himself, Mr. COMER, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. COOPER, Mr. WELBERG, Ms. NORTON, Mr. TAYLOR of Georgia, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. KAHANNA, Mrs. RICE of Oklahoma, Mr. DANNY K. ...
By Mr. ROSENDALE (for himself, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. ROY, Ms. HERRELL, Mr. MOORE of Mississippi, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. GOODMAN of Texas, Mr. PERRY, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. BUD, Mr. GOURDIN, Mr. STEUBING, Mrs. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. POSHY, Mr. HICK of Georgia, Mr. TIFFANY, Ms. MAURICE Mr. JACKSON, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. ROY, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. MCCINTOCK, and Mr. FALLON):

H. Res. 2487. A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds to implement any COVID-19 vaccine passport system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROY (for himself, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. LAVALA, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. BILIRIKIS, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. BOWS, Mrs. GREENE of Georgia, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. BABB, Mr. JACKSON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. POSHY, Mr. PERRY, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. STEUBING, Mrs. HARTZLIER, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. STEWART, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. GOMERT, Mr. BUD, Mrs. BOBERST, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. ROSE, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. PORTENBERG, Mr. PALMER, Mr. LATTA, Mr. MAST, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. HICK of Georgia, Mr. NORMAN):


By Mr. RUSH:

H. Res. 2489. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to ensure just and reasonable charges for confinement facility communication services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MILLER of New Jersey:

H. Res. 2490. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide 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. ROSE (for himself and Mr. SOTO):

H. Res. 2491. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to enhance provisions related to wage discrimination, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mrs. TORRES of California:

H. Res. 2492. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make available to veterans certain additional information about postsecondary educational opportunities and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (for herself, Mr. ZHINDE, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Mr. KUSTOFF):

H. Res. 2493. A bill to provide for the restoration of legal rights for claimants under holistic claims; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BURLING (for himself and Mr. LEVIN of California):

H. Res. 2494. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Defense an Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. GALLAGHER (for himself, Mr. JACOBS of New York, Mr. BROOKS, Mr. BUDD, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. BUCK, and Mr. ROUZER):

H. Res. 38. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to require that the Supreme Court be composed of not more than nine justices; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. ADAMS (for herself, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BROOKS of Georgia, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. BUSCH, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARSON, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COOK, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. GHJALVA, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KUSTER, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. MANNING, Mr. McNERNY, Mr. MENG, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. NEWMAN, Ms. OMAS, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. RYAN, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SCHELLING, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. STEWART, Mr. TRONE, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mrs. KOHR, Mr. BASS, Ms. BOURDEAUX, Mr. BRADLEY of California, Ms. DRAHOS, Mr. DRAHOS, Mr. SOTO, Ms. Ross, Mr. DELAURIE, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. MCCRAIH, Mr. SCHNITZER, Ms. SUZZI, and Mr. SEAN)

H. Res. 304. A resolution recognizing the designation of the week of April 11 through April 17, 2021, as ‘‘Black Maternal Health Week’’ to bring attention to the maternal health crisis in the United States and the importance of reducing maternal mortality and morbidity among Black women and birthing persons; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, Transportation and Infrastructure, Education and Labor, the Judiciary, Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Veterans’ Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY (for himself and Mr. SCHWAB):

H. Res. 305. A resolution congratulating the people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on the centennial of the founding of the Jordanian state; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. GARAMENDI (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. MEERS, Mr. COSTA, Mr. VALANO, Mr. MING, Ms. ESCH, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. FALLON, Mr. LOPUKHIN, Mr. BERA, and Ms. CHU):

H. Res. 306. A resolution recognizing the historic, cultural, and religious significance of the festival of Vaisakhi, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mrs. KIRKPATRICK (for herself, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. O’HALLERAN, Mr. STANTON, Mr. KUPPERSBERGER, and Ms. HARTZLIER):

H. Res. 307. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Congress should consider purchasing the A-10 Thunderbolt II attack aircraft program, also known as the Warthog and A-10C or OA-10C, to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. LOFGREN (for herself and Mr. ROYDAN of Illinois):

H. Res. 308. A resolution providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on House Administration in the One Hundred Seventeenth Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. TURNER.

H. Res. 309. A resolution to amend the Rules of the House of Representatives to prohibit bills and joint resolutions that contain an appropriation or authorization of more than $100,000,000,000 relating to infrastructure that does not provide at least 50 percent of such funds to programs, initiatives, or projects that directly impact construction or maintenance of highways, bridges, dams, passenger and freight railways, airports, waterways and ports, public schools, or the safety of such facilities; to the Committee on Rules.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, private bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:
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. MOORE of Alabama:
H.R. 2457.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. CHENEY:
H.R. 2458.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18

By Ms. BONAMICI:
H.R. 2459.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. PORTER:
H.R. 2460.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

As described in Article I, Section 1, “all legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.”

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution provides Congress with the authority to “provide for the common Defense and general Welfare” of Americans.

In the Department of Education Organization Act (PL 95-568), Congress declared that “the establishment of a Department of Education is in the public interest, will promote the general welfare of the United States, will help ensure that education issues receive proper treatment at the Federal level, and will enable the Federal Government to coordinate its education activities more effectively.”

By Mr. BUTTERFIELD:
H.R. 2461.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution, Congress has the power to collect taxes and expend funds to provide for the general welfare of the United States. Congress may also make laws that are necessary and proper for carrying into execution their powers enumerated under Article I.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:
H.R. 2462.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 provides Congress with the power to “make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.”

By Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio:
H.R. 2463.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: “To pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States.”

By Mr. MENG:
H.R. 2464.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: “To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.”

By Mr. GUTHRIE:
H.R. 2465.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 provides Congress with the power to “provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States.”

By Mr. JEFFRIES:
H.R. 2466.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 provides Congress with the power to “lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises.”

By Mr. MURPHY of Florida:
H.R. 2467.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: “To pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States.”

By Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio:
H.R. 2468.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, Clause 3, and Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:
H.R. 2469.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. GOOD of Virginia:
H.R. 2470.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

2nd Amendment of the US Constitution

By Mr. GUTHRIE:
H.R. 2471.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. PANETTA:
H.R. 2472.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Ms. PORTER:
H.R. 2473.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. PETERS:
H.R. 2474.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio:
H.R. 2475.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, Clause 3, and Clause 18

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:
H.R. 2476.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Ms. MENG:
H.R. 2477.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 1, which gives Congress the power to provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States.

By Ms. DELAURO:
H.R. 2478.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. JEFFRIES:
H.R. 2479.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 1, which gives Congress the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GARAMENDI:
H.R. 2480.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18, which gives Congress the power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers.
Article I, Section of the Constitution of the United States.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 40: Mr. Higgins of New York.
H.R. 109: Mr. Van Drew.
H.R. 110: Mr. Van Drew.
H.R. 144: Mr. Meijer, Mr. Sessions, Mr. Baird, and Mrs. Kim of California.
H.R. 256: Ms. Strickland and Mr. Phillips.
H.R. 392: Mrs. Brat. 
H.R. 393: Mr. Larsen of Washington and Ms. Ross.
H.R. 425: Mr. Raskin.
H.R. 477: Mr. Grijalva.
H.R. 481: Ms. Mace.
H.R. 611: Mr. Niai and Ms. Titus.
H.R. 707: Mr. Scott of Virginia, Mr. Fitzgerald, Mrs. Bice of Oklahoma, and Mr. Emmer.
H.R. 708: Ms. Davids of Kansas and Mr. Walberg.
H.R. 746: Mr. Perlmutter.
H.R. 812: Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Banks.
H.R. 852: Ms. Tenney and Mr. Krishnamoorthi.
H.R. 941: Ms. Omar.
H.R. 959: Mr. Mervin.
H.R. 1012: Mr. Garbarino and Ms. Wilson of Florida.
H.R. 1062: Mr. Colr.
H.R. 1111: Mr. Norton, Ms. Velázquez, Mr. Barragán, Mr. Thompson of Mississippi, Mr. Lieu, and Ms. Eshoo.
H.R. 1179: Ms. Schakowsky, Mr. Carter of Georgia, Mrs. Lesko, Mr. Banks, Mr. Lamb, Mr. Gómez, Mr. Reschenthaler, Mrs. Steel, Mr. Costa, and Ms. Clarke of New York.
H.R. 1200: Ms. Kuster, Mr. Cartwright, Mrs. Carolyn B. Maloney of New York, and Mr. Langley.
H.R. 1215: Ms. Williams of Virginia, Mr. Davidson, Mrs. Hayes, and Miss González-Colón.
H.R. 1251: Mr. Fitzpatrick.
H.R. 1283: Mr. Cloud.
H.R. 1284: Mr. Biggs, Mr. Burchett, Mrs. Cammack, Mr. Good of Virginia, and Mr. Fitzgerald.
H.R. 1302: Mr. Baird, Mr. Langevin, Mr. Harder of California, and Mr. Delgado.
H.R. 1333: Mr. Sarabán, Mr. Kilmer, Ms. Jackson Lee, and Mr. Casten.
H.R. 1346: Ms. Jackson Lee, Mr. Curtis, and Mr. Garbarino.
H.R. 1384: Ms. Sherrill.
H.R. 1447: Mr. Nadler.
H.R. 1496: Miss González-Colón.
H.R. 1496: Mr. Emmer and Mr. Carter of Texas.
H.R. 1502: Miss González-Colón.
H.R. 1518: Mrs. Kim of California.
H.R. 1520: Mrs. Greene of Georgia.
H.R. 1534: Mrs. Hinson.
H.R. 1558: Ms. Colón.
H.R. 1573: Mr. Casten, Mr. Cicilline, Mr. Danny K. Davis of Illinois, Ms. Jackson Lee, Mr. Liu, Mr. Nunez, and Mr. Quigley.
H.R. 1576: Ms. DeSaulnier.
H.R. 1587: Mr. Palazzo.
H.R. 1650: Mr. Cuerts.
H.R. 1676: Mr. Krishnamoorthi.
H.R. 1693: Mr. Manish and Mr. Trone.
H.R. 1756: Mr. Davidson.
H.R. 1771: Mrs. Green of Georgia.
H.R. 1819: Mr. Roybal-Allard.
H.R. 1834: Mr. Perlmutter, Mr. Butterfield, Mr. Malinowski, and Ms. Trahan.
H.R. 1842: Mr. Gallego, Mr. Michael F. Doyle of Pennsylvania, Ms. Clarke of New York, Mr. Espallart, Mr. Higgins of New York, and Mr. Suozzi.
H.R. 1856: Mrs. Lesko, Mr. Moore of Utah, Mr. Latta, and Mr. Hagedorn.
H.R. 1905: Mr. LaHood and Mr. Lucas.
H.R. 1946: Mr. Crow, Mr. Kilmer, and Ms. Wilson of Florida.
H.R. 1997: Mr. Papas, Ms. Kuster, and Mr. Kelly of Mississippi.
H.R. 2002: Mr. Brooks and Mr. Smith of Missouri.
H.R. 2070: Ms. Porter.
H.R. 2096: Ms. Osca-Ortiz, Ms. Pressley, Ms. Lらい, Ms. Nouton, Mr. Lynch, Mr. McGovern, Ms. DeLauro, Mr. Torres of New York, Ms. Bush, Mr. Connolly, Mr. Welch, Mr. Cooper, Mr. Crist, Mrs. Hayes, Mr. Gomez, Mr. Khanna, Ms. Schakowsky, Mr. Pocan, Mr. Carson, Mr. Bowman, and Ms. Speier.
H.R. 2119: Mrs. Hayes, Mr. Lynch, and Mrs. Brat.
H.R. 2164: Mr. DeSaulnier.
H.R. 2186: Mr. Roe

By Mr. GALLAGHER:
H.R. 2446.

By Mr. ROSE:
H.R. 288.

By Mr. ROSENDALE:
H.R. 2487.

By Mr. SANCHEZ:
H.R. 2488.

By Mr. RUZICKA:
H.R. 2489.

By Mr. RUSH:
H.R. 2491.

By Ms. STEFANIK:
H.R. 2493.

By Mr. WENSTRUP:
H.R. 2494.

By Mr. WYNN:
H.R. 2495.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ:
H.R. 2493.

By Mr. WYNN:
H.R. 2494.

By Mr. WYNN:
H.R. 2495.

By Mr. WYNN:
H.R. 2496.

By Mr. McGOVERN:
H.R. 2485.

By Mr. McGOVERN:
H.R. 2485.

By Mr. McGOVERN:
H.R. 2486.

By Mr. McGOVERN:
H.R. 2486.
WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2021

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WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2021

No. 63

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the Honorable BEN RAY LJUN, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, during this sometimes chaotic season, remind our lawmakers anew that You will never leave or forsake us. Give them the wisdom to pray as if work had nothing to do with results and then to work as if prayer did not matter. As our Senators surrender life’s crushing blows to Your mercy, transform their setbacks into stepping stones to abundant faith, hope, and joy. Use our lawmakers this day for Your glory.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. Leahy).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. Senate, 
President pro tempore, 

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BEN RAY LJUN, a Senator from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY, 
President pro tempore.

SENATE

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

VIOLENCE AGAINST ASIAN AMERICANS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, over the past year, there has been a rising tide of violence and discrimination against Asian Americans, from shouted insults and racial slurs to outright physical assaults.

I have attended a whole bunch of rallies against Asian-American violence over the past few weeks. You would be heartsticken to hear the stories shared, the fear in the voices of Asian-American citizens, and to listen to the way they change their daily lives to avoid the subway or stay indoors most of the day.

The surge in anti-Asian violence is revolting and, sadly, contains the echoes of dark chapters in our history when Asian Americans were subject to widespread bigotry and discrimination.

The poison of racism has always existed in America, but unfortunately, over the past 4 years, it seems to have found new life. There is no question that the former President fanned the flames of racial bias in our country and too often encouraged—let alone discouraged—the vicious slander that connected COVID–19 to the people of Asian descent.

Every day in America, in this 21st-century America, Asian Americans fear they might be insulted, assaulted, spat upon, or even worse. As Americans, we must stand up and do something about it. The foundation of our pluralistic society is that an attack on one group is an attack on all of us. So tomorrow the Senate will vote on whether to take up and debate Senator HIRONO’s anti-Asian hate crimes bill, sponsored by Representative MENG in the House. This bill is as unobjectionable as it could be. It would designate a point person at the Justice Department to identify hate crimes towards Asian Americans related to COVID–19, telling Federal law enforcement to make these hate crimes a top priority during the pandemic.

This isn’t some kind of “gotcha” legislation. It is not some complex new program or appropriation. This is as straightforward as it gets. This is legislation our times demand.

Of course, we are open to strengthening the bill. I understand that there is an effort underway to add bipartisan legislation called the No Hate Act—sponsored by Senators BLUMENTHAL and MORAN, one Democrat and one Republican—as an amendment, and I fully support that effort.

The Blumenthal-Moran bill would provide resources to State and local law enforcement to improve hate crimes reporting, increase training, while also improving education to root out the bias that fuels these despicable, despicable acts. That makes perfect sense as a bipartisan amendment to Senator HIRONO’s legislation, and I believe that combating hate against the Asian-American community should be thoroughly, if not unanimously, bipartisan.

Congress can send a strong signal in one loud, clear voice that these kinds of hate crimes will not be tolerated. The way to do it is for 60 Senators to vote to proceed to the bill tomorrow. I sure hope it will be more than 60. Then it is my intention to make the first amendment to the bill the bipartisan No Hate Act, but in order to offer the

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This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.
amendment, the Senate must vote to proceed with debate on the bill.

President Biden has called on Congress to swiftly pass Senator Hirono’s legislation and get it to his desk for signature as soon as possible. There is no good reason the Senate can’t complete the task this week.

**NOMINATION OF POLLY ELLEN TROTTERNBERG**

Mr. SCHUMER. Now on another matter, beyond Senator Hirono’s legislation, the Senate is also focused this week on confirming an impressive slate of nominees to the Biden administration.

I am especially pleased that in a few hours, the Senate will vote to confirm Polly Trottenberg to serve as Deputy Secretary of Transportation. This is great news for New York and great news for the country.

Her credentials are beyond doubt. For the last 7 years, she has served as New York City’s commissioner of transportation, managing a transportation system that helps tens of millions of people get to and from work, connects businesses to customers, and brings people to one of America’s largest and most visited cities every single day.

Before that, Polly served in the Department of Transportation under President Obama, advising policy-makers and working with stakeholders across the country on everything from high-speed rail to roads, highways, and bridges.

Of course, her nomination is especially meaningful to me. Polly served for nearly a decade as my legislative director and transportation adviser. She knows the needs of the country, and she knows the needs of New York.

And a pet project so important to the New York Gateway will be well served in her capable hands. We will get this done.

Take it from me: Polly has smarts, she has savvy, and she has moxie. She knows how to work with people of all backgrounds to get things done for the American people. And there isn’t a moment to lose. As we work to defeat the COVID-19 pandemic and bring our economy fully back online, we must look ahead to tackle the challenges of our time, and on top of the list is finally focusing—alas, about addressing our Nation’s crumbling infrastructure—a topic that Ms. Trottenberg is very familiar with.

For New York, as I mentioned, this means continuing to move the ball forward on projects like Gateway, rebuilding the two rail tunnels under the Hudson—perhaps the most important transportation infrastructure priority in the entire nation and something I have spoken to Ms. Trottenberg and Secretary Buttigieg and President Biden about regularly.

But our infrastructure woes extend to every city and every state in the country. Our roads, bridges, highways, airports, public transit, housing, and the electric grid are all in need of an overhaul. So, too, does our country need to invest in the infrastructure of the 21st century—broadband internet access, 5G, electric vehicles. America cannot compete in this century if our infrastructure is stuck in the last century.

That is why, in addition to confirming important nominees like Ms. Trottenberg, the Senate will continue to work with the Biden administration on a comprehensive infrastructure and jobs bill. If there is an issue that ought to unite Democrats and Republicans, it is putting people to work to update our Nation’s infrastructure.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order of business be suspended.

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.

**HONORING OFFICER WILLIAM F. EVANS**

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, as we speak, for the second time this year, a fallen officer of the U.S. Capitol Police lies in honor under the Capitol dome.

This morning, Officer Billy Evans was welcomed here for a final time by grieving comrades and a Senate family that is immensely grateful for his life, his friendship, and his ultimate sacrifice.

Officer Evans died defending the Capitol, its institutions, and the thousands of people who come here to do the people’s business. The circumstances of his killing remind us of the dangers that USCP officers swear, train, and prepare to meet whenever they might arise.

Yet, to that serious task, to his intense responsibilities, Officer Evans brought a spirit and strength of character that leaves us all at the Capitol with memories of kindness and friendship.

Today, I know our colleagues are holding Officer Evans and his family very close in our thoughts and our prayers. His sacrifice will not be forgotten.

**AFGHANISTAN**

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, now on a completely different matter, just moments ago, new reporting suggests the Biden administration plans to turn tail and abandon the fight in Afghanistan.

Suddenly withdrawing U.S. forces from Afghanistan is a grave mistake. It is a retreat in the face of an enemy that has not yet been vanquished and abdication of American leadership.

Leaders in both parties, including me, offered criticism when the prior administration floated the concept of a reckless withdrawal from Syria and Afghanistan. Those same votes should be equally concerned about the Biden administration’s announcement today. A reckless pullback like this would abandon our Afghan, regional, and our NATO partners in a shared fight against terrorists that we have not yet won. It will also specifically abandon the women of Afghanistan, whose individual freedoms and human rights will be imperiled.

It did not have to unfold like this. Today in Afghanistan the fighting is almost exclusively by our local partners. We have successfully solicited more buy-in and more support from foreign partners as well. Our NATO allies have particularly been begging—begging—the United States to stay by their side. As a result, there was broad political support for a sustainable and residual presence to backstop the progress we have made.

In 2019, Republicans and Democrats joined hands to support an amendment I authored that cautioned against precipitous retreats from Afghanistan and Syria. A supermajority of Senators voted for it. A supermajority of Senators voted for it.

That amendment called upon the administration—the previous one—to certify whether conditions have been met for the enduring defeat of al Qaeda and ISIS before initiating any further significant withdrawal of United States forces from [Syria or Afghanistan].

President Biden certified that right now? We have seen this movie before, multiple times. Ten years ago, when President Obama let politics dictate the terms of our involvement in Iraq, those failed decisions invited the rise of ISIS.

It was our hasty abandonment of Afghanistan in the 1990s that allowed the Taliban to grab power in a bloody civil war and create the safe haven for terrorism that led to September the 11th, 2001.

Conflicts do not simply end. They are won or they are lost. America and American administrations must be in the business of winning. Al-Qaida and other radical Islamist terrorists have not yet been defeated.

There is no reason to believe the Taliban will abandon al-Qaeda if we leave. We know we cannot conduct effective counterterrorism operations without presence and partners on the ground.

Foreign terrorists will not leave the United States alone simply because our politicians have grown tired of taking the fight to them. The President needs
to explain to the American people why he thinks abandoning our partners and retreating in the face of the Taliban will make America safer.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, on one final matter, $865,000 dollars—$865,000. That is roughly the cost of every new job the White House claims their so-called American Jobs Plan would create, $865,000. This is how the math shakes out if you use the most favorable estimates that the Biden administration itself prefers. Figures reported by Bloomberg News come out to about $865,000 per job. Other analyses have found numbers actually north of $860,000.

Here is where the number comes from. The White House has tried to claim their spending plan would create 19 million jobs over the next decade. That is completely false. The Washington Post Fact Checker gave Democrats multiple Pinocchios for this false claim.

Nineteen million jobs is one estimate of the total number of jobs the entire country would add over the next decade, from all sources—all sources. The same estimate says we are on track to add more than 16 million of those same jobs without the bill.

So this proposal to tax, borrow, and spend $2.25 trillion would only create 2.6 million new jobs. And remember, these are the rosiest—rosiest—best-case estimates that the White House itself has been pushing.

Now, I know a whole lot of Kentucky entrepreneurs and business owners who create more than one job if we gave them $865,000 to invest and expand.

Mr. President, I am sure you represent a lot of smart people who could turn an $865,000 investment into more than just one job.

The awful arithmetic just underscores how disappointing the proposal is. When the American people think of infrastructure, they think of honest-to-goodness public works projects that truly invest in the public good—things that build our Nation’s backbone. And when Congress tackles real, tangible infrastructure issues in a smart fashion, there is big, broad bipartisan support.

The 2015 highway bill, the FAST Act, bipartisan appetite for smart infrastructure bills that are built the right way. The Senate has proven that over and over again. There isn’t much appetite for using the word “infrastructure” to justify a colossal—colossal—multitrillion-dollar slush fund for unrelated bad ideas.

A Harvard School of Infrastruct-ure expert says, and listen to this, “It does a bit of violence to the English language” to call this an infrastructure proposal. That is a Harvard economist.

An expert at Columbia says big chunks of the proposal are “really social spending, not productivity-enhancing infrastructure of any kind.”

One political analyst wrote: [The plan . . . reads like a liberal wish list for everything the left has wanted.]

Less than 6—6 percent of the proposal goes to roads and bridges, less than 6 percent. It would send more money to just electric cars than it would spend on our Nation’s roads, bridges, ports, airports, and waterways combined.

And while this proposal chases every green fad, it would also slam our economy with the largest tax hikes in a generation.

Experts at the Wharton School of Business have projected the plan would decrease GDP, decrease capital stock, and reduce workers’ hourly wages 10, 20, and 30 years down the road.

Economists at Rice University recently looked at a similar package of Democratic tax hikes and found it would lead to a loss of a million jobs here in our country over just 2 years. Exactly when American workers are counting on an economic recovery, Democrats want to slap the economy with a massive set of tax increases.

So look, this noninfrastructure “infrastructure” plan is cut from the same cloth as the Democrats’ nonvoting rights “voting rights” bill.

Both these subjects are ripe for bipartisan work. Both are subjects the Senate has addressed in the past with thoughtful compromises that have earned broad support. And both are issues where the American people will reject a far-left approach that makes their lives worse.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Polly Ellen Trottenberg, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of Transportation.

RECESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:52 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. SINEMA).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All postcloture time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Trottenberg nomination?

Ms. WARREN. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNock) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 82, nays 15, as follows:

[Rolecall Vote No. 144 Ex.]

YEAS—82

Baldwin
Barrasso
Bennet
Blumenthal
Boozman
Brown
Burr
Cantwell
Capito
Cardin
Carper
Casey
Cassidy
Collins
Conrad
Cornyn
Cortez Masto
Cramer
Crapo
Duckworth
Durbin
Ernst
Feinstein
Fisher
Gillibrand
Graham
Grassley

NAYS—15

Blackburn
Braun
Crom
Crapo

Daines

Messrs. Lee

Hareley

Ossoff

Paul

Rushing

Rubio

Scott (FL)

Scott (RC)

Shelby

Speier

Tuberville
The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The 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 close a debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 35, Wendy Ruth Sherman, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of State.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Wendy Ruth Sherman, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of State, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 55, nays 42, as follows:

NAYS—42

Booker
Blackburn
Blunt
Boozman
Braun
Cassidy
Corzine
Cotton
Cramer
Cromieux
Cruz
Daines
Ernst
Fischer
Gillibrand
Gillibrand
Gillibrand
Gillibrand
Gillibrand
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CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Clerk will report the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

GEORGIA

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, over the past several weeks, all eyes have been on Georgia and the State legislation that is being considered on voting rights of Georgia's citizens. In response to the new voting restrictions the State's Governor signed into law last month, American leaders from many walks of life have responded. It has really brought the issue of voter suppression to the forefront at the beginning of a national debate.

We are told that hundreds—hundreds—of bill changes and amendments are being offered in State legislatures across the country, all modeled after the Georgia goal, the Georgia outline, of reducing the opportunity to vote in America.

If you have a functioning democracy where people actually count votes, the numbers of people or show up is as important as how they vote, and I think the people in Georgia have realized that with this new approach they are taking. There has been a broad condemnation of the Georgia voting law, and it has inspired a display of unity in support of our fundamental right to vote across America. It seems that some of my Republican colleagues would rather silence the law's critics than address the very real issues that the law creates.

Over the recess, the minority leader, Senator MCCONNELL, issued a warning that changes made to the registration rules, and 'good character' clauses—all intentionally racially discriminatory but dressed up in the genteel garb of bringing 'integrity' back to the voting booth:

"A politician who sought to replicate the Mississippi Plan in the State of Georgia noted that their goal—he was very blunt in what he said—noted their goal was to 'eliminate every [Black] voter who can be gotten rid of, legally, without materially impairing the numerical strength of the white electorate.'"

Today's voter restrictions might not involve poll taxes, literacy tests, or strict voter registration rules, but like the laws passed during the Jim Crow era in the South, with the creation of something known as the Mississippi Plan. Historian Dr. Carol Anderson, who teaches at Emory University, has referred to the Mississippi Plan, a template of State law, as "a dizzying array of poll taxes, literacy tests, standards of proof, registration rules, and 'good character' clauses—all intentionally racially discriminatory but dressed up in the genteel garb of bringing 'integrity' back to the voting booth.

A politician who sought to replicate the Mississippi Plan in the State of Virginia noted that their goal—he was very blunt in what he said—noted their goal was to "keep your money out of politics" because he has been a fan of the Citizens United decision, which gives those same corporations not only the opportunity but the experience of spending millions of dollars in every election cycle to affect the outcome.

I appreciate the Republican leader's newfound passion for addressing the influence of big corporations, but rather than silencing leaders in the private sector from speaking their minds, which is their constitutional right, I would invite my Republican colleagues to join Democrats in taking more meaningful steps to fix our political system from corporate overreach.

They can join us if they wish in supporting the For the People Act, the democracy defense bill. The For the People Act would limit the influence of dark money and special interests in our politics, require big money contributors and special interests to actually drop the veil and show us who they are, and tighten the rules that affect the super PACs. It is a commonsense solution for protecting every American's First Amendment right to free speech, and it would level the playing field of the political system so that everybody has an equal say.

I would also invite my Republican colleagues to reviv[e] the bipartisan spirit of the Voting Rights Act. I can remember a time when renewal of the Voting Rights Act was a virtually unanimous bipartisan effort. Unfortunately, that changed when the Supreme Court decision didn't make it any easier. So we are trying with the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act to return to the days of bipartisanism in addressing the issue of race and politics. It is especially important given the scourge of voter suppression laws we have seen in State legislatures across the country, Georgia being the most recent example.

This new Georgia law isn't new at all. It emerges from the playbook that is over 120 years old. It goes all the way back to the 1890s, when Reconstruction was followed by the Jim Crow era in the South, with the creation of something known as the Mississippi Plan. Historian Dr. Carol Anderson, who teaches at Emory University, has referred to the Mississippi Plan, a template of State law, as "a dizzying array of poll taxes, literacy tests, standardized character clauses, and tightening the rules that affect the political system so that everybody has an equal say."

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Today's voter restrictions might not involve poll taxes, literacy tests, or strict voter registration rules, but like the laws passed during the Jim Crow era, Georgia's new voting law is a deliberate effort to suppress voters, particularly voters of color. There is no other way to describe it when the law includes provisions that make it harder for Georgians to vote.

Let me give you some examples. I read an article last week in the New
York Times, April 11. Nick Corasaniti and Reid Epstein did an analysis, page by page, of what the Georgia law would do, and it was pretty clear why they did it. President Biden won Georgia by just 11,779 votes—11,779—out of 5 million.

The new law that has been proposed and has been signed by the Governor of Georgia will curtail ballot access for voters in booming urban and suburban counties, home to many Democratic voters.

Another provision makes it a crime—a crime—to offer water to voters waiting in line. Of course, those waiting in line tend to be in densely populated communities and largely minority communities.

Some of the things that the Georgia law will do:

Voters will now have less time to request absentee ballots.

Georgia has cut by more than half the period during which voters can request an absentee ballot, from . . . six months . . . to less than three.

This will most certainly reduce the number of people seeking absentee ballots and the number of people who actually vote. In the last Presidential election—

And this is the key sentence that defines the goal of the Georgia legislation.

In the last Presidential election, 1.3 million Georgians—about 26 percent of the state’s electorate—voted with absentee ballots. Of those who returned absentee ballots last year in 2020, 65 percent voted for [Joe] Biden and 34 percent chose Donald J. Trump.

Do you understand why the Republican legislature wants to put an end to the absentee ballot?

The shorter window will limit opportunities for get-out-the-vote efforts and put strain on new local election boards, which . . . have less time to process ballots.

There are strict new ID requirements for absentee ballots.

Previously, Georgia law required voters to simply sign their absentee ballot applications. Now, those returning absentee ballots must provide the number of a driver’s license or an equivalent state-issued identification. This is virtually certain to limit access.

It is now illegal under the new Georgia law for election officials to mail out absentee ballot applications to all voters.

When the coronavirus pandemic hit last year, Georgia’s [Republican] secretary of state, Brad Raffensperger, . . . mailed absentee ballot applications to every registered voter in the state ahead of its June primary. This was the only way to absent voting by record numbers of Georgians.

When Mr. Raffensperger didn’t mail applications again for the general election, several local election agencies did, particularly in Georgia’s large urban counties.

This is a move that is now being made illegal by the law created by the legislature and signed by Governor Kemp.

With the loss of automatic mailed applications, some voters will invariably not request a ballot, since the application served as a reminder to people that were eligible to vote.

Keep in mind, it wasn’t the ballot that was sent without solicitation; it was an application that had to be returned by the voter before they actually received the ballot. It was a reminder, one that the Georgia legislature would like to drop.

Speaking of dropping, “drop boxes still exist for absentee ballots . . . but barely.”

For the 2020 election in Georgia, there were 94 drop boxes across the four counties that make up the core of metropolitan Atlanta: Fulton, DeKalb—

They pronounce it “DeKab”; we call it “DeKalb.” —and Gwinnett.

The new law limits the same 4 counties to a total of 23 drop boxes, from 94 to 23. And it won’t just be fewer drop boxes to deposit your ballot. “Instead of 24-hour access outdoors, the boxes [are] placed indoors at government buildings and early-voting sites and will thus be unavailable for voters to drop off their ballots” in the evening and nonbusiness hours, which means more reliance on mail and the uncertainty of that.

With mobile voting centers—as they say in the New York Times, think about “an RV where you can vote”—

“more than 11,200 people voted at the two vehicles at Fulton County in the last election.” These vehicles traversed the county during voting periods, effectively bringing polling sites to people.

“Georgia has now outlawed this practice.”

Under the Georgia law, early voting has expanded at a lot of small counties but not the most populous ones. The strict rules will affect Georgians who actually work traditional hours for a living. They will have less flexible schedules and fewer opportunities to vote.

I spoke to you about the single greatest outrage:

Offering food and water for voters waiting in line now risks [criminal] misdemeanor charges.

Long lines for voting in Georgia are an unfortunate reality, and are often found in the poor, minority-populated communities that tend to vote Democratic. During the primary election last June, when temperatures hovered above 80 degrees with high humidity, multiple voting locations across the State had lines in which voters waited more than two hours.

Now they will be denied access to water and food.

If you go to the wrong polling place (under the new Georgia law), it will be . . . harder to vote.

It put strict requirements there.

If election problems arise, a common occurrence, it is now more difficult [even in court] to extend voting hours.

With a mix of changes to vote-counting, high-turnout elections will probably mean long, long waits for results.

And we remember what happened last year when, during that period of calculating, President Trump went to town with all sorts of bizarre theories rejected by scores of courts as to voter fraud that never was found.

Election officials can no longer accept third-party funding, (a measure that nods to rightwing conspiracy theories) [that President Trump is also peddling].

With an ever-growing fraud, the state attorney general [manages] an election hotline.

The Republican-controlled legislature has more control over State Election Board.

The secretary of state, for his audacity in challenging Trump’s vote fraud theories, has been officially removed as a voting member of the State election board by the legislature for the first time in history and decided that they had to change the rules. Too many voters showed up, the wrong voters, so they decided to change the rules and make it more difficult for those, particularly minority, voters who wanted to come and express themselves by the right to vote.

So the question now is, What are we going to do about it? Well, the local chamber of commerce, Coca-Cola, Delta Air Lines, and others have made it clear that this is an outrage. It is one that we should not countenance or accept in the 21st century.

It was, unfortunately, was an exercise in the 19th century to reenslave African Americans after the Civil War. Sadly, vestiges of that continued, right up until the 1960s when the new Civil Rights Act ended up banning some of the most outrageous conduct that came out of the Jim Crow era.

Now the Republican Party nationally, the Georgia Republican Party, the Governor, and the legislature have decided to return to those days. What a sad commentary it is on Mr. Lincoln’s Republican Party.

It was embarrassing enough as a Democrat to realize that the earliest stages of Jim Crow were created, conceived, and enforced by the Democrats of their day. For the Republicans, they fought that effort, as they should, in the name of Lincoln and what he brought to their party nationally. Now, today, the tables have turned 180 degrees.

It is the Democrats who are trying to bring to the public’s attention what is happening in Georgia and in other States. It is sad that the Republicans have decided that the only way to win an election is to control the vote, that their ideas can’t be sold anymore to voters across this country.

BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK

Madam President, no community in America has been spared from the COVID–19 pandemic. Nationwide, we have lost nearly 600,000 lives. Mothers, fathers, grandparents, neighbors, and friends. In Illinois, the number is 21,000.

Like so many other diseases and health conditions, the pandemic has inflicted disproportionate harm on communities of color: Black Americans, Native Americans, and members of the Latinx community. Sadly, these disparities come as no surprise, America has a long history of medical inequality. From premature births to premature deaths, people of color suffer disproportionately in America’s troubled health system. People of color in
America suffers more chronic and acute health conditions; they are likely to go without needed medical care; and they have shorter life expectancies. The reasons for the disparities are many, but they include access to affordable healthcare, inadequate research, and too few healthcare professionals of color.

Martin Luther King, Jr., called healthcare inequality the most shocking and inhumane form of injustice. Far too often, this inequality begins even before birth. But should such a conscience of America—one of the wealthiest nations on Earth—that we have one of the poorest records on the globe for maternal health.

Think of this: The United States is one of only 13 nations in the world wherein the maternal mortality rate—the death of mothers—is worse now than it was 25 years ago. How is that possible? Every year in America, nearly 1,000 women die from pregnancy-related complications; more than 500,000 others suffer near-fatal complications as a result of pregnancy.

Now think of this: Women of color in the United States are two to three times more likely than White women to die as a result of pregnancy. In Illinois, that number is six times more likely. What makes these maternal deaths even more tragic is that an estimated 60 percent—more than half of them—are preventable.

I have given much thought to this and have spoken with real experts, which is why ROBIN KELLY—the Congresswoman from Illinois—and I joined Senator UDOW, Senator UNDERWOOD, and a number of other Democratic Senators in introducing legislation to decrease America’s rates of maternal sickness and death, especially among new mothers of color. We call our measure the MOMMA Act.

One of the major provisions of this legislation is a requirement that Medicaid cover health care for new moms for a full year post-pregnancy instead of just 60 days, which it currently is. Congresswoman KELLY and I worked hard to get a modified version of this provision in the American Rescue Plan, President Biden’s singular achievement in his first few weeks in office. Thanks to the law, States now have the option to expand their Medicaid programs for new mothers for the next 5 years.

Making sure that new moms have health coverage for a full year post-pregnancy will go a long way toward catching, preventing, and treating potentially life-threatening conditions and problems. This is critical because, in some States—most in my State of Illinois—nearly 60 percent of pregnancy-associated deaths occur between 43 and 364 days postpartum.

Well, there is good news to report today. While we are still working to pass the MOMMA Act, the State of Illinois pursued another avenue for expanding Medicaid coverage for new moms. For over a year, Illinois has been seeking a Medicaid section 1115 waiver to allow Medicaid-eligible women in our State to keep their health coverage for a year after their pregnancies.

Representatives UNDERWOOD, Senator UNDERWOOD, Senator DUCKWORTH, and I have been leading this effort. Through this work, we expanded our effort from our State, and, this week, I am happy to announce that the Biden-Harris administration granted that waiver, making Illinois the very first State in the Nation to extend postpartum Medicaid coverage for new moms. This will ensure access to vital health services, help to promote better birth outcomes, reduce the rate of maternal sickness and death in my home State, and, I hope, set the stage as a model for other States to follow.

I can think of no better way to honor this year’s Black Maternal Health Week than to support State efforts to expand Medicaid healthcare to new moms. Another way would be to pass Senator BOOKER’s 2021 Black Maternal Health Week resolution, which I am proud to cosponsor.

As poet Maya Angelou told us, we cannot change the past, but when we know better, we must do better. We now know that we can do better to protect pregnant women and use of newborn babies, and I am pleased that my State of Illinois will be part of leading that effort.

**GUN VIOLENCE**

Madam President, today, in Chicago, at the Little Children’s Hospital—one of our best—little 1-year-old Kayden Swann is in critical condition, clinging to life in the pediatric intensive care unit.

Last week, at 11 a.m., on a Tuesday morning on Lake Shore Drive—one of the busiest thoroughfares in the city—1-year-old Kayden was shot in the head while riding in the backseat of a car. He was an innocent victim hit in a road rage shooting.

As we pray for Kayden’s recovery, as we express gratitude for the medical workers who are working around the clock to keep him alive, we have to ask ourselves a basic question: When comes to this sickening gun violence that happens every day in our country, what are we going to do? Give up or stand up?

On March 23, I held a hearing on gun violence in our Judiciary Committee. There was a mass shooting spree that killed 8 people at a Family Dollar Store in GA., on the day I announced the hearing. Then there was a mass shooting in Boulder, CO, that killed 10 people the night before the hearing. Others have followed.

Since that hearing on March 23, according to the Gun Violence Archive, there have been at least 38 mass shootings in less than a month in America, where a “mass shooting” is defined as an incident where at least four people were shot. This past weekend—and I am sorry to say this is not an exception—lives in the city of Chicago alone. Every day, we lose 73 American lives to gun violence. Hundreds more are shot and wounded, carrying physical and emotional scars for a lifetime. These victims are our neighbors, our friends, our families, and even a year-old baby like Kayden Swann.

I am glad President Biden is stepping up to this issue and taking action. Last week, at the White House Rose Garden and called gun violence exactly what it is. It is a public health crisis. He is right. We need to take a public health approach to reduce the violence that is killing so many of our fellow Americans.

There is a playbook that works. We need to gather data and study the problem, identify causes and risk factors, and develop targeted prevention and intervention strategies that will help to bring the number of shootings down. We have stopped epidemics before—we are in the midst of one now—and we can do it again if we are willing to stand up and act. It works.

President Biden took action last week and announced commonsense steps that are consistent with the Second Amendment and that actually will help reduce violence. He wants to reduce the proliferation of homemade “ghost guns,” which are untraceable and often undetectable; restrict the use of firearms that can effectively convert pistols into short-barreled rifles, like the weapon that was used by the gunman in Boulder; put forth a model State extreme risk protection order law that would help States use these interventions; restart an annual firearms trafficking report that tracks patterns of illicit gun trafficking; nominate a gun safety expert David Chipman to give the ATF its first confirmed leader since 2015. I am going to pay special attention to this nominee because it will come through the Senate Judiciary Committee.

How many times have you heard it said that we don’t need new laws; we just need to enforce the laws that are already on the books? One of the Agencies that enforces these laws is the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, or ATF. What the gun lobby has said that we don’t need new laws; we just need to enforce the laws that are already on the books? One of the Agencies that enforces these laws is the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, or ATF. What the gun lobby has said is: we need to gather data and study the problem, identify causes and risk factors, and develop targeted prevention and intervention strategies that will help to bring the number of shootings down.

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closed these gaps. The House has passed universal background check legislation. Now the ball is in the Senate’s court. We need at least 10 Republicans if all Democrats will support it. I hope my Republican colleagues are willing to stand and vote to close those gaps.

There are other commonsense changes we can make that deal with gun violence and community prevention. At a hearing I held on March 23, Dr. Selwyn Rogers of University of Chicago Medicine pointed out that the NIH has nearly $23 billion for medical research, yet only $12.5 million dedicated to funding for research into reducing gun violence. We need to invest more into this research and into the CDC research, too. We also need to support evidence-based community programs that show they are effective in reducing violence.

Saving lives from the horrors of gun violence should not be a partisan issue. It is absolutely heartbreaking to think about little Kayden Swann’s sitting in the backseat of a car on Lake Shore Drive—which I look out from my place in Chicago and see every day—and realize that he was shot in the head at the age of 1 and is now fighting to survive. That is what we are going to do with this challenge of 40,000 gun violence deaths every year and more than 100 every day—give up or stand up?

I will tell you that I am not going to give up. I am going to do all I can to push commonsense, constitutional reforms to bring gun violence to an end in America.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Murphy). Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OFFICER WILLIAM F. EVANS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, on Good Friday, another Capitol Police officer lost his life defending this building and all those in it.

Officer Billy Evans was killed when an individual rammed Officer Evans with his car at the barricade Officer Evans was manning. Another Capitol Police officer, Officer Ken Shaver, was injured in the attack.

We talk about how police officers leave their homes each day not knowing what they will face. Good Friday’s attack was a reminder of how true that is.

We can only be thankful that despite the ever-present risk that they will not make it back to their homes, men and women like Officer Evans and Officer Shaver still choose to serve—to put themselves on the frontlines facing evil and danger so that the rest of us don’t have to.

I know the officers of the Capitol Police have had an unthinkably difficult few months. I hope they know how grateful we are for their service.

Today Officer Billy Evans lies in honor in the Rotunda, a fitting tribute to a man who lived and died to protect those who serve in this building.

My thoughts are with Officer Evans’ two children, Logan and Abigail, with his mother Janice, and with all those who mourn this brave man. May his memory be eternal.

SUPREME COURT

Mr. President, on Friday, in what is fast becoming a hallmark of his Presidency, President Biden caved to the demands of the far left and officially established his Court-packing Commission.

Yes, Court packing, an idea that had been consigned to the ash heap of history almost a century ago, has been given new life by the far left—who want for it—are upset that a duly elected Republican President was able to get his Justices confirmed to the Supreme Court.

That is right, Mr. President. The terrible crisis we are facing is that a Republican President was able to fill three vacancies on the Supreme Court.

I confess I had missed the part in the Constitution where the Supreme Court is only legitimate if a majority of its members were nominated by a Democratic President or at least reliably delivers liberals’ preferred outcomes.

But liberals didn’t, and now they are eager to “restore balance” to the Supreme Court by expanding the number of Supreme Court Justices and ensuring that a Democratic President fills the new spots.

President Biden—the same man who once called President Roosevelt’s failed Court-packing proposal a “bonehead idea” and a “terrible, terrible mistake to make”—is apparently falling in with the far left’s demands.

His Commission, composed largely of left-leaning scholars, Democratic operatives, and a few conservatives as bipartisan window dressing, will consider Court packing and other structural “reforms” like term limits for Supreme Court Justices.

It is funny how Democrats weren’t too concerned about term limits when revered liberal Justices were serving for decades. But faced with the terrible prospect that a Justice Barrett or a Justice Gorsuch might have a similarly long career, the left is suddenly eager to limit Supreme Court terms.

There are so many things wrong with the left’s Court-packing proposals that it is difficult to know where to begin, but let’s start with the ludicrous idea that packing the Court will somehow restore the Court’s legitimacy in the eyes of the public—not that the Court’s legitimacy has been lost in the eyes of anyone but far-left liberals.

In fact, the Supreme Court might be the Federal institution that garners the greatest degree of respect from the public. The Supreme Court’s approval rating routinely exceeds that of Congress and usually by a substantial margin.

But let’s suppose for a second that liberals are correct and that the Supreme Court has lost its legitimacy in the eyes of the public. If that is the case, there is nothing, nothing Democrats could do that would be more guaranteed to further undermine public trust in the Court than to pack the Court—nothing.

Do Democrats seriously think that they can enhance the credibility of the Supreme Court in the eyes of the American people by expanding it to add more Democratic Justices? Do they think the 74 million people who voted for Republicans in the last election are going to see this as adding necessary balance to the Court? If they do, they should think again.

As Justice Stephen Breyer noted just last week, “It is wrong to think of the court as another political institution. And it is doubly wrong to think of its Justices as junior politicians. Structural alteration motivated by the perception of political influence can only feed that perception, further eroding that trust.”

That from Justice Stephen Breyer. Let’s think about this in practical terms for a minute. Let’s suppose that Democrats actually succeed in expanding the Supreme Court and adding more Democratic nominees. What do they think is going to happen next time there is a Republican President and a Republican Congress?

And so more and more Democrats are apparently perfectly willing to consider undermining, if not destroying, a fundamental part of our system of government to guarantee—to guarantee their political power.

Let’s think about this in practical terms for a minute. Let’s suppose that Democrats actually succeed in expanding the Supreme Court and adding more Democratic nominees. What do they think is going to happen next time there is a Republican President and a Republican Congress?

Well, I can tell you. Republicans would make their own move to “restore balance” and add some more Republican Supreme Court nominees. And then I imagine when Democrats retook power, they would do the same thing.

In a decade or so, the Supreme Court could be expanded to laughable proportions. Think about it: How many Justices are we going to have? Twenty? Thirty? There would be no end to this lunacy.
In the words of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg only 2 years ago, “Nine seems to be a good number. It’s been that way for a long time. . . . I think it was a bad idea when President Franklin Roose-velt tried to pack the court.”

And that, again, was the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. She said it was a bad idea.

And fortunately for the country, when President Roosevelt proposed his Court-packing plan, both Republicans and Democrats opposed it.

Unfortunately, Democrats today seem to be more concerned with power than principle or, in some cases, maybe lack the courage to stand up to the fe-

croticy of the far left.

In the past, President Biden has power-

erfully defended American institutions, but now he seems incapable of standing up to the far left, and so now we have an American President implicitly en-

dorsing the idea of Court packing by estab-

lishing a Commission to study the proposal.

Democrats like to talk about democ-

cracy and making sure that people have a voice, but it is becoming increasingly clear that they think their voices and the voices of liberal Americans are the only ones that should be heard.

Now, if they can’t win by convincing the public to elect strong Democratic majorities, they have made it increasingly clear that they are willing to un-

dermine our institutions to ensure their grip on power.

Don’t like the makeup of the Su-

preme Court? Expand the Court with new Democratic Justices until you can be sure you get the results you want.

Don’t like Senate rules like the legis-

tative filibuster that give the minority party a voice in legislation? Change the rules.

Don’t like your election prospects? Pass legislation like H.R. 1 or S. 1, de-

gined to give your party a permanent advan-

tage in electoral contests.

I understand Democrats’ passion for their political beliefs. I am pretty pas-

sionate about advancing my political principles, but I believe we should be advancing our principles the demo-

cratic way, by persuading people to vote for us, not by undermining our democratic institutions to give our party an advantage.

I am deeply disappointed that Presi-

dent Biden found himself unable to stand up to pressure from the radical left, but I hope—I hope that at least some Democrats will find the courage to oppose these dangerous attempts to undermine our system of government.

The Biden Court-packing Commis-

sion is a solution in search of a prob-
lem and an attempt at a raw power grab by Democrats. It should quickly fade into the obscurity that it de-

serves.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Sen-

ator from Pennsylvania.

NOMINATION OF GARY GENSLER

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I rise this afternoon to discuss the nomina-

tion of Mr. Gary Gensler to serve as the Chairman of the Securities and Ex-

change Commission.

To start this, I just want to remind my colleagues, the mission of the SEC is really threefold: It is to protect in-

vestors; it is to facilitate capital for-

mation; and it is to maintain fair, or-

derly, and efficient financial markets, capital markets.

And the fact is, America’s capital markets are robust, the envy of the world. There are no other capital markets anywhere on the planet that have the depth, the liquidity, the diver-

sity, the flexibility that allow growing businesses to grow as readily as our capital markets.

And that is a big part of why we are outperforming the world in terms of a recovery from the pandemic—
coronavirus infections and lockdowns and all the rest. It is one of many rea-

sons, but it is an important one.

It is also worth remembering that recovery can be stymied if regu-

lators impose inappropriate, burden-

some regulations, including, say, back-

dated regulations by enforcement that we have seen in the past that hamper job growth, that limit access to capital or if these regulators mandate man-

agers of publically traded companies to favor so-called stakeholders over the interests of the people who actually own the company, which is to say the shareholders.

The SEC has historically admin-

istered Federal security laws and pur-

sued its mission on a pretty bipartisan basis. I don’t believe there are some who want the SEC to stray from this tradi-

tion and instead to push the bounds of its legal and regulatory au-

thorities in order to advance a par-

ticular liberal, social, and cultural agenda.

Unfortunately, when he was the Chair-

man of the CFTC, Mr. Gensler de-

monstrated a willingness to push the legal authorities and the legal limits of that Agency’s authority. He was re-

sponsible for a CFTC rule on position limits that was overturned in court and another rule on cross-border swaps that was viewed by many, including international regulators, as exceeding the CFTC’s authority. This raises ques-

tions about whether he would be will-

ing to exceed the legal bounds on the SEC’s authority as well.

Let me acknowledge that Mr. Gen-

sler, without a doubt, has a great deal of experience in our securities markets. There is no question about it. He has a lot of exper-

tise there. But based on his record as a regulator in the past and statements that he has made during the course of this nomination process, I am con-

cerned that he will use the SEC and its regulatory powers to advance an agen-

da that should not be the purview of the SEC—specifically, global warming and climate change, political spending disclosures, and issues of racial in-

equality and diversity.

Securities laws and securities regula-

tions are not the appropriate vehicle to address any of these topics. That is the reason why we have environmental and political spending and civil rights laws, and we have Federal Agencies that are responsible for enforcing those laws. If anybody thinks those laws are not ade-

quate, OK, then take it up before Con-

gress and have Congress change the laws. We are the people who should be responsible because we are the ones who are accountable to the American people. It is certainly not the role of the Securities and Exchange Commissi-

on to become an independent regu-

lator with no political accountability to voters whatsoever—to address diff-

cult, challenging, sometimes conten-

tious political, social, and cultural issues.

I have to say, nothing that Mr. Gen-

sler said at his hearing or since has al-

leviated my concerns. Mr. Gensler did state that his regulatory approach would be grounded in the Supreme Court’s definition of “materiality,” but he declined to explain what that means to him, what are the limiting principles.

For example, I asked him if it would be OK for companies to be forced or pressured to comply with quotas with respect to the race or sex of their board mem-

bers. Again, I was talking about fi-

nancially insignificant transactions. In response, Mr. Gensler did not disavow the idea of forcing or pres-

uring companies to use these kinds of quotas to achieve board diversity.

I also asked him if a company’s fi-

nancially insignificant spending on, say, energy or maybe political advoca-

cy—if that can ever be material in-

formation that must be disclosed to in-

vestors. Again, I was talking about fi-

nancially insignificant transactions. In response, Mr. Gensler essentially indi-

cated that if a number of politically motivated activist investors wanted to know the information—for example, in-

formation related to global warming or political spending—that that makes it material information even if it is fi-

nancially insignificant to the company. I think that is completely inconsistent with the whole idea of materiality.

What it seems to me the bottom line for Mr. Gensler is, as long there are lib-

eral activist investors who demand to know certain things about environ-

mental, social, or corporate govern-

ance issues, then it would be OK to force disclosure of those issues, and I was not able to discern a situation in which Mr. Gensler would not be willing to mandate disclosure of that kind of information.

There is another issue that is con-

cerned ask me, and that is Mr. Gen-

sler’s answers to questions during his nomination hearing about recent stock market volatility.

We have seen some extraordinary volatility in a handful of companies for a variety of relatively novel reasons. Some have suggested that we have to take a paternalistic approach to grown adults and maybe limit their ability to
make investments because they don’t know well enough what is good for them. And maybe there are apps that make it too user friendly to buy stocks, so maybe that leads to imprudent decisions.

I find it shocking that we would actually contemplate limiting grown adults’ ability to make their own decisions. I wasn’t sure where Mr. Gensler came out on this, and in some respects, I think, he indicated that there may be some sympathy to this paternalistic view that I think would be a very, very big mistake.

So the nomination process just never alleviated the concerns I have. Maybe my concerns will prove to have been misplaced. I certainly hope so. Mr. Gensler is a very intelligent, knowledgeable, thoughtful person. He is very likeable. I happen to like him personally. But because of these concerns I have, I will not be able to support his nomination, and I will be voting no later as a result.

Mr. TOOMEY. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I appreciate Senator Toomey’s comments and the support they were derived. I rise to urge my colleagues to support President Biden’s nominee to be Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Gary Gensler.

In March, Mr. Gensler appeared before the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee for his nomination hearing. The committee advanced him to the full Senate with a bipartisan vote.

Mr. Gensler is an experienced public servant with a strong record of holding Wall Street accountable. He will lead the SEC at a time when it has become more and more obvious to more and more people that the stock market is detached from the reality of working families. Mr. Gensler will bring the SEC’s focus back to the people who make this country work. He will push to ensure that markets are a way for families to save and invest for their children’s education, for a downpayment on a home, for a secure retirement, not a game for hedge fund managers, where workers lose every single time.

Mr. Gensler, as Chair of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, led the implementation of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to bring transparency and stability to more markets. He was tough on enforcement issues. He cracked down on big banks that had manipulated interest rates for years.

Mr. Gensler is an expert on finance and markets. He previously served as Secretary of the Treasury for Domestic Finance and Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Financial Markets.

He will carry out the SEC’s mission—the reason it was created—to ensure that U.S. capital markets deliver growth and investment opportunities that grow the real economy and give middle-class families the opportunity to build wealth. He understands we need to ensure confidence and stability in our markets as the foundation to grow American businesses and support the workers who make their companies successful. We will listen to families saving for the future as well as professionals who manage workers’ pensions and retirements. He will make sure that savers, large and small, can hold corporate executives accountable. When it comes to enforcement, Mr. Gensler has shown the guts to take on bad actors, no matter how big and no matter how powerful they are, and he will hold them accountable.

The pandemic has reminded people just how rigged the Wall Street system can be.

About 2 months ago, I became chair of the committee that is called the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. To most in this body, the committee is just referred to as the Banking Committee or Senate Banking. This is a committee where Wall Street—it has been all about Wall Street, little about housing, and damn near nothing about urban affairs. Those days are behind us. This committee will look out for small investors. That is why the SEC is so important, and Mr. Gensler’s work. It will help to expand housing, it will make a difference in communities, and it will no longer be the province of Wall Street.

If you look only at the stock market, it looks like the pandemic never happened. The market reached new highs last fall. Families and businesses continued to suffer. Workers put their health and their lives on the line to keep businesses running, and once again, hedge funds and insiders reaped the vast majority of the profits.

We know that over the last decade or so—more than a decade—we have seen profits go up, as executive compensation explode upward, and we have seen workers more and more productive. Yet wages have been flat.

That is our challenge. We saw during the pandemic that was even worse. It doesn’t have to be that way. We can have a market that works for everyone. Mr. Gensler shares that goal.

When it comes to enforcement, Mr. Gensler has shown the guts to take on bad actors, no matter how big and no matter how powerful they are, and he will hold them accountable.

Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to vote yes on Mr. Gensler’s nomination.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The record shows a 61-32 vote to proceed to the consideration of the nomination of Gary C. Gensler, to be Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, and to adjourn till 1:30 p.m.

Tribute to Commander Andrew L. Pate

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I rise this afternoon to say thank you and farewell to a member of the Commerce Committee staff who is leaving the Senate soon. Commander Andrew L. Pate—Andy, as we know him—is completing his 2-year assignment as senior policy adviser and Coast Guard congressional fellow on the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

For those who are not aware, the Coast Guard’s congressional fellows program is a highly competitive program that assigns Coast Guard officers to congressional offices and committees as detailers. This elite program brings the Coast Guard’s “cream of the crop” to Washington. These officers uphold the Coast Guard’s core values of honor, respect, and devotion to duty. These special assignments serve to educate Coast Guard officers on the inner workings of Congress. The Coast Guard benefits from this program by bringing its unique perspective to the process of drafting and passing legislation, as well as gaining a strong cadre of officers to staff the Coast Guard’s congressional offices.

Andy was an obvious choice for this fellowship—not once but twice. In July of 2008, not long after I arrived in the Senate, then-Lieutenant Pate joined my office to serve as my first Coast Guard fellow, where he set a high bar for those who would come after him.

Following his departure, Andy completed tours as a commanding officer of Coast Guard cutters around the world. His operational assignments have focused on search and rescue, counter-narcotics, migrant interdiction, homeland security, defense operations, and living marine resource protection programs spanning the North Atlantic, Caribbean, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Arabian Gulf.

Andy also served as strategic analyst in the Commandant’s Advisory Group at Coast Guard headquarters and as a transition team member for the 25th Commandant of the Coast Guard. He went on to become the Coast Guard’s international security fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Since rejoining my team in 2019, Andy has had a significant impact on the Commerce Committee. His expertise as a cuttermen and senior officer has meaningfully informed the committee’s efforts, culminating in the enactment of the Elijah E. Cummings Coast Guard Authorization Act—the service’s 2-year comprehensive reauthorization.

Additionally, Commander Pate championed a key Coast Guard provision in the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress extended lease protections for service members in residential or vehicle...
leases impacted by “stop movement” orders. However, the original bill unintentionally omitted the Coast Guard. The small but important change Andy initiated has had a positive impact on thousands of his fellow Coast Guard members and their families.

The most exciting moment for Andy. Soon, he will assume command of the Coast Guard Cutter Mohawk in Key West, FL. I know the Mohawk and the Coast Guard will benefit from Andy’s steadfast spirit and determination.

I say in a service and leadership in our Nation’s armed services, and I thank him for all of his hard work. I have been blessed with many fellows. I rise to speak for fellows really only when they come for two tours in my office.

Andy’s presence on the Commerce Committee will be missed, but his colleagues and his country are grateful for his dedication and diligence. I know Kristen, Aidan, Karissa, and Alexander are proud of our way.

On behalf of the American people, I extend my deepest gratitude and wish Andy Pate the best of luck in his future endeavors.

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

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

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, in all honesty, sometimes it is hard to figure out exactly what the policy goals are that the Biden administration is striving to achieve.

Take the so-called COVID–19 relief bill that was signed into law just last month. Despite the fact that every pandemic relief bill that became law last year received broad bipartisan support, this bill did not. In fact, not a single Republican voted for it.

The Biden administration is preparing to rinse and repeat this strategy with a new misleading label, calling it infrastructure. But the reason why Republicans didn’t vote for the COVID–19 relief bill, while we did for every single one last year, was because only about 10 percent of the bill was actually dedicated to the goal stated by the proponents. Only about 10 percent of the massive $1.9 trillion bill was related to the pandemic, and less than 1 percent was related to our vaccination efforts.

As I said, now the administration is preparing a rinse-and-repeat strategy with a new misleading label: “infrastructure.”

If one of the surveyed questions on “Family Feud” was, “Name something that is considered infrastructure,” I would get two answers: roads and bridges. The other popular answers would probably include: airports, railroads, ports, tunnels, and waterways. But our Democratic colleagues are broadening that definition in ways that really are not accurate.

Just as they tried to brand things like environmental justice funding as “pandemic relief,” they are now getting very creative with the definition of “infrastructure.” In fact, the President’s infrastructure plan has a lot in common with his COVID–19 relief plan.

First of all is the pricetag. The non-partisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget estimates this plan would cost $3.5 trillion. That is trillion with a “t.”

For reference, the last major infrastructure bill that became law in 2015 was widely described as the largest package in more than a decade. That overwhelmingly bipartisan legislation totaled just over $300 billion, one-ninth of the cost of this new plan.

But there is another similarity between these two massive proposals, the long list of unrelated progressive or liberal policy priorities. Only about 5 percent of this colossal infrastructure plan is directed toward roads and bridges.

So where does the rest of the money go? For starters, this proposal would provide $174 billion for electric vehicle charging. This bill would go toward the roads and bridges Americans drive on every day. There are roughly 280 million cars on the road, the vast majority of which are internal combustion engine driven. Yet rather than provide for the millions of travelers, this would favor $174 billion for electric vehicle chargers.

This proposal includes a whopping $400 billion to support caregiving for elderly and disabled Americans. There is no question about the importance of quality care for these individuals, but this is no definition of infrastructure.

So this is really another Trojan horse: calling it one thing, making it look like one thing, and doing something entirely unrelated and different.

There is $25 billion for government childcare programs; $10 billion to create a Civilian Climate Corp—whatever that is. Then there is the massive funding for sustainable buildings and private homes.

This proposal would provide $213 billion to build or retrofit more than 2 million affordable and sustainable places to live. This is really just the Green New Deal 2.0. And right on cue come the unrealistic targets to lower emissions.

Rather than research and development or innovation, this relies on taxation and regulation, an unrealistic goal. This infrastructure plan calls for 100 percent of electricity to come from renewable sources by 2050. This is when the pandemic hit, the need for Texas’s greatest energy needs.

And private partners to announce a new solar farm in Webb County, Laredo, TX. But there is a big difference between supporting renewables and what the Biden administration is trying to do. This unrealistic and pie-in-the-sky target.

At the start of the pandemic, we got a small taste of the real-world impact of a shift from oil and gas and what that would look like. When the pandemic hit, the need for Texas’s greatest natural resource plummeted. Demand dropped precipitously as people stayed home and quit driving. With fewer cars and planes on the road and in the sky, oil and gas producers were left with a high supply and low demand. And that is when the layoffs began.

Last fall, a report by Deloitte found that between March and August of 2020, about 107,000 oil and gas workers were laid off. To be clear, this doesn’t include the countless workers who had their pay cut or were temporarily furloughed.

If the Biden administration enacts aggressive deadlines to eradicate our most prevalent and abundant energy sources, and the jobs they create, a lot of Texas energy workers and their families would be left high and dry.

But the bad news doesn’t stop there. The list of unrelated and downright damaging provisions in this bill is a long one. The big question with any legislation, especially something of this size, is, How are you going to pay for it?

In the past, the vast majority of infrastructure funding has come from the highway trust fund, but over the years it has faced serious shortfalls. To a serious degree, Texans have footed the bill for those shortfalls. In fact, we are one of the few States that receives less than any other source in the country, but yet last year alone, renewables of all kinds—solar, wind, biomass, you name it—accounted for less than 20 percent. Natural gas accounts for more than double that.

I am a proud supporter of renewable energy sources as well as a broader effort to reduce emissions. There is no question about this. Just last week, I joined folks from the North American Bank and the public and private partners to announce a new solar farm in Webb County, Laredo, TX. But there is a big difference between supporting renewables and what the Biden administration is trying to do. This unrealistic and pie-in-the-sky target.

We experienced what happens when these unrealistic, pie-in-the-sky goals are set. We had a 120-year weather event, the so-called polar vortex in Texas. It is a long, sustained period of subzero freezing that may be more common in Massachusetts than it is in Texas. As a matter of fact, as said, it is a 120-year weather event. What we found out was the severe weather affected wind turbines, which effectively froze up snow- and ice-covered solar panels, and even natural gas went offline because the electric pumps that compress the natural gas to put it into the pipelines failed as well. About the only reliable fuel source during that period of time was nuclear power, which represents a fraction of our total energy needs.

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it contributes to the highway trust fund, a so-called donor State.

But rather than address the solvency of the trust fund and the inequitable burden put on donor States before the authorization expires at the end of September, the administration has completely ignored the issue altogether.

The President’s infrastructure plan doesn’t even draw on the highway trust fund. So in order to pay for the sweeping liberal wish list, President Biden has proposed the largest set of tax hikes in more than half a century. By increasing the business tax rate from 21 to 28 percent, we would see an increase in revenue in the short term but serious long-term economic harm.

The tax burden on American companies would be greater than that of our biggest trading partner, as well as our competitors, and would have far-reaching consequences on our competitiveness and our economy and jobs for hard-working American families.

After all, we know the cost of these tax hikes won’t be reflected in lower earnings for CEOs. The brunt would be borne by consumers who pay higher prices, workers who earn lower wages, and, let’s not forget, those whose jobs would disappear entirely.

A study by the National Association of Manufacturers found this proposal would put 1 million people out of work in the United States in the next 2 years—a million people out of work. Just as the pandemic continues to deny us the normalcy of our health and the health of others and now opening up our economy, this would be the reward for the American people: 1 million Americans out of work as a result of this misguided policy.

This legislation is not about improving America’s roads and bridges; it is another partisan wish list under the guise of a highway bill that has traditionally enjoyed bipartisan support. Despite what some people think, the American people, I believe, are smart enough to see through this bill for what it is, an unaffordable, unwanted liberal wish list.

The Federal deficit is at its highest since World War II. This is not a time to go on another spending spree, using borrowed money from future generations. This is the time to craft smart policies that achieve the needs of our competitiveness and our economy and jobs for hard-working American families.

The bill was so popular, in fact, that it passed the committee unanimously. And what was the price tag on that bill? Just over 10 percent of the cost of the President’s current proposal. It would have authorized $2.9 trillion over 5 years. That is $100 billion less than what Democrats proposed spending on caregiving alone.

A bipartisan bill to rebuild our crumbling roads and bridges is possible. We have done it before, and we can do it again. But our Democratic colleagues are getting nothing but what Sen. Joe Manchin wants. It is not just the Republicans but many Members of their own party on board if they continue to push this sort of unrealistic, economy-harming sort of plan.

I am sure it comes as no surprise that putting Americans out of work while driving up the deficit and hurting our global competitiveness are wildly unpopular. Even smoke and mirrors can’t conceal the impact of this so-called infrastructure bill.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). The Senator from Iowa.

HONORING STATE PATROL SERGEANT JIM SMITH

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, a short tribute and then maybe about an 8- or 9-minute speech I have.

Today, I want to pay tribute to Iowa State Patrol Sergeant Jim Smith, who courageously gave his life in the line of duty this past Friday.

Sergeant Smith, a 27-year Iowa State Patrol veteran and a tactical team leader, put himself in harm’s way on behalf of his fellow Iowans last week, and it cost him everything.

Sergeant Smith is being remembered as a dedicated father, a loyal public servant, a man of God who left a positive impression on everybody he encountered.

I mourn for his family, fellow troopers, friends, and the entire Independent, IA, community at this tragic loss.

OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Mr. President, I pose the following question to my fellow Senators, something I doubt there is much disagreement on, but time is moving on. We need to take some action shortly. So this question, if a deadly poison were killing thousands of Americans each year, what would you do? Would you work to find the solution to prevent these deaths, or would you choose to do nothing, and allow fellow citizens to die? If all levels of law enforcement were pleading for action to prevent future fatalities, would you heed their warning—the last question—or would you roll the dice with the lives that are on the line?

I know that the potential cost would seek to be very proactive. I am here today to call attention to the dire need for Congress to schedule fentanyl-related substances before it is too late.

Without hyperbole or theatrics, such action would save the lives of thousands of Americans. Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is about 30 times more potent than heroin.

While dangerous and deadly, fentanyl also has some medically recognized qualities, often for pain management. However, fentanyl abuse has become more common and more dangerous in recent years because of the increase in fentanyl analogs. These analogs are clearly related to fentanyl, but many are much more powerful and, of course, deadly.

Much of the illicitly manufactured fentanyl that is responsible for American overdoses and deaths has connected with them that has originated in China. Unfortunately, these deadly drugs are not permanently controlled in the United States. As such, fentanyl analogs aren’t on the same footing as other dangerous drugs like heroin, LSD, ecstasy, or cocaine. The sad part is, the drug dealers know all of this. They can skirt the law by easily manipulating the structure of fentanyl so that it isn’t technically covered by existing law. But that doesn’t make it any less potent and dangerous. We all know the results are lethal. How lethal? Well, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states that more than 36,000 people died from overdoses involving synthetic opioids like fentanyl in 2019. Nearly 100,000 overdose deaths are projected for 2020.

As is, the law can’t keep up with the rapidly evolving drug trends when the chemists work on these drugs and change them just a little bit to get around the law. The law can outlaw new variations of a drug on an ad hoc basis, but do you know what? This process can take years. By the time an analog is added to the schedule, do you know what? The drug traffickers are already out with one or more other variations that don’t violate that law. Simply put, the law can’t keep up with the rapid pace of illicit drug producers and traffickers. This is particularly problematic for fentanyl analog enforcement.

Mr. President, can we address this seemingly endless cycle? How can we ensure that those suffering from substance use disorders aren’t killed at the hands of greedy drug dealers? The answer is to stop fentanyl analogs from being available in the very first place. We must keep it out of our country and, hence, then being peddled by criminals.

On February 6, 2018, the Drug Enforcement Administration published a temporary order that added all fentanyl-related substances in schedule I. Congress subsequently extended this authority until May 6 of this year, which is just around the corner. So we have 23 days until this authority expires. Congress must act to extend this similar to fentanyl, but if we do not, we will face a surge of rapidly emerging fentanyl drugs, wherein the chemists and the criminals will be ahead of anything that the Justice Department does.

The Justice Department then has made clear that this statewide scheduling order has made a big difference in Chinese fentanyl entering our country.
China has agreed to match U.S. policy targeting synthetic fentanyl, but if we lose the authority to rapidly detect and outlaw fentanyl analogs, we lose any footing that we have with the Chinese Government in preventing fentanyl from entering our country. This scheduling order saves lives because China reciprocates. China’s motive in scheduling fentanyl analogs isn’t necessarily altruistic; it is because the United States is doing it. So if we go after China, and if that happens, fentanyl analogs will surely flood our communities.

We can prevent this, so we must prevent it. With the ongoing increase in overdose deaths, we must continue to support efforts to curb fentanyl abuse. This means we must extend the classwide scheduling order that otherwise expires on May 6.

The deadline of May 6, 32 days away.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all time be yielded back on both sides on the Sherman nomination.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There appears to be a sufficient second. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

The result was announced—yeas 56, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 146 Ex.]

YEAS—56

Baldwin  Heinrich  Portman
Benetton  Hickenlooper  Reed
Blumenthal  Hirono  Romney
Boozman  Emmer  Rosen
Brown  Kelly  Sanders
Burr  King  Schatz
Cantwell  Klobuchar  Schumer
Capito  Leahy  Shaheen
Cardin  Lujan  Sinema
Carper  Manchin  Smith
Cassidy  Menendez  Stabenow
Coons  Merkley  Tester
Cortez Masto  Murkowski  Van Hollen
Duckworth  Murthy  Warner
Durbin  Murray  Warnock
Feinstein  Ossoff  Whitehouse
Gillibrand  Padilla  Wyden
Hassan  Peters  Wyden

NAYS—42

Barrasso  Graham  Moran
Blackburn  Grassley  Paul
Blunt  Hagerty  Risch
Boozman  Hawley  Rubio
Braun  Hoeven  Sasse
Cassidy  Hyde-Smith  Scott (FL)
Cornyn  Inhofe  Scott (SC)
Cotton  Johnson  Shelby
Cramer  Kennedy  Sullivan
Crapo  Lankford  Trump
Cruz  Lee  Tuberville
Ernst  Lummis  Tuberville
Fischer  McConnell  Wicker
Fischler  McConnel  Young

NOT VOTING—2

Tillis

The nomination was confirmed. The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PETERS). The Senator from Washington is recognized.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 3, Gary Gensler, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission.


The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Gary Gensler, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 5, 2021, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 147 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Baldwin  Heinrich  Peters
Benetton  Hickenlooper  Reed
Blumenthal  Hirono  Rosen
Boozman  Emmer  Sanders
Brown  Kelly  Schatz
Cantwell  Klobuchar  Shaheen
Carlin  Lujan  Sinema
Carper  Manchin  Smith
Cassidy  Menendez  Stabenow
Coons  Merkley  Tester
Cortez Masto  Murkowski  Van Hollen
Duckworth  Murthy  Warner
Durbin  Murray  Warnock
Feinstein  Ossoff  Whitehouse
Gillibrand  Padilla  Wyden
Hassan  Peters  Wyden

NAYS—45

Barrasso  Graham  Paul
Blackburn  Grassley  Risch
Blunt  Hagerty  Rubio
Boozman  Hawley  Sasse
Braun  Hoeven  Scott (FL)
Cornyn  Inhofe  Scott (SC)
Cassidy  Hyde-Smith  Shelby
Cotton  Johnson  Sullivan
Crapo  Lankford  Trump
Cruz  Lee  Tuberville
Ernst  Lummis  Tuberville
Fischer  McConnell  Wicker
Fischler  McConnel  Young

NOT VOTING—2

Tillis

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 45. The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Gary Gensler, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 5, 2021.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate
proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

**NOMINATION REFERRAL**

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the attached correspondence be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

**U.S. SENATE**

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE**

Washington, DC, April 12, 2021.

Hon. CHARLES E. SCHUMER, Chairman, Majority Leader, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Dear Senator Schumer:


Sincerely,

MARK R. WARNER, Chairman.

MARCO RUBIO, Vice Chairman.

**TRIBUTE TO JUDGE TOD KAUFMAN**

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor longtime Kanawha County Circuit Judge Tod Kaufman upon his retirement after more than 32 years of service to the 13th Judicial Circuit.

I have often said there is no greater accomplishment than to find yourself in a position to give back to the community you love. As a Charleston native, Judge Kaufman has served the people of Kanawha County with professionalism, fairmindedness, and great respect from the day he took office in 1988.

Following his undergraduate education, he worked as a paralegal in the Washington, DC, law firm of Covington & Burling and received a law degree from West Virginia University College of Law in 1980. He served a clerkship on the U.S. Tax Court during law school before joining his late father’s Charleston law firm of Kaufman & Ratliff in 1980. Prior to his appointment as judge, he served as my colleague in the State legislature and was appointed to the State senate in 1982 by then-Governor Jay Rockefeller and was elected in 1984. Judge Kaufman’s lectured internationally at prestigious law schools and conferences and is a former member of the Mass Litigation Panel of the West Virginia Supreme Court and past president and executive officer of the West Virginia Judicial Association.

Shortly after graduating law school, Judge Kaufman tragically lost his parents, former Senator and World War II veteran Paul Kaufman and Rose, and brother, Steven, in a car accident. I know their unflagging love and influence had a tremendous impact on the person he was to become. Both of his parents were extremely involved in their community and passionate about many social issues. I will always be personally grateful to them that they passed their work ethic and compassion on to Judge Kaufman, because he has done so much good in our home State due to their influence. In 2011, the 35th Street Bridge over the Kanawha River between the East End and Kanawha City was re-named in their honor, and I am certain they would be so very proud of Judge Kaufman’s legacy and personal values.

Throughout the years, Judge Kaufman has witnessed the drastic changes in the judicial landscape. Technology in the courts has played a crucial role, especially with current events as they are, but Judge Kaufman has always promoted the value of interpersonal communication and protecting the humanity in our court processes. He has been fiercely protective of the interests of the people in front of him in the courtroom, and the heavy responsibility of representing the justice system. He and I served in the State senate together, and in the many years I have called him a friend, Judge Kaufman has never taken his position lightly and has always seen himself primarily as a servant of the people of Kanawha County and of West Virginia. His view of the law is something I will always admire, and I know it has also inspired countless young judges and lawyers.

I will always be grateful to Judge Kaufman for his years of friendship and our shared passion for serving the people of West Virginia. While he is retiring, I want everyone to miss his strong leadership, Judge Kaufman’s unwavering dedication will leave a lasting legacy with the countless lives he has touched. Again, I congratulate him for his remarkable years of service, and I am honored to wish good health and happiness to Judge Kaufman, his wife Barrie, and their daughters, Paula, Caroline, and Sophia, in the days and years ahead.

**ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS**

**REMEMBERING DR. DAVID C. WHERRY**

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to recognize the remarkable life of Dr. David Wherry.

Born in Pawnee City, NE, he was the son of the former Nebraska Senator Kenneth S. Wherry, who served as the minority leader here in the U.S. Senate.

Dr. Wherry attended Doane College in Crete, NE, before enrolling at the U.S. Naval Academy.

He then chose to go into the medical profession.

Little did he know the major impact he would have in this field.

After graduating from George Washington University with his medical degree and completing his surgical training, he was commissioned as a Medical Corps officer in the United States Navy.

He then moved overseas for his residency, taking a position as a surgical doctor at the 7559th USAF Hospital in Burtonwood, United Kingdom.

He spent more than 2 years there before returning to the United States to become a teacher at George Washington University and later also at Georgetown University.

After years of teaching, Dr. Wherry returned to Active Duty during Operation Desert Storm and retired in 1993 as a colonel.

Following his years of service to our country, he returned to teaching and academic research.

Dr. Wherry became renowned in the medical world as a leading innovator in minimally invasive surgical surgery, such as laparoscopic cholecystectomy on the gallbladder.

In his research in this area, he published over 50 manuscripts, 3 book chapters, and produced 2 films.

Additionally, he helped found laparoscopic cholecystectomy courses for servicemembers and trained thousands of military surgeons.

I want to note that Dr. Wherry was one of the first doctors in the United States to perform colonoscopies, making him a leading expert in this procedure that is performed on so many Americans and is vital in helping to detect and catch diseases like colon cancer.

International work was important to him, and he was successful in helping bring humanitarian aid to hospitals in the Philippines.

He also collaborated with the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, USUHS, and with the University of the Philippines/Philippine General Hospital in bringing surgical residents to do scientific research at USUHS as well as arranged exchanges between medical students for training purposes.

He wanted to share and expand on his work by collaborating with others, so he helped found the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons.

He was also a member of the Société Internationale de Chirurgie et International Biliary Association.

On top of all of these efforts, he continued to be a senior surgical consultant to the medical division of the U.S. Department of State.

His work and dedication to improving surgeries around the world and for our military men and women has been recognized by the State Department and the Department of Defense.

Both agencies presented him with their Meritorious Honor Award.

In addition to his place as a leader in the medical world, he was also a dedicated husband and father.
His wife, Asucena ‘‘Ceny’’ Wherry, was an RN whom he married in 1975.

His son, Kenneth D. Wherry, followed in his father’s footsteps and joined the military to serve his country, retiring as a lieutenant colonel.

Dr. David Wherry represents the best of Nebraskans in honoring Dr. Wherry’s life and recognizing his faithful service to our Nation and his incredible contributions to medicine.

67TH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4010

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD, North Dakota Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4010 as passed by the Sixty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota.

The material follows:

SIXTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA IN REGULAR SESSION COMMENCING TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2021

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4010 (Senators Clemens, Myrdal) (Representative Rohr)

A concurrent resolution clarifying the 1975 ratification by the 44th Legislative Assembly of the proposed 1972 Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution of the United States only was valid through March 22, 1979.

Whereas, the 92nd Congress of the United States of America, during its second session, with the constitutionally required vote of two-thirds of both houses, on March 22, 1972, gave final approval to House Joint Resolution No. 206, commonly referred to as the Equal Rights Amendment; whereas the Secretary of the Senate, by proposing the amendment to the Constitution of the United States, pursuant to Article V of the Constitution of the United States; and Whereas, the proposed federal constitutional amendment to America’s state lawmakers, the 92nd Congress chose a deadline of 7 years, or until March 22, 1979, for the constitutionally mandated ratification of the amendment by three-fifths of the country’s state legislatures; and Whereas, in Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4007, the regular session of the 44th Legislative Assembly in 1975, responded by ratifying the proposed 1972 Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, thereby proposing the amendment.

Resolved by the Senate of North Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein:

1. That the 67th Legislative Assembly deems that the vitality of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4007 of the 44th Legislative Assembly by which North Dakota lawmakers ratified the 1972 Equal Rights Amendment, officially lapsed at 11:59 p.m. on March 22, 1979; and be it further

Resolved, that, after March 22, 1979, the Legislative Assembly, while in agreement that women and men should enjoy equal rights in the eyes of the law, should not be counted by Congress, the Archivist of the United States, lawmakers, any court of law, or any other person, as still having on record a live ratification of the proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution of the United States as was offered by House Joint Resolution No. 206 of the 92nd Congress on March 22, 1972; and be it further

Resolved, that the 67th Legislative Assembly respectfully requests the full and complete verbatim text of this resolution be duly published in the United States Senate’s portion of the Congressional Record, as an official memorial to the United States Senate, and that this resolution be referred to the committee of the United States Senate with appropriate jurisdiction over its subject matter; and be it further

Resolved, that the 67th Legislative Assembly respectfully requests the full and complete verbatim text of this resolution be duly entered in the United States House of Representatives’ portion of the Congressional Record, as an official memorial to the United States House of Representatives, and that this resolution be referred to the committee of the United States House of Representatives with appropriate jurisdiction over its subject matter; and be it further

Resolved, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the Vice President of the United States, the secretary and parliamentarian of the United States Senate; the Speaker, clerk, and parliamentarian of the United States House of Representatives; the 1972 Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, by the Archivist of the United States at the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, D.C.

BRENT SANFORD, President of the Senate.
SHANDA MORGAN, Secretary of the Senate.
KIM KOPFELMAN, Speaker of the House.
BUELL J. REICH, Chief Clerk of the House.

Filed in this office this 24th day of March, 2021, at 3:23 o’clock p.m.

ALVIN A. JABBER, Secretary of State.

RECOGNIZING THE UTAH DIAPER BANK

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, today I offer my recognition of the unique service of the Utah Diaper Bank to the people of Utah and, specifically, to the children of our great State. Their service, now spanning nearly a decade, officially started in March 2013 when a few dedicated individuals recognized the necessity for an organized, community-based approach to collecting and distributing diapers. Today, after years of careful planning and hard work, hundreds of thousands of diapers are being distributed throughout Utah to those who need them.

Some years ago, Victor Velivis, a Utah information technology professional, was watching television when he noticed an advertisement placed by a crisis nursery. The nursery requested diapers, not to stockpile them, but because they were out—flat out—of diapers. Vic donated what diapers he could and kept tabs on the nursery for a year. A year later, the same nursery ran out again. Puzzled, he set out to investigate.

After investigating, Vic realized that safety-net programs such as the food stamp program and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children do not cover the cost of diapers. He also realized that low-income parents cannot take advantage of free or subsidized childcare if they cannot afford to leave diapers at the center. Par-ents from accessing daycare and prevents them from being able to work or attend school on a consistent basis.

Vic began, to think about alternatives. What about cloth diapers? he thought. He soon realized, however, that most people living in poverty do not have access to washing facilities. Thus, they are unable to use cloth diapers for health and sanitary reasons.

The more he learned, the more Vic realized how hard it can be for parents in need to put diapers on their children.

In some Utah families, children suffer multiple days in the same diaper. Not only is this tremendously uncomfortable, it also puts the child at risk of serious illness and disease. In fact, according to one organization, it can prevent complications, it is recommended that parents change their newborn baby’s diaper every 2 to 3 hours. That is 8 to 12 diapers each day; and, at about 25 cents per diaper, a total of nearly 100 dollars per month. But what if you can’t afford that? The Utah Diaper Bank was created to address this problem directly.

The Utah Diaper Bank serves the needs of infants and young children by overseeing an organized approach to collecting and distributing diapers to organizations and individuals who need them. The bank fulfills this mission by supporting diaper drives, collecting and stockpiling diapers, and then distributing diapers throughout the State. With 3,500 volunteers, as a connected group of friends operating out of their homes, now operates out of a warehouse and distributes hundreds of thousands of diapers annually.

The Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated demand for the services provided by the Utah Diaper Bank. In early 2020, the Utah Diaper Bank was shipping 50,000 diapers a month with a target of 500,000-750,000 for the year. Then, once the pandemic had hit, they started shipping well over 100,000 per month. By the end of 2020, they shipped over 800,000. They have never seen demand for diapers like they are seeing now. Yet, they continue to succeed in fulfilling their mission.

The most remarkable part of the operation of the Utah Diaper Bank is that they operate without any paid staff. Their team is made up entirely of volunteers. Further, they receive neither private nor government grants and operate on a strict collection-distribution model.

The folks at the Utah Diaper Bank undoubtedly deserve recognition for their devoted service to the people of Utah. It is my unique privilege to honor them today.
50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF YELLOWSTONE COUNTY

Mrs. Tester. Mr. President, today, I rise to recognize the Boys and Girls Club of Yellowstone County for 50 years of service to the Billings community.

The Boys and Girls Club of Yellowstone County first opened its doors in 1971, serving 70 kids out of the basement of the old public library in downtown Billings. Over the past half century, the club has grown to serve well over 500 kids and operates five clubhouses and five microsites across the Magic City.

Throughout the pandemic, the club never stopped doing what it does best—serving the kids who need it most. Like many other schools and organizations, the club initially had to close their doors when COVID-19 came to Montana. But they put in the hard work and managed to reopen carefully and safely so they could continue providing a welcoming place for kids to learn to go together, make lifelong friendships, and build skills and confidence that will serve them for the rest of their lives. I commend President and CEO Brian Dennis and his staff for navigating these challenging times and for their steadfast commitment to ensuring every child in our community is set up to succeed.

The Boys and Girls Clubs of America challenge each and every one of us to reach our full potential and be great. For the past 50 years, the Yellowstone County club has done exactly that. Congratulations, thank you, and best of luck as you continue this truly commendable work.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitted sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. Cantwell, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

Special Report entitled "Report on the Activities of the Committee on Finance During the 116th Congress" (Rept. No. 117-9).

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. Kaine (for himself and Mr. Fury).

S. 1097. A bill to require the Secretary of Labor to award grants for promoting industry or sector partnerships to encourage industry training programs and to improve worker training, retention, and advancement as part of an infrastructure investment to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. Heinrich (for himself, Ms. Lujan, Ms. Sinema, Ms. Ernst, and Mr. Connyn).

S. 1079. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the troops from the United States and the Philippines who defended Bataan and Corregidor, in recognition of their personal sacrifice and service during World War II, to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. Jones (for himself and Mr. Rubio).

S. 1080. A bill to designate residents of the Xingu-Ururu Region as Priority 2 refugees of special humanitarian concern, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. Black (for himself, Mr. Scott of South Carolina, Mr. Bennett, and Mr. Burr).

S. 1081. A bill to authorize the Department of Labor's volunteer corps program to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. Ernst (for herself and Mr. Marshall).

S. 1082. A bill to prohibit Federal agencies from establishing policies that prohibit the service of certain food in dining facilities of agencies; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. Rubio (for himself, Ms. Rosen, Mr. Scott of Florida, Mr. Sasse, Ms. Ernst, and Mr. Cramer).

S. 1083. A bill to provide for the restoration of legal rights and benefits to Holocaust-era insurance policies; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. Kaine (for himself, Mr. Barrasso, Mr. Tillis, Mrs. Hyde-Smith, Mr. Cotton, Mr. Daines, Mrs. Blackburn, Mr. Boozman, Mr. Rubio, Mr. Crapo, Mr. Paul, Mr. Thune, Ms. Murkowski, Ms. Lummis, Mr. Hoeven, Mr. Romney, Ms. Feinstein, Mr. Cruz, Mr. Moran, Mr. Wicker, Ms. Ernst, and Mr. Risch).

S. 1084. A bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to provide for the portability of professional licenses of members of the uniformed services and their spouses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. Smith (for herself and Mr. Murphy).

S. 1085. A bill to establish the African Burial Ground National Memorial Museum and Education Center in New York, New York, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. Blumenthal (for himself and Mr. Moran).

S. 1086. A bill to provide incentives for hate crime reporting, provide grants for State-run hate crime hotlines, and establish alternative sentencing options considered under the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. Madden (for herself, Mr. Cardin, and Mr. King).

S. 1087. A bill to provide a duplication of benefits fix for Sandy CDBG-DR recipients, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. Cruz (for himself, Ms. Cornyn, Mr. Crapo, Mr. Inhofe, Mr. Grassley, and Mr. Braun).

S. 1088. A bill to provide requirements for the appropriate Federal banking agencies requesting or ordering a depositary institution to terminate a specific customer account, to provide for additional requirements related to subpoenas issued under the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. Blackburn (for herself and Ms. Duckworth).

S. 1089. A bill to direct the Government Accountability Office to evaluate appropriate coverage of assistive technologies provided to patients who experience amputation or live with limb difference; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. Cruz (for himself, Mr. Chambers, Mr. Paul, Mr. Barrasso, and Mr. Inhofe).

S. 1090. A bill to eliminate the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. McConnell.

S. 1091. A bill to designate certain future interstates and high priority corridors in Kentucky, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. Smith (for herself and Mr. Barrasso).

S. 1092. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a program under which the Secretary awards grants to States or certain departments for the purpose of providing support to agricultural fairs lost due to COVID-19; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. Rubio (for himself and Ms. Hassan).

S. 1093. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Ms. Baldwin (for herself and Mr. Braun).

S. 1094. A bill to ensure that certain materials used in carrying out Federal infrastructural aid programs are made in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. Moran (for himself and Mr. Tester).

S. 1095. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the disapproval by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of courses of education offered by public institutions of higher learning that do not charge veterans the in-State tuition rate for purposes of Survivors’ and Dependents’ Educational Assistance Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. Lankford (for himself and when appropriate to the Committee).

S. 1096. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship Program to include spouses and children of individuals who die from a service-connected disability within 120 days of serving in the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. Peters (for himself, Mr. Hoeven, and Ms. Rosen).

S. 1097. A bill to establish a federal rotational cyber workforce program for the Federal cyber workforce; to the Committee on
SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. KELLY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Ms. SINEMA):

S. Res. 143. A resolution recognizing the week of April 11 through April 17, 2021, as ‘‘Black Maternal Health Week’’ to bring national attention to the maternal health crisis in the United States and the importance of reducing maternal mortality and morbidity among Black women and birthing persons; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. HAGERTY):

S. Res. 154. A resolution congratulating the people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on the centennial of the founding of the Jordanian state; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 41, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to require coverage of hearing devices and systems in certain private health insurance plans, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSEFF) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) were added as cosponsors of S. 51, a bill to provide for the admission of the State of Washington, D.C. into the Union.

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 56, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants for training and support services for families and caregivers of people living with Alzheimer’s disease or a related dementia.

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 65, a bill to ensure that goods made with forced labor in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of the People’s Republic of China do not enter the United States market, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 288, a bill to reauthorize the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act of 2005, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. S. 321

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. Res. 178. A bill to suspend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to authorize borrowers to separate joint consolidation loans; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. STARKEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 199. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to make permanent the protections under Medicaid for recipients of home and community-based services against spousal impoverishment; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MERRKLEY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 1106. A bill to expand and improve access to trauma-informed mental health interventions for newly arriving immigrants at the border, to alleviate the stress of and provide education for both agents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. HARRIS):

S. 1101. A bill to provide that silencers be treated the same as firearms accessories; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DURbin (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. MURRAY, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 1102. A bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish a program to make grants to States to inform Medicaid enrollees, SNAP participants, and low-income residents of potential eligibility for the Lifeline program of the Commission; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. DAINES:

S. 1103. A bill to suspend any funding authorized under the American Rescue Plan of 2021 from any State government that provides instructions for cruise ships and their passengers to: to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Ms. CARUSO, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 1104. A bill to prohibit the sale of shark fins, for both cruise ships and other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. STARKEN (for herself, Mr. CARUSO, Mr. KING, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 1106. A bill to prohibit the sale of shark fins, for both cruise ships and other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. STARKEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 199. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to make permanent the protections under Medicaid for recipients of home and community-based services against spousal impoverishment; to the Committee on Finance.
Cortez Masto), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. Kelly), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. Peters) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. Warnock) were added as cosponsors of S. 321, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the Women’s Army Corps who were assigned to the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, known as the “Six Triple Eight.”

S. 346

At the request of Mr. Booker, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. Padilla) was added as a cosponsor of S. 346, a bill to end preventable maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity in the United States and close disparities in maternal health outcomes, and for other purposes.

S. 350

At the request of Ms. Hassan, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. Stabenow) was added as a cosponsor of S. 350, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain programs under part A of title XI of such Act relating to genetic diseases, and for other purposes.

S. 356

At the request of Mr. Booker, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. Klobuchar) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Warner) were added as cosponsors of S. 366, a bill to remove the Confederate States of America from display in the United States Capitol.

S. 373

At the request of Mr. Wicker, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. Fischer) was added as a cosponsor of S. 373, a bill to strengthen the use of patient-experience data within the benefit-risk framework for approval of new drugs.

S. 382

At the request of Mrs. Gillibrand, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. Ernst) was added as a cosponsor of S. 377, a bill to promote and protect discrimination living organ donors.

S. 389

At the request of Mr. Grassley, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. Collins) was added as a cosponsor of S. 409, a bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to modify the Commodity Futures Trading Commission Customer Protection Fund, and for other purposes.

S. 411

At the request of Mr. Casey, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. Cardin) was added as a cosponsor of S. 441, a bill to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a consumer product safety rule for free-standing clothing storage units to protect children from tip-over-related death or injury, and for other purposes.

S. 452

At the request of Ms. Stabenow, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. Lummis) was added as a cosponsor of S. 452, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Willie O’Ree, in recognition of his extraordinary contributions and commitment to hockey, inclusion, and recreational opportunity.

S. 464

At the request of Ms. Murkowski, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. Marshall) was added as a cosponsor of S. 464, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to require a group health plan or health insurance coverage offered in connection with such a plan to provide an exceptions process for any medication step therapy protocol, and for other purposes.

S. 477

At the request of Ms. Cortez Masto, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Ms. Capito) was added as a cosponsor of S. 477, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to create a refundable tax credit for travel expenditures, and for other purposes.

S. 497

At the request of Mr. Sullivan, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. Risch) was added as a cosponsor of S. 497, a bill to establish the American Fisheries Advisory Committee to assist in the awarding of fisheries research and development grants, and for other purposes.

S. 535

At the request of Ms. Ernst, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. Cotton), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. Tillis), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. Wicker), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. Rounds), and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. Paul) were added as cosponsors of S. 535, a bill to authorize the location of a memorial on the National Mall to commemorate and honor the members of the Armed Forces that served on active duty in support of the Global War on Terrorism, and for other purposes.

S. 538

At the request of Mr. Lee, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. Paul) was added as a cosponsor of S. 538, a bill to repeal portions of a regulation issued by the State Superintendent of Education of the District of Columbia that require child care workers to have a degree, a certificate, or a minimum number of credit hours from an institution of higher education.

S. 552

At the request of Mr. Cardin, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. Toomey) was added as a cosponsor of S. 552, a bill to direct the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to submit to Congress a report on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on global basic education programs.

S. 596

At the request of Mr. Carper, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. Young) was added as a cosponsor of S. 596, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coordination of programs to prevent and treat obesity, and for other purposes.

S. 627

At the request of Mr. Heinrich, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. Cardin) was added as a cosponsor of S. 627, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax credits for energy storage technologies, and for other purposes.

S. 660

At the request of Ms. Smith, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. Shaheen) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. Stabenow) were added as cosponsors of S. 660, a bill to require parity in the coverage of mental health and substance use disorder services provided to enrollees in private insurance plans, whether such services are provided in-person or through telehealth.

S. 721

At the request of Mr. Lee, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. Toomey) 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. 749

At the request of Ms. Hassan, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. Kelly), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. Blunt), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. Sinema) were added as cosponsors of S. 749, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax benefits for research activities.

S. 792

At the request of Mrs. Fischer, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. Risch) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. Capito) were added as co-sponsors of S. 792, a bill to amend the Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act of 1999 to modify certain agricultural exemptions for hours of service requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 799

At the request of Mr. Coons, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. Hickenlooper) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. Durbin) were added as cosponsors of S. 799, a bill to require the Secretary of Energy to establish programs for carbon dioxide capture, transport, utilization, and storage, and for other purposes.

S. 806

At the request of Mr. Merkley, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. Duckworth) was added as a cosponsor.
of S. 806, a bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Transportation to establish a program to provide grants to carry out activities to benefit pollinators on roadways and highway rights-of-way, including the planting and seeding of native, locally appropriate grasses and wildflowers, including milkweed, and for other purposes.

S. 893

At the request of Mr. Merkley, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. Duckworth) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. Daines) were added as cosponsors of S. 809, a bill to encourage and facilitate efforts by States and other stakeholders to conserve and sustain the western population of monarch butterflies, and for other purposes.

S. 894

At the request of Mr. Menendez, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. Daines) was added as a cosponsor of S. 862, a bill to create a safe harbor for investors engaging in the business of insurance in connection with a cannabis-related legitimate business, and for other purposes.

S. 895

At the request of Mrs. Gillibrand, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. Collins) was added as a cosponsor of S. 866, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the five-month waiting period for disability insurance benefits under such title and waive the 24-month waiting period for Medicare eligibility for individuals with Huntington’s disease.

S. 896

At the request of Ms. Smith, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. Hassan) was added as a cosponsor of S. 876, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to require the Secretary of Agriculture to make loan guarantees and grants to finance certain improvements to school lunch facilities, to train school food service personnel, and for other purposes.

S. 897

At the request of Ms. Hirono, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. Murphy), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. Heinrich), the Senator from Montana (Mr. Tester) and the Senator from New York (Mr. Schumer) were added as cosponsors of S. 907, a bill to facilitate the expedited review of COVID–19 hate crimes, and for other purposes.

S. 901

At the request of Mrs. Fischer, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. Shaheen) was added as a cosponsor of S. 951, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make grants to eligible organizations to provide service dogs to veterans with severe post-traumatic stress disorder, and for other purposes.

S. 902

At the request of Mr. Merkley, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. Murray) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. Van Hollen) were added as cosponsors of S. 984, a bill to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to reduce the production and use of certain single-use plastic products and packaging, to improve the responsibility of the design, collection, reuse, recycling, and disposal of their consumer products and packaging, to prevent pollution from consumer products and packaging entering into animal and human food chains and waterways, and for other purposes.

S. 1032

At the request of Mr. Warnock, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. Cardin) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1032, a bill direct the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library to obtain a statue of Shirley Chisholm for placement in the United States Capitol.

S. 1034

At the request of Mr. Coons, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. Sinema) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. Murkowski) were added as cosponsors of S. 1034, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the publicly traded partnership ownership structure to energy power generation projects and transportation fuels, and for other purposes.

S. 1040

At the request of Mr. Menendez, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. Hoeven) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1040, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care from the Department of Veterans Affairs to include veterans of World War II.

S. 1071

At the request of Mr. Cruz, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. Cotton) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1071, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide pension claim enhancement assistance to individuals submitting claims for pension from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. J. Res. 3

At the request of Mr. Cruz, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. Hagerty) was added as a cosponsor of S. J. Res. 3, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to limiting the number of terms that a Member of Congress may serve.

S. Res. 140

At the request of Mr. Warnock, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. Shaheen) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. Smith) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 140, a resolution condemning the horrid shootings in Atlanta, Georgia, on March 16, 2021, and reaffirming the commitment of the Senate to combating hate, bigotry, and violence against the Asian-American and Pacific Islander community.

At the request of Ms. Warren, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Warner) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. Rounds) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 148, a resolution recognizing the importance of paychecks, healthcare, and advancement to those who have faithfully served and retired from the Armed Forces of the United States, designating April 18, 2021, as ‘Military Retiree Appreciation Day’, and encouraging the people of the United States to honor the continued service of military retirees to their local communities and the United States.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. Kaine (for himself and Mr. Portman):

S. 1078. A bill to require the Secretary of Labor to award grants for promoting industry or sector partnerships to encourage industry growth and competitiveness and to improve worker training and retention advancement as part of an infrastructure investment; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. Kaine. Mr. President, The U.S. Infrastructure system is in critical need of an upgrade. In February 2021, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) graded 11 of 17 infrastructure categories a D+ or worse. Systems across the Nation are in dire need of repair, including our bridges, public transit, roads, and schools.

A recent study by the Center of Education and the Workforce at George-town University estimated that a $1.5 trillion infrastructure investment would create 15 million new jobs. Nearly half of these new jobs are training past the high school level. Even without a significant investment, though, infrastructure industries are already struggling to meet workforce demands. Though the need to invest in infrastructure goes back decades, there’s renewed momentum today, especially as more than 10 million people remain unemployed across the country as a result of COVID–19, exacerbating the already historic inequities that have limited women and people of color from accessing these jobs. Investments in infrastructure skills training must serve people of color, women, and other communities who have historically been excluded from good careers in infrastructure.

Industry and sector partnerships are a proven strategy for helping workers prepare for jobs that lead to strong career pathways and helping businesses find skilled workers. Congress requires states and local areas to support the development of partnerships under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), but no dedicated funding has been provided for these activities.
For workers, especially those underrepresented in infrastructure industries, support services like career counseling, child care, and transportation can often be the key to succeed in work-based learning programs. Providing these services may be outside the capacity of a business. Industry partnerships bring business together with community and human service organizations that can make these connections for workers and drastically improve their ability to succeed in training and meet business demand for skilled workers.

This is why I am pleased to introduce with my colleague, Senator PORTMAN, the Building U.S. Infrastructure by Leveraging Demands for Skills Act, or BUILDs Act. The BUILDs Act creates a grant program that would support industry and sector partnerships working with local businesses, industry associations and organizations, labor organizations, state and local workforce boards, economic development agencies and other partners engaged in their communities to encourage industry growth, competitiveness and collaboration to improve worker training, retention and advancement in targeted infrastructure clusters. Additionally, businesses and education providers would be connected to develop classroom curriculum to complement on-the-job learning and workers would receive support services such as mentoring and career counseling to ensure that they are successful from the onset of employment to placement in a full-time position.

As we prepare to tackle critical infrastructure needs nationwide, it’s vital we also support a skilled workforce that can take on this task. This bill will help foster strong industry partnerships and career pathways in infrastructure fields to ensure we can train and upskill workers for millions of good-paying jobs and also strengthen our economy as we begin to recover from COVID–19. I hope that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle consider the BUILDs Act as a necessary component to any investment in our nation’s infrastructure.

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

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.
This Act may be cited as the “Promoting Access to Broadband Act of 2021.”

SEC. 2. LIFELINE ENROLMENT OUTREACH GRANTS.
(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:
(1) IN GENERAL.—The term “Community Commission” means the Federal Communications Commission.
(2) COVERED INDIVIDUALS.—The term covered individual means—
(A) Medicaid enrollees;
(B) SNAP participants; and
(C) low-income residents.
(3) ELIGIBLE-BUT-NOT-ENROLLED.—The term eligible-but-not-enrolled means, with respect to an individual, that the individual is enrolled in the Lifeline program but is not enrolled in the following:
(A) Medicaid enrollee; or
(B) low-income resident.
(4) LIFELINE PROGRAM.—The term Lifeline program means the Lifeline program of the Commission.
(b) ELIGIBILITY.—The term “low-income” means a gross annual income at or below 135 percent of the Federal poverty level.
(6) MEDICAID ENROLLEE.—The term “Medicaid enrollee” means, with respect to a State, an individual enrolled in the State plan under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.) or a waiver of that plan.
(c) APPLICATION.—The term “reach” means—
(1) in the case of an individual, to inform the individual of potential eligibility for the Lifeline program and to provide the individual with information about the Lifeline program, as described in subsection (b) of this section to a SNAP participant. The term “SNAP participant” means an individual who is a member of a household that participates in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2001 et seq.).
(2) in the case of a State, an individual enrolled in the State plan under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.) or a waiver of that plan.

SEC. 3. GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY.—In awarding grants under this section, the Commission shall take into consideration the extent to which the Commission can meet the needs of States that have lower penetration rates of Lifeline program enrollees as a proportion of the number of eligible individuals living within such States.

SEC. 4. SELECTION.—The Commission shall—
(a) award grants under this section to at least 10 States, and
(b) award grants under this section to at least 5 States that have a lower per capita number of Lifeline program enrollees than the other States awarded grants under this section.

SEC. 5. USE OF FUNDS.—In awarding grants under this section, the Commission shall—
(a) take into account the capacity of the recipient to provide services in underserved areas;
(b) ensure that grants may be used to meet the needs of States that have lower penetration rates of Lifeline program enrollees as a proportion of the number of eligible individuals living within such States;
(c) provide funds to States to ensure that the Commission and lifeline providers are connected to reduce barriers to eligibility for the Lifeline program; and
(d) provide funds to States to ensure that the Commission and lifeline providers are connected to reduce barriers to eligibility for the Lifeline program.
Whereas the A-10 supports close air support with a variety of forward-firing, freefall, and precision-guided munitions; whereas the A-10 is able to perform combat air patrol, airborne early warning, armed reconnaissance, suppression of enemy air defenses, special operations forces support, and countersea operations in low-threat and high-threat environments, day or night;

Whereas the A-10 provides the Air Force with an extensive ability to survey the battlefield; whereas the A-10 has one of the largest carrying capacities for a fighter-type aircraft and can carry a wide range of munitions and electronic countermeasures without sacrificing ground capabilities; whereas the close air support provided by the A-10, which has proven invaluable on the battlefield, is better than the close air support provided by any other fighter aircraft because:

(1) the A-10 has excellent maneuverability at low air speeds and altitudes; and

(2) the close air support provided by the A-10 is simple and effective;

Whereas the A-10 is responsible for training all A-10 pilots; whereas, during Operation Allied Force in 1999—

(1) A-10s destroyed more field-deployed Serbian weaponry than any other allied weapon system; and

(2) combat search and rescue support from the A-10 was 100 percent effective, successfully rescuing 1 F-117 pilot and 1 F-16CG pilot;

Whereas, during Operation Enduring Freedom in 2001, these aircraft achieved more than half of the confirmed Iraqi equipment losses and fired 90 percent of the precision-guided Maverick missiles; whereas the 442nd Fighter Wing at Whiteman Air Force Base, with an inventory of 27 A-10s, has deployed 6 times since September 11, 2001, primarily in support of troops on the ground; and whereas Jereima "Jeri" Bustamante (referred to in this preamble as "Jeri Bustamante") lived the American Dream; whereas Jeri Bustamante and her family, Jeri Bustamante—
Whereas tired work ethic propelled Jeri Bustamante to professional success, begininning with an internship at a Miami television station and culminating in a period of service as press secretary to Governor Rick Scott;

Whereas the enthusiasm, compassion, tenacity, and vibrant energy of Jeri Bustamante are mirrored by her family, friends, and coworkers;

Whereas the spirit of Jeri Bustamante lives on through the Jeremia Bustamante Memorial Scholarship, which aims to help graduates of Miami Beach Senior High School achieve their goals and pursue the American Dream through a college education;

Whereas April 8, 2021, marks 3 years since the life of Jeri Bustamante was tragically cut short in a fatal boating accident: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—
(1) honors the life and memory of Jeremia “Jeri” Bustamante (referred to in this resolution as “Jeri Bustamante”);
(2) offers heartfelt condolences to the family, loved ones, and friends of Jeri Bustamante;
(3) recognizes that living the American Dream remains possible for any individual who, following the example of Jeri Bustamante, works hard to pursue and achieve her goals as;
(4) encourages the recipients of the Jeremia Bustamante Memorial Scholarship to carry on the legacy of Jeri Bustamante.

SENATE RESOLUTION 151—CALLING ON THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO TAKE ACTION TO LOWER PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. BOOKER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. Res. 151

Whereas the United States is facing a pandemic, and economic crisis, caused by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) that threatens the financial well-being of nearly every family in the United States;

Whereas even before the COVID-19 pandemic, consumers and patients in the United States were charged higher prices for prescription drugs than consumers and patients in other countries around the world;

Whereas families in the United States continue to face financial hardship from unaffordable out-of-pocket costs and higher premiums that have been exacerbated by an economic crisis and losses in employer-sponsored health plans;

Whereas 8 in 10 individuals in the United States say the cost of prescriptions is unreasonable, and nearly 3 in 10 individuals across the United States are rationing their medicine due to high prescription drug costs;

Whereas the prescription drug cost crisis has put families at risk for poor health outcomes, increasing the likelihood of complications from a severe case of COVID-19 for those families;

Whereas even before the COVID-19 pandemic, racial and ethnic minorities, including Black, Brown, and indigenous people, were disproportionately impacted by high prescription drug costs, which was due in part to a higher incidence of chronic conditions in those populations that require expensive prescription drugs;

Whereas people of color, including Black, Brown, and indigenous people, are dying at much higher rates as a result of COVID-19, and other diseases, for which affordable prescription drugs are not available;

Whereas any price gouging by pharmaceutical companies is a root cause of health disparities in the United States;

Whereas nearly 3 in 10 individuals in the United States facing increased prescription drug costs spend less on basic necessities, including groceries, to account for that increased prescription drug cost;

Whereas approximately 25 percent of the monthly premium for a health care consumer in the United States goes to prescription drug costs;

Whereas more than 1 in 4 health care consumers decline other medical tests or procedures out of a fear of doctor’s office visits because of increased prescription drug costs;

Whereas pharmaceutical companies abuse monopoly control granted by the Federal Government, in the form of patents and regulatory exclusivities, to limit competition and raise prescription drug costs;

Whereas 8 out of 10 new drug patents are for slight modifications to existing drugs, not for innovating new drug products;

Whereas 9 out of 10 of the largest pharmaceutical companies spend more on sales and marketing than on researching new drugs;

Whereas each of the 356 drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration between 2010 and 2019 were developed through taxpayer-funded research conducted by the National Institutes of Health;

Whereas the 18 pharmaceutical companies on the S&P 500 spent more money on lobbying, buybacks and dividends than on research and development between 2009 and 2018;

Whereas the pharmaceutical and medical product industries invested $100,000 on lobbying in 2019, more than any other industry and nearly double the next closest industry;

Whereas the pharmaceutical industry employs more lobbyists than there are Members of Congress;

Whereas the 25 largest pharmaceutical companies in the United States achieve an average price margin above 20 percent, more than twice the average profit margin of the other 500 largest companies in the United States;

Whereas pharmaceutical spending growth in the United States is projected to outpace inflation for the foreseeable future;

Whereas pharmaceutical companies raised the price of 236 drugs in the first 5 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, with the average price increase being 23.8 percent;

Whereas 61 of the prescription drugs that saw price hikes during the first months of the COVID-19 pandemic were being used to treat COVID-19, and another 30 drugs were undergoing clinical trials for use against that virus;

Whereas nearly 9 in 10 adults in the United States said they were concerned the pharmaceutical industry would raise prices to take advantage of the pandemic to raise prescription drug prices;

Whereas the United States spends twice as much money on prescription drugs when compared to other economically-comparable countries, including Canada, France, the United Kingdom, Japan, and Germany.

Resolved, That the Senate—
(A) Federal Government use, pursuant to section 108(a) of title 26, United States Code;
(B) march-in rights, pursuant to section 200 of title 35, United States Code;
(C) royalty-free rights, pursuant to sections 202(c)(4) and 209(d)(1) of title 35, United States Code;
(D) the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, established by section 1115(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1315a(a)(1)); and
(E) all other existing law and authorities;

(3) encourages the President to use existing law and authorities to align prescription drug prices in the United States with drug prices in other economically-comparable countries, including Canada, France, the United Kingdom, Japan, and Germany.

SENATE RESOLUTION 152—HONORING THE MEMORY OF OFFICER WILLIAM FRANCIS ‘BILLY’ EVANS OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE FOR HIS SELFLESS ACTS OF HEROISM ON THE GROUNDS OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL ON APRIL 2, 2021

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAIN, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCKAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. LUGAR, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKAY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORA, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROONEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr.
SENATE RESOLUTION 153—RECOGNIZING THE WEEK OF APRIL 11 THROUGH APRIL 17, 2021, AS ‘BLACK MOTHERS AND BIRTHING PERSONS MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK’ TO BRING NATIONAL ATTENTION TO THE MATERNA­L HEALTH CRISIS IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE IMPORTANCE OF REDUCING MATERNA­LITY AND MORBIDITY AMONG BLACK WOMEN AND BIRTHING PERSONS

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mrs. FEIN­STEIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. PETERS, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. Kaine, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BEN­NET, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Ms. ROSEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Edu­cation, Labor, and Pensions:

Resolved, That the Senate honors the memory of United States Capitol Police Officer William Francis “Billy” Evans for the selfless acts of heroism displayed on April 2, 2021, sacrificing his life in the line of duty.

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes—
(1) that Black women are experiencing higher rates of maternal mortality and morbidity in the United States;
(2) that the alarmingly high rates of maternal mortality and morbidity among Black women are unacceptable;
(3) that, in order to better mitigate the effects of systemic and structural racism, Congress must work toward ensuring that the Black community has—
(A) safe and affordable housing;
(B) transportation equity;
(C) nutritious food;
(D) clean air and water;
(E) environments free from toxins;
(F) fair treatment within the criminal justice system;
(G) safety and freedom from violence;
(H) a living wage;
(I) equal economic opportunity;
(J) a sustained workforce pipeline for diverse perinatal professionals; and
(K) comprehensive, quality, and affordable healthcare with access to the full spectrum of reproductive care;
(4) that, in order to improve maternal health outcomes, Congress must fully support and encourage policies guided by the human rights and reproductive justice frameworks that address Black maternal health inequity;
(5) that Black women and birthing persons must be active participants in the policy decisions that impact their lives;
(6) that, in order to ensure access to safe and respectful maternal healthcare for Black women and birthing persons, Congress must pass the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021;
(7) that Black Maternal Health Week is an opportunity to—
(A) raise national awareness of the state of Black maternal health in the United States;
(B) amplify the voices of Black women and birthing persons, families, and communities;
(C) serve as a national platform for—
(i) entities led by Black women; and
(ii) efforts on maternal health; and
(D) enhance community organizing on Black maternal health; and
(8) the significance of April 11 through April 17, 2021, as “Black Maternal Health Week”.

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Black women in the United States are 2 to 3 times more likely than white women to die from pregnancy-related causes;
Whereas Black women in the United States suffer from life-threatening pregnancy complications, maternal morbidities, twice as often as white women;
Whereas maternal mortality rates in the United States are—
(1) among the highest in the developed world; and
(2) increasing rapidly;
Whereas the United States has the highest maternal mortality rate among affluent countries, in part because of the disproportionately high rates of maternal mortality and morbidity among Black women;
Whereas Black women are 49 percent more likely than white women to deliver prematurely;
Whereas the high rates of maternal mortality among Black women span across—
(1) income levels; and
(2) education levels; and
(3) socioeconomic status;
Whereas structural racism, gender oppression, and the social determinants of health inequities experienced by Black women in the United States significantly contribute to the disproportionately high rates of maternal mortality and morbidity among Black women;
Whereas racism and discrimination play a consequential role in the maternal healthcare experiences and outcomes of Black birthing people;
Whereas a fair and wide distribution of resources and birth options, especially with regard to reproductive healthcare services and maternal healthcare programming, are critical to closing the racial gap in maternal health outcomes;
Whereas the COVID–19 pandemic has further highlighted issues within the broken healthcare system in the United States and the harm of that system to Black women and birthing persons, by exposing—
(1) increased barriers to accessing prenatal and postpartum care, including maternal mental health care;
(2) the lack of uniform hospital policies permitting doulas and support persons to be present during labor and delivery;
(3) inconsistent hospital policies regarding the separation of the newborn from a mother that is suspected positive for COVID–19;
(4) complexities in COVID–19 vaccine and therapeutics trials including pregnant and lactating people;
(5) increased rates of caesarean section deliveries;
(6) shortened hospital stays following delivery;
(7) provider shortages and lack of sufficient policies to allow home births attended by midwives;
(8) insufficient practical support for delivery of care by midwives, including telehealth access;
(9) adverse economic impact on Black mothers and families due to job loss or reduction in income during quarantine and the pandemic recession; and
(10) pervasive moral injustice against Black people in the criminal justice, social, and healthcare systems;

Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. HAGERTY) submitted the following resolution, which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. Res. 154

Whereas the late King Abdullah bin Al Hussein arrived in Amman on March 2, 1921, and began to establish a political system based on the Arab demand for independence, reaffirming the renaissance approach spearheaded by his father, Al Hussein bin Ali;

Whereas the Amirate of Trans-Jordan was established on April 11, 1921;

Whereas Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan achieved independence on May 25, 1946;

Whereas the United States recognized Jordan as an independent state in a White House announcement on January 31, 1949;

Whereas the United States and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan have maintained diplomatic relations since 1949, and during this 72-year partnership, the United States and Jordan have continued to develop a close relationship in security, economic development, and counterterrorism cooperation;

Whereas the economic partnership between the United States and Jordan was further strengthened by the signing of the United States-Jordan Free Trade Agreement on October 24, 2000, which was fully implemented on January 1, 2010;

Whereas the United States is committed to Jordan's stability, prosperity, and security throughout the years, which has been reflected in 3 memoranda of understanding, which have the approval of the Majority and the Minorities in both Chambers of the Senate; and

Whereas Jordan continues to host 3.3 nationalities of refugees and is home to the second highest number of refugees per capita globally, with more than 1,300,000 Syrians, 660,000 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees-registered refugees, and millions of Palestinian refugees; and

Whereas King Abdullah II has been a leading Arab voice in moderation and interfaith dialogue, spearheading initiatives such as “A Common Word” and the 2004 “Amman Message”; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the centennial of the establishment of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan;

(2) expresses its profound admiration and gratitude for the friendship of the Jordanian people, who continue to demonstrate great generosity for those in need;

(3) shares the hope of His Majesty King Abdullah II and the Jordanian people for a more peaceful Middle East; and

(4) looks forward to our continued close cooperation with His Majesty King Abdullah II and Jordan on our shared priorities of security, economic development, and humanitarian issues.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1412. Mrs. BLACKBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 937, to facilitate the expedited review of COVID–19 hate crimes, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1412. Mrs. BLACKBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 937, to facilitate the expedited review of COVID–19 hate crimes, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of section 2, add the following:

(c) CARRYING A CONCEALED HANDGUN.—No State shall prohibit any individual who is fearing hate crime victimization from carrying a concealed handgun.

SA 1413. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 937, to facilitate the expedited review of COVID–19 hate crimes, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 4. PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION IN ADMISSION TO POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS;

Section 601 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d) is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(a)'' before ''No person''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(b) ADMISSION TO POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS.—It shall be unlawful for an employee of a postsecondary institution referred to in section 6062(a) and receiving Federal financial assistance, to use for an applicant or refer an applicant to an informal or formal quota system based on race, ethnicity, religion, color, or national origin, during any step of the admissions process, to determine whether the applicant involved shall be admitted to the institution."

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I have 5 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

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

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 13, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 13, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 13, 2021, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 13, 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 Tuesday, April 13, 2021, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Mark Uyeda, a detailie in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the Congress.

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

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President of the Senate, pursuant to Public Law 85–874, as amended, appoints the following individuals to the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts: The Honorable Mark Warner of Virginia (re-appointment), and the Honorable Chris Van Hollen of Maryland.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF OFFICER WILLIAM FRANCIS “BILLY” EVANS OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE FOR HIS SELFLESS ACTS OF HEROISM ON THE GROUNDS OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL ON APRIL 2, 2021

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 152, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:


There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 152) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 152) was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.
ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 2021

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, April 14; 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 the nomination to resume consideration of the nomination of Gary Gensler to be a member of the Securities and Exchange Commission; further, that the postcloture time on the Gensler nomination be considered expired at 11:45 a.m.; finally, that if cloture is not invoked on the Mallory nomination, all postcloture time be considered expired at 3:30 p.m.

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

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, for the information of Senators, there will be two rollcall votes at 11:45 a.m. in relation to the Gensler and Mallory nominations and two rollcall votes at 3:30 p.m. on the Mallory nomination and cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 937, relating to COVID–19 hate crimes.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the provisions of S. Res. 152 as a further mark of respect for the memory of Officer William Francis “Billy” Evans of the Metropolitan Police Department, as well as a further mark of respect for the memory of Officer Bryon A. China of the Mallory Police Department.

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

The Senate adjourned.

April 13, 2021

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment as lieutenant general in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general


The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Col. Gail E. Crawford

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. Gen. Theodore D. Martin

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Erik C. Peterson

IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Patrick E. Mathies

IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. John W. Raymond

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Vice Adm. Scott D. Cullot

IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Ronald P. Clark

IN THE SPACE FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Space Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Kevin M. Jerny

IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Coast Guard to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Deanne M. Hurt

IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Michael A. Gurell

IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. John W. Raymond
To be brigadier general
BRIG. GEN. DONALD J. COOHERN
BRIG. GEN. TROY L. ENDICOTT
BRIG. GEN. MATTHEW C. FLETCHER
BRIG. GEN. CHRISTOPHER S. POFVAK
BRIG. GEN. STERREDD F. PERRY, JR.
BRIG. GEN. STEPHEN F. WHITNEY

The following named officer for appointment to the grade of colonel:

To be colonel
BRIAN P. ADAMS
ELIZABETH F. ALLEN
EDWARD B. ANDERSON
CHRISTOPHER M. FORD
TOBY A. BANKS
JAMES R. KAZIN
TONY V. KIM
CHRISTOPHER R. MARTIN
EVAN R. MAHAN
JOHN J. MIRRIAM
KEVYN B. MANNAY
JENNIFER A. NEUHAUSER
ROBERT A. RODRIGUES
JENNIFER A. NEUHAUSER
NICOLE LOUISE BERMUDEZ
NANCY M. BELLINO
CRYSTAL E. BECKWITH
CLAYTON ROSS BEASLEY
CHRISTINE LYNNETTE BATSON
LORNA SOPHIA BARCLAY
MICHELLE L. BAILEY
THOMAS MACAULAY BABINGTON
MICHAEL GREGORY AVESIAN
ROBERT LEON ARMSTRONG
CARLO J. ARAGON
MARTA M. APARICIO
SHANNON NICOLE ALLEN
ALLEGRA MARIE AIUTO
ANDRAY ABRAHAMIAN
MICHAEL JOSEPH ABEL
SULAR OFFICER AND A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE
MARY ELLEN SMITH
CYNTHIA IGLESIAS GUVEN
W. GARTH THORBURN II
KATHERINE C. NISHIURA
SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
ELIZABETH A. WALKER
ROBERT E. SAMUELSEN II
PIA W. ROGERS
ROBERT A. RODRIGUES
JENNIFER A. NEUHAUSER
CHRISTOPHER E. MARTIN
ADAM S. KAZIN
CHRISTOPHER M. FORD
BRIAN P. ADAMS

FOREIGN SERVICE

The following-named career members of the senior foreign service of the United States department of state, for promotion within the senior foreign service of the United States of America, as assistant-secretary-counselors:

ALI ABDI, OF VIRGINIA
KATHERINE C. NISHIURA, OF VIRGINIA
W. G. BURKE, OF OHIO
ANDREW F. BURDI, OF VIRGINIA
THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE FOR PROMOTION INTO THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY-COUNSELORS:

CYNTHIA IGLESIAS GUVEN, OF LOUISIANA
MARY ELLEN SMITH, OF CALIFORNIA
THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE FOR PROMOTION INTO THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AS CONSULAR OFFICERS AND A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

ABDELAZIZ MAMUZADI ABAEI, OF VIRGINIA
MICHAEL J. AMBROSE, OF VIRGINIA
ALEXIS DE EEE ABBIE, OF VIRGINIA
ANAYA A. AMJAD, OF CALIFORNIA
DAVID IAN REYNOLD ADAMS, OF VIRGINIA
TAYLOR E. ADAMS, OF VIRGINIA
ALLIE A. AUMAT, OF VIRGINIA
MELISSA ROSA ABERIS, OF VIRGINIA
SHANNON LEE ACH, OF VIRGINIA
NICHOLAS PHILLIP ANDREWS, OF VIRGINIA
ERIK A. ANDERSON, OF SOUTH DAKOTA
MARTA M. APARICIO
CARLOS M. APARICIO
ALYSSA ARCAYA, OF VIRGINIA
HUGO P. ARDIA, OF VIRGINIA
JANET J. ARBY, OF VIRGINIA
ROBERT LION ARMSTRONG, OF MARYLAND
CHRISTINE LYNNETTE BATSON, OF VIRGINIA
MICHAEL GREGORY AVESIAN
THOMAS MACAULAY BABINGTON
MICHELLE L. BAILY
NORIE BAJAJ, OF VIRGINIA
KATHERINE ANNE BAKER, OF VIRGINIA
YARAI CHEN, OF HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA
KATHERINE O. BALLARD, OF VIRGINIA
STACEY L. BARR, OF VIRGINIA
CLARK ANTHONY BARBIERI, OF VIRGINIA
LOREN K. BEARD, OF VIRGINIA
JAMES J. BAESNS, OF VIRGINIA
JANET J. ARBY, OF VIRGINIA
KATHERINE M. BERNSTEIN, OF MEXICO
CHESTNUT LYNNETTE BATSON, OF VIRGINIA
JASON CHRISTOPHER BEAUFORD, OF VIRGINIA
CLAYTON E. BEASLY, OF VIRGINIA
CRISTAL E. BECKWITZ, OF VIRGINIA
NANCY M. BELLINO
MICHAEL PAUL BEMBE, OF MARYLAND
DANIEL JOSPEH BERNSTEIN, OF VIRGINIA
STERLING BENNETT, OF VIRGINIA
VICTORIA MICHEL BERS, OF VIRGINIA
CHRISTINE M. BILIAN, OF FLORIDA
NICOLE LOUISE BERNHEUDE, OF VIRGINIA
RYAN K. BERRY, OF VIRGINIA
ANTHONY T. BETKE, OF VIRGINIA
AARON H. BIRCH, OF VIRGINIA
ELAN EDWARD BICKFORD, OF VIRGINIA
MARCIA ROBERT BICKFORD, OF CALIFORNIA
JEFFREY L. BIRCHBAUM, OF ILLINOIS
SARAH LOUISE BOURHAN, OF TEXAS
CORINA BOURHAN, OF TEXAS
ANASTASSIA BOGOSLAV–SCISSORS, OF VIRGINIA
FOSTER B. BOURNE, OF VIRGINIA
CAITLIN E. BOWNSHICH, OF VIRGINIA
SAUL HAWKS BOSTOC, OF VIRGINIA
GARY MONROE BOSTOC, OF VIRGINIA
DOUGLAS P. BOYCE, OF FLORIDA
MARIA CAMILLE BOVETTE, OF VIRGINIA
TONY C. BRASON, OF VIRGINIA
LAUREN ELIZABETH BRAUER, OF VIRGINIA
EMILY F. BRENBERG, OF VIRGINIA
HERMANN J. BROWN, OF VIRGINIA
ANTHONY ANTHONY DUNIS, OF VIRGINIA
JUANIN L. BUCK, OF VIRGINIA
BRIAN R. BUCKETT, OF VIRGINIA
LYNN B. BUCKLEY, OF VIRGINIA
SARAH LORA BURCH, OF VIRGINIA
ERWIN V. BYERS, OF VIRGINIA
HOWARD V. BURKETT, OF VIRGINIA
ROBERT A. BURKHOLDER, OF VIRGINIA
DANIELLA BRADSHAW, OF VIRGINIA
DANIELLA BRADSHAW
DANIELLA D. BRADSHAW
JASON ADAM CANNATAN, OF VIRGINIA
SEGUIN CERVANTES, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DAWN MICHELLE CARRIPEL, OF VIRGINIA
TIFATMA S. NAKA, OF VIRGINIA
ROBERT K. CARNABY, OF VIRGINIA
MELA BONNER, OF FLORIDA
DIANNA B. BOSWORTH, OF VIRGINIA
BRANDY ANNE BOSWORTH
DIANNA B. BOSWORTH
BRANDON J. BELL, OF VIRGINIA
JOY J. BELL
LILY CATHERINE BERRY, OF CALIFORNIA
GREGORY T. BENTLEY
LINDSAY KAY BENSON
JORDAN THOMAS JUMP
JORDAN THOMAS JUMP
JORDAN THOMAS JUMP
TRISHA KAY JUH, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
JOY J. JOUNG, OF VIRGINIA
LEAH JORDANO-KUDALIS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
GARY MONROE BOUTZ, OF VIRGINIA
LUMBIA
LUMBIA
BIA
BIA
BIA
Dr. Lacey became a Fellow of the American ing and our nursing education communities. undeniable impact on the intersection of nurs- fullest, Dr. Lacey received numerous acco- opportunities. accredititation visits and scholarship and grant affiliations, and established best practices for advisor to the Dean, worked to expand clinical the College of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences at Howard University will con- Dr. Lacey was inducted as a “Living Legend” by the American Academy of Nursing where they innings, she successfully went on to build a formidable and impactful career in the nursing profession. Dr. Lacey’s expansive education began when she received her nursing degree from the Gilfoy School of Nursing at the Mis- sissippi Baptist Hospital in Jackson. This would be one of the first of many pioneering efforts Dr. Lacey would trailblaze to break bar- riers as one of the first Black students admitted into Georgetown University’s Nursing pro- gram, where she completed her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) in 1969. There- after, Dr. Lacey earned her Master of Arts from Howard University in 1985. Her tenacity did not allow her to stop there. She would go on to earn her terminal degree in her 50’s with her Doctor of Education from the prestigious Columbia University’s Teacher’s College in 1991. Throughout her career path, Dr. Lacey served Howard University Hospital for more than 30 years. While there is a robust list of accomplishments that are too many to exhaust here, to name a few, Dr. Lacey became the Founding Dean and Professor at Western Michigan University’s School of Nursing, where she remained until 1999. Thereafter, she went on to act as Special Assistant to the President of Western Michigan University. Other notable titles held include: Professor and Chair in the Department of Nursing at Prince George’s Community College; Execu- tive Director of Children’s National Medical Center, School Health Program; and Chair- person in the Department of Nursing at Bowie State University. In 2018, coming out of retire- ment, Dr. Lacey was led back to Howard University, where she served as Vice-Chair for the College of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences. In this role, she acted as a trusted advisor to the Dean, worked to expand clinical affiliations, and established best practices for accreditation visits and scholarship and grant opportunities. Throughout her 88-years of living life to the fullest, Dr. Lacey received numerous accolades—which are tangible testaments to her undeniable impact on the intersection of nurs- ing and our nursing education communities. Dr. Lacey became a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing; was honored as a Distingui- shed Alumna at Georgetown University; a recipient of the Legacy of Leadership Award from Howard University; and in 2014, Dr. Lacey was inducted as a “Living Legend” by the American Academy of Nursing where they induded her into the Academy’s Hall of Fame. In addition, the College of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences at Howard University will con- tinue to recognize Dr. Lacey’s impact by initi- ating an annual “Bernardine M. Lacey Re- search Day,” to be established next year. Dr. Lacey’s significant contributions to the field of nursing and public health are widely appreciated by a host of colleagues, friends, and students. In addition to her professional accomplishments, Dr. Lacey walked with time- less class, grace, style, and courage, all while quick to offer a warm smile. Most especially, I am grateful to Dr. Lacey for the guidance and support as my biggest sponsor that she provided to me upon my 2020 induction as a Fellow to the American Academy of Nursing. Dr. Lacey served as an enduring connection between my office and the nursing community. Madam Speaker, allow me this moment to express condolences to Dr. Lacey’s family, friends, and colleagues. Though her presence will be sorely missed by many, including myself, I pray that we may find solace in remem- bering her legacy for years to come.

JULISSA NUNEZ OCUEGURA
HON. ED PERLMUTTER
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 13, 2021
Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Julissa Nunez Ocuegura for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Julissa Nunez Ocuegura is a student at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities. The dedication demonstrated by Julissa Nunez Ocuegura is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential stu- dents at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives. I extend my deepest congratulations to Julissa Nunez Ocuegura for winning the Ar- vada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

MADE IN AMERICA ACT
HON. JOHN GARAMENDI
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 13, 2021
Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I reintroduce the “Made in America Act” with U.S. Senator TAMMY BALDWIN (D–WI). Our bi- cameral and bipartisan bill would strengthen “Buy America” requirements for all federal infrastructure programs, including federally funded highway, rail, transit, aviation, levee, and water projects. The “Made in America Act” identifies federal programs that fund infrastructure not currently subject to “Buy America” standards and en- sures that building materials used in these tax- payer-funded projects are produced domesti- cally. When setting standards to determine which materials used in construction will be considered “Made in America,” the bill re- quires the Department of Commerce to ensure that their manufacturing processes support American jobs.

Congress is poised to make the most signifi- cant investment in our nation’s infrastructure in nearly half a century. This is a once-in-a-gen- eration opportunity to advance commonsense “Buy America” and “Make it in America” poli- cies to rebuild and modernize our nation’s crumbling infrastructure. In the process, we can never be outsourced and make America competitive in the 21st century.

Unfortunately, numerous Government Ac- countability Office (GAO) reports have con- firmed that many of our nation’s existing trade obligations often provide trading partners more opportunity to win American government pro- curement work than American businesses re- ceive in return. The “Made in America Act” would take steps to correct this imbalance by ensuring that taxpayer dollars spent on American-made materials created by Amer- ican workers and businesses.

Madam Speaker, Americans are right to ex- pect that taxpayer dollars spent on infrastruc- ture projects support domestic manufacturing. I want to thank my House colleagues for their support as the bill’s original cosponsors. I urge all Members to join us in cosponsoring this critical legislation. As a senior member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infra- structure, I plan to make the “Made in Amer- ica Act” a majority priority in the 2021 surface transportation reauthorization and any infra- structure package.

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF GERALD IRONS, SR.
HON. KEVIN BRADY
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 13, 2021
Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Gerald Irons, a treasured member of my community, who sadly passed away Thursday, April 1, 2021. Born May 2, 1947 in Gary, Indiana, Gerald Irons, Sr.’s life was marked by outstanding achievement and service. After graduating from Gary Roosevelt High School, Gerald attended the University of Maryland-Eastern Shore. During his time in college, he excelled
both on and off of the football field, serving as captain of the football team and as student government vice president.

After being selected in the third round of the 1970 draft by the Oakland Raiders, Gerald continued his run of excellence at the professional level. After six years starting at linebacker for the Raiders, Gerald spent four years with the Cleveland Browns before retiring in 1980. Named an “Oakland Raiders Legend,” listed among the “100 Greatest Cleveland Browns” of all time, and named to the Indiana Football Hall of Fame in 2013, Gerald’s athletic career proved truly remarkable.

Even so, his time off the field proved as noteworthy as his time on it. During the off-seasons of his NFL career, he continued his pursuit of education, earning a master’s degree in Business Administration from the University of Chicago. Gerald put his skills and experiences to quick use. He spent a distinguished 32 years working with The Woodlands Development Company, helping hundreds of businesses relocate to The Woodlands. Gerald also served for 22 years on the Conroe ISD Board of Trustees during a period which saw student enrollment double. Because of his continued commitment to enhancing educational opportunities for others, Gerald D. Irons, Sr. Junior High School was named in his honor.

Gerald and his family were a driving force behind the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration and Drum Major Awards held each January in the Woodlands. Gerald was integral to the founding of Impact Church in the Woodlands where he served as an elder. Due to their exemplary lives of active involvement in the community, the Irons were named Hometown Heroes.

In the words of his family, “He lived a life of service to his family, church and community; to know Gerald was truly to love Gerald.” Gerald is remembered by his loving wife, Myrna, and many loving children and grandchildren.

I join the entire community in honoring Gerald Irons for his dedicated life of service to others. His amazing legacy will always be cherished in our community.

KALEO CONLEY-NAKAMURA
HON. ED PERLMUTTER
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 13, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kaleo Conley-Nakamura for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Kaleo Conley-Nakamura is a student at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kaleo Conley-Nakamura is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Kaleo Conley-Nakamura for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

KATY MCDougAL
HON. ED PERLMUTTER
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 13, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Katy McDougall for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Katy McDougall is a student at Three Creeks K–8 and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Katy McDougall is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Katy McDougall for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL BORinquENERS DAY

HON. JENNIFER GONZÁLEz-COLON
OF PUERTO RICO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 13, 2021

Miss GONZÁLEz-COLON. Madam Speaker, the history of Puerto Rico is rich with examples of men and women from all walks of life, whose accomplishments inspire us today and draw the attention of the world to our Island. But one group stands out as an institution whose efforts enrich the enduring legacy and might of U.S. military, and has left an indelible mark on all Puerto Ricans and in the history of our nation and the world. The 65th Infantry Regiment is this institution.
Recognizing the Service of Rep. Jamie Raskin

Hon. Dean Phillips of Minnesota in the House of Representatives

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

Mr. Phillips. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of my friend and colleague, Rep. Jamie Raskin, in the face of tragedy and tremendously difficult circumstances, by offering a column written by one of my constituents, Kurtis Meyer.

[From the St. Ansgar Enterprise Journal]

(By Kurtis Meyer)

Until recently, I hadn’t paid much attention to Congressman Jamie Raskin from Maryland. I had seen him a few times on TV news programs, but the House of Representatives generally rewards seniority instead of ability. Since Congressman Raskin was first elected in 2016, he was lacking in the category that often earns Washington status and power.

Several months ago, in late 2020, Congressman Raskin’s world was altered suddenly and dramatically. His son, Tommy, a second-year law student at Harvard, one of three Raskin children, took his life, succumbing to depression. His burial was on January 5th.

We all know what it’s like to be a human, what it’s like to have to be a human. Tommy had a perfect heart, a perfect soul. He was a strikingly beautiful curly-haired madcap boy, a cherub, a little angel (and) grew up as a brainy and tremendously difficult circumstances, to be a beacon of enlightened democracy.

As the Congressman is fond of saying, “Change is made by people who show up.” Under the most difficult circumstances imaginable, Jamie Raskin showed up. I know of no better example of an elected official responding to duty, of placing service before self. In doing so, Congressman Raskin cast a clear light on the path ahead.

Today, April 13, 2021 as we commemorate the first National Borrinqueños Day—an initiative that I am proud to have led along with Senators Scott and Rubio, and Representative Murphy—call on this body and all the citizens of our great nation to be inspired by the example of those who work together to overcome the challenges that we face.

Karymme Rodela

Hon. Ed Perlmutter of Colorado in the House of Representatives

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

Mr. Perlmutter. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Karymme Rodela for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Karymme Rodela is a student at Jefferson Jr./Sr. H.S. and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Karymme Rodela is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Karymme Rodela in recognition of outstanding public school teachers in Florida’s 16th Congressional District.

I was once told that children are 25 percent of the population, but they are 100 percent of the future. And it’s true. The education of a child is an investment, not only in that student, but in the future of our country.

Therefore, I established the Congressional Teacher Awards to honor educators for their ability to teach and inspire students.
An independent panel has chosen the following teachers from Manatee, Sarasota, and Hillsborough counties to receive Florida’s 16th District’s 2021 Congressional Teacher Award for their accomplishments as educators: Tammy Merrell for her accomplishments as a teacher at Sarasota Elementary School.

Carol Marks for her accomplishments as a teacher at Lincoln Memorial Academy.

Jeremiah Bowman for his accomplishments as a teacher at Braden River High School.

Kari Johnson for her accomplishments as a teacher at Fruitville Elementary School.

Judi Robson for her accomplishments as a teacher at Sarasota Middle School.

Jeanette Marks for her accomplishments as a teacher at Sarasota Military Academy.

Timothy Marks for his accomplishments as a teacher at East Bay Senior High School.

On behalf of the people of Florida’s 16th District, I congratulate each of these outstanding teachers and offer my sincere appreciation for their service and dedication.

LUKE KELLOGG

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Luke Kellogg for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award.

Luke Kellogg is a student at Ralston Valley H.S. and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Luke Kellogg is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Luke Kellogg for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

LUKE KELLOGG

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I reintroduce the House resolution celebrating Vaisakhi: an annual harvest festival widely celebrated in northern India and throughout the world.

This resolution recognizes the historic, cultural, and religious significance of the festival of Vaisakhi. This annual harvest festival is celebrated globally by people of many different faiths including Sikhs, Hindus, and Buddhists. It is particularly significant for Sikhs because it coincides with the formation of Khalsa in 1699.

In the United States, Vaisakhi is celebrated with large processions, celebrations, and community service. Vaisakhi celebrates community, prosperity, and continued progress in the year ahead. As our country emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic, it is critical that we celebrate the strength of our communities and the sacrifice it will take to defeat the coronavirus and look toward the future.

As the co-chair of the American Sikh Congressional Caucus, I am honored to reintroduce this biennial resolution recognizing the importance of Vaisakhi. April 13 marks the start of the beginning of the Sikh religion and the start of the Punjabi New Year. Late 2020 and early 2021 has tested the Indian Sikh community, but I hope the coming months will be marked by peace, prosperity, and respect for all faith communities.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all Members of the House to join me in recognizing the significance of Vaisakhi and those who celebrate it.

KATHRYN WOODCOCK

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kathryn Woodcock for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kathryn Woodcock is a student at Arvada West H.S. and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kathryn Woodcock is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Kathryn Woodcock for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

KATHRYN WOODCOCK

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 2021


General, Executive, Representative, Senator, National Chairman, Ambassador, Cabinet Secretary, Senior Counselor Bill Brock was correctly recognized as “a statesman of the highest caliber, leading by example, with freedom and humility.”

I especially appreciate his achievements of developing the modern Republican Party in the South from virtually no presence to my home state of South Carolina now appreciating the largest Republican majorities in 140 years.

His obituary from The Journal is clearly descriptive of the man who led with a loving spirit and his abiding commitment to education, trade, policy and politics right up until the time of his passing. His family and friends will remember him for his gentle, loving spirit and his abiding commitment to his Father, his family, and his country. He was a statesman of the highest caliber, leading by example, with kindness and humility.

Mr. Brock was predeceased by his mother, Margaret “Archer” Brock; six children and step-children and their spouses, William “Bill” Brock IV (Laura), Oscar Brock (Meg), Lukasz “Lukas” Brock (Jenny), John Brock (Peggy), Julie Crum Janka (John), and Stephen “Steve” Crum (Theresa); 19 grandchildren, William “Bill” Brock V (Morgan), Matthew “Matt” Brock, Michael “Mike” Brock (Sarah), Margaret “Archer” Brock, Eleanor Brock, Peter Doyle, Laura Doyle, Erin Doyle, Katherine “Katie” Doyle, John “JB” Doyle, Morgan Cram, and Samantha Cram Butler (Taft), Reagan Cram, McKay Cram, Brandon Fritz, Ian Fritz, Kaila Fritz, and his Father, his family, and his country. He was a statesman of the highest caliber, leading by example, with kindness and humility.

Mr. Brock was predeceased by his mother, Margaret “Archer” Brock; six children and step-children and their spouses, William “Bill” Brock IV (Laura), Oscar Brock (Meg), Lukasz “Lukas” Brock (Jenny), John Brock (Peggy), Julie Crum Janka (John), and Stephen “Steve” Crum (Theresa); 19 grandchildren, William “Bill” Brock V (Morgan), Matthew “Matt” Brock, Michael “Mike” Brock (Sarah), Margaret “Archer” Brock, Eleanor Brock, Peter Doyle, Laura Doyle, Erin Doyle, Katherine “Katie” Doyle, John “JB” Doyle, Morgan Cram, and Samantha Cram Butler (Taft), Reagan Cram, McKay Cram, Brandon Fritz, Ian Fritz, Kaila Fritz,
Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Maci Lesh for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Maci Lesh is a student at Oberon Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

Her dedication and commitment demonstrated by Maci Lesh is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential for students at all levels to strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Maci Lesh for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE FRONTLINE HEALTHCARE WORKERS OF SOUTH DAKOTA

HON. DUSTY JOHNSON
OF SOUTH DAKOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 13, 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.


Jennifer Redmond, Jordon Redmond, Marcia Reed, Roxanne Reed, Debra Reed, Abigail Reed, Cassie Reed, Lisa Reed, Kassandra Reed, Shannon Reed, Brittany Reed, Miranda Reed, Julie Reeder, Angela Reeg, Jessica Reese, Lori Reetz, Tina Reeves, Jujette Refugia, Jacey Regan, Carol Regier, Ashley Regimbal, Madison Regerus, Tracy Regner, Miranda Regner, Alan Regynski, Char Rehak, Sara Rehr-Weid, Althia Rehfeldt, Katherine Rehfeldt, Corey Rehfelt, Taylor Rehfeldt, Lisa Reich, Alexis Reich, Allie Reichelt, Makenzie Reichelt, Sheri Reichert, Cindy Reichling, Hannah Reichling, Thomas Reid, Cora Reid, Amber Reid, Taniece Reid, Casey Reid, Deon Reid-Davy, Rochelle Reider, Randy Reider, Roslyn Reid-Gordon, Kay Reidt, Kristin Reif, Vickie Reiff, Deanna Reiff, Danielle Reiff, Matthew Reiff, Rachel Reif, Joni Renfferger, Kristin Reifenberger, Paige Reikofski, Michelle Reil-Reiling, Karlin Renfro, Jenny Reimer, Karen Reimnitz, Maynard Reimnitz, Marvene Reinbold, Amanda Reinders, Tressa Reindl, Jennifer Reiner, Carie Reiner, Sarah Reinert, Dandi Reinesch, Sandra Reinesch, Amber Reinesch, Justin Reinfield, Clayon Reinhardt, Stephanien Reinhardt, Carl Reinhardt, Arn Reinzt, Amber Reints, Rachel Reints, Jaime Reis, Megan Reisch, Sue Reisch, Patricia Reisdorfer, Joan Reisdorfer, Kylee Reisdorfer, Amy Reiser, Nicole Reisush, Nancy Reister, Gabrielle Reitan, Carly Reiter, Victoria Reiter, Jenifer Retisama, Crystal Reitsma, Tiffany Retisma, Gwen Reker.

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The dedication demonstrated by Maxim G. Lomanov is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Maxim G. Lomanov for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.
Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1879–S1905

Measures Introduced: Thirty bills and six resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1078–1107, and S. Res. 149–154.

Measures Reported:


Special Report entitled “Report on the Activities of the Committee on Finance During the 116th Congress”. (S. Rept. No. 117–9)

Measures Passed:

Honoring the Memory of Officer William Francis “Billy” Evans: Senate agreed to S. Res. 152, honoring the memory of Officer William Francis “Billy” Evans of the United States Capitol Police for his selfless acts of heroism on the grounds of the United States Capitol on April 2, 2021.

Appointments:

Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts: The Chair, on behalf of the President of the Senate, pursuant to Public Law 85–874, as amended, appointed the following individuals to the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts: Senators Warner (re-appointment) and Van Hollen.

Gensler Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Gary Gensler, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

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

By 53 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. EX. 147), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 10:30 a.m., on Wednesday, April 14, 2021; that the post-cloture time on the nomination be considered expired at 11:45 a.m.; and that if cloture is invoked on the nomination of Brenda Mallory, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Council on Environmental Quality, all post-cloture time be considered expired at 3:30 p.m.

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 82 yeas 15 nays (Vote No. EX. 144), Polly Ellen Trottenberg, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of Transportation.

By 56 yeas 42 nays (Vote No. EX. 146), Wendy Ruth Sherman, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of State.

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

By 55 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. EX. 145), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

6 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.
41 Army nominations in the rank of general.
5 Marine Corps nominations in the rank of general.
10 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.
11 Space Force nominations in the rank of general.

Routine lists in the Army and Foreign Service.

Additional Cosponsors:

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Additional Statements:

Amendments Submitted:

Authorities for Committees to Meet:

Privileges of the Floor:

Record Votes: Four record votes were taken today. (Total—147)

Adjournment: Senate convened at 12 noon and adjourned, as a further mark of respect to the memory...
of the late United States Capitol Police Officer William Francis “Billy” Evans, pursuant to the provisions of S. Res. 152, at 6:42 p.m., until 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 14, 2021. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S1902.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

DEFENSE INNOVATION AND RESEARCH
Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense concluded a hearing to examine Department of Defense innovation and research, after receiving testimony from Barbara McQuiston, performing the duties of the Under Secretary for Research and Engineering, and Stefanie Tompkins, Director, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, both of the Department of Defense.

APPROPRIATIONS: NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine the President’s proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2022 for the National Science Foundation and securing United States competitiveness, after receiving testimony from Sethuraman Panchanathan, Director, National Science Foundation.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN HOUSING
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the legacy of racial discrimination in housing, including S. 769, to authorize funds to prevent housing discrimination through the use of nationwide testing, to increase funds for the Fair Housing Initiatives Program, after receiving testimony from Richard Rothstein, NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc., New York, New York; Lisa Rice, National Fair Housing Alliance, and Howard Husock, and Tobias Peter, both of the American Enterprise Institute, all of Washington, D.C.; and Jason Reece, The Ohio State University Knowlton School of Architecture, Columbus.

STUDENT DEBT BURDEN
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Subcommittee on Economic Policy concluded a hearing to examine the student debt burden and its impact on racial justice, borrowers, and the economy, after receiving testimony from Representatives Pressley and Donalds; Maura Healey, Massachusetts Attorney General, Boston; James Steeley, Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency, Harrisburg; Jack Remondi, Navient, Reston, Virginia; Beth Akers, American Enterprise Institute, and Alexander Holt, Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, both of Washington, D.C.; Constantine Yannelis, University of Chicago Booth School of Business, Chicago, Illinois; Adam Looney, University of Utah Malmö S. Eccles Institute, Salt Lake City; Dominique J. Baker, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas; and Darimir Perez, New York, New York.

TRAVEL AND TOURISM DURING COVID–19
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Tourism, Trade, and Export Promotion concluded a hearing to examine the state of travel and tourism during COVID–19, after receiving testimony from Steve Hill, Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, Las Vegas, Nevada; Jorge Perez, MGM Resorts International, Oxon Hill, Maryland; Tori Emerson Barnes, U.S. Travel Association, Washington, D.C.; and Carol Dover, Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association, Tallahassee.

2021 TAX FILING SEASON
Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the 2021 filing season and 21st century IRS, after receiving testimony from Charles P. Rettig, Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury.
House of Representatives

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 38 public bills, H.R. 2457–2494; 2 private bills, H.R. 2495–2496; and 6 resolutions, H.J. Res. 39; and H. Res. 304–309, were introduced. Pages H1734–37

Additional Cosponsors: Page H1738

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:
H. Res. 303, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 7) to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1195) to direct the Secretary of Labor to issue an occupational safety and health standard that requires covered employers within the health care and social service industries to develop and implement a comprehensive workplace violence prevention plan, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 117–15).

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

Communication from the Committee on Ethics: Read a communication from the Committee on Ethics regarding an appeal received from Representative Clyde of two fines imposed pursuant to H. Res. 73, which were received before the Committee adopted its written rules. A majority of the Committee did not agree to the appeal.

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure: Preventing across-the-board direct spending cuts: Concluded in the Senate amendment to H.R. 1868, to prevent across-the-board direct spending cuts, by a 2⁄3 yea-and-nay vote of 384 yeas to 38 nays, Roll No. 98.

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H1729.

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote developed during the proceedings of today and appears on pages H1732–33.

Adjournment: The House met at 7 p.m. and adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Committee Meetings

LEGISLATIVE MEASURE

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States hearing on H.R. 1884, to repeal section 3003 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, and for other purposes. Testimony was heard from Mila Besich, Mayor, Superior, Arizona; and public witnesses.

WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION FOR HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL SERVICE WORKERS ACT

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 7, the “Paycheck Fairness Act”; and H.R. 1195, the “Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act”. The Committee granted, by record vote of 8–4, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 7, the “Paycheck Fairness Act”, and H.R. 1195, the “Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act”. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 7, the “Paycheck Fairness Act”, under a structured rule. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Labor. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and Labor now printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in part A of the Rules Committee report, shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides that following debate, each further amendment printed in part B of the Rules Committee report not earlier considered as part of amendments en bloc pursuant to section 3 shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, may be withdrawn by the proponent at any time before the question is put thereon, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. Section 3 of the rule provides that at any time after debate the chair of the Committee on Education and Labor or his designee may offer
amendments en bloc consisting of further amendments printed in part B of the Rules Committee report not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Labor or their designees, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 1195, the “Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act”, under a structured rule. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Labor. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and Labor now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides that following debate, each further amendment printed in part C of the Rules Committee report not earlier considered as part of amendments en bloc pursuant to section 6 shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, may be withdrawn by the proponent at any time before the question is put thereon, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. Section 6 of the rule provides that at any time after debate the chair of the Committee on Education and Labor or his designee may offer amendments en bloc consisting of further amendments printed in part C of the Rules Committee report not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Labor or their designees, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in parts B and C of the Rules Committee report or amendments en bloc described in sections 3 and 6 of the resolution. Testimony was heard from Chairman Scott of Virginia, Chairman DeLauro, and Representatives Foxx and Courtney.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 2021

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Homeland Security, to hold hearings to examine the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s response to COVID–19 and other challenges, 2 p.m., SD–138.

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, to hold hearings to examine future cybersecurity architectures, 2:30 p.m., SR–222.


Committee on Environment and Public Works: business meeting to consider S. 914, to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize programs under those Acts; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the long-term solvency of the Highway Trust Fund, focusing on lessons learned from the Surface Transportation System Funding Alternatives Program and other user-based revenue solutions, and how funding uncertainty affects the highway programs, 10 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: business meeting to consider the nominations of Deanne Bennett Criswell, of New York, to be Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, and Jason Scott Miller, of Maryland, to be Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget, 9:45 a.m., SD–342.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine preparedness for COVID–19, focusing on the initial pandemic response and lessons learned, 10 a.m., VTC.

Committee on Indian Affairs: to hold an oversight hearing to examine the COVID–19 response in Native communities, focusing on Native health systems one year later, 2:30 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Kristen M. Clarke, and Todd Sunhwae Kim, both of the District of Columbia, both to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Richard A. Sauber, of the District of Columbia, to be General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, 3 p.m., SD–106.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold hearings to examine worldwide threats, 10 a.m., SH–216.

Full Committee, to hold closed hearings to examine worldwide threats, 1 p.m., SVC–217.
House Committees

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled “The U.S. Department of Agriculture—The Year Ahead”, 10 a.m., Webex.

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the National Science Foundation, 10 a.m., Webex.


Committee on Armed Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled “National Security Challenges and U.S. Military Activity in North and South America”, 11 a.m., 2118 Rayburn and Webex.


Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled Build Back Better: Investing in Equitable and Affordable Housing Infrastructure”, 10 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, Civilian Security, Migration, and International Economic Policy, hearing entitled “Renewing the United States’ Commitment to Addressing the Root Causes of Migration from Central America”, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn and Webex.


Committee on Natural Resources, Full Committee Office of Insular Affairs, hearing on H.R. 1522, the ‘Puerto Rico Statehood Admission Act’; and H.R. 2070, the “Puerto Rico Self-Determination Act of 2021”, 1 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 51, the “D.C. Admissions Act”; H.R. 1170, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 League in Irvine, California, as the “Tuskegee Airman Lieutenant Colonel Robert J. Friend Memorial Post Office Building”; H.R. 1444, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 132 North Loudoun Street, Suite 1 in Winchester, Virginia, as the “Patsy Cline Post Office”; H.R. 1298, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1233 North Cedar Street in Owasso, Oklahoma, as the “Staff Sergeant Marshal Roberts Post Office Building”; H.R. 960, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3493 Burnet Avenue in Cincinnati, Ohio, as the “John H. Leah and Herbert M. Heilbrun Post Office”; H.R. 767, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 40 Fulton Street in Middletown, New York, as the “Benjamin A. Gilman Post Office Building”; and H.R. 92, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 110 Johnson Street in Pickens, South Carolina, as the “Specialist Four Charles Johnson Post Office”, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Members’ Day Hearing”, 11 a.m., 2167 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, hearing on H.R. 147, the “Bringing Registered Apprenticeships to Veterans Education Act”; H.R. 219, the “Protecting the Employment Rights of Service Members Act”; legislation on Value Added Homes for Veterans Act; legislation on Homeless Veterans Credit Repair, Enhancement, and Debt Improvement for Tomorrow Act; legislation on Native VetSuccess Pilot; legislation on Time Extension for Use of Educational Assistance in Emergencies; legislation on GI and Veterans Education Empowerment Act; legislation on Expanding Eligibility for Additional Adapted Vehicles; legislation on Rounding Out Affordable Housing for Homeless Veterans Act of 2021; legislation on In-State Tuition for Survivors’ and Dependents’ Educational Assistance Program; legislation on Increased Authorized Appropriation for VET TEC; legislation on Modern IT Service for Educational Assistance Claims; legislation on Short-Term Fellowships; legislation on Establish Veteran Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, and legislation on Time Period Eligibility Elimination for Survivors’ and Dependents’ Educational Assistance Program, 10 a.m., Zoom.

Subcommittee on Technology Modernization, hearing entitled “Strategic Review: Evaluating Concerns About the Ongoing Implementation of the Electronic Health Record Modernization Program”, 2 p.m., Zoom.

Joint Meetings

Joint Economic Committee: to hold hearings to examine vaccinations and economic recovery, 2:30 p.m., WEBEX.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
10:30 a.m., Wednesday, April 14

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Gary Gensler, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation thereon at 11:45 a.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Gary Gensler, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Brenda Mallory, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Council on Environmental Quality. If cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 3:30 p.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Brenda Mallory, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 937, COVID–19 Hate Crimes Act.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
10 a.m., Wednesday, April 14

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of measures under suspension of the Rules.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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