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 11, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable NANNETTE 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.

COMMUNICATION 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.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, 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. 1868) 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:

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF MEDICARE SEQUESTRA-
TION.

(a) Extension—
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 page 2761. 

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

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, as well as 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 as well.

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 this measure.

Many of my House Republican colleagues supported this bill in its original form, which would essentially put the American Rescue Plan on equal footing with our other COVID relief packages and ensure it is treated the same as the previous reconciliation bill passed by Congress.

So while today’s action is an important step, our work is not done. Next, we must enact an additional legislative fix to prevent a separate paygo sequester and avert painful and indiscriminate cuts to Medicare, farm supports, social services, resources for students and individuals with disabilities, and other programs Americans rely on.

I am committed to passing this bill today, and enacting a second sequester fix before the end of this session of Congress. I invite all my colleagues to join me in these important efforts.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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 their concern that 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, when they were finally forced to act, they added $1.9 trillion into the American Rescue Plan on equal footing with our other COVID relief packages and then passed it.

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 a compromise 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 us today—legislation that averts a cut to Medicare Act and then further extended the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, 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.

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Our Democrat colleagues were unwilling to accept a compromise approach. They wanted to simply pretend $1.9 trillion in spending is not happening and erase the evidence.
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 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 they otherwise would have received during this time. The pause in the operability of the 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 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 Chairman 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 what is prudent and possible to protect America’s seniors.

In the meantime, we can and should act on the legislation before us to do what is prudent and possible to protect America’s seniors.

I thank the gentleman from Kentucky for yielding.

Madam Speaker, the American Rescue Plan will bring $16.7 billion to the State of Texas. The lion’s share of $3.3 billion will come directly to the city of Houston and Harris County.

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.

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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 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 time to the end of fiscal year 2021, or September 30, 2021.

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recipient government) during the pandemic, providing up to $13 per hour above regular wages;

3. For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to the pandemic (relative to revenues collected in the immediately preceding calendar year); and

4. To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

In addition to these funds, Texas will receive $100 million out of the newly created $10 billion Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund for "critically capital projects" directly enabling work, education, and health monitoring, including remote options, in response to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease.

Now all that is well and good but let me tell you what the American Rescue Plan Act means for a hardworking and hard-pressed single mother of two children making a modest income:

Stimulus checks: $1,400 × 3 = $4,200, Child tax credit: $3,600 (5-year-old) + $3,000 (3-year-old) = $6,600. Half of that amount will be paid out periodically from late July through December, the rest will come as a check with next year’s taxes.

Enhanced unemployment: If the parent becomes unemployed in March, she will be eligible for $396 in aid every week through the last week of August. Total: $10,800 from stimulus and tax credits, not voting 6, as follows:

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I will just say that Republicans don’t cut Medicare. In fact, the Biden bailout bill was passed with $37 billion 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 is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 1868.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

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

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. JOHNSON 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 Provision to consider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDER PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

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| Banks      | Fixx         | Norman        | Mitchell      |               |
| Biggs      | Geez         | Perry         |               |               |
| Bishop (NC)| Good (VA)    | Pfluger       |               |               |
| Borror     | Gooden (TX)  | Rosendale     |               |               |
| Brooks     | Horn          | Roy           |               |               |
| Budd       | Holder       | Rhett         |               |               |
| Cammack    | Jordan       | Schweichtel   |               |               |
| Cloud      | Mann          | Stewart       |               |               |
| Clyde      | Massie       | Taylor        |               |               |
| Comer      | Mast          | Weber (TX)    |               |               |
| Donalds    | Mason         |               |               |               |
| Connolly   | dodge        | Lowdermilk    |               |               |
| Cawthorn   | Greene (GA)  |               |               |               |
| Brady      | Duncan        |               |               |               |
| Cawthorn   | Greene (GA)  |               |               |               |
|            |               |               |               |               |

[202x762] CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE H1733

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(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-759. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agen-

EC-760. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agen-

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EC-767. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agen-

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EC-769. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agen-

EC-770. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agen-

EC-771. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agen-

EC-772. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting two (2) actions on nominations, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 339A(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 2021; (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-774. A letter from the Chairman, Surface Transportation Board, transmitting the Board’s final rule — Civil Monetary Penalties for 2021 Adjustments, (Sub-No. 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 the Judiciary.

EC-775. A letter from the Chief, Regulatory 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.: 2880-21; Docket No.: USCIS 2020-0019) (RIN: 1615-AC61) 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 for commercial Aquatic Life Criteria Applicable to Oregon (EPA-HQ-OW-2016-0069; FRL-100190-00-OW) (RIN: 2040-AF70) 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; Delay of Effective Date (EPA-OW-2017-0000; FRL-100209-00-OW) (RIN: 2040-AF15) 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:

For printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

By Mr. MOORE of Alabama:

H.R. 2457. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the disapproval of veterans' affairs courses of education offered by public institutions of higher learning that do not charge veterans the in-State tuition rate for purposes of Education 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 employment of securitization, or the business or sector partnerships to encourage in

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. Cox 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 amend the Government Accountability Office to evaluate appropriate coverage of assistive technologies provided to patients who experience amputation; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. 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. COLE of New York):

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 Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. DEL NUNZIO (for herself, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mrs. AXNAR, Ms. BAHRAGAN, Ms. BAS, Mrs. BRATY, Mr. BERK, Mr. BERTUZZI, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. BROWN, Ms. BUSH, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. CARRAJAL, Mr. CARSON, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. CHU, Mr. CICILINA, Ms. CLARK of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONOLLY, Mr. COOPER, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. CRAIK, Mr. CROW, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEAN, Ms. DÉGÉETTE, Ms. DELBENE, Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. DESAULNIER, Mrs. DENGELL, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. EVANS, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. GALLEGOS, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. GRUNALVA, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. HOUHLAN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. JACOBS of California, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JONES, Mr. KAHIELI, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KEATING, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. KHANNA, Mr. KILDER, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KISKB, Ms. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. KRISHNAAMOORTHI, Mr. LAMB, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LAWSON of Florida, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. LEE HiRSEN, Mr. LERVIN of Michigan, Mr. LIU, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. MATSU, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCKINNEY, Mr. MEIKS, Ms. MENDO, Mr. MORMIL, Mr. MOUTON, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NIEUSE, Mr. NEWMAN, Mr. NICKEL, Mr. NORSTON, Mr. OCASIO-CORTÉZ, Ms. OMA, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PASSAL, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PEARLMUTTER, Mr. PENNORS, Ms. PINGER, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PORTER, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RASKIN, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. ROSS, Mr. RUDI, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. RUSH, Mr. RYAN, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. SARRANES, Ms. SCALONI, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. SCHRIER, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. SHERES, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SOTO, Ms. SPERK, Mr. STRICKER to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. TUTT, Ms. TULIS, Mr. }

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk
H.R. 2467. A bill to designate certain future interstates and high priority corridors in Kentucky, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

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

H.R. 2471. A bill to measure the progress of post-disaster recovery and efforts to address corruption, drug, and crime; and to protect and expand media freedoms in Haiti; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

H.R. 2472. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 27622 Cadiz Jewel Road in Cadiz, Ohio, as the "Howard Arthur Tibbs Post Office"; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

H.R. 2473. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2755 Penn Road, as the "Howard Arthur Tibbs Post Office"; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

H.R. 2474. A bill to allow certain veterans to use high occupancy vehicle lanes, including toll lanes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

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.

H.R. 2476. A bill to provide support for urban forests, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure.

H.R. 2477. A bill to provide support for urban forests, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure.

H.R. 2478. A bill to increase the availability of menstrual products in certain public buildings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

H.R. 2479. A bill to direct the Secretary of State to submit to Congress a report identifying efforts by the People's Republic of China to expand its presence and influence in Latin America and the Caribbean and describing the implications of such efforts on United States' interests, to require a briefing for Congress on the United States' strategy to respond to these efforts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

H.R. 2480. A bill to expand and improve access to trauma-informed mental health interventions for newly arriving immigrants at the border, to alleviate the stress and trauma education for new 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.

H.R. 2481. 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. PETERS (for himself, Mrs. ROGERS of Washington, Mr. KILMER, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. LOWESTHL, Mr. BERA, Mr. SUOZI, and Ms. BLUNT ROCH- ESTER):

H.R. 2482. 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. BALDERSON, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. RYAN, Mr. TURNER, and Ms. WENSTRUP:

H.R. 2483. A bill to establish and improve access to financial services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PORTER (for himself, Ms. DELAURA, Mr. GHELALTA, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. KANNA, Mr. NROUZE, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Mr. COHEN):

H.R. 2484. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Public Health Service Act to require pharmaceuticals 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 on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. QUIGLEY (for himself, Mr. COMER, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. COOPER, Mr. WALBERG, Ms. NORTON, Mr. TAYLOR of Georgia, Mr. BICK of Georgia, Mr. KANNA, Mrs. RICK of Oklahoma, Mr. DANNY K.

April 13, 2021

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE
H. R. 2486. 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; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. ROSENDALE (for himself and Mr. SOTO):

To amend the Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act of 1999 to modify certain agricultural exemptions for hours of service requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

H. R. 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. R. 2492. A bill to amend United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make available to veterans related to wage discrimination, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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

H. R. 2493. A bill to provide for the restoration of legal rights for claimants under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 who have been denied their rights because of the separation of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY (for himself and Mr. SCHUETZ)

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. VALADAO, Mr. MILLER, Mr. MENG, Ms. ESCH, Ms. STVENS, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. FALLON, Ms. LOPUHEN, Mr. BEER, 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. GALLEGEO, Mr. O'HALLEHER, Mr. STANTON, Mr. KUPPERSBERGER, and Mr. HARTLEDER):

H. Res. 307. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should continue to support 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. SCHIFF):

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 $500,000,000 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 Mr. AUCHINCLOSS:
H. R. 2458.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Ms. BONAMICI:
H. R. 2459.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, section 8

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:
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 (P.L. 95-565) of December 2, 1978, 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.”

The Department of Education’s mission is to “promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.”

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. CHENey:
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. COHEN:
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 Defence and general Welfare of the United States.”

By Mr. CRAIG:
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 Ms. DeLAURO:
H. R. 2465.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: “To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.”

By Mrs. DEMINGS:
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 Mrs. DINGELL:
H. R. 2467.
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. GARAMENDI:
H. R. 2468.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. GOOD of Virginia:
H. R. 2469.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
2nd Amendment of the US Constitution

By Mr. GUTHRIE:
H. R. 2470.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Mr. JEFFRIES:
H. R. 2471.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio:
H. R. 2472.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio:
H. R. 2473.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. KUSTER:
H. R. 2474.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, and Clause 18.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:
H. R. 2475.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, 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 3.

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 Mrs. MURPHY of Florida:
H. R. 2478.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the us constitution [page H10170]

By Mr. NAPOLITANO:
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.

By Ms. NAPOLITANO:
H. R. 2481.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, clause 18.

By Mr. O’HALLERAN:
H. R. 2482.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

By Mr. PANETTA:
H. R. 2483.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

By Mr. PETERS:
H. R. 2485.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

By Ms. PORTER:
H. R. 2486.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. STEWART:
H. R. 2487.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. STEWART:
H. R. 2488.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. STEWART:
H. R. 2489.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.
ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 40: Mr. Higgins of New York.
H.R. 109: Mr. Van Drew.
H.R. 110: Mr. Van Drew.
H.R. 144: Mr. Meng, Mr. Sessions, Mr. Baird, and Mrs. Kim of California.
H.R. 256: Ms. Strickland and Mr. Phillips.
H.R. 392: Mrs. Bratton.
H.R. 393: Mr. Larsen of Washington and Mr. Ross.
H.R. 425: Mr. Raskin.
H.R. 477: Mr. Grijalva.
H.R. 481: Ms. Mace.
H.R. 611: Mr.Neal and Ms. Titus.
H.R. 707: Mr. Scott of Virginia, Mr. Fitzgerald, Mrs. Bice of Oklahoma, and Mr. Emesh.
H.R. 708: Ms. Davids of Kansas and Mr. Walberg.
H.R. 746: Mr. Perlmutter.
H.R. 812: Mr. Thompson and Mr. Banks.
H.R. 822: Ms. Tenney and Mr. Krishnamoorthi.
H.R. 941: Ms. Omar.
H.R. 959: Mr. Veasey.
H.R. 1012: Mr. Garbarino and Ms. Wilson of Florida.
H.R. 1062: Mr. Cole.
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. Lescio, Mr. Banks, Mr. Lamb, Mr. Gómez, Mr. Reschenthaler, Mrs. Steil, Mr. Costa, and Mr. Clarke of New York.
H.R. 1202: Ms. Kuster, Mr. Casten, Mr. Schakowsky.
H.R. 1235: Ms. Williams of Georgia, Mr. Davidson, Mrs. Hayes, and Miss González-Colón.
H.R. 1251: Mr. Fitzpatrick.
H.R. 1283: Mr. Cloud.
H.R. 1284: Mr. Biggs, Mr. Buschett, Mrs. Cammack, Mr. Good of Virginia, and Mr. Fitzgerald.
H.R. 1302: Mr. Baird, Mr. Language, Mr. Harder of California, and Mr. Delgado.
H.R. 1333: Mr. Sarlan, Mr. Kilmer, Ms. Jackson Lee, and Mr. Carten.
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. 1501: Mr. Emmers 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. Casten.
H.R. 1573: Mr. Casten, Mr. Cicilline, Mr. Dann K. Davis of Illinois, Ms. Jackson Lee, Mr. Liu, Mr. Nguise, and Mr. Quigley.
H.R. 1576: Mr. Sauller.
H.R. 1587: Mr. Palazzo.
H.R. 1650: Mr. Curtis.
H.R. 1676: Mr. Krishnamoorthi.
H.R. 1692: Ms. Mashihi and Mr. Trone.
H.R. 1765: Mr. Davidson.
H.R. 1771: Mrs. Greene of Georgia.
H.R. 1819: Mr. Roybal-Allard.
The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the Honorable BEN RAY LUJÁN, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

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

Let us pray.
Eternal God, 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:

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 13, 2021.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule 1, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BEN RAY LUJÁN, a Senator from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME
The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER
The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

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 heartstirring—heartstirring—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
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 most vibrant and most visited cities every single day.

Before that, Polly served in the Department of Transportation under President Obama, advising policymakers 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 talking 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 ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

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 forces from [Syria or Afghanistan].

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].

Can President Biden certify 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-Qaeda 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—every source. 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, passed 92 to 6. 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 reasssembled 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.

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

[Rollcall Vote No. 144 Ex.]

YEAS—82


NAYS—15

Blackburn, Braun, Carper, Crass, Daines, Blackburn, Braun, Carper, Crass, Daines, Blackburn, Braun, Carper, Crass, Daines, Blackburn, Braun, Carper, Crass, Daines, Blackburn, Braun, Carper, Crass, Daines, Blackburn, Braun, Carper, Crass, Daines, Blackburn, Braun, Carper, Crass, Daines, Blackburn, Braun, Carper, Crass, Daines, Blackburn, Braun, Carper, Crass, Daines, Blackburn, Braun, Carper, Crass, Daines, Blackburn, Braun, Carper, Crass, Daines, Blackburn, Braun, Carper, Crass, Daines, Blackburn, Braun, Carper, Crass, Daines.
CLOTURE MOTION

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 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.

Mr. DURBIN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) are necessarily absent.

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

NAYS—42

NAYS—42

Barrasso Graham Moran
Blackburn Grassley Paul
Blunt Hagerty Paul
Boozman Hasey Rehse
Braun Hoeven Saenz
Cassidy Hyde-Smith Scott (FL)
Cory Booker Hirono Scott (NC)
Cotton Johnson Shelby
Cramer Kennedy Sullivan
Crapo Lankford Thune
Cruz Lee Toomey
Daines Lummis Tuberville
Ernst Marshall Wicker
Fischer McConnell Young

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 55, the nays are 42.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Clerk will report on the following nominations:

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Wendy Ruth Sherman, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of State.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

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 number of provisions is not 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 to the leaders of corporations who were voicing their opposition to the Georgia law. He said to them: You stay out of politics. He apparently did not say “Keep your money out of politics” because he has been a fan of the Citizens United decision, which gives those 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 address the 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 revive 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 after 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 bipartisanship in addressing the issue of race and politics. It is especially important given the scourgé of voter suppression laws that 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, under-aged and standing clauses, newfangled voter 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 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 under-aged voters, 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:

1. Voters will now have less time to request absentee ballots.
2. Georgia has cut by more than half the period during which voters can request an absentee ballot, from . . . six months . . . to less than three.
3. 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 good faith of this 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, these forms . . . have to provide a number from 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 led to a mass of people voting by record numbers of Georgians.

When Mr. Raffensperger didn’t mail applications again for the general election, several legal agencies did so, 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 automatically 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 drive-in voting centers 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, more 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 court 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 eye toward voter 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 shouldn’t countenance or accept in the 21st century.

In Illinois, 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 300,000 lives, 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 suffer 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. It should shock the 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 1 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. Of those, 70,000 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, the fatality 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, who is why ROSH KELLY—the Congresswoman from Illinois—and I joined with Senator DUCKWORTH 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 health coverage 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—including in my State of Illinois—more than 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 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 KELLY, UNDERWOOD, Senator DUCKWORTH, and I have been leading this effort in our State for the last several months. For this reason, I am very excited to announce this important effort from our State, and, this week, I am happy to announce that the Biden-Harris administration has granted this 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 the resources of our State, to lead the Nation, in our efforts to improve maternal health outcomes. The maternal mortality rates in the United States are two to three times more likely than White women.

I am happy to announce that the Biden-Harris administration has granted massive funding for the development of a national effort to reduce maternal mortality rates in the United States. This is a huge step toward ending this public health crisis. He is right. We need to understand 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; and he wants to make sure the use of the devices 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 allow family members to seek 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 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 done over the years is to make sure that the ATF hasn’t had the money or hasn’t had any leaders. We haven’t had anyone in the post for 6 years at the ATF with Senate confirmation. I want to change that if we can.

Last, but certainly not least, the President has announced billions of dollars for evidence-based community violence intervention programs through the American Jobs Plan and other grant programs. These are smart, targeted, and important proposals that are well within the bounds of the Constitution and that warrant the authority. I commend him for that action.

Yet we shouldn’t leave it to the President alone. We have a responsibility, too. We have to make sure we close the loopholes in the gun background check system that make it too easy for criminals and those with mental instability to get guns. We have known it for years, but we haven’t
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 these 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 $3 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 all of the families, such as 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 bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (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 new normal 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 wait 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 that said 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 members 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.

And I, venture to say, a lot of Independent and Democrat voters as well will see this for exactly what it is, and that is an attempt by Democrats to undermine an essential institution to ensure that Democrats get the Supreme Court rulings that they want.

Democrats can dress up their openness to Court-packing proposals in lofty language and faux expressions of concern for the institution, but no one—one no one is fooled. This is about power, pure and simple. Democrats want power.

They want to be able to impose the policies they want when they want them, and they are afraid, if the Supreme Court isn’t packed full of Democrat nominees, the Supreme Court might rule against them.

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? Fifteen? 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 Roe-#39;stein 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 radical democratic institutions to give our vote for us, not by undermining our democratic way, by persuading people to principle, but I believe we should be their political beliefs. I am pretty pas-

It is also worth remembering that this recovery can be stymied if regu-#248;ators impose inappropriate, burden-some regulations, including, say, back-
ded regulations by enforcements that we have seen in the past that hamper job growth, that limit access to capital or if these regulators mandate man-
gers 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 adminis-
ter Federal security laws and pur-
sued its mission on a pretty bipartisan basis, but increasingly, there are some who want the SEC to stray from this tradition and instead to push the bounds of its legal and regulatory au-
Turkish institutions in order to advance a par-
ticular liberal, social, and cultural agenda.

Unfortunately, when he was the Chairman of the CFTC, Mr. Gensler demonstrated a willingness to push the legal authorities and the legal limits of that Agency’s authority. He was responsible 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. Gensler, without a doubt, has a great deal of experience and expertise 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-
tion laws 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 will 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-
ons, independent regulator with no political accountability to voters whatsoever—to address diffi-
cult, challenging, sometimes conten-
tious political, social, and cultural issues.

What I have to say, nothing that Mr. Gensler said at his hearing or since has alleviated 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 really means, 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 that are not in the interest of the people, the reg-#207;erals who are accountable to the American people. Mr. Gensler did not disavow the idea of forcing or press-
suring 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 adv-
ocy—if that can ever be material in-
formation that must be disclosed to in-
voters. 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—the that makes it material information even if it is fi-
nancially insignificant to the company, and therefore the SEC could pre-
sumably mandate its disclosure. 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 also ask me, and that is Mr. Gensler’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 sense they were delivered.

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 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. I 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.

With 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, listen, 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 never 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 high 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, yet 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.

Under his leadership, the SEC can protect people’s hard-earned savings, can keep our markets stable, and can make them work. This will let us create an economy where everyone can participate.

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

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Mr. WICKER. The clerk will call the roll. The sergeant-at-arms legislative clerk proceeded to 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.

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 leaving experienced officers in high-ranks who deeply understand the legislative process. And, of course, the Congress gains immensely from the obvious leadership and intelligence and work ethic of these great men and women.

Andy Pate 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 congressional 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, 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 cutterman and senior officer has meaningfully informed the committee’s efforts, culminating in the enactment of the Elijah E. Cummings Coast Guard Authorization Act—the first 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 saw 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 of

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 their father.

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 think the two answers could be 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 bipartisan 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 chargers. In Texas, we generate more electricity from wind turbines 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 Electric Reliability Corporation, or NERC, 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 with 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’ 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.

And the bad news doesn’t stop there.

The list of unrelated and downright damaging provisions in this bill is a long one. The biggest question about this. Just last week, I joined folks from the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, or NERC, 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 with this unrealistic and pie-in-the-sky target.

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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.
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 that 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 we are beginning to come out of the pandemic, having been vaccinated and taking care for both 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 something 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 would address the needs of our country without driving the next generation deeper and deeper into debt.

There is no question that America’s roads and bridges—our real infrastructure—need an investment from the Federal Government, but we can update that infrastructure for far less than $2.65 trillion.

Last Congress, the Environment and Public Works Committee developed a truly bipartisan example of an infrastructure bill. It included provisions for rebuilding our crumbling roads and bridges to improve road safety, protect the environment, and grow the economy.

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 $237 billion 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 rolling the dice not only with 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 that I have or have not.

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 Independence, IA, community at this tragic loss.

OPIOD 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 be complacent 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 I 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 closely 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 overdoses connected with them 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 300 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.

How 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 final order to control fentanyl and placed 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 classwide 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 flooding our country. This scheduling order saves lives because China reciprocates. China’s move in scheduling fentanyl analogs isn’t necessarily altruistic; it is because the United States is doing it. So if we stop China, and China stops, 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 prevent the classwide scheduling order that otherwise expires on May 6, 23 days away.

Now this, I think—I am pretty sure—isn’t a political or a partisan issue. Senators from both sides of the aisle support efforts to schedule fentanyl substances. Members of the Biden administration have also indicated that addressing fentanyl is urgent. In fact, during confirmation hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Attorney General Garland stated that the constantly evolving nature of fentanyl analogs is—and I want to quote the new Attorney General—’a problem both without detection as well as control enforcement’ and that he is ‘in favor of doing something either by scheduling or legislation’ to proactively address the problem of fentanyl-related substances. Likewise, both law enforcement and substance abuse prevention groups believe Congress must act in scheduling fentanyl.

It is up to Congress to pass legislation to extend the fentanyl scheduling order. So I urge all of my colleagues to join me and other Republicans and Democrats in the fight against fentanyl. In the midst of an opioid epidemic, a polydrug crisis, and a COVID-19 pandemic, how can we allow for any additional death and destruction? The clock is ticking. We are closing in on the deadline of May 6. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. 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:

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. 33, Gary Gensler, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Charles E. Schumer, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher A. Coons, Patty Murray, Jeff Merkley, Tammy Baldwin, Elizabeth Warren, Robert Menendez, Richard Blumenthal, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Chris Van Hollen, Ron Wyden, Angus S. King, Jr., Robert P. Casey, Jr., Amy Klobuchar, Christopher Murphy,

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.

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:

[Roll Call Vote No. 146 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Baldwin Heinrich Peters
Bennet Hickenlooper Reed
Blumenthal Hirono Romney
Boozman Hoeven Rosen
Brown Kaine Sanders
Burr King Schatz
Cantwell Klobuchar Shaheen
Capito Leahy Sinema
Cardin Lujan Smith
Carper Manchin Stabenow
Collins Menendez Tester
Coons Merkley Van Hollen
Cortez Masto Murkowski Warner
Durbin Murray Whitehouse
Feinstein Ossoff Wyden
Gillibrand Padilla Young
Hassan Peters

NAYS—45

Barrasso Graham Klobuchar
Blackburn Grassley King
Blunt Hagerty Leahy
Boozman Hawley Lujan
Braun Hoeven Manchin
Cassidy Hyde-Smith Menendez
Collins Inhofe Morgan
Cotton Johnson Murray
Cramer Kennedy Ossoff
Crapo Lankford Padilla
Cruz Lee Padilla
Donnelly Lankford Pantaleon
Earnest Marshall Wicker
Fischer McConnell Wicker

NOT VOTING—2

Rounds 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:

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. 33, Gary Gensler, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Charles E. Schumer, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher A. Coons, Patty Murray, Jeff Merkley, Tammy Baldwin, Elizabeth Warren, Robert Menendez, Richard Blumenthal, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Chris Van Hollen, Ron Wyden, Angus S. King, Jr., Robert P. Casey, Jr., Amy Klobuchar, Christopher Murphy,

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.

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:

[Roll Call Vote No. 147 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Baldwin Heinrich Peters
Bennet Hickenlooper Reed
Blumenthal Hirono Romney
Boozman Hoeven Rosen
Brown Kaine Sanders
Burr King Schatz
Cantwell Klobuchar Shaheen
Capito Leahy Sinema
Cardin Lujan Smith
Carper Manchin Stabenow
Collins Menendez Tester
Coons Merkley Van Hollen
Cortez Masto Murkowski Warner
Durbin Murray Whitehouse
Feinstein Ossoff Wyden
Gillibrand Padilla Young
Hassan Peters

NAYS—45

Barrasso Graham Paul
Blackburn Grassley Portman
Blunt Hagerty Risch
Boozman Hawley Rubio
Braun Hoeven Saan
Cassidy Hyde-Smith Scott (FL)
Collins Inhofe Scott (SC)
Cotton Johnson Shelley
Cramer Kennedy Sullivan
Crapo Lankford Thune
Cruz Lee Toomey
Donnelly Lankford Tuberville
Earnest Marshall Wicker
Fischer McConnell Wicker

NOT VOTING—2

Rounds 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.

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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,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC,


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 remarkable 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 J. 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 presiding judge and executive officer of the West Virginia Judicial Association.

Shortly after graduating law school, Judge Kaufman tragically lost his partner, 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 devoted to 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 his home State due to their influence. In 2011, the 35th Street Bridge over the Kanawha River between the East End and Kanawha City was renamed 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 known the importance of good interpersonal communication and protecting the humanism in our court processes. He has been a fierce protector of the interests of the people in front of him in the courtroom, and he has always been at the forefront of 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 the years of friendship and our shared passion for serving the people of West Virginia. While he is retiring, Judge Kaufman is leaving a lasting legacy and has always seen himself primarily as a servant of the people.

LITTLE DID HE KNOW THE MAJOR IMPACT

Dr. Wherry became renowned in the medical world as a leading innovator in minimally invasive 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 colorectal 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 knowledge by collaborating with others, so he helped found the Society of American Gastrointestinal Endoscopic Surgeons.

He was 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, Azucena “Cenzy” 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 North Dakota.

He was a hard worker who was not afraid to put in long hours.

Because of his dedication to studying and advancing medicine, he changed the world for the better.

I join all 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 CONCERNING 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. 208, commonly referred to as the Equal Rights Amendment, to propose an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, pursuant to Article V of the Constitution of the United States, during its second session, on March 22, 1972, for the constitutionally mandated ratification of the amendment by three-fourths of the country’s state legislatures; and

Whereas, in Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 407, 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, pursuant to Article V of the Constitution of the United States; and

Whereas, in Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 407, 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, pursuant to Article V of the Constitution of the United States; and

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

That the 67th Legislative Assembly deems that the vitality of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 400 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. 208 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; and 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 M. KOOPFELMAN, Speaker of the House.
BRETT 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. JAEGER, 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 of 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 be-cause 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 investi-gate.

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 childcare center. Parents from accessing daycare and pre-vent them from being able to work or attend school on a consistent basis.

Vic began to think about alter-na-tives. 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 dia-pers 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 suf-fer multiple days in the same diaper. Not only is this tremendously uncom-fortable, it also puts the child at risk of serious illness and disease. In fact, according to one expert, 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 Dia-per 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 distrib-uting diapers throughout the State. Why? In 2013, as a group of concerned parents who had shared diapers, the bank now operates out of a warehouse and distributes hundreds of thou-sands of diapers annually.

The Covid-19 pandemic has exacer-bated 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 had shipped over 880,000. They have never seen de-mand for diapers like they are seeing now. Yet, they continue to succeed in fulfilling their mission.

The most remarkable part of the op-eration of the Utah Diaper Bank is that they operate without any paid staff. Their team is made up entirely of volunteers. Further, they receive nei-ther private nor government grants and operate on a strict collection-dis-tribution model.

The folks at the Utah Diaper Bank un-doubtedly deserve recognition for their devout service to the people of Utah. It is my unique privilege to hero-ize them today.
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. PERRY):
S. 1078. A bill to require the Secretary of Labor to award grants for promoting industry or sector partnerships to encourage industry or sector continued training 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, Mr. LUJAN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. CONNY):
S. 1079. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the troops from the United States and the Philippines who defended Batan 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. SCHUMERS (for himself and Mr. RUHLS):
S. 1080. A bill to designate residents of the Xinjiang Uyghur Region as Priority 2 refugees of special humanitarian concern, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLACKBURN (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. BURLIN):
S. 1081. A bill to authorize the Department of Labor’s volunteer program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself and Mr. MARSHALL):
S. 1082. A bill to prohibit Federal agencies from establishing policies that prohibit the use of surplus 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. SASSIE, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. CRAMER):
S. 1083. A bill to provide for the restoration of legal rights of claimants under holo-caust-era insurance policies; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. COTTON, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. PAUL, Mr. THUNE, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. HEOVEN, Mr. ROMNEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. MORAN, Mr. WICKER, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. RUSCH):
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. LECLERC (for herself and Mr. ROYAL KOPPLE):
S. 1085. A bill to establish the African Burial Ground International 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 structures convicted under the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. ROSS, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. ROYAL KOPPLE, and Ms. ROSEN):
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.

Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. CHAPPO, and Mr. BRAUN):
S. 1088. A bill to provide requirements for the appropriate Federal banking agencies requesting or ordering a Federal depository 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 Mrs. 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 Ms. SMITH (for herself and Mr. VESTRY):
S. 1092. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a program under which the Secretary awards grants to States or State departments of agriculture 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 infrastructure 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 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 other cosponsors):
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. HEOVEN, and Ms. ROSEN):
S. 1097. A bill to establish a federal rotational cyber workforce program for the Federal cyber workforce; to the Committee on...
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. CORYN):

S. 1098. A bill to extend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to authorize borrower 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. KLOBUCAR, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 1099. 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. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 1100. 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 border agents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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

S. 1101. A bill to provide that silencers be permitted on handguns; to the Committee on Finance.

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

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 other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 1104. A bill to require the measure of progress of post-disaster recovery and efforts to address corruption, governance, rule of law, and media freedoms in Haiti; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 1105. A bill to measure the progress of the reconstruction of Haiti; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 1106. A bill to prohibit the sale of shark fins and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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

S. 1107. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to guarantee investments that will open new markets for forest owners in rural areas of the United States and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

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. BLUNT, and Ms. SINEMA):

S. Res. 149. A resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the United States should continue to support 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 Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. Res. 150. 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.

S. 51

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) 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.

S. 57

At the request of Mr. KLOBUCAR, 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.

S. 65

At the request of Mr. KLOBUCAR, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 57, a bill to improve the availability of nursing facilities to access telemedicine services and obtain technologies to allow virtual visits during the public health emergency relating to an outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), and for other purposes.

S. 288

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.

S. 298

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.

S. 321

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

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.

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.

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 all statues of individuals who voluntarily served the Confederate States of America from display in the United States Capitol.

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.

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.

At the request of Mrs. Gillibrand, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. Booker) was added as a cosponsor of a bill to establish the Office of the Ombudsperson for Immigrant Children in Government Custody, and for other purposes.

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.

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.

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.

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.

At the request of Ms. Cortez Masto, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. 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.

At the request of Mr. Sullivan, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. Ruben) 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.

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 North Carolina (Mr. Kennedy) 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.

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.

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.

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.

At the request of Mr. Carper, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. cocoa) 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.

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.

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.

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.

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 improve tax benefits for research activities.

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 the 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.

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.

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 roadsides and highway rights-of-way, including the planting and seeding of native, locally appropriate grasses and wildflowers, including milkweed, and for other purposes.

S. 899

At the request of Mr. Merkley, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. Duckworth) and the Senator from California (Mrs. Feinstein) 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 montane yellow-bellied marmots and for other purposes.

S. 862

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 employers engaging in the business of insurance in connection with a cannabis-related legitimate business, and for other purposes.

S. 868

At the request of Mrs. Gillibrand, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. Collins) was added as a cosponsor of S. 868, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the five-month waiting period for disability insurance benefits under such title and waive the 24-month waiting period for Medicare eligibility for individuals with Huntington's disease.

S. 876

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. 897, a bill to facilitate the expedited review of COVID-19 hate crimes, and for other purposes.

S. 951

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. 961

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 for the design, collection, reuse, recycling, and disposal of their consumer products and packaging, to prevent pollution from consumer products and packaging from 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. 1078

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. J. Res. 3

At the request of Mr. Cruz, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. Kennedy) 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. 148

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 paying tribute 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, retention, and 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 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 these partnerships under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), but no dedicated funding has been provided for these activities.
For workers, especially those under-represented 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 BUILD Act. The BUILD 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 workers are successful from the first job to 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 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 workers are successful from the first job to employment to placement in a full-time position.

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

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

SEC. 2. LIFELINE ENROLLEE OUTREACH GRANTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) IN GENERAL.—The term “Commission” means the Federal Communications Commission.

(2) COVERED INDIVIDUALS.—The term “covered individual” means—

(A) an individual enrolling or reenrolling in the Lifeline program; and

(B) SNAP participants, and low-income residents of potential eligibility for the Lifeline program of the Commission; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.

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

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

SEC. 2. LIFELINE ENROLLEE OUTREACH GRANTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) IN GENERAL.—The term “Commission” means the Federal Communications Commission.

(2) COVERED INDIVIDUALS.—The term “covered individual” means—

(A) a Medicaid enrollee; and

(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 eligible for the Lifeline program but is not enrolled in the program.

(4) LIFELINE PROGRAM.—The term “Lifeline program” means the Lifeline program of the Commission.

(b) USE OF FUNDS.—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 or plan under title XIX that is approved by the Secretary.

(7) REACH.—The term “reach” means, with respect to 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 (c)(2)(B).

(c) APPLICATION.—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. 2011 et seq.).

(8) STATE.—The term “State” means each State of the United States, the District of Columbia, each Commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States, and each federally recognized Indian Tribe.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. 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.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
 Whereas the A–10 supports close air support with a variety of forward-firing, free-fall, and precision-guided munitions; 
 Whereas the A–10 is able to perform combat support, close air support, interdiction, 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, and destroy a wide range of mobile and fixed targets as an arsenal aircraft, including tanks and other highly armored vehicles in quantity;
 Whereas the A–10 was specifically designed with protection from small-arms fire, including self-sealing Dunlop flight controls, and a titanium cockpit tub, which has proven vital to the safe return of pilots despite heavy damage from enemy ground fire;
 Whereas the A–10 has the lowest rate of friendly fire incidents of any combat fighter or bomber; 
 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 slower airspeeds of the A–10 enabled longer loiter times, increasing support to troops in contact and battlefield coverage; 
 Whereas, of all combat planes in the arsenal of the United States, the A-10 is the least expensive to operate and purchase; 
 Whereas, while the A-10 flew only 30 percent of the total sorties of the Air Force during Operation Desert Storm in 1991, these aircraft achieved more than half of the confirmed Iraqi equipment losses and fired 90 percent of the precision-guided Maverick missiles;
 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 and Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003, the A-10 flew 32 percent of the combat sorties in both theaters, and from 2006 to late 2013, the A–10 flew 19 percent of close air operations in Iraq and Afghanistan; 
 Whereas the A–10 is an effective close air support platform to counter violent extremist organizations, including the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria; 
 Whereas the continuing demands for close air support in Iraq and Afghanistan keep the A-10 a relevant platform, but one that requires upgrades; 
 Whereas, if the A–10 is removed from service, certain gaps in responsive close air support, forward air controller, air interdiction, strike control and reconnaissance, and combat search and rescue support could widen; 
 Whereas the A-10 can be serviced and operated with high sortie rates from austere bases and forward locations; 
 Whereas, the A–10 provides superior support near battle areas, including unprepared dirt, grass, and narrow road runways, and from airfields that are too short or rough to handle fast jets; 
 Whereas global power is essential to preserving global security and stability, and the A–10 is essential to ensuring that the United States is able to continue providing unmatched airpower, to gain and maintain air superiority, and to extend its global reach; 
 Whereas the A-10 program supports the Air Force, including the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve; 
 Whereas, as of the date of adoption of this resolution, the A–10 is flying in operational combat squadrons at—
 (1) Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona; 
 (2) Eglinton Air Force Base, Florida; 
 (3) Moody Air Force Base, Georgia; 
 (4) Gowen Field Air National Guard Base, Idaho; 
 (5) Fort Wayne Air National Guard Station, Indiana; 
 (6) Warfield Air National Guard Base, Maryland; 
 (7) Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Michigan; 
 (8) Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri; 
 (9) Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada; and
 (10) Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea; 
 Whereas the 355th Wing at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, with an inventory of 84 A-10s, has deployed 12 times since September 11, 2001, primarily in support of troops on the ground; and
 (2) is responsible for training all A–10 pilots; 
 Whereas the 175th Wing at Warfield Air National Guard Base, with an inventory of 21 A-10s, has deployed 6 times since September 11, 2001, primarily in support of troops on the ground; and
 Whereas the 442nd Fighter Wing at Whiteman Air Force Base, with an inventory of 27 A-10s, has deployed 9 times since September 11, 2001, primarily in support of troops on the ground: Now, therefore, be it 
 Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that Congress should continue to support the A–10 Thunderbolt II program in future fiscal years because—
 (1) continued support for the A–10 Thunderbolt II program is imperative to the national security of the United States; and
 (2) the United States cannot afford to risk its national security, or the national security of its allies, by allowing that program to fall short of its vital mission.

 Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. RUARY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

 Whereas Jereima "Jeri" Bustamante (referred to herein as "Jeri Bustamante") lived the American Dream; 
 Whereas, after moving from Panama to the United States with her family, Jeri Bustamante—
 (1) attended Miami Beach Senior High School; and
 (2) earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Communications and Media Studies and a Master’s Degree in Public Administration from Florida International University; 
 Whereas Jeri Bustamante had a tireless work ethic and a passion for communication, and paid for her education by working while enrolled in school;
Whereas that tireless work ethic propelled Jeri Bustamante to professional success, beginning 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 matched only by her family, friends, and coworkers;

Whereas the spirit of Jeri Bustamante lives on through the Jerema 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 Jerema “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) notes that living the American Dream remains possible for any individual who, following the example of Jeri Bustamante, works hard to pursue and achieve their goals; and
(4) encourages the recipients of the Jerema Bustamante Memorial Scholarship to carry on the legacy of Jeri Bustamante.

SENATE RESOLUTION 151—CALLING ON THE PRESIDENT AND THE 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 hardships from unaffordable out-of-pocket costs and higher premiums that have been exacerbated by an economic crisis and losses in employer-sponsored health insurance;

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, people of color, including Black, Brown, and indigenous people, were disproportionately impacted by high prescription drug costs, which was due in part to a higher rate of pre-existing health 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, or put off a visit to the doctor’s office, 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 research and development; and

Whereas each of the 356 drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration between 2010 and 2019 was 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 stock buybacks and dividends than on research and development between 2009 and 2018;

Whereas the pharmaceutical and medical product industry paid $36.5 billion in “price hiking” 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 profit 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 245 drugs in the first 5 months of the COVID–19 pandemic, with the average price increase being 23.8 percent;

Whereas 61 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 is taking 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.

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. MENENDEZ, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. Sasse, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr.
SCHATZ, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TASTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARNER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. Res. 153

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, known as “maternal mortalities”, 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 mortality rate 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; (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 health 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 healthcare; (2) the lack of uniform hospital policies permitting doula 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 cesarean 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 carceral injustice against Black people in the criminal justice, social, and healthcare systems; whereas, even as there is growing concern about improving access to mental health services, Black women are least likely to have access to mental health screenings, treatment, and support before, during, and after pregnancy; whereas justice-informed, culturally congruent models of care are beneficial to Black women; and whereas an investment must be made in—
(1) maternity care for Black women and birthing persons, including support of care led by the communities most affected by the maternal health crisis in the United States; (2) continuous health insurance coverage to support Black women and birthing persons for the full postpartum period up to at least 1 year after giving birth; and (3) policies that support and promote affordable, comprehensive, and holistic maternal healthcare that is free from gender and racial discrimination, regardless of incarceration; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes—
(1) that Black women are experiencing high disproportionately 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 grounded in 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.”

Resolved, That when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of United States Capitol Police Officer William Francis “Billy” Evans.

SENATE RESOLUTION 153—RECOGNIZING THE WEEK OF APRIL 11 THROUGH APRIL 17, 2021, AS ‘BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK’ TO BRING NATIONAL AWARENESS TO THE MATERNAL HEALTH CRISIS IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE IMPORTANCE OF REDUCING MATERNAL MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY AMONG BLACK WOMEN AND BIRTHING PERSONS

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. BROWN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. PETERS, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. KAIN, 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:

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, known as “maternal mortalities”, 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 mortality rate 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; (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 health 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 healthcare; (2) the lack of uniform hospital policies permitting doula 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 cesarean 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 carceral injustice against Black people in the criminal justice, social, and healthcare systems; whereas, even as there is growing concern about improving access to mental health services, Black women are least likely to have access to mental health screenings, treatment, and support before, during, and after pregnancy; whereas justice-informed, culturally congruent models of care are beneficial to Black women; and whereas an investment must be made in—
(1) maternity care for Black women and birthing persons, including support of care led by the communities most affected by the maternal health crisis in the United States; (2) continuous health insurance coverage to support Black women and birthing persons for the full postpartum period up to at least 1 year after giving birth; and (3) policies that support and promote affordable, comprehensive, and holistic maternal healthcare that is free from gender and racial discrimination, regardless of incarceration; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes—
(1) that Black women are experiencing high disproportionately 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 grounded in 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.”

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, by risking and sacrificing his life in the line of duty.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of United States Capitol Police Officer William Francis “Billy” Evans.
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 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 end of section 2, add the following:

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

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

Section 606 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 606(b)(2)(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 RANKING, 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.
ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 2021

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate adjourns 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 executive session 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 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 rollocall 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 United States Capitol Police.

The Senate, at 6:42 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, April 14, 2021, at 10:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following nominated officer for appointment as Brigadier General of the Air Force and 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 brigadier general

Maj. Gen. Robert Miller

The following nominated officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under Title 10, U.S.C., Section 601:

To be brigadier general

Col. Robert K. Bogart

To be a general officer

Col. Alfred F. Flowers, Jr.

The following nominated officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under Title 10, U.S.C., Section 601:

TO THE GRADE INDICATED 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 general officer

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 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, 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 United States Capitol Police.

The Senate, at 6:42 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, April 14, 2021, at 10:30 a.m.
SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR:

DEANNA HANKE ARDEN, OF VIRGINIA
BRIGAT BIZ ALUJ, OF VIRGINIA
JOHAN KENDAL ANDREWS, OF VIRGINIA
MARY EMMA ARNOLD, OF VIRGINIA
JENNIFR L. BACHUS, OF VIRGINIA
LANCE M. BAILEY, OF VIRGINIA
NICHOLAS B. BEELINER, OF VIRGINIA
TOBY J. BEYER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
KATHERINE ANN BUCKER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ROBERT G. BURGESS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MICHELLE ANN BURTEN, OF WASHINGTON
KELLY S. CICIL, OF FLORIDA
RICHARD CIFREDO COLON, OF VIRGINIA
ANGELA COLVIN-MOSES, OF MARYLAND
KATHRYN TAYLOR CROCKETT, OF NORTH CAROLINA
JILL E. DARKEN, OF ILLINOIS
JAMES R. DAVINBER, OF MISSOURI
MARCO DOUGLAS BILLARD, OF VIRGINIA
JAMES RODERICK DRAVID, OF VIRGINIA
KURT D. DONNELY, OF VIRGINIA
ADRIAN J. DRISSEL, OF CONNECTICUT
PATRICK M. DUNN, OF VIRGINIA
DAVID S. ELMO, OF VIRGINIA
GABRIEL HARBAK, OF TEXAS
YURI P. FEDORENKO, OF MICHIGAN
TARA ELIZABETH FERET, OF VIRGINIA
JULIE DAVIS FISHER, OF VIRGINIA
KATHERINE A. FITZGIBBON, OF VIRGINIA
J. ROBERT GAVIERREK, OF VIRGINIA
JENNIFR FAIVTO, OF MISSOURI
ELLEN J. GERMAN, OF NEW YORK
CAROLYN B. GLASAMAN, OF CALIFORNIA
RYAN W. GLOVER, OF CALIFORNIA
MICHAEL GONZALEZ, OF MARYLAND
ROBERT F. HANAN, OF VIRGINIA
KEITH LEE HEFFERN, OF VIRGINIA
CHRISTINA MARIA HUGH RIGGS, OF VIRGINIA
MELANIE, OF VIRGINIA
ELIZABETH K. HIRST, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PAUL R. HOWISON, OF VIRGINIA
BRYAN D. HUNT, OF VIRGINIA
DAVID R. JOHNSON, OF MINNESOTA
MARK COOLIDGE JOHNSON, OF VIRGINIA
KAREN D. KELLEY, OF HAWAII
MARTHE L. KERR, OF VIRGINIA
ANGELA M. KERWIN, OF VIRGINIA
CYNTHIA A. KICKER, OF VIRGINIA
MARGARET KURTZ-RANDALL, OF NEW YORK
HELEN GRACE LAFAYE, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DANIEL J. LAWTON, OF VIRGINIA
MARK W. LEH, OF VIRGINIA
PAUL M. LEMM, OF VIRGINIA
PAUL OVERTON MAYER, OF VIRGINIA
JOSHUA S. MCKESSON, OF VIRGINIA
JOHN W. MCINTYRE, OF TEXAS
DEBORAH MATTHEW, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
JONATHAN ROBERT MENKTU, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MARIO MCGINN MESSUTA, OF VIRGINIA
BEERCON N. MCKELLAR, OF CALIFORNIA
GREGOR M. NAVADEL, OF TEXAS
J. ROBERT POST, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
TIMOTHY MARE RICHARDSON, OF MARYLAND
KAREN HIDEKO SASAHARA, OF VIRGINIA
TIMOTHY MEADE RICHARDSON, OF MARYLAND
J. ROBERT POST, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
HERRO K. MUSTAFA, OF CALIFORNIA
MARIO MCGWIN MESQUITA, OF VIRGINIA
DEBORAH RUTLEDGE MENNUT, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
JOSHUA D. MCDAVID, OF WASHINGTON
PAUL OVERTON MAYER, OF VIRGINIA
PANFILO MARQUEZ, OF CALIFORNIA
MARK W. LIBBY, OF VIRGINIA
MARGARET M. LIBBY, OF VIRGINIA
JENNIFR F. LINDHOLM, OF VIRGINIA
PAGE 1 OF 2

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate April 13, 2021.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WENDY RUTH SHERMAN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

POLLY ELLEN TROTTENBERG, OF NEW YORK, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION.
IN RECOGNITION AND HONOR OF THE LIFE OF DR. BERNARDINE LACEY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 13, 2021

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of my dear friend, Dr. Bernardine Lacey, who passed away on March 26, 2021. It is with deep sorrow that I mourn her loss, and deep affection that I honor her beautiful legacy.

Dr. Lacey was born on July 28, 1932, in Vicksburg, Mississippi. Despite her humble beginnings, 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 Mississippi Baptist Hospital in Jackson. This would be one of the first of many pioneering efforts Dr. Lacey would trailblaze to break barriers as one of the first Black students admitted into Georgetown University's Nursing program, where she completed her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) in 1969. Thereafter, 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; Executive Director of Children's National Medical Center, School Health Program; and Chairperson in the Department of Nursing at Bowie State University. In 2018, coming out of retirement, 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 nursing and our nursing education communities. Dr. Lacey became a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing; was honored as a Distinguished 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 inducted her into the Academy’s Hall of Fame. In addition, the College of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences at Howard University will continue to recognize Dr. Lacey's impact by initiating an annual “Bernardine M. Lacey Research Day.”

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 timelessness, 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 nominator and 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 remembering her legacy for years to come.

JULISSA NUNEZ OCEGUERA
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 Oceguera for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Julissa Nunez Oceguera 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 Oceguera 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 Julissa Nunez Oceguera 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.

MADE IN AMERICA ACT
HON. JOHN GARANDENI
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 bicameral and bipartisan bill would strengthen “Buy America” requirements for all major 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 ensures that building materials used in these taxpayer-funded projects are produced domestically. When setting standards to determine which materials used in construction will be considered “Made in America,” the bill requires the Department of Commerce to ensure that their manufacturing processes support American jobs.

Congress is poised to make the most significant investment in our nation’s infrastructure in nearly half a century. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to advance commonsense “Buy America” and “Make it in America” policies to rebuild and modernize our nation’s crumbling infrastructure. In the process, we can create thousands of well-paying jobs that can never be outsourced to make America competitive in the 21st century.

Unfortunately, numerous Government Accountability Office (GAO) reports have confirmed that many of our nation’s existing trade obligations often provide trading partners more opportunity to win American government procurement work than American businesses receive in return. The “Made in America Act” would take steps to correct this imbalance by ensuring that taxpayer dollars are spent on American-made materials created by American workers and businesses.

Madam Speaker, Americans are right to expect that taxpayer dollars spent on infrastructure 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 Infrastructure, I plan to make the “Made in America Act” a majority priority in the 2021 surface transportation reauthorization and any infrastructure 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 in recognition and honor of the life of Dr. Bernardine Lacey
both on and off 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 left tackle 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 exponential 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.

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**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 his 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.

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**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 McDougal for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Katy McDougal 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 McDougal 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 McDougal 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.

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**RECOGNIZING JUDGE BYRON RYDER, JUDGE LINDA GRANT, AND SYDNEY COHEN**

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

**OF TEXAS**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

*Tuesday, April 13, 2021*

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Sydney Cohen of Hawaiian Springs Water for her substantial efforts in providing life-sustaining resources to Central Texans during a time of great need.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to extend my recognition to Judge Byron Ryder and Judge Linda Grant for their display of servant leadership during Texas’ winter freeze. They worked tirelessly for their communities and went to great lengths to secure the water bottles provided by Hawaiian Springs Water. The residents of Leon and Freestone County have strong leaders, and for that, I am grateful.

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**KENDRA DICKINSON**

**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 Kendra Dickinson for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kendra Dickinson is a student at Oberon Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kendra Dickinson 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 Kendra Dickinson 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.

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**COMMEMORATING NATIONAL BORINQUENEERS 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 the 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.
After the change of sovereignty as result of the Spanish American War of 1899, a military unit was recruited from the Puerto Rico residents and organized into the “Regimiento de Voluntarios Puertorriqueños”. In 1908 was re-organized into a Regular Army Unit of the U.S. and in the numerical designation of 65th Infantry, United States Army. However, what best identifies the regiment is not its numerical designation, but the name chosen by its members while en route to the battlefields of Korea in 1950; Borinqueneers.

Organized at the dawn of the 20th Century, the Borinqueneers matured in the service of Puerto Rico and its liberation, secured the Panamá Canal during WWI, was baptized by fire during the liberation of Europe in WWII, and was tempered by the conflagration of the Korean War. In the hills and valleys of that besieged land their valor and courage, as exemplified by men like Modesto Cartagena, the most decorated Hispanic soldier of the Korean War, secured their place in history. In 1960, the colors of the 65th Infantry Regiment were transferred to the Puerto Rico National Guard, where their successors continue to serve and preserve the history and honor of the regiment.

For 121 years the Borinqueneers never wavered in their resolve to give its best in the service of Puerto Rico and the nation. Overcoming the social norms of its time and without full representation in the U.S. Congress, as deserved by all American citizens, the Borinqueneers persevered and are an inspiration to all of us.

Today, April 13, 2021 as we commemorate the first National Borinqueneers Day—an initiative that I am proud to have led along with Senators Scott and Rubio, and Representative Murphy—I call on this body and all the constituents, Kurtis Meyer.

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 happened in Washington the next day, January 6th, when Congressman Raskin, his daughter and his son-in-law were in the Capitol, awaiting the historic moment when the Electoral College results would be read. After literally fearing for their lives, in the aftermath of what—the uprising? the insurrection?—Speaker Pelosi asked Jamie Raskin to serve as the House’s lead impeachment manager, a process rooted in the events of January 6.

I track closely on politics. It’s been an animating force in my life for four decades. While political campaigns are too long, too expensive, and too contentious, I engage in these battles, advocating on behalf of candidates I hope will serve our community, our state, and our nation with integrity. Today, however, I seek not to shed light on a political race, but rather to shine light on the human race, specifically, the strength, courage, and resilience of Congressman Jamie Raskin.

Last New Year’s Eve, he gained membership in a club no one ever hopes to join: those who experience the loss of a child. This tragedy grew out of perhaps the least understood cause of death, soul-crushing depression. I didn’t know 25-year-old Tommy Raskin but have read tributes to him by his family. Here’s an excerpt from their capture of this young man’s life:

Tommy entered the world like a blue-eyed cherub, a little angel (and) grew up as a strikingly beautiful curly-haired madcap boy beaming with laughter and charm, making mischief, kicking the soccer ball in the goal, acting out scenes from ‘To Kill A Mockingbird’ with his little sister. Teaching other children the names of all the Justices on the Supreme Court, Juggling strangers on the street, teaching our dogs foreign languages, running up and down the aisle on airplanes giving people high fives.

He hated cliques and social snobbery and never had a negative word for anyone but tyrants and despots, a perfect human being, and a perfect heart, a perfect soul, a riotously outrageous and relentless sense of humor, and a dazzling radiant mind. He began to be tortured later in his 20s by a blindingly painful and merciless disease called depression that became unbearable for him, despite very fine doctors and a loving family. In a brief note to his son, Tommy, ‘Please forgive me. My illness won today. Please look after each other, the animals, and the global poor for me. All my love, Tommy.’

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 bright ray of hope in a world that despite myriad challenges, our great country can continue as a beacon of enlightened democracy.

LAINA LOGAN

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 Laina Logan for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. Laina Logan 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 Laina Logan 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 Laina Logan 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.

CONGRESSIONAL TEACHER AWARDS

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

Mr. BUCHANAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today 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 Mays 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.

RESOLUTION CELEBRATING VAISAKHI

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-chairman 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.

APPRECIATING BILL BROCK

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 party’s current 50-state presence. He was a statesman of the highest caliber, leading by example, with kindness and humility.

Mr. Brock is predeceased by his mother, Margaret "Archer" Brock, and his father, William Emerson "Bill" Brock Jr., and by his wife, Laura Handley "Muffet" Brock. He is survived by his wife, Sandra Schubert Brock; two brothers, "Pat" Brock and Frank Brock; six children and step-children and their spouses, William "Brock" IV (Laura), Oscar Brock (Meg), friedora "Hutchey" Brocks, John Brock (Peggy), Julie Crum Janka (John, and Stephen "Steve" Crum (Theresa); 19 grand-children, William "Bill" Brock V (Morgan), Brock Michael Brock (Sarah), Margaret "Archer" Brock, Eleanor Brock, Peter Doley, Laura Doley, Erin Doley, Katherine "Katie" Doley, John "JB" Doley, Morgan Crum and politics; Jonathan Crum Butler (Taf, Reagan Crum, McKay Cran, Brandon Fritz, Ian Fritz, Kaia 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.

I extend my heartiest 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, Jurnette Refugia, Jacey Regan, Carol Regier, Ashley Regimbald, Madison Regnerus, Tracy Regnier, Miranda Regnier, Alain Regnsky, Char Rehak, Sara Rehder-Wright, Althea Rehfelt, Katherine Refeldt, Corey Rehfelt, Taylor Rehfelt, Lisa Reich, Alexis Reich, Allie Reichelt, Makezen Reichelt, Sheri Reichert, Cindy Reichling, Hannah Reichling, Thomas Reid, Cora Reid, Amber Reid, Taniece Reid, Casey Reid, Deon Reid-Day, Rochelle Reider, Randal Reider, Roslyn Reid-Gordon, Kay Reidt, Kristin Reif, Vickie Reiff, Deanna Reiff, Danielle Reiff, Matthew Reiff, Rachel Reif, Joni Reifinger, Kristin Reifinger, Paige Reikofski, Michelle Reigle, Leslie Reiling, Kari Kenen-Reif, Jenny Reimer, Karen Reimtiz, Maynard Reinmertz, Marvene Reinbold, Amanda Reinders, Tressa Reinlnd, Jennifer Reiner, Carie Reiner, Sarah Reinert, Darci Reinesch, Sandra Reinesch, Amber Reinesch, Justin Reinfield, Clayton Reinhard, Stephanie Reinhardt, Carl Reinhardt, Arn Reinert, Amber Reints, Rachel Reints, Jaime Reis, Megan Reisch, Sue Reisch, Patricia Reisider, Joan Reisider, Kylee Reisider, Amy Reiser, Nancy Reisus, Nancy Reister, Gabrielle Reitan, Carly Reiter, Victoria Reiter, Jenier Reitsma, Crystal Reitsma, Tiffany Reitsma, Gwen Reker.


Hannah Schmidtlein, Dailyn Schmidtlein, Carley Schmidtdman, Brittny Schmiedt, Amandad Schmieg, Sarah Schmit, Brooke Schmit, Karie Schmit, Julian Schmitz, Valerie Schmitz, Megan Schmitz, Kristen Schmitz, Jay Schmitz, Sydney Schmitz, Marie Schmitz, Emily Schmitz, Samantha Schmoyer, Tammy Schmuck, Jessica Schmuck, Debra Schnabel, Judith Schnabel, Pamela Schnabel, Yody Schnabel, Breanna Schnabel, Jessica Schnaible, Taryn Schneck, Monta Schnee, Donna Schneider, Michelle Schneider, Katharine Schneider, Daniel Schneider, April Schneider, Erin Schneider, Megan Schneider, Jason Schneider, Anna Schneider, Crystal Schneider, Sarah Schneider, Kayla Schneider, Peyton Schneider, Danielle Schneider, Kama Schneider, Cassandra Schneider, Tanya Schnell, Tammy Schnell, Anthony Schnell, Kelsey Schnepf, Tamra Schnetter, Donna Schnider, April Schnieder, Jessica Schnyders, Pamela Schoenmaier, Nona Schook, Angelia Schoock, Andrea Schock, Kelly Schock, Cassandra Schock, Faith Schoeberl, Emily Schoenberg, Caitlin Schoenecker, Theresa Schoenfeld, Kara Schoenfeld, Linda Schoenfelder, Teresa Schoenfelder, Paul Schoenfelder, Katherine Schoenfelder, Joanne Schoenfielder, John Schoenfelder, Stephanie Schoenfelder, Chelsea Schoenfelder, Kaylee Schoenfielder, Kelcy Schoenfielder, Caitlin Schoenfielder, Terah Schoenfish, Melinda Schoenherr, Beverly Schoenstedt, Amber Schoffelman, Kerri Schofield, Emma Schofield, Marchelle Scholl, Caroline Scholten, Patricia Scholten, Ellen Scholten.


Over the past year they have faced challenges most of us cannot even imagine. They have shown incredible resolve in the face of adversity. They have shown us all how to seek positivity and hope in each day as we weather the storms that come our way.

I couldn’t be more thankful to represent the incredible people across South Dakota and all over the nation who work hard each day, not for fame, not for recognition or for money, but for the betterment of their communities. This is what makes America strong. I am grateful for the opportunity to recognize these hard-working individuals.

MAXIM G. LOMANOV
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 Maxim G. Lomanov for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Maxim G. Lomanov is a student at Ralston Valley H.S. and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversity. 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.
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 Officer William Francis “Billy” Evans.
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 Steele, 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 Marriner 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

Chamber Action

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.

Additional Cosponsors:

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: Concurred 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 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

HOUSE

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