The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (MRS. DINGELL).

**DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE**
The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC, April 19, 2021.
I hereby appoint the Honorable DEBBIE DINGELL to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

**MORNING-HOUR DEBATE**
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

**VALUE OF INFRASTRUCTURE**
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, as the son of a civil engineer, I was raised with an understanding of the value of infrastructure that serves people and benefits communities.

My commitment to infrastructure has spanned decades. As a young man, I put shovel to the road for the construction of highways and bridges; and now, today, I advocate for infrastructure improvements in Congress.

As we know all too well in rural Pennsylvania, infrastructure has real-life consequences for communities. At its core, improving roads, bridges, and other key infrastructure should be a commonsense, bipartisan priority. Failing infrastructure does not discriminate. A broken bridge can harm Democrats just as it can harm Republicans.

Unfortunately, the so-called infrastructure reform put forth by President Biden fails to take seriously the challenges that we are currently facing in Pennsylvania and around the entire country. In the rural district that I represent, we know the importance of true infrastructure. We need to make our roadways and bridges safer, we need to improve our transportation systems, and we desperately need to deploy reliable internet to those lacking access to broadband. This is what true infrastructure is. But, unfortunately, that is not the Biden plan.

Let’s look at the facts. In President Biden’s infrastructure plan, less than 6 percent would go to roads and bridges; less than 2 percent would go to waterways, locks, dams, ports, and airports; and less than 5 percent, unfortunately, would go to broadband.

With $600 billion devoted to the Green New Deal, this has never been about infrastructure. In Pennsylvania, the extreme policies championed in the Biden plan will crush our vital manufacturing and energy industries. This plan prioritizes the progressive agenda over the needs of the American workers and small businesses.

In the name of infrastructure, Democrats want to kill jobs, raise taxes, burden families, and stunt our recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Today, I ask a very simple question: Is it worth it?

As we seek to define infrastructure and consider improvements to our Nation’s fundamental infrastructure needs, I urge all of my colleagues to dispense with the political games. We need roads, bridges, and reliable internet. We do not need the Green New Deal. Stop calling this infrastructure. Stop hiding progressive policies in trojan horses. Stop trying to trick the American people.

While I stand ready to work with the President and House Democrats on what is true infrastructure reform, this plan is further evidence that the Biden-Harris administration are more happy to push their radical agenda at the expense of hardworking Americans.

Instead of propelling these radical policies, this could be a good-faith opportunity to deliver results for the American people. If we work together, we can get this job done. From deploying rural broadband to sustaining our basic roads, we must bridge this divide.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF STEVEN KOPPERUD**
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of one of the great voices for American agriculture here in our Nation’s Capital, Steven L. Kopperud.

His death this past year was sudden and a shock to all of us who knew him. Steve was always the same, from the first day I met him almost 25 years ago until the last time we talked. He was a great friend, one whom you could trust to shoot you straight. As are so many in the agriculture arena, he was a down-to-earth, great guy; the type you could pick up a conversation with as though you had just talked yesterday when, in fact, it could have been a year or more; the type who would always be there for you. And if it was a policy question, he always, always, had the facts. He believed in his work, and he was passionate about it.
After growing up in Minneapolis and attending the University of Minnesota, Steve started his career in journalism, writing for the Minneapolis Star Tribune and the San Diego Union-Tribune. He eventually became the Washington bureau chief for Feedstuffs, which further introduced him to the world of agriculture.

From there, he launched a long, distinguished career in advocacy, lobbying on all things animal, everything from food, livestock, poultry, tree nut, and animal welfare, to biotech, among countless other agricultural issues. He was a founder of the Animal Alliance Association, and eventually started his own firm to represent clients across the nation’s agriculture sector.

Steve played an instrumental role in the passage of every farm bill in the past 35 years, from his first in 1985 to his last in 2018. He could always be found on the Hill, at the White House, or USDA, making the case for commonsense agriculture policies critical to our producers and American consumers. And by the fortu- itous time that he entered this field, it is so fitting that he left the world, his was a life very well-lived, and American agriculture were numerous, leaving a great legacy of advocacy that has benefited American producers and has helped to feed the world. His was a life very well-lived, and American agriculture.

Steve leaves behind his wife, Judith, of more than 45 years, and many, many friends. The contributions he made to agriculture were numerous, leaving a great legacy of advocacy that has benefited American producers and has helped to feed the world. His was a life very well-lived, and American agriculture.

CELEBRATING THE NOMINATION OF REAR ADMIRAL MICHAEL BOYLE
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The CHAIR recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CAMMACK) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CAMMACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the service, sacrifice, and recent nomination of one of my constituents, Rear Admiral Michael Boyle.

Admiral Boyle has served as director of Maritime Operations for the U.S. Pacific Fleet since June of 2020. Admiral Boyle was designated a naval aviator in January of 1990.

In his 30 years of dedicated service, he has held numerous positions throughout the United States Naval Command. Whether it was operational tours, like aboard the USS Forestal in support of Operation Provide Comfort in Northern Iraq, or aboard the USS Saratoga in support of Operation Provide Promise in Bosnia, Admiral Boyle has shown what leadership, fortitude, and duty look like in the United States Navy.

I commend the Secretary of Defense, General Lloyd Austin for his nomination of Rear Admiral Boyle to the rank of two-star flag officer, rear admiral, in the United States Navy. His work in keeping our Nation safe and securing American interests abroad have not gone unnoticed.

I want to personally thank Rear Admiral Michael Boyle for his service to this country and his steadfast duty in defense of our Constitution.

Congratulations, Admiral. Semper Fortis.

HONORING ASSISTANT CHIEF OF POLICE JOHN JOCK
Mrs. CAMMACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished service of Assistant Chief of Police John Jock of the Orange Park Police Department.

Over the past 25 years, Assistant Chief Jock has worked under three police chiefs, four town managers, and has become a valued member of the force in our community. Starting as a patrol officer for the OPPD back in 1996, he has earned promotions three times, achieving the rank of assistant police chief, and even receiving his master’s degree in the process.

He graduated from the FDLE Florida Leadership Academy in 2011, and served on the Clay County SWAT team for over a decade. Mr. Jock has been on the front lines of law enforcement for a quarter century and, in that time, has investigated and solved criminal cases, provided disaster training and communication, and has been a valued community leader.

As a citizen of Orange Park for the last 22 years, Assistant Chief Jock entered retirement earlier this month after 25 years of service. As the wife of a fellow SWAT team member, I want to wish him and his family a happy, safe, and productive retirement.

HONORING CAPTAIN MARK ELAM
Mrs. CAMMACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life and service of Captain Mark Elam of the Putnam County Department of Corrections.

Captain Elam served in the Putnam County Sheriff’s Office for nearly 20 years and, in that time, proved himself to be a hardworking servant. Before joining the Sheriff’s office, Mark served 4 years in the United States Marine Corps. But the role that he excelled at the most was as a family man. He was a devoted husband to his wife, Lachrisha, for 15 years and a father to two children. Captain Elam’s death last week. Mark and his wife were in the process of adopting five siblings.

He had a servant’s heart and so much compassion to give. He leaves a hole in the Putnam County law enforcement community, but his memory will live on in the work and good deeds he did in life.

I want to extend my condolences to his family, his children, and the entire Putnam County Sheriff’s Office in their enormous loss.

God bless Captain Elam and his family.

You’ve got the watch.

HONORING GILCHRIST COUNTY SHERIFF’S SERGEANT NOEL RAMIREZ AND DEPUTY TAYLOR LINDSEY
Mrs. CAMMACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember Gilchrist County Sheriff’s Sergeant Noel Ramirez and Deputy Taylor Lindsey who were both gunned down in the line of duty 3 years ago today.

On April 19, 2018, Sergeant Ramirez and Deputy Lindsey were eating lunch at a restaurant in Trenton, Florida, when a coward fired through a window and killed both officers in the line of duty. That man—who’s name does not deserve to be mentioned—killed those two officers, consumed by a radical hate for law enforcement. That same hate for law enforcement that we saw then I continue to see today.

Now more than ever we need to publicly and boldly support our law enforcement officers.

Noel and Taylor’s deaths remind us of the constant vigilance that an officer needs to have in order to return home safely to their families every night. Being an LEO is a difficult and often thankless job.
I want to take a moment to thank Sergeant Ramirez and Deputy Lindsey for their service and sacrifice to our community. We honor their legacy by continuing to say their names and remember their sacrifice and love for our hometown.

I pledge to always have our brothers and sisters in uniform’s six.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. Tipttus) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Tipttus led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

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

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

Mrs. McClain. Madam Speaker, today I rise because of the double standards in this Chamber. Once again, this weekend we saw a Member of the majority openly call for more confrontation in a Minneapolis suburb. That very night there was a drive-by shooting in that community where police and National Guardsmen were targeted.

If this was reversed, if this were said by a Republican, you know, Madam Speaker, that the majority in this Chamber would move to strip that Representative of their committees and possibly move to expel them from Congress.

We have actually seen this before. If what President Trump said on January 6 was inciting a riot, then what do the words “get more confrontational” mean?

Are those not the words someone would use if they wanted to incite more violence or insurrection?

If the majority cares about this institution, and if the majority cares about our Nation, then they need to get their own house in order and tamp down this vile rhetoric.

RECOGNIZING LORRIE FORD MERKER
(Mr. Carter of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. Carter of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lorrie Ford Merker for all the work she has done to improve the lives of Georgia’s blueberry farmers.

Lorrie has made outstanding contributions to the blueberry industry for three decades. Born and raised in southeastern Michigan, Lorrie graduated from Michigan State University and has spent her entire adult life improving the agriculture sector.

For the past 32 years Lorrie has worked with the Michigan Blueberry Growers Association which represents 250 growers in eight States and British Columbia. She has also been involved in advocacy at the State and national levels to promote an understanding of the labor and environmental challenges facing farmers.

Throughout her career she has accumulated a long list of awards and accomplishments, including the North American Blueberry Council’s Alex Wetherbee Award, for her outstanding contributions to the promotion and marketing of blueberries.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Lorrie for all the work she has done for Georgia’s blueberry growers and for growers across the country.

HONORING BERNELL TRAMMELL
(Mr. Grothman asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. Grothman. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the great Bernell Trammell of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, who owned xPlessions Journal Publications, which was located on 915 East Wright Street.

Bernell Trammell was an avid reader and a very religious man who liked people. He graduated from Lincoln High School in Milwaukee.

Last July 23, he was shot dead carrying a sign for Donald Trump.

I would like to ask the city of Milwaukee to dial up the investigation for the murder of Bernell Trammell. I believe it is a shame in Milwaukee that when someone—one of few people—stands up and announces by a sign that he is voting for Donald Trump that he would be shot dead.

He was an iconoclast, he was a very spiritual man delving in different religions, and he was all over the political spectrum as far as the people he endorsed. But while he was carrying a Donald Trump sign, he was shot down last July 23.

I beg the city of Milwaukee to do something about this horrible crime.

MARIJUANA BANKING BILL
(Mr. Good of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. Good of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 396, the marijuana banking bill. This legislation is about legitimizing and bankrolling the marijuana industry and making legalization inevitable.

It is sad that the House is voting on this bill during a time when our country is seeing increases in addiction, depression, and suicide. Rather than helping victims of despair, we are enhancing the financial benefits for those peddling and profiting off the sale of marijuana.

We are not even directly debating our drug laws. No. We are cowardly debating if we should reward States for undermining the rule of law.

Despite what the swamp says, we don’t need recreational marijuana. As
recently as 2016, the DEA determined that marijuana should remain a sched-
ule I substance.
I don’t care what the lobbyists or talking heads for the marijuana industry
like John Boehner say. I care about keeping dangerous substances away from our children and standing for the values I was elected to fight for.

The last thing our country needs is our help facilitating the profitability of addictive, behavior-altering, recreational drug use.

I oppose the bill, and I urge every Member to do the same.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. TITUS). Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bills were signed by the Speaker on Friday, April 16, 2021:

S. 164, to educate health care providers and the public on biosimilar biological products, and for other purposes.

S. 415, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the scope of new chemical exclusivity:

S. 578, to improve the health and safety of Americans living with food allergies and related disorders, including potentially life-threatening anaphylaxis, food protein-induced enterocolitis syndrome, and eosinophilic gastrointestinal diseases, and for other purposes.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o’clock and 8 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

☐ 1430

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. TITUS) at 2 o’clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY MORALE, RECOGNITION, LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT ACT OF 2021

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 490) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to improve morale within the Department of Homeland Security workforce by conferring new responsibilities to the Chief Human Capital Officer, establishing an employee engagement steering committee, requiring action plans, and authorizing an annual employee award program, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 490

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ‘‘Department of Homeland Security Morale, Recognition, Learning and Engagement Act of 2021’’ or the ‘‘DHSMORALE’’.

SEC. 2. CHIEF HUMAN CAPITAL OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES.

Section 704 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 344) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by inserting ‘‘, including with respect to leader development of employee engagement,’’ after ‘‘policies’’;

(ii) by striking ‘‘and in line’’ and inserting ‘‘in line’’;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ‘‘develop performance measures to provide a basis for monitoring and evaluating’’ and inserting ‘‘use performance measures to evaluate, on an ongoing basis’’;

(C) in paragraph (3), by inserting ‘‘that, to the extent practicable, are informed by employee feedback’’ after ‘‘policies’’;

(D) in paragraph (4), by inserting ‘‘including leader development and employee engagement programs’’ before ‘‘in coordination’’;

(E) in paragraph (5), by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: ‘‘that is informed by an assessment, carried out by the Chief Human Capital Officer, of the learning and developmental needs of employees, and chaired by the Chief Human Capital Officer in carrying out this section.’’;

(2) by redesigning subsections (d) and (e) as paragraphs (9) and (10) respectively:

(D) in paragraph (9), by inserting paragraphs (13) and (14), respectively; and

(E) by inserting after paragraph (8) the following new paragraph:

(9) maintain a dialogue of available employee development opportunities, including the Homeland Security Rotation Program pursuant to section 844, departmental leadership development programs, interagency development programs, and other rotational programs;

(10) ensure that employee discipline and adverse action programs comply with the requirements of all pertinent laws, rules, regulations, and Federal guidance, and ensure due process for employees;

(11) analyze Department or Government-wide Federal workforce satisfaction or morale survey not later than 90 days after the date of the publication of such survey and submit to the Secretary such analyses, including, as appropriate, recommendations to improve workforce satisfaction or morale within the Department;

(12) review and develop a Department or Government-wide category-based performance measures and targets to track the progress of such initiatives;

(3) by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection:

(4) in subsection (e), as so redesignated—

(A) by redesigning paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) as paragraphs (5), (6), and (7), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraphs:

(2) information on employee development opportunities catalogued pursuant to paragraph (9) of section (b) and any available data on participation rates, attrition rates, and impacts on retention and employee satisfaction;

(3) information on the progress of Department-wide strategic workforce planning efforts as determined under paragraph (2) of subsection (b);

(4) information on the activities of the steering committee established pursuant to section 711(a), including the number of meetings, types of materials developed and distributed, and recommendations made to the Secretary;

(5) information on the activities of the steering committee established pursuant to section 711(a), including the number of meetings, types of materials developed and distributed, and recommendations made to the Secretary;

SEC. 3. EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT STEERING COMMITTEE AND ACTION PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title VII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 344 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

SECl. 711. EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT STEERING COMMITTEE AND ACTION PLAN.

(A) In General.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall establish an employee engagement steering committee, including representatives from operational components, headquarters, and field personnel, including supervisory and non-supervisory personnel, and employee labor organizations that represent Department employees, and chaired by the Under Secretary for Management, to carry out the following activities:

(1) Identify factors that have a negative impact on employee engagement, morale, and communications within the Department, such as perceptions about limitations on career progression, mobility, or development opportunities, collected through employee feedback platforms, including through annual employee surveys, questionnaires, and other communications.

(2) Identify, develop, and distribute initiatives and best practices to improve employee engagement, morale, and communications within the Department, including through annual employee surveys, questionnaires, and other communications, as appropriate.

(3) Review and develop outcome-based performance measures and targets to track the progress of such initiatives;

(4) Advise the Secretary on efforts to improve employee engagement, morale, and communications within specific components and across the Department.

(5) Conduct regular meetings and report, not less than once per quarter, to the Under Secretary for Management, the head of each component, and the Secretary on Department-wide efforts to improve employee engagement, morale, and communications.

(B) Action Plan.—‘‘The Secretary, acting through the Chief Human Capital Officer, shall—
SEC. 712. ANNUAL EMPLOYEE AWARD PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(1) establish a program to award such employee or employee group as the Secretary determines to be deserving of recognition.

(b) INTERNAL REVIEW BOARD.—The internal review board described in subsection (a) shall review the nominations and make its recommendations regarding each employee or employee group.

(c) TERMINATION.—This section shall terminate on the date that is five years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4. ANNUAL EMPLOYEE AWARD PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title VII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (as amended by section 3 of this Act), is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 710 the following new item:

``Sec. 711. Annual employee award program.''.

(b) DEPARTMENT-WIDE EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT ACTION PLAN.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate the Department-wide employee engagement action plan required under subsection (b)(1) of section 711 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (as added by subsection (a) of this section) not later than 30 days after the issuance of such plan under such subsection (b)(1).

(2) COMPONENT-SPECIFIC EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT PLANS.—Each head of a component of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate the component-specific employee engagement plan of such component required under subsection (b)(2) of section 711 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 not later than 30 days after the issuance of such plan under such subsection (b)(2).

SEC. 5. INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security shall consult with the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security and the employee engagement steering committee established pursuant to subsection (b)(1) of section 711 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (as added by section 3 of this Act) to—

(1) establish a workgroup that includes representatives of—

(A) the Department of Homeland Security.

(B) the Department of the Treasury.

(C) other large Federal departments.

(D) the employee engagement steering committee established pursuant to section 737 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002.

(E) the employee engagement steering committee established pursuant to section 737 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002.

(2) require the head of each component agency to provide to the workgroup the following information:

(A) the component-specific employee engagement plan established pursuant to section 737 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002.

(B) the component-specific employee engagement plan established pursuant to section 737 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002.

(3) require the head of each component agency to provide to the workgroup the following information:

(A) the component-specific employee engagement plan established pursuant to section 737 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002.

(B) the component-specific employee engagement plan established pursuant to section 737 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002.

(c) ACTION BY UNDER SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT.—Upon completion of the investigation described in subsection (a), the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security shall—

(1) prepare a report on the findings and recommendations of such investigation.

(2) submit the report to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security of the Senate.

(3) submit the report to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security of the Senate.

SEC. 6. IMPACTS OF SHUTDOWN.

Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall report to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Congressional Affairs of the Senate regarding the direct and indirect impacts of the lapse in appropriations between December 22, 2018, and January 25, 2019, on—

(1) Department of Homeland Security human resources operations;

(2) the Department’s ability to meet hiring benchmarks; and

(3) retention, attrition, and morale of Department personnel.

The Speaker pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TORRES) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. GARBARINO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES).

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous matter on this section (b).

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

There was no objection.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 490, the DHS MORALE Act.

Every day, the Department of Homeland Security workforce carries out an array of critical missions, from screening travelers to securing cyberspace, to responding to disasters.

The 240,000 men and women who make up this workforce should feel appreciated, not only by the American people, but also by DHS. Unfortunately, that does not seem to be the case.

The Office of Personnel Management has found that DHS employees are consistently less satisfied with their jobs compared to the average Federal employee. Since 2005, DHS’ own employees ranked the Department dead last among large Federal departments in the annual Best Places to Work in the Federal Government survey. Scrutinizing below the surface, the Best Places to Work in the Federal Government survey found that DHS’ workforce is the most dissatisfied when it comes to training, teamwork, work-life balance, and support for diversity.

I want to return to the concerns expressed by the workforce. Chairman Thompson introduced the DHS MORALE Act to require DHS to create and implement policies related to leadership development, employee engagement, career progression, and employee recognition. Specifically, H.R. 490 requires the Department to prioritize career development opportunities and leadership development opportunities for DHS employees.

Additionally, it would require DHS to establish an employee engagement steering committee comprised of employees across the Department to better identify the causes of low morale.
Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 490, “DHS MORALE Act,” which expands the duties of the Chief Human Capital Officer to address morale throughout the Department of Homeland Security. The bill provides:

1. leader development and employee engagement,
2. maintaining a catalogue of available employee development opportunities, and
3. issuing a DHS-wide employee engagement action plan.

The bill directs DHS to establish an employee engagement steering committee and authorizes it to establish an annual employee award program.

DHS is also required to report to the congressional homeland security committees the impacts of the lapse in appropriations between December 22, 2018 and January 25, 2019 on (1) DHS human resources operations; (2) DHS’s ability to meet hiring benchmarks; and (3) retention, attrition, and morale of DHS personnel.

As a senior member of this committee I have long been troubled by the low morale, employee retention and job opportunities within the entire agency and what impact these issues have had on homeland security.

Over my service on this committee, from its inception, I have learned a great deal about the capabilities and strength of the men and women who work at the Department of Homeland Security.

I hold them in the highest regard for their dedication and service to our country. This nation depends on the men and women of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to protect citizens from those who wish to do them harm.

DHS is charged with protecting the nation from terrorism threats.

The agency also assists local, state, and federal law enforcement to prepare to meet those threats which are significantly different than what was seen on September 11, 2001.

Because of the dedication of DHS professionals, we are better prepared to face these challenges as one nation united against a common foe.

The Department of Homeland Security was not created to prevent attacks against our nation from desperate people escaping violence and poverty, seeking asylum in our country or the ravages of a virus attacking and killing over half a million Americans.

It was created to prevent attacks against our nation such as the one carried out by foreign terrorists who used commercial planes as missiles to destroy the World Trade Center Towers, and a section of the west side of the Pentagon, and would have killed more if not for the heroic acts of the passengers on Flight 93 to stop the attackers from reaching their ultimate destination right here at our nation’s Capitol.

On January 6, 2021, our nation was once again threatened, but it was from an enemy found on our own shores led by the former President of the United States to attack the Capitol building during the constitutionally mandated Joint Meeting of Congress to count the ballots cast by presidential electors and announce the results and the winner to the nation and the world.

Today, our nation faces multiple crisis at the same time that are challenging our way of life, values, and resolve; challenges the American people are, and will be, prepared to face and overcome.

As Americans we are best when we are true to the values we hold dear, beginning with fidelity to the Constitution and the laws of the United States.

1. Department of Homeland Security has had low employee morale and low employee engagement since it began operations in 2003 and this must change.

In 2019, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued a report on DHS employee morale.

This report addressed:

1. drivers of employee engagement at DHS
2. the extent that DHS has initiatives to improve employee engagement and ensures effective engagement action planning.

GAO analyzed employee trends within DHS, reviewed component employee engagement action plans and met with officials from DHS and component human capital offices as well as unions and employee groups.

I will at the Capitol on September 11, 2001, and I will never forget the Members who were there with me as we sang God Bless America on the steps of the Capitol.

In the days and weeks following the attacks, we were uncertain what threat might come and how many lives might be lost as we worked to put resources in place to deal with an enemy that might be among us.

Over the past nineteen years we have learned a great deal about homeland security, but we must learn more about making sure that agency professionals have what they need to excel.

We will be better prepared to face these challenges as one nation, united against a common foe, when morale issues within DHS have been effectively addressed.

I urge all members to join me in voting for H.R. 490, DHS MORALE Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 490.

The question was taken.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

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

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 473) to require a review of Department of Homeland Security trusted traveler programs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:
H1899

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
This Act may be cited as the “Trusted Traveler Reconsideration and Restoration Act of 2021.”

SEC. 2. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW.
Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of the Department of Homeland Security trusted traveler programs. Such review shall examine the following:

(1) The extent to which the Department of Homeland Security tracks data and monitors trends related to trusted traveler programs, including root causes for identity-matching errors resulting in an individual’s enrollment in a trusted traveler program being reinstated.

(2) Whether the Department coordinates with the heads of other relevant Federal, State, local, Tribal, or territorial entities regarding redress procedures for disqualifying offenses not covered by the Department’s own redress processes but which offenses impact an individual’s enrollment in a trusted traveler program.

(3) How the Department may improve individuals’ access to reconsideration procedures regarding enrollment in a trusted traveler program that requires the involvement of any other Federal, State, local, Tribal, or territorial entity.

(4) The extent to which travelers are informed about reconsideration procedures regarding enrollment in a trusted traveler program.

SEC. 3. ENROLLMENT REDRESS.
Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall, with respect to an individual whose enrollment in a trusted traveler program was revoked in error, extend by an amount of time equal to the period of revocation the period of active enrollment in such a program upon re-enrollment in such a program by such an individual.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. GARBARINO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 473, the Trusted Traveler Reconsideration and Restoration Act of 2021.

Before the pandemic, millions of travelers participated in DHS’ trusted traveler programs, like TSA’s PreCheck and CBP’s Global Entry, NEXUS, SENTRI, and FAST programs, to get them where they need to go a little faster and easier.

These are win-win programs where DHS moves vetted goods and people in an expeditious manner, thereby freeing up screening resources to focus on higher-risk travelers.

Given the benefits of these programs, it is troubling to hear about people being unable to enroll in one of these programs, despite meeting all of the security requirements needed to participate.

We all have an interest in ensuring that the vetting for these programs is thorough and, where there are identifying matching errors or other issues that may result in a qualified applicant being wrongly rejected, the issues get addressed in a timely way.

To ensure these programs are operating effectively and consistently, H.R. 473 directs the Government Accountability Office to review DHS’ trusted traveler programs. The GAO’s study will provide important insight into the Department’s identity matching processes and the redress options available to those who are improperly rejected.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 473, the Trusted Traveler Reconsideration and Restoration Act of 2021.

This bill, sponsored by Ranking Member John KATKO and cosponsored by Chairwomen WATERSON COLEMAN and Slotkin, seeks to ensure the rights of individuals to reconsider their trusted traveler status revoked.

From the CBP’s Global Entry and NEXUS to TSA’s PreCheck programs, the Department of Homeland Security’s trusted traveler programs are critical to the safe and secure free movement of people. However, there are instances in which individuals are mistaken for people with the same or similar name or who otherwise find themselves in a position where they lose their trusted traveler status based on a database error.

For those unfortunate persons, the process of getting their trusted traveler status reinstated by DHS involves timely, cumbersome, and confusing bureaucratic hurdles, often among several Federal agencies. In these instances, travelers lose valuable time off of their trusted traveler enrollment period, even though they spent hard-earned money to apply.

H.R. 473 seeks to bring relief to the traveling public who are in need of having their trusted traveler status reinstated. The bill requires a comprehensive review by the Government Accountability Office on the existing DHS processes related to trusted traveler programs and how the Department can improve individuals’ access to having their trusted traveler status reinstated when it has been revoked in error.

Additionally, H.R. 473 directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to extend an individual’s enrollment in a trusted traveler program by a period commensurate with the amount of time they lost in their enrollment due to an error.

I thank Ranking Member KATKO for his leadership on this bipartisan bill, and I thank Chairman THOMPSON for his commitment to bringing it to the floor today.

Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARBARINO. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, I urge Members to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, the Department of Homeland Security’s trusted traveler programs are important tools in the Department’s toolbox to screen people efficiently and concentrate its resources on high-risk travelers.

It is critical that the Department’s processes to vet enrollees be fair, consistent, and based on accurate information. The GAO assessment directed by H.R. 473 will help drive DHS to work towards those ends.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from New York (Mr. KATKO) for introducing this bill. I urge its passage, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 473, the “Trusted Traveler Reconsideration and Restoration Act of 2021,” which directs the Government Accountability Office to review Department of Homeland Security (DHS) trusted traveler programs, and DHS to extend the enrollment period where an individual’s participation in a trusted traveler program was revoked in error.

The Trusted Traveler consists of several programs that include: Global Entry, TSA PreCheck, SENTRI, NEXUS, and FAST.

The Trusted Traveler Programs are risk-based programs to facilitate the entry of pre-approved travelers.

All applicants are vetted to ensure that they meet the qualifications for the program to which they are applying.

Receiving a “Best Match” or program recommendation based on eligibility or travel habits does not guarantee acceptance into any Trusted Traveler program.

We will be better prepared to face these challenges as one nation united against a common foe, when morale issues within DHS have been effectively addressed.

I urge all members to join me in voting for H.R. 473 the “Trusted Traveler Reconsideration and Restoration Act of 2021.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 473.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.
QUADRENNIAL HOMELAND SECURITY REVIEW TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT OF 2021

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 370) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make technical corrections to the requirements that the Secretary of Homeland Security submit quadrennial homeland security reviews, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

SEC. 2. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO QUADRENNIAL HOMELAND SECURITY REVIEW.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 707 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 347) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “Decem-

(b) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by inserting before the semicolon at the end; and

(ii) by striking “budget plan” and insert-

(c) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by inserting “to the extent prac-

(d) in paragraph (5), by striking “; and”;

(ii) by redesignating subsection (i) as sub-

(e) in paragraph (6), by striking “; and”;

(f) in paragraph (7), by redesigning sub-

(g) in paragraph (8), by redesigning sub-

(h) in paragraph (9), by redesigning sub-

(i) in paragraph (10), by redesigning sub-

SEC. 3. DOCUMENTATION.—The Secretary shall retain and, upon request, provide to Congress the following documentation regarding each quadrennial homeland security review:

(A) Records regarding the consultation carried out pursuant to subsection (a)(3), includ-

(B) Information regarding the risk assess-

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the fol-

(D) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-

(E) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-

(F) by inserting “; and” after the semicolon;

(G) by striking paragraph (6), and

(H) by redesigning paragraphs (7) through (9) as paragraphs (8) through (10).

SEC. 4. REPORTS.—The Secretary shall submit to Congress—

(A) not later than 60 days after the submis-

(B) not later than 60 days after the submis-

(C) not later than 60 days after the submis-

(D) not later than 60 days after the submis-

(E) not later than 60 days after the submis-

In April 2021, the Defense Department, undertook a bottom-up review every 4 years in recognition of the fact that it has a vital, complex, and ever-expanding set of missions that need to be assessed in regular intervals to help DHS stay ahead of the constantly evolving threats facing our country.


Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I urge the passage of H.R. 370, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARBARINO. Madam Speaker, I urge the passage of H.R. 370, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I urge the passage of H.R. 370, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARBARINO. Madam Speaker, I urge the passage of H.R. 370, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I urge the passage of H.R. 370, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARCIA of California. Madam Speaker, I urge the passage of H.R. 370, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARBARINO. Madam Speaker, I urge the passage of H.R. 370, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I urge the passage of H.R. 370, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARCIA of California. Madam Speaker, I urge the passage of H.R. 370, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARBARINO. Madam Speaker, I urge the passage of H.R. 370, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I urge the passage of H.R. 370, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARCIA of California. Madam Speaker, I urge the passage of H.R. 370, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARBARINO. Madam Speaker, I urge the passage of H.R. 370, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.
This bill has strong bipartisan support from the committee.

Madam Speaker, I urge Members to support this bill. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, DHS is a sprawling $50 billion Federal agency with a diverse array of mission sets. As such, it is critical that, every 4 years, DHS carry out a rigorous bottom-up, risk-informed review of the entire department that reflects robust engagement with homeland security acquisition professionals within the Department of Homeland Security Acquisition Professional Career Program which, since 2002, has been credited with helping DHS onboard over 300 new hires into its acquisition workforce.

Unfortunately, when it comes to hiring and retaining acquisitions professionals, DHS has experienced chronic staffing shortages that, in the view of the Government Accountability Office, create a persistent challenge for DHS that has negatively affected the ability of DHS to acquire vital capabilities on time and on budget.

H.R. 367 seeks to address this challenge by codifying DHS' rigorous development program in which participants are provided with acquisition training, mentorship, department-wide rotations, and other career development opportunities.

Enactment of this measure will help DHS maintain a pipeline for its acquisition workforce to directly support the department's frontline officers and provide them with the tools that they need.

A prior version of this bill passed the House by a voice vote last September, on a bipartisan basis.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to once again support this legislation. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 367, the Homeland Security Acquisition Professional Career Program Act.

This Act may be cited as the "Homeland Security Acquisition Professional Career Program Act."
I rise today in support of H.R. 367, the Homeland Security Acquisition Professional Career Program Act. This legislation will help create a pipeline for the Department of Homeland Security to better recruit talented acquisition professionals.

This critical program is an important step to making DHS more agile and efficient in its role of protecting our Nation.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 367.

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

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from Nevada for her leadership on this bill.

Americans look to DHS to respond after a disaster, prevent terrorism, and protect cyberspace. Within DHS, its leaders at every level of the organization look to the acquisition workforce to ensure that the department has the tools needed to get the job done.

Since 2008, DHS’ Acquisition Professional Career Program has created a vital pipeline for the department to hire acquisitions professionals who develop their knowledge and skills in house at DHS. Enactment of H.R. 367 would ensure that DHS is able to continue to run this successful program which the department has come to rely on to help address chronic staffing shortages within its acquisition workforce.

Again, I want to thank and commend the gentlewoman, Congresswoman T’RUUS from Nevada, who is presently presiding over the House, for her leadership on H.R. 367.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 367. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 367, the “Homeland Security Acquisition Professional Career Program Act,” in the Senate of the United States of America in Congress assembled.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Department of Homeland Security Mentor-Protege Program Act of 2021.”

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY MENTOR–PROTEGE PROGRAM ACT OF 2021

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 408) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a mentor-protege program, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 408
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 “Department of Homeland Security Mentor-Protege Program Act of 2021.”

SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY MENTOR–PROTEGE PROGRAM.

(a) In general.—Subtitle H of title VIII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 451 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

SEC. 880B. MENTOR–PROTEGE PROGRAM.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Department a mentor-protege program (in this section, in this part, or in this Program) under which a mentor firm enters into an agreement with a protege firm for the purpose of assisting the protege firm to compete for prime contracts and subcontracts of the Department.

“(b) ELIGIBILITY.—The Secretary shall establish criteria for mentor firms and protege firms to be eligible to participate in the Program, including a requirement that a firm is not included on any list maintained by the Federal Government of contractors that have been suspended or debarred.

“(c) PROGRAM APPLICATION AND APPROVAL.—

“(1) APPLICATION.—The Secretary, acting through the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization of the Department, shall establish a process for submission of an application by a mentor firm and the protege firm selected by the mentor firm. The application shall include each of the following:

“(A) A description of the assistance to be provided by the mentor firm, including, to the extent available, the number and a brief description of each anticipated subcontract to be awarded to the protege firm.

“(B) A schedule with milestones for achieving the assistance to be provided over the period of participation in the Program.

“(C) An estimate of the costs incurred by the mentor firm for providing assistance under the Program.

“(D) Attestations that Program participants will submit to the Secretary reports at times specified by the Secretary to assist the Secretary in evaluating the protege firm’s developmental progress.

“(E) Testimonials that Program participants will inform the Secretary in the event of a change in eligibility or voluntary withdrawal from the Program.

“(2) CONSIDERATION.—Not later than 60 days after receipt of an application pursuant to paragraph (1), the head of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization shall notify applicants of approval or, in the case of disapproval, the process for resubmitting an application for reconsideration.

“(3) RESCISSION.—The head of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization may rescind the approval of an application under this subsection if it determines that such action is in the best interest of the Department.

“(4) PROGRAM DURATION.—A mentor firm and protege firm approved under subsection (c) shall enter into an agreement to participate in the Program for a period of not less than 36 months.

“(5) PROGRAM BENEFITS.—A mentor firm and protege firm that enter into an agreement under subsection (d) may receive the following Program benefits:

“(1) With respect to an award of a contract that requires a subcontracting plan, a mentor firm may receive credit for participating in the Program.

“(2) With respect to an award of a contract that requires a subcontracting plan, a mentor firm may receive credit for a protege firm performing as a first tier subcontractor or a subcontractor at any tier in an amount equal to the total dollar value of any subcontracts awarded to such protege firm.

“(3) A protege firm may receive technical, managerial, financial, or any other mutually agreed upon benefit from a mentor firm, including a subcontract award.

“(6) REPORTING.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the head of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report that—

“(1) identifies each agreement between a mentor firm and a protege firm entered into under this section, including the number of protege firm participants that are—

“(A) small business firms owned and controlled by veterans;

“(B) small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans;

“(C) small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans;

“(D) qualified HUBZone small business concerns;
Mr. GARBARINO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 408, the Department of Homeland Security Mentor-Protege Program Act of 2021.

Since the earliest days of the Department of Homeland Security, it has operated a mentor-protege program to encourage large businesses to help small businesses build their capacity to compete for government contracts.

However, this important program was never codified in law. H.R. 408 not only authorizes the existing program but improves it.

Small businesses, including woman-, veteran- and minority-owned firms, are the backbone of our economy, but too often complex Federal contracting requirements shut them out of the Federal marketplace.

Building and sustaining a reliable pool of small business vendors is critical to ensuring that DHS' ever-evolving contracting needs are met and America's security is enhanced.

H.R. 408 seeks to build and sustain this pool by incentivizing large businesses to provide technical, managerial, and financial assistance to small businesses.

The bill requires participating businesses to commit to a mentor-protege relationship for 3 years to help establish long-term relationships between large and small contractors.

Additionally, to ensure that Congress can monitor the effectiveness of the program in an ongoing way, it requires DHS to annually report on program participation and the benefits conferred upon small businesses.

Enactment of H.R. 408 will ensure the continued and lasting success of the mentor-protege program, a vital small business development program.

It should also be noted that this bill passed the House unanimously during the 116th Congress.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to once again support this legislation. I reserve the balance of my time.
A Protégé Firm can partner with all small businesses that meet the definition of small business concern at FAR 19.001, based on their primary NAICS code, are eligible to be protégé firms. This includes small business, veteran-owned small business, service-disabled veteran-owned small business, HUBZone small business, small disadvantaged business, and women-owned small business concerns.

Benefits for Mentors to participate in this program include for acquisitions that require for a subcontracting plan, mentors are eligible to receive credit in the source selection/evaluation criteria process for mentor-protégé participation.

Additionally, a post-award incentive for subcontracting plan credit is available by recognizing costs incurred by a mentor firm in providing assistance to a protégé firm and using this credit for purposes of determining whether the mentor firm attains a subcontracting plan participation goal applicable to the mentor firm under a Homeland Security contract.

The mentor-protégé by allowing them to receive technical, managerial, financial, or any other mutually agreed upon benefit from mentors including work that flows from a government or commercial contract through subcontracting or teaming arrangements what this could result in significant small business development.

The benefits to the Department of Homeland Security is the opportunity to move from the traditional large business prime contractor/ small business subcontractor model to a mentor-protégé relationship model based on mutual agreement, trust, and meaningful business development.

Additionally, mentor-protégé arrangements may provide the Department of Homeland Security with greater assurance that a protégé subcontractor will be able to perform under a contract than a similarly situated non-protégé subcontractor.

Further, protégé firms gain opportunities to seek and perform government and commercial contracts with guidance and support of mentor firms that may not have been available to them without the mentor-protégé program.

This type of program is working in the Department of Defense with great success. It is time to formalize the work of the mentor-protégé program with DHS.

I ask that my colleagues join me in voting for H.R. 408.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 408.

The question was taken. The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(g) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered to be printed in the Congressional Record.

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

CBRN INTELLIGENCE AND INFORMATION SHARING ACT OF 2021

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 397) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear intelligence and information sharing functions of the Office of Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security and to require dissemination of information analyzed by the Department to entities with responsibilities relating to homeland security, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill as follows:

H.R. 397

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “CBRN Intelligence and Information Sharing Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL, AND NUCLEAR INTELLIGENCE AND INFORMATION SHARING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 201 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 210G the following new section:

SEC. 210H. CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL, AND NUCLEAR INTELLIGENCE AND INFORMATION SHARING.

(1) In General.—The Office of Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security shall—

(I) support homeland security-focused intelligence analysis of terrorist actors, their claims, and their plans to conduct attacks involving chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear materials against the United States, including critical infrastructure;

(II) support homeland security-focused intelligence analysis of global infectious disease, public health, food, agricultural, and veterinary issues;

(III) support homeland security-focused risk analysis and risk assessments of the homeland security hazards described in paragraphs (1) and (2), including the transportation of chemical, biological, or radiological materials, by providing relevant quantitative and nonquantitative threat information;

(IV) leverage existing and emerging homeland security intelligence capabilities and structures to enhance early detection, prevention, protection, response, and recovery efforts with respect to chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear attack;

(V) share information and provide tailored analytical support on such threats to State, local, tribal, and territorial authorities, and other Federal agencies, as well as relevant national biosecurity and biodefense stakeholders, as appropriate; and

(VI) perform such other responsibilities, as assigned by the Secretary.

(2) Coordination.—Where appropriate, the Office of Intelligence and Analysis shall coordinate with the relevant national security leadership, the Intelligence Community, and other Federal agencies, as well as relevant national biosecurity and biodefense stakeholders, as appropriate, and such other authorities, as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(3) Definitions.—In this section:

(C) Definitions.—In this section:

(I) Intelligence community.—The term ‘intelligence community’ has the meaning given such term in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)).

(II) Biodefense stakeholders.—The term ‘biodefense stakeholders’ means officials from Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial authorities and individuals from the private sector who are involved in efforts to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from a biological attack or other phenomena that may have significant health consequences for the United States, including infectious disease outbreaks.

(III) CBRN Intelligence and Information Sharing Act of 2021.—The table of contents in section 101 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 210E the following new item:

‘‘Sec. 210H. Chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear intelligence and information sharing.’’.

(C) Report.—

(1) In General.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act and annually thereafter for each of the following fiscal years, the Department of Homeland Security shall report to the appropriate congressional committees on the following:

(A) The intelligence and information sharing activities under title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (as added by subsection (a) of this section) and of all relevant entities within the Department of Homeland Security to counter the threat from attacks using chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear materials.

(B) The Department activities in accordance with relevant intelligence strategies.

(2) Assessment of Implementation.—The reports required under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) An assessment of the progress of the Office of Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security in implementing such section 210H.

(B) A description of the methods established to carry out such assessment.

(3) Definition.—In this subsection, the term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and any committee of the House of Representatives or the Senate having legislative jurisdiction under the rules of the House of Representatives or Senate, respectively, over the matter concerned.

SEC. 3. DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ANALYZED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO STATE, LOCAL, TRIBAL, TERRITORIAL, AND PRIVATE ENTITIES WITH RESPONSIBILITIES RELATING TO HOMELAND SECURITY.

Paragraph (6) of section 201(d) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 121(d)) is amended—

(A) by striking ‘‘and to agencies of State’’ and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ‘‘to State, local, tribal, territorial, and private entities with such responsibilities and, as appropriate, to the public, in order to assist in preventing, deterring, or responding to acts of terrorism against the States, other Federal agencies, and Federal or State agencies, and to agencies of State’’; and

(B) by striking ‘‘and to agencies of State’’ and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ‘‘and to agencies of State’’.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. GARBARINO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES).
Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

Mr. Speaker pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES)?

There was no objection.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 397, the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Intelligence and Information Sharing Act of 2021.

This past year, we have witnessed a global pandemic dominate nearly every aspect of American life and claim the lives of over half a million people. As it tore through our communities, it also brought into stark focus hard truths about inequities in our healthcare system, the reliability of our PPE pipeline, the need for better information sharing between the Federal Government and State, local, and private-sector partners.

The legislation before us seeks to promote timely sharing of intelligence about chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats, or CBRN threats. It does so by specifically directing the Department of Homeland Security to analyze CBNR-related terror threats and share threat information with Federal, State, and local partners.

In the event of an attack of this nature, situational awareness at all levels of government is key. Better situational awareness is also important to help New York City and other DHS grant recipients more efficiently target their grant dollars to address threats.

Earlier versions of this bill overwhelmingly passed in the House in the last three Congresses, and I urge my colleagues to support the measure once again.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in support of H.R. 397, the CBRN Intelligence and Information Sharing Act of 2021.

We all know that terrorist groups have long sought to develop the capability to attack our Nation with chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear materials. H.R. 397 would address this threat by requiring the Office of Intelligence and Analysis, within the Department of Homeland Security, to support the homeland security-focused analysis of terrorist capabilities related to chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear materials, as well as threats to the homeland from global infectious diseases.

To improve coordination with local law enforcement, H.R. 397 requires the Office of Intelligence and Analysis to share threat information not only with Federal entities but also State, local, Tribal, and territorial agencies.

I commend my colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GIMENEZ), for introducing this important legislation. Madam Speaker, all Members to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, effective prevention and response to terrorism and naturally occurring threats start with information-sharing.

At a time when threats are changing at such a rapid pace, H.R. 397 will help to facilitate information-sharing to better safeguard the homeland from bad actors.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 397, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 397, as amended.

The question was taken.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. GARBARINO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 396) to amend the United States Code to improve the management, administration, and accountability of the public transportation security assistance grants program and the Transit Security Grant Program, and for other purposes.

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 “Transit Security Grant Program Flexibility Act.”

SEC. 2. ALLOWABLE USES OF FUNDS FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ASSISTANCE GRANTS.

Subparagraph (A) of section 1406(b)(2) of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (6 U.S.C. 1135; Public Law 110–53) is amended by inserting “(2) by inserting after subsection (m) the following new subsection:

“(n) PERIODS OF PERFORMANCE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), funds provided pursuant to a grant awarded under this section for a use specified in subsection (b)(1) shall remain available for use by a grant recipient for a period of not fewer than 36 months. (2) EXCEPTION.—Funds provided pursuant to a grant awarded under this section for a use specified in subparagraph (M) or (N) of subsection (b)(1) shall remain available for use by a grant recipient for a period of not fewer than 55 months.”

SEC. 3. GAO REVIEW.


(b) SCOPE.—The review required under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the type of projects funded under the public transportation security assistance grant program referred to in such paragraph.

(2) An assessment of the manner in which such projects address threats to public transportation infrastructure.

(3) An assessment of the impact, if any, of this Act (including the amendments made by this Act) on types of projects funded under the public transportation security assistance grant program.

SEC. 4. GAO REVIEW.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of the public transportation security assistance grant program funds address vulnerabilities in public transportation infrastructure.

(b) SCOPE.—The review required under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the management and administration of the public transportation security assistance grant program.

(2) Recommendations to improve the manner in which public transportation security assistance grant program funds address vulnerabilities in public transportation infrastructure.

(3) Recommendations to improve the management and administration of the public transportation security assistance grant program.
days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 396, the Transit Security Grant Program Flexibility Act.

This legislation, as introduced by my colleague from New York (Mr. GARRARINO), seeks to make common-sense adjustments to a DHS grant program that helps keep our constituents safe.

H.R. 396 requires technical changes to the Transit Security Grant Program to allow grant funding to be used for backfill staffing when associated with security training and give transit authorities more time to expend grant funds on security improvements for public transportation systems or infrastructure.

Our transit systems are absolutely vital to daily travel and commerce. According to U.S. Census figures, 36 percent of all New Yorkers rely on public transportation. In New York City, over 5 million people depend on our trains and subways on a normal workday.

Under the June 2019 Metropolitan Transit Authority report, more than $20 million in fiscal year 2020 to protect riders from acts of terrorism and other targeted violence.

H.R. 396 is informed by feedback from grantees about challenges with the program over the years, and it is intended to ensure that the Transit Security Grant Program remains current, and that funding reaches maximum impact.

Enactment of this bill will help improve a key DHS grant program and better secure our Nation’s transportation infrastructure.

Madam Speaker, I urge my House colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in strong support of my bill, H.R. 396, the Transit Security Grant Program Flexibility Act.

Whether it be buses, ferries, or passenger rail, the Transit Security Grant Program provides needed funds to transit agencies to protect critical surface transportation infrastructure and the traveling public from acts of terrorism.

Unfortunately, we have already witnessed multiple attacks across the globe: the 2005 bombing of the Tube in London, the 2016 metro station bombing in Brussels, and the 2017 New York Port Authority bombing.

With billions of riders using surface transportation annually, and limited security screening, it should come as no surprise that surface transportation has been and continues to be a terror target. As such, we must ensure that first responders and transit agencies have the tools needed to secure our transit system.

The Transit Security Grant Program Flexibility Act seeks to address challenges associated with fluctuating periods of performance by codifying the period of performance at 36 months for the majority of eligible projects and extending it to 55 months for vital large-scale capital security projects. This ensures major projects can be successfully completed in the allotted time.

Additionally, while Transit Security Grant Program awards can be used to provide personnel with essential security training, recipients of awards are not currently permitted to use the grant program funds to pay for backfilling personnel attending such training. This may, in turn, inhibit some transit agencies from sending their staff to vital security training.

H.R. 396 will permit Transit Security Grant Program funds to be used for this purpose, consistent with other Homeland Security grant programs.

Given the evolving threat landscape, and the continued calls from extremist groups for lone-wolf attacks to target crowded areas, it is imperative that the Transit Security Grant Program provide flexible solutions for grant recipients in order to protect these soft targets and keep everyday commuters safe.

I am proud to continue the great work of former New York Members Dan Donovan and Peter King in introducing this important piece of legislation.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to join me in supporting H.R. 396, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, New York City has the largest public transit system in the country, and New York City has the greatest vulnerability to terrorism.

I thank my colleague, Congressman GARRARINO, for his leadership in advocating for transportation systems across the country.

H.R. 396 is a measure that this country needs. I believe all of us in this body can agree that securing America’s transit systems is critical to homeland security, and so too must we invest to make and keep it safe.

Enactment of H.R. 396 would bolster the security of what, in the view of my constituents, is about as critical as critical infrastructure gets and protect these systems and their riders against terrorist attacks and targeted violence.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 396, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 396.

The question was taken.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 3 o’clock and 13 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

Mr. BIGGS. Madam Speaker, on that basis I am reporting that the House has receded.

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. TRUM) at 3 o’clock and 27 minutes p.m.

IMPROVING FHA SUPPORT FOR SMALL-DOLLAR MORTGAGES ACT OF 2021

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1532) to require a review of the effects of FHA mortgage insurance policies, practices, and products on small-dollar mortgage lending, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1532

To be 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 "Improving FHA Support for Small-Dollar Mortgages Act of 2021.”

SEC. 2. REVIEW OF FHA SMALL-DOLLAR MORTGAGE PRACTICES.

(a) CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

(1) affordable homeownership opportunities are being hindered due to the lack of financing available for home purchases under $70,000;

(2) according to the Urban Institute, small-dollar mortgage loan applications in 2017 were denied by lenders at double the rate of dollars for large mortgage loans, and this difference in denial rates cannot be fully explained by differences in the applicants’ credit profiles;

(3) according to data compiled by Attom Data solutions, small-dollar mortgage originations have decreased 38 percent since 2009, while there has been a 65-percent increase in origination of mortgages for more than $150,000;

(4) the FHA’s mission is to serve credit-worthy borrowers who are underserved and, according to the Urban Institute, the FHA serves 24 percent of the overall market, but only 19 percent of the small-dollar mortgage market;

(5) the causes behind these variations are not fully understood, but merit study that could assist in furthering the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s mission, including meeting the needs of borrowers the program is designed to serve and reducing barriers to homeownership, while...
The Federal Housing Administration was designed to serve underserved markets and could be instrumental in promoting more small-dollar mortgage lending, but the data shows that the FHA is actually disproportionately failing to serve small-dollar mortgages. So this bill would require the FHA to identify barriers to better serving the small-dollar mortgage market and to come up with an actionable plan to reduce those barriers.

This bill is desperately needed at a time when mortgage rates are at historic lows and home prices continue to rise. We must support affordable housing options for individual borrowers and their dreams of the American Dream of homeownership.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, when it comes to promoting access to homeownership, much of the focus tends to be on how high housing prices are pricing many borrowers out of homeownership. But the landscape of homeownership opportunities is varied, and for many communities, the lack of access to traditional mortgage financing for small-dollar mortgages continues to be a major barrier.

Specifically, I am talking about mortgage financing for homes that are priced at $70,000 or less. For many rural communities, and predominantly communities of color that are struggling to overcome the impacts of the foreclosure crisis, there are lower-value homes that would otherwise be ideal homeownership opportunities for first-time home buyers and working class families, but the lack of traditional mortgage financing options acts as a barrier to those opportunities.

Data from the Urban Institute shows that those small-dollar mortgages are denied by lenders at double the rate compared to larger loans, and this trend cannot be explained away by differences in the creditworthiness of applicants.

The bottom line is that lenders don’t make as much money originating these smaller loans, so they are less likely to make loans on collateral that don’t maximize their profit.
Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES FOR SERVICEMEMBERS ACT

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1491) to amend the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to provide enhanced protection against debt collector harassment of members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes. The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1491

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 “Fair Debt Collection Practices for Servicemembers Act.”

SEC. 2. ENHANCED PROTECTION AGAINST DEBT COLLECTOR HARASSMENT OF SERVICEMEMBERS.

(a) COMMUNICATION IN CONNECTION WITH DEBT COLLECTION.—Section 807 of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (15 U.S.C. 1692f) is amended by adding at the end the following:

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Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to support our servicemembers by voting “yes” on H.R. 1491, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1491, the “Fair Debt Collection for Servicemembers Act,” which addresses abusive debt collection practices affecting members of the military by amending the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA) by adding servicemember-specific provisions to Section 805 (covering prohibited communications in connection with debt collection) and 808 (defining unfair practices that constitute a violation of the Act).

H.R. 1491 specifically prohibits debt collectors from making threats of rank reduction, revocation of security clearance or prosecution under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Further, the bill requires the Government Accountability Office to report the impact of this act on military readiness and national security, including the extent covered members with security clearances would be impacted by uncoulected debt.

While all Americans are covered by laws barring debt collectors from overly aggressive or deceptive tactics, military members and their families face particular financial challenges requiring extra protections: in service to their country, they relocate frequently, deploy overseas and are a prime target for scammers.

Military members are also more vulnerable to debt collectors in some instances, and debt collectors have taken advantage of this vulnerability by targeting members of the Armed Forces through calling their superiors or threatening them with rank reductions.

Unfortunately, these practices do not stop with the servicemembers. Debt collectors also target military spouses, unfairly burdening our military families who have sacrificed so much.

These tactics are egregious and must stop. Our servicemen and -women make extraordinary sacrifices on our behalf. The last thing they need is harassment from debt collectors who take advantage of their service, which is why I am pleased to raise the issue today.

Specifically, my bill amends the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and prohibits a debt collector from communicating with a servicemember’s chain of command or any dependent for the purpose of threatening to have their rank reduced or threatening to revoke their security clearance.

This legislation will help ensure that our military families are not unnecessarily targeted and shield them from bad practices from debt collectors. We recognize our servicemembers’ spirit of service, and we must do our part to be of service to them.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members, as they did last Congress, to support the Fair Debt Collection Practices for Servicemembers Act.

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, in closing, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, I commend Congresswoman DEAN for her excellent work on H.R. 1491 to help ensure our servicemembers are not threatened or harassed by unscrupulous debt collectors.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to support our servicemembers by voting “yes” on H.R. 1491, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1491, the “Fair Debt Collection for Servicemembers Act,” which addresses abusive debt collection practices affecting members of the military by amending the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA) by adding servicemember-specific provisions to Section 805 (prohibiting communications in connection with debt collection) and 808 (defining unfair practices that constitute a violation of the Act).

H.R. 1491 specifically prohibits debt collectors from making threats of rank reduction, revocation of security clearance or prosecution under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Further, the bill requires the Government Accountability Office to report the impact of this act on military readiness and national security, including the extent covered members with security clearances would be impacted by uncoulected debt.

While all Americans are covered by laws barring debt collectors from overly aggressive or deceptive tactics, military members and their families face particular financial challenges requiring extra protections: in service to their country, they relocate frequently, deploy overseas and are a prime target for scammers.

Military members are also more vulnerable to debt collectors in some instances, and debt collectors have taken advantage of this vulnerability by targeting members of the Armed Forces through calling their superiors or threatening them with rank reductions.

Unfortunately, these practices do not stop with the servicemembers. Debt collectors also target military spouses, unfairly burdening our military families who have sacrificed so much.

These tactics are egregious and must stop. Our servicemen and -women make extraordinary sacrifices on our behalf. The last thing they need is harassment from debt collectors who take advantage of their service, which is why I am pleased to fly back the issue today.

Specifically, my bill amends the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and prohibits a debt collector from communicating with a servicemember’s chain of command or any dependent for the purpose of threatening to have their rank reduced or threatening to revoke their security clearance.

This legislation will help ensure that our military families are not unnecessarily targeted and shield them from bad practices from debt collectors. We recognize our servicemembers’ spirit of service, and we must do our part to be of service to them.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members, as they did last Congress, to support the Fair Debt Collection Practices for Servicemembers Act.

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, in closing, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, I commend Congresswoman DEAN for her excellent work on H.R. 1491 to help ensure our servicemembers are not threatened or harassed by unscrupulous debt collectors.
H.R. 1395 would amend current law to require FHA to provide a one-quarter percent upfront premium discount, from the prevailing rate, in order to help those first-time home buyers get financial literacy and then get the discount. This equates to about $252 of saving on a $250,000 mortgage. This is not an insignificant amount.

Given the nature of this, I think it is great to have a financial benefit for people understanding financial consequences. There are many other areas in our government that would benefit from this type of thinking.

The hope is that by making such a discount mandatory, more first-time home buyers will seek out financial literacy counseling which, in turn, will produce better outcomes for a traditionally at-risk group of home buyers.

The bottom line is that FHA is a valuable tool to help expand the universe of mortgage credit in our housing system. We ought to be doing all that we can to ensure that we are using our limited public resources to encourage all borrowers to be well-prepared for the commitments of homeownership through counseling or through other effective means of creating more stable and reliable borrowers.

So I think this is a very good bill thoughtfully done by Mrs. BEATTY, and it is bipartisan, coming out of committee last Congress.

Madam Speaker, I have no more speakers. I urge its adoption, I ask my colleagues to vote "yes," and I yield back the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Ohio for pushing this bill forward.

This bill incentivizes financial literacy that will help avoid delinquencies and lower the upfront cost of homeownership for so many.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this important piece of legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the remainder of my time.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Ohio for Ohio for that hard work on H.R. 1395, the Housing Financial Literacy Act of 2021.

The Federal Housing Administration, FHA, currently provides government-backed mortgage insurance to more than $1.3 trillion in loans. FHA insurance allows a wide array of borrowers to qualify for mortgages. This includes many low- and moderate-income families who might not otherwise have access to credit through traditional underwriting.

In December 2020, the FHA insured over 800,000 forward mortgage purchase loans, with more than 83 percent going to first-time home buyers. Given the large population of first-time home buyers using FHA, it makes sense to encourage those individuals to seek out ways to strengthen their financial knowledge and better prepare them for the challenges of homeownership.

Right now, current law states that FHA has the ability to provide first-time home buyers with a discount in their FHA upfront premiums. However, the homeowner must complete an approved homeownership financial counseling course.

Yet, the statute is drafted in such a way that the provision only applies in particular circumstances. This includes when FHA upfront premiums exceed 2.75 percent. Since FHA upfront premiums are currently set at 1.75 percent, the rate has not been exceeded in a decade. Thus, if FHA does not currently provide an upfront premium discount to first-time home buyers who complete a financial counseling course.
necessary to minimize the duplication of efforts within the divisions and offices described under paragraph (3)(B) and any other divisions, offices, or taskforces of the Commission.

"(6) FUNCTIONS OF THE TASKFORCE.—The Taskforce shall—

"(A) identify challenges that senior investors encounter, including problems associated with financial exploitation and cognitive decline;

"(B) identify areas in which senior investors would benefit from changes in the regulations or the rules of self-regulatory organizations;

"(C) coordinate, as appropriate, with other offices within the Commission, other taskforces within the Commission, and self-regulatory organizations, and the Elder Justice Coordinating Council; and

"(D) report, as appropriate, with State securities and law enforcement authorities, State insurance regulators, and other Federal agencies.

"(7) REPORT.—The Taskforce, in coordination, as appropriate, with the Office of the Investor Advocate and self-regulatory organizations, and in consultation, as appropriate, with securities and law enforcement authorities, State insurance regulators, and Federal agencies, shall issue a report every 2 years to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives, the first of which shall not be issued until after the report described in section 3 of the National Senior Investor Initiative Act of 2021 has been issued and considered by the Taskforce, containing—

"(A) Appropriate statistical information and full and substantive analysis;

"(B) a summary of recent trends and innovations that have impacted the investment landscape for senior investors;

"(C) a summary of regulatory initiatives that have concentrated on senior investors and industry practices related to senior investors;

"(D) key observations, best practices, and areas needing improvement, involving senior investors identified during examinations, enforcement actions, and investor education outreach;

"(E) a summary of the most serious issues encountered by senior investors, including issues involving financial products and services;

"(F) an analysis with regard to existing policies and procedures of brokers, dealers, investment advisers, and other market participants related to senior investors and senior investor-related topics and whether these policies and procedures need to be further developed or enforced;

"(G) recommendations for such changes to the regulations, guidance, and orders of the Commission and self-regulatory organizations and such legislative actions as may be appropriate to resolve problems encountered by senior investors; and

"(H) any other information, as determined appropriate by the Director of the Taskforce.

"(8) REPORT ISSUED.—The Taskforce shall make any report issued under paragraph (7) available to a Member of Congress who requests such a report.

"(9) SUNSET.—The Taskforce shall terminate after the end of the 10-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this subsection.

"100. SENIOR INVESTOR DEFINED.—For purposes of this subsection, the term "senior investor" means an investor over the age of 65.

"(11) USE OF EXISTING FUNDS.—The Commission shall use existing funds to carry out this subsection.

SEC. 3. GAO STUDY.

(a) In General.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress and the Senior Investor Taskforce a study of financial exploitation of senior citizens.

(b) CONTENTS.—The study required under subsection (a) shall include information with respect to—

(1) economic costs of the financial exploitation of senior citizens—

(A) associations created by victims that were incurred as a result of the financial exploitation of senior citizens;

(B) incurred by State and Federal agencies, law enforcement and investigatory agencies, public benefit programs, public health programs, and other public programs as a result of the financial exploitation of senior citizens;

(C) incurred by the private sector as a result of the financial exploitation of senior citizens; and

(D) any other relevant costs that—

(i) result from the financial exploitation of senior citizens; and

(ii) the Comptroller General determines are necessary and appropriate to include in order to provide Congress and the public with a full and accurate understanding of the economic costs resulting from the financial exploitation of senior citizens in the United States;

(2) frequency of senior financial exploitation and correlated or contributing factors—

(A) information about percentage of senior citizens financially exploited each year; and

(B) information about factors contributing to increased risk of exploitation, including such factors as race, social isolation, income, net worth, religion, region, occupation, education, home-ownership, illness, and loss of spouse; and

(3) policy responses and reporting of senior financial exploitation—

(A) the degree to which financial exploitation of senior citizens unreported to authorities;

(B) the reasons that financial exploitation may be unreported to authorities;

(C) to the extent that suspected elder financial exploitation is currently being reported—

(i) information regarding which Federal, State, and local agencies are receiving reports, including adult protective services, law enforcement, industry, regulators, and professional licensing boards;

(ii) information regarding what information is being collected by such agencies; and

(iii) information regarding the actions that are taken by such agencies upon receipt of the report and any limits on the agencies’ ability to prevent exploitation, such as jurisdictional limits, lack of expertise, resource challenges, or limiting criteria with regard to the types of victims they are permitted to serve;

(D) an analysis of gaps that may exist in empowering Federal, State, and local agencies to prevent senior exploitation or respond effectively to suspected senior financial exploitation; and

(E) an analysis of the legal hurdles that prevent Federal, State, and local agencies from effectively working with each other and private professionals to effectively respond to senior financial exploitation.

(c) SENIOR CITIZEN DEFINED.—For purposes of this section, a "senior citizen" means an individual over the age of 65.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. PRESSLEY) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Massachusetts.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extensive material thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1565, the Senior Security Act of 2021, which would help protect America’s senior investors who can be disproportionately vulnerable to investment-related frauds.

In 2017 alone, State securities regulators conducted nearly 4,709 investigations leading to 2,100 enforcement actions, including 235 criminal prosecutions. These actions have resulted in approximately $486 million in restitution for harmed investors, nearly $79 million in fines and/or penalties, and 1,985 years in incarceration or probation being ordered.

The National Council on Aging estimated that elder financial abuse and fraud costs older Americans from $2.9 billion to $36.5 billion annually. Moreover, a Federal Reserve, the FINRA, the NASA, and the SEC’s Office of Investor Education and Advocacy noted that COVID–19’s unprecedented quarantines and social isolation may leave senior investors even more susceptible to financial fraud than ever before.

This bill would establish a Senior Investor Task Force within the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. In coordination and consultation with State securities and law enforcement, self-regulatory organizations, Federal law enforcement agencies, and others, the task force would be charged with identifying issues related to investors who are older than 65 years of age. The bill would also require biennial task force reports and require the GAO to complete a study on senior financial exploitation.

I strongly support the safety of America’s senior investors and their right to enjoy the retirement funds that they have worked so hard to earn. I also support regulators and law enforcement in holding fraudsters who prey upon the elderly accountable.

It is for these reasons I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Senior Security Act of 2021.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1565, the Senior Security Act.
Mr. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GOTTHEIMER), who is a sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Madam Speaker, I am honored to rise in support of the bipartisan Senior Security Act, which authorizes a new senior investor task force. This legislation checks both of those boxes. It is for all the senior citizens across this country who are constantly getting the calls, constantly getting the phishing emails, constantly seeing text messages trying to get at their life savings. Those are the ones who report it. As Mr. GOTTHEIMER said, only 1 in 24 of these crimes gets reported.

Mr. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VICTENTE GONZALEZ),
Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1565, the Senior Security Act.

This commonsense legislation will provide much-needed information for policymakers and regulators to fine-tune protections for older investors.

In south Texas, where we share the deep value of respect for our elders, we say society is judged on how we care for our parents, our grandparents, and beyond. We all know how closely financial health is tied to overall well-being. I am eager to support this legislation that equips us to identify better ways to protect our senior citizens and for them to protect themselves from fraud and scammers.

This Senior Security Act aims to protect our seniors and prevent these attacks from happening. This legislation will build upon the Senior Safe Act by creating an interdivisional task force at the Securities and Exchange Commission to examine and identify challenges facing senior investors.

Within 2 years of enactment, the U.S. Government Accountability Office must study and report the economic costs of the financial exploitation of our seniors. Let’s be clear: Scammers will always try to take advantage of our seniors, and it is up to us in this House to stop them.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my congressional colleagues to join me in supporting this important piece of legislation, and urge its passage.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1565 will help our financial regulators better protect our Nation’s seniors and the retirement funds they spend their entire lives building. I urge all of my colleagues to stand up for senior investors and vote ‘yes’ on H.R. 1565.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1565, the “Senior Security Act,” which will help stop financial predators from scamming seniors out of their savings by creating a federal Senior Investor Taskforce within the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to strengthen protections and safeguards for senior investors.

This legislation will establish the Senior Investor Taskforce within the SEC. This taskforce will be responsible for identifying challenges that senior investors encounter, including financial exploitation and cognitive decline, as well as identifying regulatory changes that could help senior investors.

The established Senior Investor Taskforce will be required to:

- Identify and report on any issues and recommendations that impact senior citizens,
- Identify and assess areas in which senior investors would benefit from changes in the Commission or the rules of self-regulatory organizations,
- Coordinate, as appropriate, with other offices within the Commission and other

The proposed legislation includes measures such as:

- Submit a biennial report to Congress,
- Establish a Senior Investor Taskforce within the SEC,
- Conduct hearings on the commission, and
- Provide necessary tools to help senior investors.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation and voting ‘yes’ on H.R. 1565.

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

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

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

PROMOTING TRANSPARENT STANDARDS FOR CORPORATE INSIDERS ACT

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1528) to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to carry out a study of Rule 10b-5 and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1528

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 Transparent Standards for Corporate Insiders Act”.

SEC. 2. SEC STUDY.

(a) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Securities and Exchange Commission shall carry out a study of whether Rule 10b-5 (17 CFR 240.10b-5) should be amended to—

(A) limit the ability of issuers and issuer insiders to adopt a plan described under paragraph (c)(1)(A)(3) of Rule 10b-5 (‘‘trading plan’’) to a time when the issuer or issuer insider is permitted to buy or sell securities during issuer-adopted trading windows;

(B) limit the ability of issuers and issuer insiders to adopt multiple trading plans;

(C) establish a mandatory delay between the adoption of a trading plan and the execution of the first trade pursuant to such a plan and, if so and depending on the Commission’s findings with respect to subparagraph (A) above—

(i) whether any such delay should be the same for trading plans adopted during an issuer-adopted trading window as opposed to outside of such a window; and

(ii) whether any exceptions to such a delay are appropriate;

(D) limit the frequency that issuers and issuer insiders may modify or cancel trading plans;

(E) require issuers and issuer insiders to file with the Commission trading plan adoptions, amendments, terminations and transactions; or

(F) require boards of issuers that have adopted a trading plan to—

(i) adopt policies covering trading plan practices;

(ii) periodically monitor trading plan transactions; and

(iii) ensure that issuer policies discuss trading plan use in the context of guidelines or requirements on equity hedging, holding, and ownership.

(2) ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out the study required under paragraph (1), the Commission shall consider—

- Analyze the need for an issuer’s policies to cover trading plan use in the context of guidelines or requirements on equity hedging, holding, and ownership; and

- Analyze the need for such issuer policies to include the protections provided for in subsections (B) through (F).
Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extra copies of the record in the Report.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1528.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(a) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays have been ordered to be printed in the Congressional Record.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.
SECURE AND FAIR ENFORCEMENT BANKING ACT OF 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1996) to create protections for financial institutions that provide financial services to cannabis-related legitimate businesses and service providers for such businesses, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1996

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, SEC. 1. Short title; table of contents; purpose.

(a) Short title.—This Act may be cited as the “Secure and Fair Enforcement Banking Act of 2021” or the “SAFE Banking Act of 2021”.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents; purpose.

Sec. 2. Safe harbor for depository institutions.

Sec. 3. Protections for ancillary businesses.

Sec. 4. Protections for issuers.

Sec. 5. Rules of construction.

Sec. 6. Requirements for filing suspicious activity reports.

Sec. 7. Guidance and examination procedures.

Sec. 8. Annual diversity and inclusion report.

Sec. 9. GAO study on diversity and inclusion.

Sec. 10. GAO study on effectiveness of certain reports on finding certain legitimate businesses and service providers.

Sec. 11. Application of this Act with respect to hemp-related legitimate businesses and hemp-related service providers.

Sec. 12. Banking services for hemp-related legitimate businesses and hemp-related service providers.

Sec. 13. Requirements for deposit account termination requests and orders.


Sec. 15. Discretionary surplus funds.

(b) Purpose.—The purpose of this Act is to increase public safety by ensuring access to financial services to cannabis-related legitimate businesses and service providers and reducing the amount of cash at such businesses.

SEC. 2. SAFE HARBOR FOR DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS.

(a) In General.—A Federal banking regulator may not—

(1) terminate or limit the deposit insurance or share insurance of a depository institution under the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1811 et seq.), or take any other action adverse against a depository institution under section 9 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1818) solely because the depository institution provides financial services to a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider;

(2) prohibit, penalize, or otherwise discourage a depository institution from providing financial services to a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider to a State, political subdivision of a State, or Indian Tribe that exercises jurisdiction over such an enterprise or entity, or to its owners, operators, or employees; or

(3) recommend, incentivize, or encourage a depository institution not to offer financial services to an account holder, or to downgrade or cancel the financial services offered to an account holder solely because—

(A) the account holder is a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider, or an employee, owner, or operator of a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider;

(B) the account holder later becomes an employee, owner, or operator of a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider;

(C) the depository institution was not aware that the account holder is an employee, owner, or operator of a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider, or

(D) an employee, owner, or operator of a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider, solely because the employee, owner, or operator is employed by, owns, or operates a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider, as applicable;

(E) an owner, a real estate or equipment that is leased to a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider, solely because the owner or operator of the real estate or equipment is a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider, as applicable;

(F) prohibit or penalize a depository institution (or entity performing a financial service for or in association with a depository institution) for, or otherwise discourage a depository institution from, performing a financial service for or in association with a depository institution from, engaging in a financial service for a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider; or

(G) grant or cancel, or take any other action adverse against, a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider for, or otherwise discourage an institution applying for a depository institution charter to the same extent as such subsection applies to a depository institution.

(b) SAFE HARBOR APPLICABLE TO DE NOVO INSTITUTIONS.—Subsection (a) shall apply to a depository institution, entity, or insurer that—

(1) engages in the business of insurance, or otherwise engages with a person in a transaction permissible under State law related to cannabis, and the officers, directors, and employees of that insurer may not be held liable pursuant to any Federal law or regulation—

(A) a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider, solely because the business is a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider;

(B) an employee, owner, or operator of a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider, solely because the employee, owner, or operator is employed by, owns, or operates a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider, as applicable;

(C) an owner, a real estate or equipment that is leased to a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider, solely because the owner or operator of the real estate or equipment is a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider, as applicable;

(D) prohibit or penalize a depository institution (or entity performing a financial service for or in association with a depository institution) for, or otherwise discourage a depository institution from, engaging in a financial service for a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider; or

(E) grant or cancel, or take any other action adverse against, a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider for, or otherwise discourage an institution applying for a depository institution charter to the same extent as such subsection applies to a depository institution.

(c) SAFE HARBOR APPLICABLE TO DE NOVO HOME LOAN BANKS.—Subsection (a) shall apply to a Federal Home Loan Bank, and the officers, directors, and employees of the Federal Home Loan Bank, may not be held liable pursuant to any Federal law or regulation—

(1) solely for providing such a service; or

(2) for further investing any income derived from such a service.

(d) PROTECTIONS FOR INSURERS.—With respect to engaging in the business of insurance within a State, political subdivision of a State, or Indian country that allows the cultivation, production, manufacture, sale, transportation, display, dispensing, distribution, or purchase of cannabis pursuant to a law or regulation of such State, political subdivision, or Indian Tribe that has jurisdiction over the Indian country, as applicable, an insurer that engages in the business of insurance with a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider or who otherwise engages with a person in a transaction permissible under State law related to cannabis, and the officers, directors, and employees of that insurer may not be held liable pursuant to any Federal law or regulation—

(1) solely for engaging in the business of insurance; or

(2) for further investing any income derived from the business of insurance.

(d) FORFEITURE.—

(1) DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS.—A depository institution that has a legal interest in the collateral for a loan or another financial service provided to an owner, employee, or operator of a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider, or to an owner or operator of real estate or equipment that is leased or sold to a cannabis-related legitimate business, shall not be subject to criminal, civil, or administrative forfeiture of that legal interest pursuant to any Federal law for providing such loan or other financial service.

(2) FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS AND FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANKS.—A Federal reserve bank or Federal Home Loan Bank that has a legal interest in the collateral for a loan or another financial service provided to a depository institution that provides a financial service to a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider, or to an owner or operator of real estate or equipment that is leased or sold to a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider, shall not be subject to criminal, civil, or administrative forfeiture of that legal interest pursuant to any Federal law for providing such loan or other financial service.

SEC. 3. PROTECTIONS FOR ANCILLARY BUSINESSES.

For the purposes of sections 1956 and 1957 of title 18, United States Code, and all other provisions of Federal law, the proceeds from transactions involving proceeds of a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider shall not be considered proceeds from an unlawful activity solely because—

(a) the transaction involves proceeds from a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider; or

(b) the transaction involves proceeds from—

(A) cannabis-related activities described in section 14(4)(B) conducted by a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider; or

(B) activities described in section 14(3)(A) conducted by a service provider.

SEC. 4. PROTECTIONS UNDER FEDERAL LAW.

(a) In General.—With respect to providing a financial service to a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider, or a financial service for a cannabis-related legitimate business (where such cannabis-related legitimate business operates within a State, political subdivision of a State, or Indian country that allows the cultivation, production, manufacture, sale, transportation, display, dispensing, distribution, or purchase of cannabis pursuant to a law or regulation of such State, political subdivision, or Indian Tribe that has jurisdiction over the Indian country, as applicable) or a service provider (wherever located), a depository institution that provides a financial service for or in association with a depository institution, or insurer that provides a financial service to a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider, and the officers, directors, and employees of that depository institution, entity, or insurer may not be held liable pursuant to any Federal law or regulation—

(1) solely for providing such a financial service; or

(2) for further investing any income derived from such a financial service.

(b) PROTECTIONS FOR FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS AND FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANKS.—With respect to providing a service to a depository institution that provides a financial service to a cannabis-related legitimate business (where such cannabis-related legitimate business operates within a State, political subdivision of a State, or Indian country that allows the cultivation, production, manufacture, sale, transportation, display, dispensing, distribution, or purchase of cannabis pursuant to a law or regulation of such State, political subdivision, or Indian Tribe that has jurisdiction over the Indian country, as applicable) or service provider (whenever located), a Federal reserve bank or Federal Home Loan Bank, and the officers, directors, and employees of the Federal reserve bank or Federal Home Loan Bank, may not be held liable pursuant to any Federal law or regulation—

(1) solely for providing such a service; or

(2) for further investing any income derived from such a service.
Section 5318(g) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(vi) SERVICE PROVIDER.—The term 'service provider' has the meaning given the term under section 297A of the Federal Financial Institutions Examinations Council Act of 1975 (12 U.S.C. 1639o).

SEC. 11. APPLICATION OF THIS ACT WITH RESPECT TO HEMP-RELATED LEGITIMATE BUSINESSES AND HEMP-RELATED SERVICE PROVIDERS.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

(1) the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334) legalized hemp by removing it from the definition of "marihuana" under the Controlled Substances Act of 1970;

(2) despite the legalization of hemp, some hemp businesses (including producers, manufacturers, and retailers) continue to have difficulty obtaining financial services for hemp-related activities; and

(3) businesses involved in the sale of hemp-derived CBD products are particularly affected, due to confusion about the legal status of such products.

(b) FEDERAL BANKING REGULATORS' HEMP BANKING GUIDANCE.—Not later than the end of the 180-day period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal banking regulators shall update the February 14, 2014, guidance titled "BBA Provisions RegardingMarijuana-Related Businesses" (FIN–2014–G001) to ensure that the guidance is consistent with the purpose and intent of the SAFE Banking Act of 2021 and does not significantly inhibit the provision of financial services to a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider in a State, political subdivision of a State, or Indian Tribe that has jurisdiction over Indian country.

"(D) FINANCIAL SERVICE.—The term 'financial service' has the meaning given the term in section 14 of the SAFE Banking Act of 2021.

"(E) SERVICE PROVIDER.—The term 'service provider' has the meaning given that term in section 14 of the SAFE Banking Act of 2021.

"(F) IN GENERAL.—The provisions of this Act (other than subsections (b) and (h) of section 297A) shall apply with respect to hemp-related legitimate businesses and hemp-related service providers in the same manner as such provisions apply with respect to cannabis-related legitimate businesses and service providers.

"(G) HEMP.—The term 'hemp' means cannabis with a THC concentration of 0.3% or less as defined under Public Law 114–394 (21 U.S.C. 801).

SEC. 12. BANKING SERVICES FOR HEMP-RELATED LEGITIMATE BUSINESSES AND HEMP-RELATED SERVICE PROVIDERS.

(a) COMPLIANCE WITH FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS' REGULATORY OR LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS.—(B) does not include a business, organization, or other person that—

(1) has no more than 100 employees; and

(2) does not include a business, organization, or other person that provides any service, including producing, processing, or selling, any cannabis-related legitimate business or hemp-related service provider in a State, political subdivision of a State, or Indian Tribe that has jurisdiction over Indian country.

"(B) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

"(i) CANNABIS.—The term 'cannabis' has the meaning given the term "marihuana" in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802).

"(ii) CANNABIS-RELATED LEGITIMATE BUSINESS.—The term 'cannabis-related legitimate business' has the meaning given that term in section 14 of the SAFE Banking Act of 2021.

"(iii) INDIAN COUNTRY.—The term 'Indian country' has the meaning given the term in section 106 of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 (25 U.S.C. 476).

"(iv) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term 'Indian Tribe' has the meaning given that term in section 102 of the Federal Indian Religious Freedom Act (25 U.S.C. 486a).

"(v) FINANCIAL SERVICE.—The term 'financial service' has the meaning given that term in section 14 of the SAFE Banking Act of 2021.

"(vi) SERVICE PROVIDER.—The term 'service provider' has the meaning given that term in section 14 of the SAFE Banking Act of 2021.

"(vii) STATE.—The term 'State' means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any territory or possession of the United States."

SEC. 7. GUIDANCE AND EXAMINATION PROCEDURES.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall report to the Congress containing the following:

(1) any regulatory or legislative recommendations for expanding access to financial services for minority-owned and women-owned cannabis-related legitimate businesses; and

(2) any regulatory or legislative recommendations for expanding access to financial services for hemp-related legitimate businesses.
SEC. 13. REQUIREMENTS FOR DEPOSIT ACCOUNT TERMINATION REQUESTS OR ORDERS

(a) TERMINATION REQUESTS OR ORDERS MUST BE VALID.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An appropriate Federal banking agency may not formally or informally request or order a depository institution to terminate a specific customer account or group of customer accounts or to otherwise restrict or discourage a depository institution from entering into or maintaining a banking relationship with a specific customer or group of customers if—

(A) the request or order is based on a valid reason for such request or order; and

(B) such reason is not based solely on reputation risk.

(2) TREATMENT OF NATIONAL SECURITY THREATS.—If an appropriate Federal banking agency believes a specific customer or group of customers is, or is acting as a conduit for, an entity which—

(A) poses a threat to national security;

(B) is involved in terrorist financing;

(C) is an agent of the Government of Iran, North Korea, Syria, or any country listed from time to time on the State Sponsors of Terrorism list; or

(D) is located in, or is subject to the jurisdiction of, any country specified in subparagraph (C); or

(E) does business with any entity described in subparagraph (C) or (D), unless the appropriate Federal banking agency determines that the customer or group of customers has used due diligence to avoid doing business with any entity described in subparagraph (C) or (D), such belief shall satisfy the requirement under paragraph (1).

(b) NOTICE REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An appropriate Federal banking agency formally or informally requests or orders a depository institution to terminate a specific customer account or a group of customer accounts, the agency shall—

(A) provide such request or order to the institution in writing; and

(B) accompany such request or order with a written justification for why such termination is needed, including any specific laws or regulations the agency believes are being violated by the customer or group of customers, if any.

(2) JUSTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—A justification described under paragraph (1)(B) may not be based solely on the reputation risk to the depository institution.

(c) CUSTOMER NOTICE.—

(1) NOTICE REQUIRED.—Except as provided under paragraph (2) or as otherwise prohibited from being disclosed by law, if an appropriate Federal banking agency orders a depository institution to terminate a specific customer account or group of customer accounts, the depository institution shall inform the specific customer or group of customers of the justification for the customer’s account termination described under subsection (b).

(2) NOTICE PROHIBITED.—

(A) NOTICE PROHIBITED IN CASES OF NATIONAL SECURITY.—If an appropriate Federal banking agency requests or orders a depository institution to terminate a specific customer account or a group of customer accounts based on a belief that the customer or customers pose a threat to national security, or are otherwise described under subsection (a), the appropriate Federal banking agency may inform the customer or customers of the justification for the customer’s account termination.

(B) NOTICE PROHIBITED IN OTHER CASES.—If an appropriate Federal banking agency determines that the notice required under paragraph (1) would result in an authorized criminal investigation, neither the depository institution nor the appropriate Federal banking agency may inform the specific customer or group of customers of the justification for the customer’s account termination.

(d) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Each appropriate Federal banking agency shall issue an annual report to the Congress stating—

(1) the aggregate number of specific customer accounts that the agency requested or ordered a depository institution to terminate during the previous year; and

(2) the legal authority on which the agency relied in making such requests and orders and the reasons why the agency relied on each such authority.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE FEDERAL BANKING AGENCY.—The term ‘appropriate Federal banking agency’ means—

(A) the appropriate Federal banking agency described under section 5 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813); and

(B) the National Credit Union Administration, in the case of an insured credit union.

(2) DEPOSITORY INSTITUTION.—The term ‘depository institution’ means—

(A) a depository institution, as defined under section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813(c));

(B) a Federal credit union as defined in section 101 of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1752); or

(C) a State credit union as defined in section 101 of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1752).

(6) FEDERAL BANKING REGULATOR.—The term ‘Federal banking regulator’ means the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Federal Housing Finance Agency, the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, the Office of Foreign Asset Control, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the National Credit Union Administration, the Department of the Treasury, or any Federal agency or department that regulates banking or financial services, as determined by the Secretary of the Treasury.

(7) FINANCIAL SERVICE.—The term ‘financial service’ means—

(A) a financial product or service, as defined in section 1002 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (12 U.S.C. 5481), regardless if the customer receiving the product or service is a consumer or commercial entity;

(B) makes a financial product or service, or any combination of products and services, permitted to be provided by a depository institution or a Federal reserve bank with respect to any monetary instrument, check, deposit, credit card, debit card, electronic funds transfer, stored value card, checks, or electronic checks, or electronic funds transfers;

(C) makes use of a depository institution in connection with effectuating or facilitating a payment for a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider in compliance with section 5330 of title 31, United States Code, and any applicable State law; and

(F) includes acting as an armored car service for processing and depositing with a depository institution or a Federal reserve bank with respect to any monetary instrument, check, deposit, credit card, debit card, electronic funds transfer, stored value card, checks, or electronic checks, or electronic funds transfers.
Most importantly, this will reduce the risk of violent crime in our communities. These businesses and their employees become targets for crime, robbery, assault, and more by dealing in all cash, and this puts the employees and the store owners at risk. Over the last year in Oregon alone, a string of more than 100 robberies and burglaries at cannabis businesses culminated in a murder when Michael Arthur, a dispensary employee, was shot to death during a robbery. Just last week in Colorado, an innocent bystander was shot during an attempted break-in at a medical cannabis business. And in Colorado, we are always reminded of Travis Mason, the young father and Marine Corps vet, who was murdered while working as a security guard for a cannabis business.

We must do better for these employees, their families, and all our communities.

The SAFE Banking Act will create a safe harbor for financial institutions and their employees who choose to do business with a cannabis company. Section 3 of the bill is particularly important to not only cannabis businesses, but everyone who might do business with a cannabis company. This section would protect ancillary businesses, like real estate owners, accountants, electricians, and vendors, by clarifying the proceeds from legitimate cannabis businesses are not unlawful under Federal laws. This proceeds section is the key provision allowing all cannabis-related businesses and their service providers and landlords to access the banking system without fear of reprisal.

This bill now has 177 bipartisan cosponsors, and one-third of the Senate is cosponsoring the companion bill from Senators Merkley and Daines.

Last Congress, the SAFE Banking Act passed the House 321–103, with the support of more than 90 percent of the House Democratic Caucus and their service providers and landlords who choose to do business with a cannabis company. This section would protect ancillary businesses, like real estate owners, accountants, electricians, and vendors, by clarifying the proceeds from legitimate cannabis businesses are not unlawful under Federal laws. This proceeds section is the key provision allowing all cannabis-related businesses and their service providers and landlords to access the banking system without fear of reprisal.

This bill now has 177 bipartisan cosponsors, and one-third of the Senate is cosponsoring the companion bill from Senators Merkley and Daines.

Last Congress, the SAFE Banking Act passed the House 321–103, with the support of more than 90 percent of the House Democratic Caucus. The broad base of support for this legislation generated a diverse group of cosponsors and endorsing organizations from banking, credit union, and insurance trade associations to labor unions, cannabis businesses and advocates, and State government leaders.

There are, obviously, many more marijuana issues we need to address working together, including additional research, tax issues, and criminal justice reform. This will show that Congress can work together in a bipartisan way to address outdated marijuana laws. I hope this bill is an icebreaker for the House to take up other reforms and finally remove the conflict between State and Federal laws.

In summary, even if you are opposed to the legalization of cannabis, you should support this bill. American voters have spoken and continue to speak, and the fact is that you can’t put the genie back in the bottle. Prohibition is over. The SAFE Banking Act is focused solely on taking cash off the streets and making our communities safer, and only Congress can take these steps to provide this certainty for businesses, employees, and financial institutions across the country.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representatives Velázquez, Stivers, Davidson, Joyce, Correa, and Blumenauer, for their partnership and their commitment to making our communities safer. I also thank Representatives Luetkemeyer, Barr, and Porter for their contributions to the text of this bill and their support. Finally, I thank Chairman Maximino, for her support over the years and for continuing to make this a priority.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting “yes” on the SAFE Banking Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 96.

I want to begin by commending my colleague from Colorado, Mr. Perlmutter, for the way that he has approached this legislation. He is incorporating a lot of ideas from Members all across this Chamber and from across the country. He has doggedly pursued this legislation for many years, and I want to commend him for that.

I also want to thank my colleagues, Mr. Stivers and Mr. Joyce of Ohio, for the way they have approached this bill. I believe that I have that support. This legislation is focused.

By effectively legalizing money laundering, we are inserting a new level of risk in our financial system. We are preventing our legal entities from doing their jobs. We are encouraging bad actors and placing our financial institutions at risk.

Rather than dealing with the issues of cannabis and the question of its Federal legalization, we are dealing with a component of the challenge, which is the money laundering itself. It is a challenge. I think we are adding a new risk to our banking system and our anti-money laundering reforms that we passed just in January of this year. That seems counterintuitive to me.

For years, Congress has worked to reform our anti-money laundering laws. Now, in one fell swoop, we are undoing a lot of that hard work and we are going to make it easier for money launderers.

If you want to help the system, if you want to give financial institutions the certainty and security they want and need to do the job with the cannabis industry, where it is legalized in these
Chairman, Subcommittee on Consumer Protec-
Hon. MAXINE WATERS,
Services.
of the full Committee on Financial
This bill, which is really the first step in legalizing cannabis at the Fed-
eral level, was reported out of the Fi-
nancial Services Committee last Con-
gress, and it is a committee that really
has no jurisdiction over the Controlled
substances. It would have been more
appropriate for this bill to have come
before the Committee on Ways and
Means, which has the primary juris-
diction over our country’s tax and
spendings. While I am not in favor of
legalizing cannabis at the Federal level,
I do not think it is the author of the
SAFE Banking Act who is the decision-
maker. I urge you to hold H.R. 1595 and
any related legislation until we have a full
understanding of the consequences of this bill.
Sincerely,
PATRICK MCHENRY
Ranking Member.
Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, this letter
raises a number of concerns, including:
- What changes to our banking laws are
necessary to implement the SAFE
Banking Act, a number of questions
that I have;
- What agencies are going to be nec-
essary for this working group to actu-
ally ensure that the letter of this law
is adhered to by the executive branch,
that they actually follow it as the
writer of the legislation intends;
- How the executive branch will inter-
pret the “know your customer” rules
enacted in the SAFE Banking Act,
compared to what we enacted just 2
months ago, 3 months ago;
- How we would deal with suspicious
activity reporting requirements under
the new guidelines of the SAFE Bank-
ing Act, compared to what we enacted
at the end of last year;
- How we deal with currency trans-
ation reports under this law, com-
pared to what we just passed; and
- What are the implications on nonbank financial firms as well, such
as insurers and investment companies.
Mr. Speaker, I think the author of
this bill intends for insurers and invest-
ment companies and banks to have the
same qualifications when they are han-
dling money that has touched the
cannabis industry. I think that is the
intention.
Mr. Speaker, I think we need to un-
derstand whether or not the admin-
istration would follow that intent that
the author has stated clearly in de-
bates here on the House floor last Con-
gress and this Congress, and further-
more, whether or not Federal, State,
and local law enforcement will have a
similar interpretation that the writer
of this bill says is his intent, that Fed-
eral law enforcement should hear the
voice of Congress and hear this step to
legalization which is part of this bill.
I do not think it is the author of
the bill’s idea to get into sort of the broad-
er conversation about legalization at
the State level and what we should do
at the Federal level in this bill. How-
ever, that is a part of it.
In March of 2019, the National Sher-
iffs’ Association voiced concern with
this bill, saying that it could easily be
exploited. They echoed my concerns
that “allowing banking access for a
Schedule 1 drug gives money laun-
der access to international drug car-
tels, which are already using the cover
of legalization.”
Mr. Speaker, I include that letter in
the RECORD.
H1920

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE
April 19, 2021

NATIONAL SHERIFFS’ ASSOCIATION,
March 19, 2019.

Hon. Maxine Waters, Chairwoman, House of Representatives, Committee on Financial Services, Washington, DC.

Hon. Patrick McHenry, Ranking Member, House of Representatives, Committee on Financial Services, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN WATERS AND RANKING MEMBER MCHENRY: On behalf of the National Sheriffs’ Association (NSA) and more than 3,080 sheriffs nationwide, I write to express our deep concern and opposition to H.R. 1595, the SAFE Banking Act. This bill creates protections for financial institutions that provide financial services to cannabis-related businesses and service providers for such businesses.

While California and Washington have mainly seen organized criminals from China buying homes and converting them into marijuana grows, national law enforcement agencies in order to combat the threat must engage the drug abuse. The dangers of illegal drugs, including marijuana, and the threat to public safety caused by their use in terms of highway safety, criminal activity, and domestic violence are well-documented.

NSA believes that any legislation regarding marijuana legalization must engage the nation’s law enforcement agencies in order to have a comprehensive discussion regarding the potential implications this bill could have on our communities. We urge the House of Representatives to defeat this dangerous bill.

Sincerely,

JONATHAN F. THOMPSON,
Executive Director and CEO.

Mr. MCHENRY. Furthermore, we see cannabis-legal states like California, Washington, and Colorado, as the subject of extremely generous tax breaks, and we have found that it is easier to grow and process marijuana in legal States like Colorado and ship it throughout the United States than it is to bring it from Mexico or Cuba. I include that article in this record.

Mr. Spackman.

[From Global Power, May 29, 2018]

FOREIGN CARTELS EMBRACE HOME-GROWN MARIJUANA IN POT-LEGAL STATES

(By Dennis Romero, Gabe Gutierrez, Andrew Blankstein and Robert Powell)

Los Angeles—General Jeff Sessions called it “one of the largest residential forfeiture actions in American history.”

In early April, local and federal authorities descended upon 74 marijuana grow houses in the Sacramento area they say were underwritten by Chinese organized crime. They filed court paperwork to seize the properties, worth millions of dollars.

Federal officials allege that legal recreational marijuana states like California, Colorado, and Washington, where enforcement of growing regulations is hit-or-miss, have become havens for transnational criminal organizations willing to invest big money to buy or rent property to achieve even bigger returns.

Chinese and Mexican drug rings have purchased or rented hundreds of homes and use human trafficking to bring inexperienced growers to the United States to tend them, federal and local officials say.

The suspects are targeting states that have already legalized marijuana “in an attempt to shrug off the federal environment here and then take the marijuana outside of the state,” said Mike Hartman, executive director of the Colorado Department of Revenue. He operates an alleged marijuana industry and licenses the cannabis industry. Authorities say they’ve seen an increase in these “home grows” since the launch of recreational pot sales in Colorado one year ago.

While California and Washington have mainly seen organized criminals from China buying homes and converting them into marijuana grows, Colorado has largely been grappling with Cuban and Mexican-led cartels, said Sheriff Bill Elder of the El Paso County Sheriff’s Office in Colorado.

“The have that it’s easier to grow and process marijuana in Colorado, ship it throughout the United States, than it is to bring it from Mexico or Cuba,” Elder said.

In El Paso County, NBC News witnessed firsthand the damage a commercial-scale cannabis grow can do to a home otherwise built for an average American family. Growers pose huge threats by the time authorities disrupt their operation, homes have been gutted and trashed.

“We’ve seen one of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency Special Agent Randy Ladd said. “The electrical damage, they draw so much current that you’ll see, in some places, the wires are fused inside of the electrical box. And—a lot of people—they don’t wanna pay the high electric bills. So what they do is they take jackhammers and pickaxes and they go through the foundation of the house, so that they could steal the power.”

One of the biggest busts so far came last June, when the Denver police and City Attorney’s Office announced “a massive illegal interstate marijuana distribution and cultivation network stretching from Colorado to Texas” had been dismantled. It was allegedly Chinese-connected, Ladd said.

Authorities said the network was responsible for securities fraud, millions of dollars of laundered “illegally cultivated” marijuana plants, and 4,000 pounds of harvested cannabis, according to the Colorado attorney general’s statement.

The operation was 18 warehouses and storage units and 33 homes, mostly in the Denver area, authorities said. “These seizures are believed to only scratch the surface,” the office said.

Ladd alleged that some Chinese crews cover immigrants’ costs of traveling to America in exchange for work in the grow houses. “It’s like indentured servitude,” he said. “It’s a form of human trafficking.”

The workers often fly from China to California,西亚, and receive funds from China that fly under the radar, according to a federal complaint.

While authorities disrupt their operation, homes have already legalized marijuana “in an attempt to grow and process marijuana in Colorado, ship it throughout the United States,” Elder said.

A ‘MASSIVE‘ MARIJUANA NETWORK

In April, police in Pomona, California, an exurb in Los Angeles County, announced they discovered a 23-room grow house allegedly run by Chinese nationals. Fifty-five-hundred marijuana products, including 2,900 plants and nearly 21 pounds of cannabis, were seized, police said.

“The grow operation used advanced systems of lighting, air conditioning, fans, exhaust blowers and air-filtering systems to control the climate inside the buildings and the odor of marijuana,” according to a Pomona police statement.

Pomona police spokeswoman Aly Mejia said a gun and $5,900 in cash were also found.

“The DEA’s Bettig, speaking from her base in Washington, D.C., explained that drug operations are “illegal under state law.” In California, marijuana growers, processors and retailers need state and local licenses. Cities can opt out and ban such businesses altogether.

Rettig said even with the Golden State’s sky-high housing market—the median price of a home is $535,100, according to Zillow—overseas criminals know that “marijuana can fetch three times as much out of state.”

“There’s a great profit motive in it,” the DEA’s Ladd said. “In Colorado, marijuana legalization has magnified the black market. The street price per pound here is $2,000, but they can get $3,500 to $4,500 by shipping it back East. The profits are great there.”

Mr. MCHENRY. Furthermore, because of this patchwork at the State level, I think you are seeing additional concerns at the southern border right now, and I will include for the Record a letter that the former Border Patrol chief submitted that in February alone there was nearly $14 million a day of marijuana caught at the southern border.

Despite these many issues I still have with the SAFE Banking Act, I do appreciate the work that my colleagues
have put into this legislative effort, but considering that the larger issue of cannabis legalization has not yet been debated here on the House floor, I think it is premature for the Financial Services Committee to do the full work of this Congress on the question of cannabis, not the Federal Government. I think that would be better left to the Judiciary Committee, with a wider debate here on the House floor, and I would encourage that wider debate.

Notwithstanding that, I would like to thank my colleagues for the hard work that they have put into this legislation. Even if I have concerns, I know that there is more than sufficient support to pass this under the suspension calendar, and that would not happen were it not for the good legislative work of my colleague and friend from Colorado (Mr. PELLMUTTER).

I do believe that my colleague was quite intentional about the date that he wanted to actually have the vote here on the House floor. With that, for those of you who don’t know, tomorrow is 4/20/21, 4/20 being the operative date.

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

Mr. PELLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from North Carolina for his many compliments. I would just remind him, we are the Financial Services Committee. We have a certain amount of jurisdiction that deals with financial institutions and financial services, and that is what this bill is focused on, dealing with so much cash generated by this industry, whether we do anything or not, and to try to advance public safety in the process.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELAZQUEZ), the chair of the Small Business Committee, who had a lot to do with writing the Small Business piece of this.

Ms. VELAZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am a proud original cosponsor of H.R. 1996, the SAFE Banking Act, and I rise in strong support.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PELLMUTTER) for his extraordinary leadership on this legislation.

When the pandemic first hit and stay-at-home orders went into place, many small cannabis businesses, it is also an issue of public safety, as these high-volume cash businesses are frequently the target of robberies and break-ins. That is why the SAFE Banking Act is so important and why, as chair of the House Small Business Committee and senior member of the Financial Services Committee, I am proud to stand by it since its first introduction.

I thank Mr. PELLMUTTER for his leadership. Let’s pass this legislation once and for all.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STIVERS), the subcommittee chair on Housing, Community Development, and Insurance.

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Congressman PELLMUTTER for his hard work on this. I am an unlikely person to support this bill because I am opposed to recreational marijuana, but I came to this decision because a company that is just outside my district that sells nutrients now finds themselves in the situation where 25 percent of their profits come from selling to legal marijuana businesses, and they are being threatened, a Fortune 500 company, with losing their bank accounts.

We can’t let that happen. We have got to make sure that we stand up for safety and stand up for common sense. That is what this bill does.

Three points about this bill. Number one, it encourages safety because money that is in a bank account can be frozen and can be tracked.

By the way, this bill also increases suspicious activity reports, so this idea about money laundering doesn’t work because there are suspicious activity reports that are expanded under the bill, and you can freeze and track the money, which is really important. That is why a lot of folks in law enforcement like this bill.

The final thing is, this bill includes provisions to stop Operation Choke Point that Republicans couldn’t even get passed when we had the presidency, the Senate, and the House, and we got that negotiated into this bill. It helps in a big way to make sure that there’s not an Operation Choke Point in the future, which is really important. That is what the bill does.

Finally, before my time is up, I want to acknowledge Congressman WARREN DAVIDSON, who isn’t going to be able to fly in in time for this. Congressman DAVIDSON has been working on this bill with me for almost 2 years with Congresswoman PELLMUTTER. WARREN DAVIDSON has done an amazing job. I just want to acknowledge his hard work, all his efforts. We wouldn’t be here today but for Congressman WARREN DAVIDSON.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1996.

Mr. PELLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank Mr. STIVERS for working with me so much over the last few years on this. I am going to miss him as he chooses to take another path in the near future. I just want to say on the floor, that he is a real credit to this country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA).

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, the SAFE Banking Act can be summarized in three basic points. First of all, this measure does not legalize anything at the State level. Today, 47 States, four U.S. territories, and D.C., representing 98 percent of the U.S. population, have legalized cannabis in one form or another.

Second, this is essentially a States’ rights issue. This measure essentially says that when a State legalizes cannabis, the Federal Government will respect that decision when it comes to banking.

Finally, this measure is essentially about helping our local police officers back home do their job safely and effectively. We already give our local police officers the impossible job of taking care of the homeless and the mentally ill, and now we are asking our police officers to protect the legalized cannabis industry, a cash business, from those criminals that would prey upon them. This just doesn’t make sense.

Today, because of Federal law, the cannabis industry can only operate on a cash basis. They pay their Federal, State, and local taxes with cash. Let them not.

Today, because of Federal law, the cannabis industry pays their Federal taxes with cash. They pay their employees with cash. They pay their rent with cash, and they pay their bills with cash. This is no way to keep our streets safe.

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processing services is uneven and uncertain. This bill will provide additional clarity for banks, insurance companies, and credit card processors that they can, in fact, do business with legally operating hemp businesses. It would also direct our Federal financial regulators to support the best practices for serving hemp and CBD businesses.

Since we last debated this bill, conditions have improved for hemp financing. In December 2019, financial regulators jointly issued guidance confirming that banks are free to provide banking services to the hemp industry, just as they are for any other agricultural commodity. Unfortunately, there is still work to do to ensure that these legal hemp businesses have full access to the financial system. There remains some ambiguity, specifically regarding payment processors’ dealings with hemp businesses. This bill makes needed clarifications.

I want to thank the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER) for working across the aisle on this bill. He and his team took great care to ensure that these changes were incorporated into the bill and made the needed clarifications. I thank him for his cooperation. This will have a meaningful impact on Kentucky farmers, small businesses, and a burgeoning industry in Kentucky and across the country.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Kentucky for his work on this bill and his input on the card processing piece of the legislation.

I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER). He has put the effort together across a whole range of cannabis issues. I thank him for his steadfast work on this subject.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to be here with my friend, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and the bipartisan support that we are receiving from Mr. STIVERS. We are going to hear in a moment from the distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOYCE), who has been a champion.

Sadly, I feel my good friend from North Carolina could have given his speech 25 years ago. The legalization train has left the station. This is a business in the United States that is approaching $20 billion of revenue this year.

As has been pointed out, 97 percent of the American public has access to some form of legal cannabis. Medical cannabis is utilized professionally.

Mr. Speaker, this is an issue that has arrived, and it is being held captive of the past practice by pretending that the Federal Government can wish away the legalization of this subject. They can’t. The flawed Federal policies create serious problems.

As Mr. PERLMUTTER pointed out, we have had over 100 robberies in my community, including a fatality. These cash-only enterprises are sitting ducks for people who have nefarious aims. It is an invitation for money laundering now because of the vast amount of cash that is circulated.

It impacts so many legitimate businesses, real estate, insurance, attorneys, accountants, who get caught up. We already heard reference to what happened to Mr. STIVERS’ constituent in Ohio, a business that provides gardening supplies, that risks losing their bank account.

It is time for us to address this inconsistency. It is time for us to pass, again, the SAFE Banking Act. And it is time for us to move forward with legalization on the Federal level with the MORE Act, which will resolve these inconsistencies.

Once and for all, give the American people what they want and what they repeatedly vote for across the country. Unleash this State legal business to realize its full potential for health, the economy, and a cry for racial justice.

I appreciate us being at this point for a critical first step along the torturous path to full legalization, which I am confident we will pass this Congress and not a moment too soon.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the tragic passing of Steve Fox, a pioneering advocate, strategist, a true leader in the marijuana cannabis legalization effort.

It is fitting today that we are passing the SAFE Banking Act. We wouldn’t be where we are today without Steve and his amazing efforts. His life work, leadership, and strategic brilliance are unmatched.

Passing this critical legislation today would be a small part of a fitting memorial for a man whose efforts made it possible, indeed, imperative to solve this problem.

I first met Steve as we were strategizing on the Oregon legalization effort. Back in 2013, after the Colorado legalization campaign that he orchestrated had passed and before Oregon joined the ranks of legalization, he was already a legend. He pioneered so much of the groundwork for the legalization movement that exploded after the Colorado campaign that owed so much to his strategic brilliance.

Steve was thoughtful, hardworking, and self-effacing. While this has become a national movement with many leaders now emerging, none compare with Steve. Few will fully understand his many contributions and importance.

I for one will miss his genuine, quiet leadership. As someone who’s been working on this issue for 20 years, I know we are deeply indebted to Steve. We mourn his loss, extend our thoughts to his family and many friends.

This should be the year that we finish the pioneering work of his career. It would be a fitting capstone to a lifetime of cannabis leadership activism.

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I would say that if we are going to have legalization of cannabis, let’s have legalization of cannabis and do it in regular order in the House of Representatives, not have it come through the Financial Services Committee. I wanted to be clear, and I wanted to make sure my colleague heard that.

But I do commend my colleague, Mr. PERLMUTTER, for taking every bit of the jurisdiction that we currently have and using it smartly for the best outcome possible.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOYCE), my colleague and good friend.

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise in favor of H.R. 1996, the SAFE Banking Act of 2021, and I am proud to help lead this commonsense, overdue effort.

The vast majority of States, including my own, have enacted laws that, to varying degrees, permit their residents to use cannabis. However, the Federal Government has not only infringed on the inherent right of these States to implement those laws, but also stifled medical research, diverted law enforcement resources needed elsewhere, and hindered legitimate businesses, businesses that provide vital services to cancer patients, veterans, and those seeking opioid alternatives for pain management.

Because of the Federal interference in this arena, cannabis companies are not afforded the same access to financial services as every other legal business in our country.

With banks refusing to accept their money out of fear of Federal repercussions, these businesses are forced to operate in all cash. They pay their workers in cash, store cash in vaults on-site, and hire armored cars and trucks to transport cash to pay taxes.

As a former prosecutor, I can tell my colleagues that this is a serious public safety issue.

But it is not just cannabis companies that are paying the price for this antiquated policy. Small businesses that provide services to State-legal cannabis companies can also be targeted by the Federal Government, such as plumbers, electricians, and even soil and fertilizer businesses.

Regardless of where you stand on the legality of cannabis, I think we can all agree that it shouldn’t be that hard to sell a bag of dirt.

At a time when small businesses are just beginning to recover from the economic destruction caused by COVID-19, the Federal Government should be supporting them, not standing in their way. Congress must provide financial certainty to these businesses and safety for their employees.

Many of my colleagues have shied away from this issue because they are under the impression that it doesn’t impact their constituents. But as I have outlined here today, it most certainly does.

The American people across the majority of States, both red and blue, have voted to enact sensible cannabis reforms. I encourage all of my colleagues to respect the will of their constituents and the rights of their States and stop engaging in these reforms.

It is past time we address the antiquated cannabis policies and remove unnecessary red tape. I strongly urge
my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote in favor of the SAFE Banking Act so we can take a step in that direction.

The Federal Government can no longer afford to fail on an issue that our States have taken the lead on.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from North Carolina has 5 minutes remaining.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GAETZ).

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member of the Financial Services Committee for yielding.

I rise in support of the SAFE Banking Act, which I am honored to introduce with my colleagues, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and others.

It seems the war on drugs is a lot like so many of the other forever wars that this Congress confronts, deeply unpopular in all parts of the country except Washington, D.C.

I commend the majority party for bringing this bill to the floor and allowing businesses that serve particularly medical marijuana patients the opportunity to access the U.S. financial system.

There is an important part of this legislation that bears note. With the SAFE Banking Act, we will have an unprecedented opportunity for regulatory reform which did not exist previously and which doesn’t exist now.

There are so many universities, medical centers, other research institutions that would like to partner with and work alongside marijuana businesses with the opportunity to improve health outcomes for patients and to bring relief to people who badly need it.

I would implore my colleagues in the majority party to reach out to President Biden as I did to President Trump. Ask him to take executive action to remove marijuana from the list of schedule 1 drugs so that we can accelerate marijuana reform for the benefit of our fellow Americans and those who are in need and in pain and are counting on it.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD these endorsements for the SAFE Banking Act, including from the American Bankers Association, the American Council of Independent Laboratories, the American Council of Life Insurers, the American Financial Services Association, the American Land Title Association, the American Property Casualty Insurance Association, the American Trade Association for Cannabis and Hemp, the Arizona Dispensaries Association, the California Cannabis Industry Association, and the National Armored Car Association. It goes on for.....

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

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I want to repeat this from my earlier remarks. This bill represents one of the biggest changes to U.S. drug policy. If we want banks to provide services risk-free, then we should do it thoughtfully and address the legality of cannabis instead of this workaround. This bill represents a yeoman’s task of a legal framework so that funds from cannabis in those legalized States can be legally banked.

But that is not a holistic approach to this issue, nor should it be the Financial Services Committee leading the debate, which we have had one hearing on in the last 3 years in this committee—actually, you could say probably one hearing in the last decade on the Financial Services Committee. Yet, we have this bill, which, frankly, on its face is a very well-balanced bill to fix a glaring problem that is happening across the country.

This bill will legalize the banking of a federally illegal product. I am sure the irony of this is not at all lost on the American public.

The drug cartels, frankly, are keen to this, and other bad actors are keen to this. They will attempt to take advantage of this if it is not well-implemented, if it is not thoughtfully implemented, especially if those things are not the case.

No matter how we spin what is happening right now, we currently have a crisis in the southern border and human trafficking is certainly a part of that; a desire to come to the United States is certainly a part of that; and the movement of illegal drugs into the United States is certainly a part of that. This doesn’t help with that crisis at the southern border.

Again, we are the House Financial Services Committee. We are not the Homeland Security Committee, and we are not the Appropriations Committee, so we can’t fix all things within our jurisdiction.

Let me close with this. I do not support this bill because it represents a workaround to a much bigger debate that we need to have in the United States, and that is whether or not cannabis should remain a schedule I substance under the Controlled Substances Act. This fact is the bigger issue that I think this Congress should wrestle with, and I would welcome it. In fact, I think we can have a much more nuanced debate here.

But I do want to close by thanking my colleagues for creating a very thoughtful product. This legislative text is much improved from where it was originally. I thank my colleague, Mr. PERLMUTTER, for leading that conversation and leading that set of negotiations.

It has taken years to produce this product. It is strong legislative text. It is a strong legal framework. Even though I have pointed out a number of its deficiencies and challenges, I do see on its face how this would resolve a huge problem in a large number of States.

I understand that, and I am inviting the larger conversation about cannabis, as well. I think we need to have that conversation.

But I do thank my colleague, Mr. PERLMUTTER, for his leadership there, and I thank my colleagues, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. DAVIDSON, and Mr. JOYCE, on our side of the aisle for engaging in that, as well as Mr. LUECKEMEYER and Mr. BARR who dealt with particular issues in their States and their jurisdictions, as well.

I urge my colleagues to vote ‘no’—but I understand if they do vote ‘yes.’ I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from North Carolina for his point. To his point that there is a broader discussion that has to take place, the purpose of this bill is a public safety purpose. Its purpose is to keep people from being killed, from being robbed, and from being assaulted. That is within the Financial Services Committee’s jurisdiction. So I think the cannabis industry and the people who serve it in one way or another have to deal in cash, which really creates the...
potential for the robberies, for the murders, and for the assaults.

We have been able to gather a lot of support for this. I mentioned the bankers, the credit unions, the insurance industry, the cannabis industry, obviously, the real estate industry, the armored car companies, and the minority cannabis industries. Law enforcement is supportive of this. We have the National Treasurers Association, 21 Governors, and attorneys general because they know this is a public safety matter and that we need to address it.

We have been working on it for some time, as the gentleman from North Carolina mentioned, but we need to get this to the Senate. They need to take whatever action they want to take, but we have to make our communities and these businesses safer.

The SAFE Banking Act is about public safety. Our bill is narrowly tailored to get cash off the streets and improve public safety.

I thank the lead cosponsors on this bill, Representatives Velázquez, Stivers, and Davidson, and all of my colleagues who have listened to me talk about the need to address this problem for the last 8 years.

I also thank the staff of the Committee on Financial Services, the staff from my lead cosponsors, and my own staff, who put so much time into this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote “yes” on the SAFE Banking Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question was taken.

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

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

ELIMINATE BARRIERS TO INNOVATION ACT OF 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1602) to direct the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission to jointly establish a digital asset working group, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1602

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 “Eliminate Barriers to Innovation Act of 2021.”

SEC. 2. WORKING GROUP TO SUPPORT INNOVATION WITH RESPECT TO DIGITAL ASSETS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission shall jointly establish a working group (to be known as the “SEC and CFTC Working Group on Digital Assets”) to carry out the report required under subsection (c)(1).

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Working Group shall be composed of members appointed in accordance with—

(A) the number of members from each of the following:

(I) the Securities and Exchange Commission; and

(II) the Commodity Futures Trading Commission;

(B) the Republicans;

(C) the Democrats;

and

(2) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS.—

(A) REPRESENTATIVES OF COMMISSIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission shall each appoint an equal number of employees of each such Commission to serve as members of the Working Group.

(B) REPRESENTATIVES OF NONGOVERNMENTAL STAKEHOLDERS.—

(I) APPOINTMENT.—The Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission shall each appoint an equal number of nongovernmental representatives to serve as members of the Working Group, except that such number of members may not be greater than or equal to the number of members appointed under subparagraph (A).

(ii) NON-FEDERAL MEMBERS.—All members of the Working Group appointed under clause (i) shall include at least one representative from each of the following:

(I) Financial technology companies that provide products or services involving digital assets.

(II) Financial firms under the jurisdiction of the Securities and Exchange Commission or the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

(III) Institutions or organizations engaged in academic research or advocacy relating to digital asset use.

(IV) Small businesses engaged in financial technology.

(V) Investor protection organizations.

(VI) Institutions and organizations that support investment in historically-under served businesses.

(B) NO COMPENSATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP.

(1) FEDERAL EMPLOYEE MEMBERS.—All members of the Working Group appointed under subparagraph (A) shall serve without compensation in addition to that received for their services as officers or employees of the United States.

(2) NON-FEDERAL MEMBERS.—All members of the Working Group appointed under subparagraph (B) shall serve without compensation.

(c) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, the Working Group shall submit to the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and the relevant committees a report that contains—

(A) an analysis of—

(i) the legal and regulatory framework and related developments in the United States relating to digital assets, including—

(I) the impact that lack of clarity in such framework has on primary and secondary markets in digital assets; and

(II) how the domestic legal and regulatory regimes relating to digital assets impact the competitive position of the United States; and

(ii) developments in other countries related to digital assets and identification of how these developments impact the competitive position of the United States; and

(B) recommendation that—

(i) for the creation, maintenance, and improvement of primary and secondary markets in digital assets, including for improving the fairness, orderliness, integrity, efficiency, transparency, availability, and efficacy of such markets;

(ii) for standards concerning custody, cybersecurity, and business continuity relating to digital asset intermediaries; and

(iii) for best practices to—

I. reduce fraud and manipulation of digital assets in cash, leveraged, and derivatives markets;

II. improve investor protections for participants in such markets; and

III. assist in compliance with anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism obligations under the Bank Secrecy Act.

(2) REPORT LIMITED TO SEC AND CFTC AUTHORITIES.—The analysis and recommendations provided under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) shall only relate to the laws, regulations, and related matters that are under the primary jurisdiction of the Securities and Exchange Commission or the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

(d) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FACA.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Working Group.

(e) TERMINATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Working Group shall terminate on the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, except that the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission may jointly extend the Working Group for a longer period, not to exceed one year.

(2) SECOND REPORT IN THE CASE OF EXTENSION.—In the case of an extension of the Working Group under paragraph (1), the Working Group shall, not later than the last day of such extension, submit to the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and the relevant committees a report that contains an update to the analysis and recommendations required under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (c).

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) BANK Secrecy Act.—The term “Bank Secrecy Act” means—

(A) section 21 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1829b);

(B) chapter 2 of title I of Public Law 91–508 (12 U.S.C. 1951 et seq.); and

(C) subchapter II of chapter 53 of title 31, United States Code.

(2) HISTORICALLY-UNDERSERVED BUSINESSES.—The term “historically-underserved businesses” means women-owned businesses, minority-owned businesses, and rural businesses.

(3) RELEVANT COMMITTEES.—The term “relevant committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives;

(B) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Urban Affairs of the Senate;

(E) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate; and

(F) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

(4) WORKING GROUP.—The term “Working Group” means the working group established under subsection (a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr.
Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1602, the Eliminate Barriers to Innovation Act of 2021.

Digital assets are a fast-growing but poorly understood area of finance and technology, and I believe this bipartisan legislation will help Americans, small entrepreneurs, fintechs, and financial institutions using digital assets to better understand the legal and regulatory landscape.

Last Congress, the Committee on Financial Services established the Task Force on Financial Technology, which was chaired by Congressman LYNCH, who is co-leading this bipartisan bill with Ranking Member MCHENRY. I thank both of them for their hard work on this legislation.

We must look carefully and diligently at how digital asset markets are used, as they present unique challenges to regular retail investors.

Cryptocurrencies, security tokens, and other digital assets, including those utilizing blockchain and distributed ledger technology, are new technologies. How we regulate investment in them will be one of the most important questions in the financial services space.

If digital assets are used by retail investors, we must ensure these products provide adequate protections, disclosures, and notifications to make sure ordinary investors are not defrauded or have their household finances ruined due to excessive volatility.

This is especially important during this unprecedented COVID–19 crisis, with many people struggling financially and possibly drawn to risky investments or scams.

This bill will require the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to establish a working group on digital assets. The working group will investigate the legal and regulatory framework and best practices related to digital assets. The working group will report to Congress on its findings to help this body and the public better address these evolving markets.

I thank Representative LYNCH and Representative MCHENRY for their thoughtful and bipartisan approach to this legislation, and I look forward to the work of the SEC and the CFTC on this important issue.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, the Eliminate Barriers to Innovation Act, that addresses the much-needed collaboration between the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

What we have is a regulation of commodities through one entity of our Federal Government here in the United States and regulation of securities by another entity of our government. What we need is conversation between those two entities about the nature of digital assets and cryptocurrencies.

We have neither a security nor a commodity in what is a new creation of digital assets. Now what we see with the CFTC is that everything is a commodity in their worldview, and the Securities Exchange Commission thinks: Well, you should close. Everything is actually a security.

They each want to regulate something that is not in their nature to regulate or not in the substance of their capacity to regulate. We have neither fish nor fowl for what the Commodity Futures Trading Commission wants to regulate in their world. So, you have neither fish nor fowl when it comes to this new creation of cryptocurrencies.

The fact that the “Bitcoin Whitepaper,” written by Satoshi Nakamoto, as they call themselves, is more than a decade old. What we have seen in that time period is the valuation of bitcoin, and then things that are like bitcoin that use an encrypted ledger system in the blockchain and tokenization to open up the value of that new creation of a blockchain, that new creation of cryptocurrencies is now valued over $2 trillion globally.

Most of that innovation has happened outside of the United States because we don’t have a legal and regulatory framework that is permissive of the raising of capital in order to develop those technologies. So, people in the United States, American citizens, are missing out on innovation and the potential economic upside of those innovations.

I would say this is one of the few pieces of technology in the last 100 years that America has not been a leader in. In fact, we are reacting a lot to what is happening globally.

I thank my colleague, Mr. LYNCH, for his thoughtful engagement on this bill and his important structural changes to make sure this can be a bipartisan bill. Those conversations really are that balance between economic opportunity and growth that a lot of us on the Republican side want to emphasize at all costs, frankly, and then the protection of our citizens that some on the left want to have at all costs.

Mr. Speaker, striking that balance is really necessary for us as legislators. Let’s just be pragmatic and honest about it. Mr. LYNCH has brought some nice changes to this bill that actually will enable it to be a bipartisan vote, I hope.

Mr. Speaker, what this bill does, with our colleagues from the House Committee on Agriculture, is it requires the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to establish a working group focused on digital assets. This is the first step to opening the dialogue between our regulators and market participants and will move to much-needed clarity.

The fact is that this working group will produce a report within a year that includes an analysis of the domestic regulatory framework necessary for the development of cryptocurrencies and digital assets here in the United States. It is really important that we get our act together, that we be technology-permissive, that we ensure that it is legitimate money raised here, that existing laws are adhered to, but that we adapt and change and don’t allow the debate between the CFTC, which sees everything as fish, and the Securities and Exchange Commission, which sees everything as fowl. I very much want to have a small regulatory framework for that.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCHENRY).

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Colorado. This bill, H.R. 1602, is an opportunity for Congress and our regulators to act proactively toward financial innovation rather than to address gaps in our regulatory framework after the fact.

Digital assets have the potential to make transactions more efficient, improve the raising of capital for small businesses, and increase inclusion across our financial system. However, the rapid rise of this technology has...
created some concerns and questions about consumer protection and about how to ensure that we gain the benefits of this innovation while mitigating potential risks.

This bill, H.R. 1602, will create critical collaboration between the SEC, the CFTC, and Congress on the topic of digital assets. It will bring our regulators, small businesses, fintech companies, and investor protection groups to the same table to discuss cybersecurity, investor protections and the creation of a level and transparent market. In short, our hope is that this bill will help set the regulatory framework of digital assets right before a crisis occurs.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member, Mr. MCHENRY, for working on this bill and also Chairwoman WATERS for her support.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes.”

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I know a gentleman will forgive me, but I listed a lot of people on the SAFE Banking Act that I want to thank. One person who I forgot, and I would be remiss, is Mr. Denny Heck, who is now Lieutenant Governor of Washington and who was also instrumental in putting that together.

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I concur that our colleague, Mr. Heck, was instrumental in these debates. I miss his lively debates in committee mark-up, but, frankly, given the sick burns he has given me there, I think I am better off with him as Lieutenant Governor. But I concur with the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER).

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON), the ranking member of the Committee on Agriculture.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support of the Eliminate Barriers to Innovation Act offered by my friend from North Carolina and the ranking member of the Committee on Financial Services, Mr. MCHENRY.

The CFTC and the SEC have a long history of collaboration in financial market regulation. The working group created through this legislation will continue this good work.

Digital assets present unique new questions for regulators: How and where do these assets fit into the existing regulatory regime? What new standards are needed to continue to meet our bedroom standards of customer protection? Where do the CFTC and the SEC need to adjust their regulations to address the novel features and purposes of digital assets?

While both the CFTC and the SEC are hard at work applying their statutory authority to and regulations to these digital assets, the disruptive, novel nature of these new type of assets demand a more holistic examination. This working group, with its mix of CFTC, SEC, and nongovernmental members, will be well placed to examine these important questions.

The Eliminate Barriers to Innovation Act is a step forward in providing clear rules of the road for the creation, exchange, custody, and use of the full sweep of these new assets.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member, Mr. MCHENRY, and his staff for working with us at the House Committee on Agriculture on refinements to improve this legislation. I cannot close, though, without singling out the praises of the CFTC. The Commission has been focused on this explosion in new technology from the very beginning. The Commission created LabCFTC almost 4 years ago, and it remains the premier Federal fintech office.

They have proven themselves to be an agile regulator and adept at understanding new technologies and their implications. The CFTC has welcomed these developments and sought to strengthen the CFTC’s authorities and resources to meet the challenges in regulating these new financial products. The bill before us today complements these efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with Mr. MCHENRY and Chairwoman WATERS on this and other legislation and oversight to build upon this work. I urge my colleagues to support financial innovation and vote “yes” on this important legislation.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. FISCHBACH), a member of the House Agriculture Committee and a leader on agriculture issues.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from North Carolina for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Eliminate Barriers to Innovation Act. As the ranking member of the Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit Subcommittee, I am looking forward to digging in on the many issues surrounding digital assets, particularly digital commodities.

Digitally native assets represent a new way to interact with each other and potentially organize productive activities. Whatever promise this innovative technology may hold, it will not be realized if it is subjected to outdated and unworkable regulations.

One of the great strengths of our financial system in the U.S. has been the rules that are well-formed, longstanding, and fit for purpose. While we may argue about the details, the basic principles of the U.S. financial markets, and the rules which apply to legacy assets, are well understood.

Digital assets, on the other hand, present new challenges. While the principles won’t change, the rules that bring those principles into effect may have to change.

This working group will give the CFTC, the SEC, and the market participants a critical venue to examine these new assets and bring needed clarity to the application of existing rules on digital asset transactions.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Mr. LYNCH, for his leadership on this important issue and the issues of financial technology.

Frankly, one of the healthier conversations we get to have on the Financial Services Committee is on the nature and the deployment of the technology. It is neither the pure conversation of less or more regulation. It is a completely different scope of what we are doing in terms of laws that ensure that we have financial inclusion and allow offers for products to be cheaper, more affordable, and more widely distributed across the country. So I think this is a healthy thing for us to have this conversation on the Financial Services Committee.

This bill today is an important working group between the CFTC and the Security and Exchange Commission. That conversation between these two agencies, I hope, will bring us a new permissive regulatory framework for digital assets here in the United States and allow for the wider deployment and development of cryptocurrencies and all the technologies that are underlying those cryptocurrencies, those huge opportunity sets for American consumers in the development of these new assets in this first generation, but also the wire deployment of these technologies, whether it is in driverless vehicles or in the nature of how we interact with each other in the financial markets.

There are huge opportunities around digital assets, and this is the first step in Congress having a smart regulatory framework here in the United States for digital assets.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I commend Mr. MCHENRY and Mr. LYNCH for their bipartisan work on this legislation directing the SEC and the CFTC to work together with all stakeholders to study the use of digital assets.

The working group created by this legislation will, undoubtedly, benefit the American public on this important topic.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this legislation by voting “yes” on this 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 Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1602.

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. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

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

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

CONDEMNING CONTINUED VIOLATION OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS OF PEOPLE OF HONG KONG BY PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

Mr. MEIKS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 130) condemning the continued violation of rights and freedoms of the people of Hong Kong by the People’s Republic of China and the Government of the Hong Kong special administrative region.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

Whereas, on July 30, 2020, election officials of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) disqualified twelve pro-democracy candidates from participating in the September 6 Legislative Council elections, which were subsequently postponed for a year under the Chinese government’s direction, the HKSAR Government announced indictments of and arrest warrants for six Hong Kong activists living overseas, including United States citizen Samuel Chu, for violating the national security law; Whereas, on November 11, 2020, the HKSAR Government removed four lawmaking candidates from the 2020 Legislative Council elections for allegedly violating the law after the Standing Committee passed additional legislation barring those who promoted or supported Hong Kong independence and refused to acknowledge PRC sovereignty over Hong Kong, or otherwise violated the national security law, from running for or serving in the Legislative Council; Whereas, on December 2, 2020, pro-democracy activists Joshua Wong, Agnes Chow, and Ivan Lam were sentenced to prison for participating in the 2019 protests; Whereas, on July 1, 2020, the Hong Kong residents (also known as “the Hong Kong 12”) who sought to flee by boat from Hong Kong to Taiwan on August 23, 2020, were taken to mainland China and sentenced on December 30, 2020, to prison terms ranging from seven months to three years for illegal border crossing; Whereas, on December 31, 2020, Hong Kong’s highest court revoked bail for Jimmy Lai Chee-Ying, a pro-democracy figure and publisher, who was charged on December 12, 2020, with inciting others and endangering national security under the national security law; Whereas, on January 4, 2021, the Department of Justice in Henan and Sichuan provinces threatened to revoke the licenses of two journalism publishers for publishing articles “damaging the national honor and dignity” of the Chinese government; Whereas ten of the twelve Hong Kong residents who were considered “inevitably linked” to the Hong Kong independence and democracy movement were sentenced on February 5, 2021, by citing the public health risk of holding elections during the COVID-19 pandemic; Whereas, on July 31, 2020, in an attempt to assert control over the People’s Republic of China and the HKSAR to—

(1) condemn the actions taken by the Government of the People’s Republic of China (“PRC”) and the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (“HKSAR”), including the adoption and implementation of national security legislation for Hong Kong through irregular procedures, that violate the rights and freedoms of the people of Hong Kong that are guaranteed by the Joint Declaration, to ensure that such implementation of sanctions is multilateral; and (2) support those who may seek to file a case before the International Court of Justice to hold the Government of the PRC accountable for violating its international legal obligations under the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. McCaul) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. MEIKS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 130.

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

There was no objection.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 130, Condemning Continued Violation of Rights and Freedoms of the People of Hong Kong by People’s Republic of China and Government of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

I have introduced this resolution to demonstrate this body’s already strong, bipartisan support for the people of Hong Kong.

The situation in Hong Kong has been alarming for several years now. We have witnessed the degradation of civil liberties and human rights as the PRC continues to disregard its international legal obligations under the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration.

For months, in 2019 the people of Hong Kong peacefully took to the streets in historic numbers to preserve their democracy and demand their rights and freedoms. Unfortunately,
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These peaceful protesters were met with excessive force by the police and the further imposition of restrictions on expression and assembly. Thousands have been beaten, injured, and illegally detained in violation of due process.

This resolution today makes clear that China has trampled on its promised national security law used to target and round up peaceful protesters under the guise of terrorism; disqualification of pro-democracy candidates from participating in the September 6 legislative council elections and arrests for six Hong Kong activists living overseas—as the distinguished chairman pointed out, including here in the United States—and the arrests and sentencing of dozens of pro-democracy activists, including, as was mentioned, Joshua Wong, Agnes Chow, and Ivan Lam—and opposition leaders, the Hong Kong 12, of this past December and January. Again, I mention Martin Lee.

The United States Congress has always supported Hong Kong on a bipartisan and bicameral basis, and we remain laser-focused on efforts to support Hong Kong’s efforts to maintain and grow the rule of law and freedom of speech in their historic fight to determine to hold China accountable.

Our legislative response must also address the plight of the Uighurs and Tibetans and the violation of their rights in China; and we must continue to use our platform to speak out about Beijing’s crackdown on the global stage and ensure that the voices that the Chinese Government are trying to silence are heard.

In response, our focus must be on human rights. As I always say, if we do not speak out for human rights in the face of gross injustices, then we lose all moral authority to speak out on human rights anywhere in the world.

That is what I have been stating and fighting for—as we have together—since 1991 when I went to Tiananmen Square and unfurled a black-and-white banner reading: To those who died for democracy.

Ever since, many of us have fought to ensure that human rights and trade are firmly linked, from sponsoring the U.S.-China Act in 1993 and in 1994 urging Congress to deny China most-favored nation status to goods made by the PLA in the prisons, and Frank Wolf went there and saw the evidence of prison labor goods being sent to the U.S. and corporate America just ignoring the whole thing.

Then in 2000 we fought efforts to give China a blanket check when it failed to comply with its market commitment under the WTO, and they still continue to do that.
We cannot allow economic interests to blind us to moral injustices committed by China.

On Friday in a speech to court, the storied Hong Kong attorney, Margaret Ng, quoted Sir Thomas More, the patron saint of the legal profession. He was tried for treason because he would not bend the law to the king’s will. Margaret Ng ended her statement by paraphrasing his final, famous words:

I stand the law’s good servant, but the people’s first. For God must serve the people, not the people the law.

With that, I support an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote for this resolution and for the Congress’ continued bipartisan and bicameral work to support the people of Hong Kong in the face of Beijing’s exploitation of and assault on the law. It is a very important piece of legislation, and I am so glad it is going to have bipartisan support.

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

First, I want to thank the Speaker for coming down on the floor to give her personal remarks. I know she has a busy schedule, but this really honors her personal remarks. I know she has a strong record on human rights more than most people. I know I will have her personal support.

Mr. SPEAKER. I rise today in support of H. Res. 130, a resolution condemning the violations of human rights and the rule of law in Hong Kong perpetrated by the Chinese Communist Party under Xi Jinping and the Government of Hong Kong itself.

As the House-passed, bipartisan Hong Kong Human Rights Act signed into law last Congress, which I first introduced in 2014 and again in 2015, 2017, and then for a final time in 2019, I want to just thank Speaker Pelosi for putting that legislation before this body and for her strong support.

The Speaker mentioned a moment ago how we have worked for well over 30 years on combating human rights abuses here. It is time that China honors its solemn promises made by the dictatorship in Beijing—to respect human rights with trade was the only way to effectuate systemic change. Regrettably, we have lost so far that link.

But, again, now we are seeing the real consequences of that. We have a worked very, very closely together, and I believe going back to right after Tiananmen Square, that linkage of human rights with trade was the only way to effectuate systemic change. Regrettably, we have lost so far that linkage. But as we are seeing now in Hong Kong.

Mr. Speaker, I was proud to join the chairman in leading this measure to condemn the egregious violations of Hong Kong’s freedoms. The Chinese Communist Party’s relentless oppression of the people of Hong Kong is not a Republican or Democratic issue. We are united as Americans in standing with Hong Kongers.

Hong Kong’s pro-democracy movement is a movement around the world to fight for liberty over tyranny. But in June of last year, the Chinese Communist Party used its sham legislation to enforce a dystopian national security law. This law criminalizes basic civil liberties, it violated China’s treaty commitments, it destroyed the “one country, two systems” model of autonomy, and it inserted the CCP’s police state into Hong Kong to crush dissent.

As it passed, the CCP has purged pro-democracy lawmakers from the government while arresting the CCP’s political enemies.

Unfortunately, the CCP’s human rights abuses in Hong Kong are far from over. Chairman MEEKS’ resolution continues our bipartisan work to call out the CCP’s abuses and to stand with the people of Hong Kong, and I urge my colleagues’ support for this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), who is the ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, the ranking member, for his kind remarks. I thank him for his leadership on this resolution, as well.

I stand the law’s good servant, but the people’s first. For God must serve the people, not the people the law.

With that, I support an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote for this resolution and for the Congress’ continued bipartisan and bicameral work to support the people of Hong Kong in the face of Beijing’s exploitation of and assault on the law. It is a very important piece of legislation, and I am so glad it is going to have bipartisan support.

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Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), who is the ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, the ranking member, for his kind remarks. I thank him for his leadership on this resolution, as well.

I thank him for his leadership on this resolution, as well. I thank Chairman MEEKS for his leadership on this. It is a bipartisan resolution, and it is very much needed right now.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MCCAUL), who is a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MCCAUL), who is a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield today in support of H. Res. 130, a resolution condemning the violations of human rights and the rule of law of the people of Hong Kong. As part of the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration on Hong Kong, the People’s Republic of China made a series of commitments: that Hong Kong would retain a high degree of autonomy; that it would retain its own legal system and judicial independence; and that Hong Kong would retain a high degree of personal and political freedoms, including freedom of speech, press, and assembly.

Yet we continue to see the PRC infringe on Hong Kong’s sovereignty and its people’s freedoms. It has been made abundantly clear that the People’s Republic of China has no intention of keeping its promises.

Most recently, the PRC forced through the draconian but mundane-sounding Law of the People’s Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. This law casts an authoritarian net over Hong Kong and has empowered a crackdown on vaguely worded political crimes like subversion and collusion with foreign powers. From day one, that law has been abused, with the pretext of Hong Kong arrested for such crimes as wearing stickers or T-shirts with disagreeable slogans.

The rapid erosion of Hong Kongers’ rights and freedoms is absolutely unacceptable, and it is past time that the PRC and its puppet government that it installed in Hong Kong be condemned in the strongest possible terms.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution to send a clear message that we in the United States will not stand by as the rights and freedoms of the people of Hong Kong are stripped away.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers if the gentleman from Texas is ready to close.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, sadly, we no longer see American flags waving over thousands of peaceful protestors in the streets of Hong Kong. Displaying our symbol of liberty has become a criminal act punishable by life in prison. But even through the freedom-loving people of Hong Kong can’t publicly ask for our support, we still hear these pleas. Congress hears them, the American people hear them, and it is now
more important than ever that we continue to stand with the people of Hong Kong.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chair- 
man MEEKS for bringing this resolution which I was proud to join as a lead co-
sponsor, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, first, let me thank the rank-
ing member for making sure we make a unified, strong, bipartisan state-
ment, and all of my colleagues on the Foreign Affairs Committee on both sides of the aisle because H. Res. 130 sends a strong and unequivocal mes-
sage: The United States stands firmly in support of the people of Hong Kong and the rights, freedoms, and auton-
omy they are promised in the joint declar-
arization and basic law.

This resolution signals that the House’s support of the people of Hong Kong and their struggle for democracy shall not waiver and shall remain firm and resolute.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that all of my colleagues with the Ranking Member McCUH, and myself in supporting this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 130.

The question was taken. The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 38 of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

CYBER DIPLOMACY ACT OF 2021

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1251) to support United States international cyber diplomacy, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1251

be enacted by the Senate and House of Repre-
sentatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) Short Title.—This Act may be cited as the “Cyber Diplomacy Act of 2021”.

(b) Table of Contents.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Findings.
Sec. 3. Definitions.
Sec. 4. United States international cyber-
space policy.
Sec. 5. Department of state responsibilities.
Sec. 6. International cyber space executive
arrangements.
promote an open, interoperable, reliable, un-  
(1) promotes human rights, democracy, and  
(2) respects privacy and guards against de-  
(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—In implementing the  
(1) in General.—There is established, within  
(g) BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL CYB-  
(2) Duties.—  
(A) in General.—The head of the Bureau  
(i) to serve as the principal cyberspace  
(2) Duties.—  
(A) by redesignating subsection (g) as sub- 
(B) Duties Described.—The principal du-  
(1) Clarifying the applicability of inter-  
(2) Reducing and limiting the risk of escala-  
(3) Cooperating with like-minded demo-  
(4) Enforcing and enhancing the responsible  
(5) Security and implementing commitments  
(B) Countries should take all appropriate  
(3) by adding a new subsection (a) to sub- 
(4) by inserting after subsection (f) the fol- 
(1) (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1 of the State  
(2) by inserting as a sub-paragraph (b) and  
(3) by redesignating subsection (g) as sub- 
(5) by inserting a new subsection (g) after  
(6) by redesignating subsection (g) as sub- 
(8) AGENCY.—There is established, within  
(9) of the Department of State and the advi- 
(10) by inserting a new subsection (g) after  
(11) by redesignating subsection (g) as sub-
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(III) the Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment;

(IV) the Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security Affairs;

(V) the Under Secretary for Management;

(B) A description of the new reporting structure for the head of the Bureau, as well as a description of the data and evidence used for such reporting structure.

(C) A plan describing how the new reporting structure will better enable the head of the Bureau to carry out the responsibilities specified in subsection (2), including the security, economic, and human rights aspects of cyber diplomacy.

(5) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section is intended to preclude the head of the Bureau from being designated as an Assistant Secretary, if such an Assistant Secretary position does not increase the number of Assistant Secretary positions at the Department above the number authorized under subsection (c)(1).

(6) COORDINATION.—

(A) CYBERSPACE POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE.—In conjunction with establishing the Bureau pursuant to this subsection, there is established a senior-level Cyber Policy Coordinating Committee to ensure that cyberspace issues receive broad senior-level attention and coordination across the Department of State and provide direction on such issues.

The CyberPolicy Coordination Committee shall be chaired by the head of the Bureau or an official of the Department of State holding a higher position, and operate on an ongoing basis, meeting not less frequently than quarterly. Committee members shall include appropriate officials at the Assistant Secretary or higher from—

(i) the Undersecretary for Political Affairs;

(ii) the Undersecretary for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights;

(iii) the Undersecretary for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment;

(iv) the Undersecretary for Arms Control and International Security;

(v) the Undersecretary for Management; and

(vi) other senior level Department participants, as appropriate.

(B) OTHER MEETINGS.—The head of the Bureau shall convene other coordinating meetings as necessary to implement the policy described in section 4.

(C) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Bureau of International Cyberspace Policy established under section 1(g) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956, as added by subsection (a), should have a diverse workforce composed of qualified individuals, including such individuals from traditionally under-represented groups.

(c) UNITED NATIONS.—The Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations shall consult with the appropriate committees if another country fails to adhere to significant commitments contained in such agreement; and

(d) describe the steps that the United States has taken or plans to take to ensure that all such commitments are fulfilled.

(7) EXISTING EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall brief the appropriate congressional committees regarding any executive bilateral or multilateral cyberspace arrangement in effect before the date of enactment of this Act, including—

(1) the arrangement announced between the United States and Japan on April 25, 2014;

(2) the arrangement announced between the United States and the United Kingdom on January 18, 2015;

(3) the arrangement announced between the United States and China on September 25, 2015;

(4) the arrangement announced between the United States and Korea on October 16, 2015;

(5) the arrangement announced between the United States and Australia on January 19, 2016;

(6) the arrangement announced between the United States and India on June 7, 2016;

(7) the arrangement announced between the United States and Argentina on April 27, 2017;

(8) the arrangement announced between the United States and Kenya on June 22, 2017;

(9) the arrangement announced between the United States and Israel on June 26, 2017;

(10) the arrangement announced between the United States and France on February 9, 2018;

(11) the arrangement announced between the United States and Brazil on May 14, 2018; and

(12) any other similar bilateral or multilateral arrangement announced before such date of enactment.

SEC. 6. INTERNATIONAL CYBERSPACE EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President is encouraged to enter into executive arrangements with foreign governments that support the policy described in section 4.

(b) TRANSMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Section 112b of title 1, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) by striking “International Relations” and inserting “Foreign Affairs”;

(2) in subsection (e)(2)(B), by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(III) a bilateral or multilateral cyber-space agreement;”;

(3) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (g); and

(4) by inserting after subsection (e) the following new subsection:

“(f) With respect to any bilateral or multilateral cyberspace agreement under subsection (e)(2)(B)(iii) and the information required to be transmitted to Congress under subsection (a), or with respect to any arrangement that seeks to secure commitments on responsible country behavior in cyberspace consistent with section 4(b)(5) of the Cyber Diplomacy Act of 2021, the Secretary of State shall provide an explanation of such arrangement, including—

(1) the purpose of such arrangement;

(2) how such arrangement is consistent with the policy described in section 4 of such Act; and

(3) how such arrangement will be implemented.”;

(c) STATUS REPORT.—During the 5-year period immediately following the transmittal to Congress of an agreement described in clause (ii) of section 112b(e)(2)(B) of title 1, United States Code, as added by subsection (b)(2), or until such agreement has been discontinued, if discontinued within 5 years, the President shall—

(1) notify the appropriate congressional committees if another country fails to adhere to significant commitments contained in such agreement; and

(2) describe the steps that the United States has taken or plans to take to ensure that all such commitments are fulfilled.

(d) EXISTING EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall brief the appropriate congressional committees regarding any executive bilateral or multilateral cyberspace arrangement in effect before the date of enactment of this Act, including—

(1) the arrangement announced between the United States and Japan on April 25, 2014;

(2) the arrangement announced between the United States and the United Kingdom on January 18, 2015;

(3) the arrangement announced between the United States and China on September 25, 2015;

(4) the arrangement announced between the United States and Korea on October 16, 2015;

(5) the arrangement announced between the United States and Australia on January 19, 2016;

(6) the arrangement announced between the United States and India on June 7, 2016;

(7) the arrangement announced between the United States and Argentina on April 27, 2017;

(8) the arrangement announced between the United States and Kenya on June 22, 2017;

(9) the arrangement announced between the United States and Israel on June 26, 2017;

(10) the arrangement announced between the United States and France on February 9, 2018;

(11) the arrangement announced between the United States and Brazil on May 14, 2018; and

(12) any other similar bilateral or multilateral arrangement announced before such date of enactment.

SEC. 7. INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY FOR CYBER-SPACE.

(a) STRATEGY REQUIRED.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the President, acting through the Secretary of State, and in coordination with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall develop a strategy relating to United States engagement with foreign governments on international norms with respect to responsible state behavior in cyberspace.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A review of actions and activities undertaken to support the policy described in section 4.

(2) A plan of action to guide the diplomacy of the Department of State with regard to actions in cyberspace, including—

(A) conducting bilateral and multilateral activities to—

(i) develop norms of responsible country behavior in cyberspace consistent with the objectives specified in section 4(b)(5); and

(ii) share best practices and advance proposals to strengthen civilian and private sector resiliency to threats and access to opportunities in cyberspace; and

(B) reviewing the status of existing efforts in relevant multilateral fora, as appropriate, to obtain commitments on international norms for cyberspace.

(3) A review of alternative concepts with regard to international norms in cyberspace offered by foreign countries.

A detailed description of new and evolving threats in cyberspace from foreign adversaries, state-sponsored actors, and private actors.

(A) United States national security;

(B) Federal and private sector cyberspace infrastructure of the United States;

(C) intellectual property in the United States; and

(D) the privacy and security of citizens of the United States.

(5) A review of policy tools available to the President to deter and de-escalate tensions with foreign countries, state-sponsored actors, and private actors regarding threats in cyberspace, the degree to which such tools have been used, and whether such tools have been effective deterrents.

(6) A review of resources required to conduct activities to build responsible norms of international cyber behavior.

(7) A plan of action, developed in consultation with relevant Federal departments and agencies as the President may direct, to guide the diplomacy of the Department of State with regard to inclusion of cyber issues in mutual defense agreements.

(c) FORM OF STRATEGY.—

(1) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall be available to the public in unclassified form, including through publication in the Federal Register.

(2) CLASSIFIED ANNEX.—The strategy required under subsection (a) may include a classified annex, consistent with United States national security interests, if the Secretary of State determines that such annex is appropriate.

(d) BRIEFING.—Not later than 30 days after the completion of the strategy required under subsection (a), the Secretary of State shall brief the appropriate congressional committees on the strategy, including any material contained in a classified annex.

(e) UPDATES.—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall be updated not later than 90 days after any material change to United States policy described in such strategy; and

(2) not later than one year after the inauguration of each new President.

SEC. 8. ANNUAL COUNTRY REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES.

The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 is amended—

(1) in section 116 (22 U.S.C. 2151n), by adding at the end the following new subsection:
SEC. 10. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON CYBERSECURITY SANCTIONS AGAINST NORTH KOREA AND CYBERSECURITY LEGISLATION IN GENERAL.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(A) the President should designate all entities that knowingly engage in significant activities undermining the use of the internet, including electronic mail, and a description of the means by which such authorities attempt to inappropriately block or remove such expression.

(B) an assessment of the extent to which government authorities in the country have persecuted or otherwise punished, arbitrarily and without due process, an individual or group for the nonviolent expression of political, religious, or ideological opinion or belief through the Internet, including electronic mail.

(C) an assessment of the extent to which government authorities in the country have sought, inappropriately and with malicious intent, to collect, request, obtain, or disclose information that person's nonviolent expression of political, religious, or ideological opinion or belief, including expression that would be protected by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, adopted at New York December 16, 1966, and entered into force March 23, 1976, as interpreted by the United States.

(D) an assessment of the extent to which the United States diplomatic personnel should consult with relevant entities, including human rights organizations, the private sector, the government of like-minded countries, technology and Internet companies, and other appropriate nongovernmental organizations or entities.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(A) the term ‘electronic communication’ has the meaning given the term in section 2510 of title 18, United States Code;

(B) the term ‘personally identifiable information’ means data in a form that identifies a particular person; and

(C) the term ‘wire communication’ has the meaning given the term in section 2510 of title 18, United States Code.

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that includes—

(1) an assessment of the extent to which the United States and other entities undermine cybersecurity through the use of computer networks or systems against foreign persons, governments, or other entities on behalf of the Government of North Korea, consistent with section 9229(b) of the North Korea Sanctions and Policy Enhancement Act of 2016 (22 U.S.C. 9229(b));

(2) the cybersecurity law approved by the National Assembly of Vietnam on June 12, 2018;

(A) may not be consistent with international trade standards; and

(B) may endanger the privacy of citizens of Vietnam;

(3) the Government of Vietnam should work with the United States and other countries to ensure that such law meets all relevant international standards.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on H.R. 1251, as amended.

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

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1251, the Cyber Diplomacy Act of 2021, as amended, by my good friend and the Foreign Affairs Committee’s ranking member, Mr. McCaul. I thank him for his work on this important bill.

This Congress, the House Foreign Affairs Committee aims to prioritize efforts to reassert American leadership on a variety of issues. I can’t think of any issue that is more timely than ensuring American leadership is prepared to confront the growing national security challenge in cyberspace.

The U.S. is increasingly under attack online by foreign actors, whether it is the recent SolarWinds hack or other attempted cyberintrusions on critical American infrastructure.

Now more than ever, we need a senior cyber diplomat who can support American efforts to keep the internet open, interoperable, reliable, and secure.

To demonstrate how seriously the United States takes these issues, it is vital that we strengthen the State Department’s tools to address the challenges in cyberspace to American foreign policy. The State Department needs a bureau capable and focused on tackling the growing global challenges of cybersecurity, the digital economy, and internet freedom in order to be...
Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased the House is considering the Cyber Diplomacy Act that I reintroduced this Congress and my co-chair on the Congressional Cybersecurity Caucus. Over the past decade, he and I have worked very hard to advance critical cyber legislation like the law that set up the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency at the Department of Homeland Security.

With today’s bill, we are taking the protections provided by laws the United States has to the international stage and, as the chairman mentioned, providing rules of the road, which we do not have today.

The United States has strategic and economic interests in ensuring the internet remains open, reliable, and secure around the world. Unfortunately, not all governments agree.

For example, Russia and China are aggressively pursuing the vision of “cyber sovereignty,” which emphasizes state control over cyberspace and tramples individual freedoms. That is why the United States and our allies must be prepared to advance our own vision for cyberspace.

The Cyber Diplomacy Act gives the State Department the necessary tools to work with our allies and partners to stop the spread of misinformation, to stop the cyberattacks, and to stop the imposition of their so-called cyber security.

Madam Speaker, a new ambassador will be given the authority to establish critical cyber norms and standards that do not exist today to help define what is good behavior and what is bad. Let me tell you. When the SolarWinds attack occurred, in the past, there were no consequences to bad behavior with the Russians or the Chinese, and I was very supportive and proud that President Biden struck back with sanctions against Russia for this bad behavior.

That is what this office is really all about.

Without these clear guidelines, it is not possible to mount a strong response to our adversaries’ destructive behavior. This bill lays a strong foundation for what is good behavior and what is bad. To me, it is the last piece in terms of our cyber role in the Federal Government, now taking it to the international stage with our allies around the world.

Madam Speaker, again, I want to thank Chairman LEW, Mr. LANGEVIN, and all of the bipartisan cosponsors. The recent high-profile attacks remind us that what happens in cyberspace is vitally important to the United States and our allies and partners around the world. This act will enhance our ability to protect and promote our national security, our ability to compete, and the freedoms and ideals America represents to the world.

A decade ago, we had to determine what is the cyber role—or maybe even 15—what is the role of the Federal Government. We knew the Department of Defense and NSA had great offensive capabilities. We needed a civilian agency to work with the private sector to inform and advise. That became the beginning of the cybersecurity agency at the Department of Homeland Security. And, of course, the FBI investigates. But we have never had any international norms or standards or, as the chairman said, the rules of the road.

This bill, as I said, is long overdue. The Russians influenced our elections. There are, finally, sanctions against them. But before that, few consequences. This act will enhance our ability to protect and promote our national security, our ability to compete, and the freedoms and ideals America represents to the world.

When these attacks occurred, and when our intellectual property has been stolen, so much so that Keith Alexander, the NSA Director, said it was the “greatest transfer of wealth in human history,” with no consequence, we finally shut down the Chinese consulate in Houston because of the tremendous theft of intellectual property through the Texas Medical Center in my home State, including research and development on the vaccine. Then there was a Texas A&M professor being indicted for espionage for giving NASA data to the Chinese. This has to stop.

This act, this cyber diplomacy bill, will ensure that, at the international level, the United States is respected and that we are going to work with our allies to provide the norms and standards that are so desperately needed to better protect our interests and the interests of our allies.

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

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 1251, the Cyber Diplomacy Act, introduced by my friend and the ranking member, Mr. McCaul, is bipartisan legislation that is essential to America’s national security and prosperity for the United States in the cyber realm now and in the future.

Again, I hope all of my colleagues join both Mr. McCaul and myself in supporting this 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 New York (Mr. MEEKS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1251, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

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

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

SUPPORTING PEOPLE OF BELARUS AND THEIR DEMOCRATIC ASPIRATIONS AND CONDAMNING ELECTION RIGGING AND SUBSEQUENT VIOLENT CRACKDOWNS ON PEACEFUL PROTESTERS

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 124) supporting the people of Belarus and their democratic aspirations and condemning the election rigging and subsequent violent
crackdowns on peaceful protesters by the illegitimate Lukashenka regime, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution. The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 124

Whereas the Republic of Belarus held a presidential election on August 9, 2020, that was neither free nor fair;

Whereas the presidential election took place without adequate observation from local independent groups and international observers;

Whereas since the presidential election, Belarusians have demonstrated their strong desire and commitment to a democratic future by organizing peaceful protests in Minsk and across the country;

Whereas Belarusian civil society, led by Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, has called for the resignation of Alyaksandr Lukashenka, the peaceful transition of power, the organization of new, free, and fair elections and the release of all political prisoners;

Whereas Belarusian opposition leaders have faced intimidation, harassment, and detention, including direct threats leading to the forced exile of Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya in Lithuania as well as the kidnapping and imprisonment of Maria Kolesnikova and other opposition leaders;

Whereas in the months since the election, Belarusian authorities have arbitrarily detained and brutally assaulted tens of thousands of peaceful protesters, journalists, and opposition figures, of which hundreds remain in detention;

Whereas human rights groups have documented hundreds of horrific accounts of torture, including sexual violence and rape, along with other instances ill-treatment and excessive force used against detainees arrested for peaceful protest;

Whereas on August 13 and 14, 2020, relatives of detainees held in the infamous “Akrestsina” detention facility in Minsk recorded the sounds of “incessant beatings which were clearly audible in the street, and numerous voices screaming out in agony with every swing”;

Whereas thousands of Belarusians have fled to neighboring countries seeking political asylum;

Whereas independent journalists and the free media have faced intimidation, violence, mass arrests and prosecution, with many foreign journalists being stripped of their accreditation;

Whereas Katsyaryna Andreyeva and Darya Chultsovatov, two journalists who work for Belarus, an independent Polish-based satellite television station aimed at Belarus, have each been sentenced to two years in prison simply for reporting live from a rally in Minsk in November 2020;

Whereas while Liziak, a popular Belarusian blogger on Telegram, went on a hunger strike for 6 weeks to protest the politically-motivated charges that he helped organize riots after the fraudulent presidential election;

Whereas members of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), of which the United States and Belarus are members, invoked paragraph 12 of the 1991 Moscow Document of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the OSCE (the “Conference”) to establish a mission of experts to review allegations of human rights violations;

Whereas the OSCE Rapporteur’s Report under Article 6 of the OSCE’s Framework for Cooperation on Human Rights Violations related to the presidential elections of August 9, 2020, in Belarus, published November 5, 2020, concluded that there was “overwhelming evidence that the presidential elections of 9 August 2020 [had] been falsified and that massive and serious violations [had] been committed by the Belarusian security forces in response to peaceful demonstrations and protests”;

Whereas a recent report by the OSCE (Moscow Mechanism) to establish a monitoring mission for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), of which the United States and its transatlantic allies have been members, expressed concern that the Belarusian authorities have failed to adequately respond to the mass arrests and prosecution, with many for political crimes—convicted on flimsy evidence, with some begging for mercy;”

“righteous causes, and forming ‘solidarity chains’:

Whereas the information technology (IT) industry has played a prominent role in the democratic movement by demanding an end to violent oppression, as well as creating safe platforms for demonstrations and bringing thousands to President Alyaksandr Lukashenka’s doorstep who have taken to social media;

Whereas Belarusian state-owned television channels have encouraged violence against peaceful demonstrators;

Whereas a recent survey of IT specialists found that 15 percent of IT specialists working in Belarus have already relocated to neighboring countries, and over 49 percent of IT specialists who work in Belarus, resulting in a devastating loss of talent for Belarus, possibly permanently damaging the Belarusian technology industry along with the Belarusian economy;

Whereas hundreds of former law enforcement officers in Belarus who have defected to the Opposition have been threatened with human rights violations and cover up crimes against civilians and those who have assisted law enforcement officers in defecting have faced harassment, financial penalties, arrest, detention, and other punitive measures;

Whereas several peaceful demonstrators have died as a result of police violence, including 31-year-old Roman Bondarenko who was violently beaten by plainclothes police officers and, as a result, suffered head injuries that resulted in his death;

Whereas Belarusian authorities have continued to expel students and dismiss educators and researchers for participating in peaceful protests;

Whereas child protective services have threatened multiple civic activists with termination of parental rights for bringing minor children to peaceful protests;

Whereas factory workers at state-owned enterprises have been continuously harassed for trying to organize independent trade unions and have signed letters opposing sanctions by the European Union under threat of termination of their employment;

Whereas the transatlantic community of legislators has emerged in support of uplifting the democratic aspirations of the Belarusian people;

Whereas international advocacy, including by co-host Latvia, succeeded in preventing the illegitimate Government of Belarus from hosting the 2021 Ice Hockey World Championship;

Whereas the United States, the European Union, the United Kingdom, and Canada have enacted sanctions and other punitive measures against dozens of individuals and entities found responsible for the perpetration of violence against peaceful demonstrators, opposition figures, and journalists, among others; and

Whereas Alyaksandr Lukashenka continues to undermine the sovereignty and independence of Belarus through efforts to integrate Belarus into a so-called “Union States” under the control of Russia;

Whereas the House of Representatives passed the Belarus Democracy, Human Rights, and Sovereignty Act of 2020 with unanimous consent, sending a clear message of overwhelming, bipartisan support for the democratic movement in Belarus;

Whereas the Belarus Democracy, Human Rights, and Sovereignty Act of 2020 was signed into law via the fiscal year 2021 omnibus spending bill, expanding the President’s authority to impose sanctions related to Belarus, including on Russian individuals who have undermined Belarus’ sovereignty, and authorizing the President to receive cooperation to counter internet censorship and surveillance technology, support women advocating for freedom and human rights, and support political refugees fleeing the crackdown in Belarus, among other things; and

Whereas the Belarusian opposition, led by Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, organized a Day of Solidarity on February 7, 2020, where countries, cities, and political and elected leaders, as well as everyday citizens around the world demonstrated their support for the six months of historic peaceful protests since the fraudulent presidential election that took place on August 9, 2020: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representa-

Whereas human rights groups have documented hundreds of horrific accounts of torture, including sexual violence and rape, along with other instances of ill-treatment and excessive force used against detainees arrested for peaceful protest;

Whereas on August 13 and 14, 2020, relatives of detainees held in the infamous “Akrestsina” detention facility in Minsk recorded the sounds of “incessant beatings which were clearly audible in the street, and numerous voices screaming out in agony with every swing”;

Whereas thousands of Belarusians have fled to neighboring countries seeking political asylum;

Whereas independent journalists and the free media have faced intimidation, violence, mass arrests and prosecution, with many foreign journalists being stripped of their accreditation;

Whereas Katsyaryna Andreyeva and Darya Chultsovatov, two journalists who work for Belarus, an independent Polish-based satellite television station aimed at Belarus, have each been sentenced to two years in prison simply for reporting live from a rally in Minsk in November 2020;

Whereas while Liziak, a popular Belarusian blogger on Telegram, went on a hunger strike for 6 weeks to protest the politically-motivated charges that he helped organize riots after the fraudulent presidential election;

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“righteous causes, and forming ‘solidarity chains’:

Whereas the information technology (IT) industry has played a prominent role in the democratic movement by demanding an end to violent oppression, as well as creating safe platforms for demonstrations and bringing thousands to President Alyaksandr Lukashenka’s doorstep who have taken to social media;

Whereas Belarusian state-owned television channels have encouraged violence against peaceful demonstrators;

Whereas a recent survey of IT specialists found that 15 percent of IT specialists working in Belarus have already relocated to neighboring countries, and over 49 percent of IT specialists who work in Belarus, resulting in a devastating loss of talent for Belarus, possibly permanently damaging the Belarusian technology industry along with the Belarusian economy;

Whereas hundreds of former law enforcement officers in Belarus who have defected to the Opposition have been threatened with human rights violations and cover up crimes against civilians and those who have assisted law enforcement officers in defecting have faced harassment, financial penalties, arrest, detention, and other punitive measures;

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Whereas the Belarusian opposition, led by Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, organized a Day of Solidarity on February 7, 2020, where countries, cities, and political and elected leaders, as well as everyday citizens around the world demonstrated their support for the six months of historic peaceful protests since the fraudulent presidential election that took place on August 9, 2020: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representa-
and partners to explore avenues in support of the democratic movement in Belarus;

(11) calls for further targeted sanctions co-ordinated between the United States, the Europepean Union, the United Kingdom, Canada, and other allies and partners against Belarusian authorities who committed human rights violations and engaged in activities in the falsification of the August 9, 2020, election results;

(12) encourages when considering, in coordination with transatlantic partners, the sanctioning of Belarusian state-owned companies that have directly violated the rights of their workers as a result of their participation in or in connection to the ongoing democratic movement in Belarus that the Administration take into consideration the potential implications of making these companies more vulnerable to takeovers by Russian or Chinese state-owned companies;

(13) calls on the transatlantic community to review and consider reassessing any financial assistance that supports the Lukashenka regime, including participation in state debt issuances or procurement contracts;

(14) supports increasing funds available for foreign aid to Belarusian civil society groups as well as legal assistance for activists and independent journalists, among others, as called for in the Belarus Democracy, Human Rights, and Sovereignty Act of 2020;

(15) urges the President to provide the United States Agency for Global Media with a surge capacity (as such term is defined in section 316 of the United States International Broadcasting Act of 1994 (22 U.S.C. 6216)) for programs and activities in Belarus, including to protect the brave independent journalists reporting from within Belarus as called for in the Belarus Democracy, Human Rights, and Sovereignty Act of 2020;

(16) calls for an international investigation into alleged abuses committed during and after the August 9, 2020, presidential election and;

(17) continues to support the aspirations of the people of Belarus for democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, and reaffirms that the fulfillment of such aspirations is critical to ensuring the continued strength of Belarusian sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. McCaul) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 124.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 124.

This resolution, introduced by the chair of the Subcommittee on Europe, Energy, the Environment, and Cyber, Mr. Rodger K. Wyman, an excellent measure that solidifies this body’s already strong bipartisan support for the people of Belarus. I also thank the ranking member for his work.

After Alyaksandr Lukashenka stole the August 9, 2020, elections, the Belarusian people, led by thousands of women dressed in white and fearless opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, peacefully took to the streets in historic numbers to demand the right to chart their own democratic future, a future free of Lukashenka’s dictatorial grip.

Tragically, but unsurprisingly, these peaceful protestors were met with the same brutal, violent tactics that have defined Lukashenka’s nearly three-decades-long rule. In his desperate attempt to cling to power, thousands were beaten, injured, and illegally detained without due process by security forces. Meanwhile, critical access to the internet, international broadcasting, and other forms of communication were cut off to suppress the free flow of information, and prevent the opposition from organizing any further.

But the resolve of the Belarusian people, the brave, peaceful protestors, the courageous opposition leaders, including Sviatlana, and the Belarusian diaspora has not wavered.

As we mark the one-year anniversary of the August 9, 2020, election in Belarus, the House shines a spotlight on the illegitimacy of the Lukashenka regime and his abhorrent human rights violations.

We must continue to build on the work of the Belarus Democracy, Human Rights, and Sovereignty Act of 2020, an effort led by another distinguished member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and, as indicated by Ranking Member McCaul, a longtime champion for human rights in Belarus.

Madam Speaker, I thank him for his work.

By passing this good, bipartisan resolution, the House will strengthen its commitment to renew sanctions against nine Belarusian state-owned enterprises; mandate a free and fair vote. Their courage is truly inspiring.

This resolution reminds the corrupt Lukashenka regime that the United States Congress supports the people of Belarus. We echo their calls for the immediate release of all political prisoners and all of those unlawfully detained by the regime. We also join them in demanding free, fair, and fair elections to be held in Belarus.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KEATING), the distinguished Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Europe, Energy, the Environment, and Cyber; an esteemed member of the Foreign Affairs Committee; and the author of this important bill.

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, I thank the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, my friend, GREGORY MEEKS of New York, for yielding and for his leadership on this issue.

I also thank the ranking member, my friend, and colleague, Mr. McCaul of Texas, for his support and leadership. I also thank the longtime leader of this cause, Representative CHRISS SMITH, for his support. I thank them both for their bipartisan support.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 124.

Today marks just over 3 months since an openly fraudulent presidential election took place in Belarus. In that time, Belarusians have made it clear by marching in the streets this time, with a pronounced leadership of brave women, that they want and need democracy in Belarus.

Despite the peaceful nature of these events, protestors have been beaten, arrested, and opposition leaders have either been forced out of the country, like Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya; or jailed, like Maria Kalesnikavika.

This resolution, inspired by the courage and those taking to the streets to defend democracy, makes it clear to the people of Belarus and to the international community that the United States Congress supports the people of Belarus and to the international community.
More than 8 months have passed since the stolen August presidential election, and about 5 months since President Trump signed the Belarus Democracy, Human Rights, and Sovereignty Act of 2020, which I authored. Let me quote my colleagues that I first authored the Belarus Democracy Act in the year 2004. It was enacted into law and reauthorized in 2006 and 2011. What it did was focus on denying visas to human rights abusers and made people who are singled out ineligible for participating in our economy.

In retaliation, I was told I could not visit Belarus. I was denied a visa repeatedly. I finally got there twice and raised human rights issues with Lukashenka himself.

Let me just say that a resolution like this has real impact. Just last week, as a result of an outcry from human rights organizations, the government released Tatsiana Hataura-Yavorska, the director of the Watch Docs Film Festival in Belarus, and they dropped the charges because of the outcry.

Again, I want to thank Mr. K EATING, the chairman, for doing this.

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

Mr. MCCAUL. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MEIJER), a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. MEIJER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 124, a resolution to support the people of Belarus in their fight for a new, free, and fair election.

Madam Speaker, the resolution condemns Alyaksandr Lukashenka’s ongoing and ever-worsening brutality and crackdown on protesters. As my colleagues know, the leading opposition presidential candidate, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, who almost certainly won the election in August and helped form the Coordination Council, was then arrested and placed in a hospital.

Today, Ms. Tsikhanouskaya is in exile in Lithuania, where she continues to rally the Belarusian people and their aspirations for democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

Madam Speaker, I urge a “yes” vote from all of my colleagues. Passage of this resolution will send a message that we in Congress support the Belarusian people and their aspirations for democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

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

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

The PENAVERE pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 124, as amended.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it. The SPEAKER pro tempore announced that the ayes had it; on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS), the House did suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 124, as amended.

Mr. MCCAUD. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 965) to establish a comprehensive United States Government initiative to build the capacity of young African leaders and entrepreneurs in Africa, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS INITIATIVE ACT OF 2021

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Young African Leaders Initiative Act of 2021” or “YALI Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Young African Leaders Initiative, launched in 2010, is a signature effort to invest in the next generation of African leaders;

(2) Africa is a continent of strategic importance and it is vital for the United States to support strong and enduring partnerships with the next generation of African leaders; and

(3) the United States Government should prioritize investments to build the capacity of emerging young African leaders in sub-Saharan Africa, including through efforts to enhance leadership skills, encourage entrepreneurship, strengthen public administration and the role of civil society, and connect young African leaders continentally and
SEC. 3. YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS INITIATIVE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the Department of State the Young African Leaders Initiative (‘‘YALI’’) program.

(b) PURPOSE.—The YALI program shall seek to build the capacity of young African leadership in Africa in the areas of business, civic engagement, or public administration, through efforts to—

(1) support young African leaders by offering professional development, training, and networking opportunities, particularly in the areas of leadership, innovation, civic engagement, elections, human rights, entrepreneurship, good governance, and public administration; and

(2) provide increased economic and technical assistance to young African leaders to promote economic growth and strength ties between United States and African businesses.

(c) FELLOWSHIPS.—The YALI program shall award fellowships under the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders program to young African leaders ages 18 to 35 who have demonstrated strong capabilities in entrepreneurship, innovation, public service, and leadership, and who have had a positive impact in their communities, organizations, or institutions.

(d) REGIONAL LEADERSHIP CENTERS.—The YALI program shall seek to establish regional leadership centers in sub-Saharan Africa to offer training to young African leaders ages 18 to 35 who have demonstrated strong capabilities in entrepreneurship, innovation, public service, and leadership, and who have had a positive impact in their communities, organizations, or institutions.

(e) ACTIVITIES.—

(1) UNITED STATES-BASED ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator for the United States Agency for International Development and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall oversee all United States-based activities carried out under the YALI program, including the following:

(A) The participation of Mandela Washington Fellows in the Young African Leaders Summit, established by the United States government to meet with United States leaders from the private, public, and non-profit sectors.

(B) The participation by Mandela Washington Fellows in the Annual Mandela Washington Fellowship Summit, to provide such Fellows the opportunity to meet with United States leaders from the private, public, and non-profit sectors.

(2) AFRICA-BASED ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator for the United States Agency for International Development and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall continue to support YALI programs in sub-Saharan Africa, including the following:

(A) Access to continued leadership training and other professional development opportunities for Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders alumni upon their return to their home countries, including online courses, technical assistance, and access to funding.

(B) Training for young African leaders at regional leadership centers established in accordance with subsection (d), and through online and in-person courses offered by such centers.

(C) Opportunities for networking and engagement with—

(i) other alumni of the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders;

(ii) alumni of programs at regional leadership centers established in accordance with subsection (d); and

(iii) United States and like-minded diplomatic missions, business leaders, and others as appropriate.

(3) IMPLEMENTATION.—To carry out this subsection, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies shall seek to partner with the private sector to pursue public-private partnerships to leverage private sector expertise, expand networking opportunities, and identify funding opportunities as well as fellowship and employment opportunities for participants in the YALI program.

(f) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a plan for implementing the YALI program, including the following:

(1) A description of clearly defined program goals and planned outcomes for each year and for the duration of implementation of the program.

(2) A strategy to monitor and evaluate the program and progress made toward achieving such goals, targets, and planned outcomes.

(3) A strategy to ensure the program is promoting United States foreign policy goals in Africa, including noting, and that the program is clearly branded and paired with robust public diplomacy efforts.

(g) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 5 years, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and publish in a publicly accessible, internet-based form, a report on the following:

(1) The progress made toward achieving the goals, targets, and planned outcomes described in subsection (f)(1), including an overview of the progress made in the previous year and an estimated number of beneficiaries.

(2) An assessment of how the YALI program is contributing to and promoting United States-Africa relations, particularly in areas of increased private sector investment, trade promotion, support to civil society, improved public administration, and fostering entrepreneurship and youth empowerment.

(3) Recommendations for improvements or changes to the implementation plan, if any, that would improve their effectiveness during subsequent years of implementation of the program.

(h) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘‘appropriate congressional committees’’ means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(i) SUNSET.—The requirements of this section shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) and the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) each will control 20 minutes. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to re- verse and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 965.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MEEKS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 965, the YALI Act of 2021, introduced by Representatives KAREN BASS and CHRIS SMITH.

Since 2010 the Young African Leaders Initiative has been building the next generation of Africa’s youth to lead the way in civic engagement, entrepreneurship, and business development.

We must remember that by 2050, almost one-third of the world’s population will be in Africa, and the United States must continue to forge strong ties with our African partners and cultivate its youth for a future of principled leadership.

By helping Africa’s young leaders, YALI remains an important avenue for promoting U.S. foreign policy goals in Africa. It will be key in strengthening our partnerships with African countries that are working to create the pathway for Africa’s youth to make positive and enduring impacts on their communities.

If passed, H.R. 965 will provide a strong mandate for the implementation and congressional oversight of YALI and its key initiatives, including the U.S.-based Mandela Washington Fellowship and the Regional Leadership Centers established throughout sub-Saharan Africa.

This, too, is a very important bill. I support it and urge my colleagues to do the same. With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. WAGNER. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 965, the Young African Leaders Initiative Act, led by Representative BASS and Representative SMITH.

YALI provides fellowship opportunities at U.S. universities and other training programs at Regional Leadership Centers throughout sub-Saharan Africa on leadership skills, entrepreneurship, and effective public administration.

Not only is this an investment in future generations of African leaders, but the young Africans also benefit. At a time when the Chinese Communist Party is ramping up exchange programs across the continent and establishing Confucius Institutes, programs like YALI are critical to providing alternative opportunities.

I urge my colleagues to support this important measure. I yield back the balance of my time.
Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY), the distinguished president of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and esteemed member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise on behalf of Ms. BASS, the author of this legislation, the Young African Leaders Initiative Act of 2021.

The chairman has described the bill. This is an important piece of legislation, which will help try to nourish and develop the next generation of African leadership.

This is an important initiative for the United States to build on those ties, to build those bridges. I commend Congresswoman BASS for her leadership on the YALI program and for this legislation. I urge its passage. I will include the full statement of Ms. BASS in the RECORD.

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I will just say quickly thanks to Representatives BASS and CHRIS SMITH. This will help build the next generation of Africa's youth. I hope all my colleagues will join me in voting for this very important bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 965, the Young African Leaders Initiative Act of 2021, introduced by my good friend and Chairwoman of the Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights Subcommittee, Congresswoman KAREN BASS. Her leadership both on the House Foreign Affairs Committee and on this bill is unparalleled, and I am honored to speak on her behalf today.

I also wish to thank Chairman MEEKS and ranking Member McCaul for bringing this important legislation to the House floor.

The YALI Act of 2021, is a bipartisan bill that seeks to build the capacity of young African leaders in Africa in the areas of civic engagement, entrepreneurship, and business development by:

- Offering professional development and a global network to share expertise, including in the areas of civic leadership, elections, human rights, good governance, and public management;
- Providing increased economic and technical assistance to young leaders and entrepreneurs; and strengthening business and economic ties between the United States and the continent;
- Establishing regional leadership centers in sub-Saharan Africa allowing young leaders to strengthen their skills and aptitude in entrepreneurship, innovation, public service, and leadership;
- Providing increased economic and technical assistance to young leaders and entrepreneurs; and strengthening business and economic ties between the United States and the continent;
- Awarding Mandela Washington Fellowships to young leaders who have had a positive impact in their communities and demonstrated strong capabilities in entrepreneurship, innovation, public service, and leadership;
- Establishing regional leadership centers in sub-Saharan Africa allowing young leaders to strengthen their skills and aptitude in entrepreneurship, innovation, public service, and leadership;
- The YALI program has two vital components that will be carried out by participants in the program. The U.S.-based component led by the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator for USAID will include the following:
  - The Mandela Washington Fellows will participate in a six-week Leadership Institute at a U.S.-based university or college focusing on business, civic engagement, or public management. The sessions will include professional networking opportunities, community service, cultural activities, academic learning, and leadership training.
  - The Mandela Washington Fellows will also participate in the Mandela Washington Fellowship Summit held in Washington, D.C., which will provide an opportunity to meet with U.S. leaders from the private, public, and NGO sectors.

The YALI program was built on the premise of young leaders leveraging their knowledge and skills at U.S. institutions, connecting with other Africans from different regions and countries in Africa, and ensuring young leaders can harness their skills and take them back to their home countries while strengthening their own business, public, and civic spaces.

The YALI Act of 2021 would also continue to allow the United States to support and help strengthen the Africa-based component of the program including:

- Quality leadership training, professional development, and networking, and online courses for Mandela Washington Fellowship alumni when they return to their home countries;
- Opportunities for networking with alumni of the Mandela Washington Fellowship; alumni of participants at the YALI Regional Leadership Centers; African American and African professionals and experts; and
- Opportunities through the United States Africa Development Foundation to facilitate professional development and sharing of expertise in the home countries of Mandela Washington Fellowship alumni throughout the African continent.

Through the implementation of the YALI Act of 2021, the United States will:

- Promote U.S. policy goals in Africa by providing tools and resources to help young African leaders develop important skills and connections through online campaigns and public diplomacy initiatives; and establish a system for monitoring, evaluating, and continued improvement of the YALI program.

The bipartisan support of H.R. 965 shows that this bill is critical to U.S. national security. It also highlights that our relationship with Africa is a priority, and we want to continue to rebuild and strengthen our partnership in trade and investment, peace and security, and human rights and good governance, because it is in the best interest of the United States and Africa.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I rise in support H.R. 965, of which I am a cosponsor, introduced by my friend and colleague, Chairwoman of the Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights Subcommittee, Congresswoman KAREN BASS, to strengthen and formalize our Young African Leaders Initiative program.

The YALI program identifies and invites young leaders from across the African continent to participate in training programs that enhance their leadership skills. Among these individuals, some are selected to participate in the Mandela Washington Fellowship here in the United States.

I have met and spoken with YALI leaders who have participated in the Mandela Fellowship program through Rutgers University in my home state of New Jersey. They are the leaders of tomorrow.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation, and again, thank you to Chairwoman BASS for her leadership.
SEC. 4. REPORT ON CONSISTENT PATTERN OF ACTS OF INTIMIDATION OR HARASSMENT DIRECTED AGAINST INDIVIDUALS IN THE UNITED STATES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Section 6 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2756) states that “no transfers or letters of offer may be issued, no credits or guarantees may be extended, and no exports, reexports, transfers (in principal or in secondary transactions), sales, transfers, or deliveries may be made under this Act with respect to any country determined by the President to be engaged in a consistent pattern of acts of intimidation or harassment directed against individuals in the United States”.

(2) Section 6 of the Arms Export Control Act further requires the President to report to the appropriate congressional committees a certification described in paragraph (2).

(2) CERTIFICATION.—A certification described in this paragraph is a certification that contains a determination of the President that, during the 120-day period preceding the date of submission of the certification, the United States Government has not determined that the Government of Saudi Arabia has conducted any of the following activities:

(A) the forced repatriation, intimidation, or killing of dissidents in other countries.

(B) the unjust imprisonment in Saudi Arabia of United States citizens or aliens lawfully admitted for permanent residence or letters of offer may be issued, no credits or guarantees may be extended, and no exports, reexports, transfers (in principal or in secondary transactions), sales, transfers, or deliveries may be made under this Act with respect to any country determined by the President to be engaged in a consistent pattern of acts of intimidation or harassment directed against individuals in the United States.

(3) FORM.—The report required by subsection (b) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

(4) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means:

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate.

SEC. 5. REPORT AND CERTIFICATION WITH RESPECT TO DIPLOMATIC AND DIPLOMATIC FACILITIES IN THE UNITED STATES.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report covering the three-year period preceding such date of enactment regarding whether and to what extent covered persons used diplomatic credentials, visas, or covered facilities to facilitate an impending threat of intentional killing, serious bodily injury, or kidnapping directed at a person, the assassination, or the harm, harassment of, or harm to, other nationals of Saudi Arabia living in the United States.

(b) CERTIFICATION.—(1) In General.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and each 120-day period thereafter, the President shall, if the President determines that such is the case, submit to the appropriate congressional committees a certification that the United States Government has not determined covered persons to be using diplomatic credentials, visas, or covered facilities to facilitate serious harassment of, or harm to, other nationals of Saudi Arabia living in the United States.

(2) FAILURE TO SUBMIT CERTIFICATION.—If the President does not submit a certification under paragraph (1) or a certification under paragraph (1), the President shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees a report that contains—

(1) a detailed explanation of why the President is unable to make such a certification; and

(2) a description of actions the United States Government has taken or intends to take in response to the use of diplomatic credentials, visas, or covered facilities described in paragraph (1).

(c) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a) and the certification required by subsection (b) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may waive the restrictions in this section if the President submits to the appropriate congressional committees a report not later than 15 days before the granting of such waiver that contains—

(A) a determination of the President that such a waiver is in the vital national security interests of the United States; and

(B) a detailed justification for the use of such waiver and the reasons why the restrictions in this section cannot be met.

(2) FORM.—The report required by this subsection shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

(e) SUNSET.—This section shall terminate on the date that is 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SECTION 6. REPORT ON THE DUTY TO WARN OBLIGATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that Intelligence Community Directive 191 provides that—

(1) when an element of the intelligence community of the United States collects or acquires credible and specific information indicating an impending threat of intentional killing, serious bodily injury, or kidnapping directed at a person, the assassination, or the harm, harassment of, or harm to, other nationals of Saudi Arabia living in the United States; and

(2) when issues arise with respect to whether the threat information rises to the threshold of “duty to warn”, the directive calls for resolution in favor of warning the intended victim.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence, in coordination with the heads of other relevant United States Intelligence agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report with respect to—

(1) whether and how the intelligence community fulfilled its duty to warn Jamal Khashoggi of threats to his life and liberty pursuant to Intelligence Community Directive 191; and

(2) in the case of the intelligence community fulfilling its duty to warn as described in paragraph (1), why the intelligence community did not fulfill this duty.

(c) FORM.—The report required by subsection (b) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may waive the restrictions in this section if the President submits to the appropriate congressional committees a report not later than 15 days before the granting of such waiver that contains—

(A) a determination of the President that such a waiver is in the vital national security interests of the United States; and

(B) a detailed justification for the use of such waiver and the reasons why the restrictions in this section cannot be met.

(2) FORM.—The report required by this subsection shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

(e) SUNSET.—This section shall terminate on the date that is 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SECTION 7. APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—
(a) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives; and
(b) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate.

(2) DUTY TO WARN.—The term ‘duty to warn’ has the meaning given that term in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)).

(3) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The term ‘intelligence community’ has the meaning given such term in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)).

(4) RELEVANT UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.—The term ‘relevant United States intelligence agency’ means any element of the intelligence community that may have possessed intelligence reporting regarding threats to Jamal Khashoggi.

SEC. 7. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled ‘Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation’ for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congresisonal Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The Speaker pro tempore. Pursuant to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) and the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL YARV.

Mr. MEEKS. I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1392, as amended.

The Speaker pro tempore. The Speaker pro tempore will control 20 minutes. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. MEEKS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1392, the Protection of Saudi Dissidents Act of 2021, an important bill introduced by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY).

Though Saudi Arabia has taken steps to reform, its progress has been marred by the Saudi Government’s brutality against dissidents and most notably the detention and abuse of numerous peaceful protesters and the brutal killing of Washington Post journalist and U.S. resident, Jamal Khashoggi.

The Biden administration’s release of the DNI report was a good step toward accountability for the killing of Jamal Khashoggi, but further steps need to be taken.

This bill imposes reasonable limits on U.S. weapons transfers to Saudi intelligence agencies shown to be involved in the killing of Jamal Khashoggi and political repression until such repression and abuse of dissidents comes to an end.

In conclusion, let me be clear, nothing in this legislation would deny the Saudi Government the ability to defend its territory against attacks from external threats or inhibit its ability to defend the United States military, diplomatic personnel, or facilities in the kingdom.

It is important that the United States stands clear on these matters, speaking loudly in defense of human rights and taking action when they are grossly violated.

I ask the support of all my colleagues to vote for this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

House Representatives,
Committee on Foreign Affairs,

Hon. ADAM B. SCHIFF,
Chairman, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SCHIFF: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 1392, Protection of Saudi Dissidents Act of 2021. I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation.

I acknowledge that provisions of the bill fall within the jurisdiction of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence under House Rule X, and that your Committee will forgo action on this bill to expedite floor consideration. I further acknowledge that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any future jurisdiction claim over the matters contained in the bill that fall within your jurisdiction. I will also support the appointment of House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, conference during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation.

Lastly, I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. Thank you again for your cooperation regarding the legislation. I look forward to continuing to work with you as the measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

GREGORY W. MEEKS,
Chairman, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, April 19, 2021.

Hon. GREGORY MEEKS,
Chairman, House Foreign Affairs Committee, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MEEKS: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 1392, the Protection of Saudi Dissidents Act of 2021. Certain provisions in the legislation fall within the jurisdiction of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, as set forth in Rule X of the House of Representatives for the 117th Congress.

In the interest of permitting your committee to proceed expeditiously to floor consideration of this important bill, I am willing to waive this committee’s right to referential referral. By waiving consideration of the H.R. 1392, the Intelligence Committee does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in the bill which fall within Intelligence’s Rule X jurisdiction.

Please place this letter into the committee report for the Protection of Saudi Dissidents Act and into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

ADAM B. SCHIFF,
Chairman.
It continued: “We base this assessment on the Crown Prince’s control of decision making in the Kingdom, the direct involvement of a key adviser and members of Muhammad bin Salman’s protective detail in the operation, and the Crown Prince’s support for using violent measures to silence dissidents abroad, including both his government and private sector associates.”

Finally, it concluded that “since 2017, the Crown Prince has had absolute control of the Kingdom’s security and intelligence organizations, making it highly unlikely that Saudi officials would have carried out an operation of this nature without the Crown Prince’s authorization.”

“We’ve always known, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman directed the assassination of Jamal Khashoggi.”

“We also know that this operation is part of a broad and ongoing effort to use violence to intimidate and silence dissidents abroad.”

And yet, the previous administration shielded Crown Prince MBS and Saudi Arabia from accountability, signaling this kind of abhorrent behavior was somehow okay, inviting further atrocities. That impunity ends with this bill.

The Protection of Saudi Dissidents Act would stop the Kingdom and the Crown Prince from acting with impunity to commit gross human rights abuses against those who try to stand up for their rights.

My bill is targeted and does four specific things:

One: It limits arms exports to Saudi intelligence, internal security, or law enforcement entities if the President finds that Saudi Arabia has engaged in the following activities:

- Forced repatriation, intimidation, or killing of dissidents in other countries;
- The unjust imprisonment in Saudi Arabia of United States citizens or residents or the placing of travel restrictions on them or their family members; and
- The torture of detainees in the custody of the Government of Saudi Arabia.

Two: It requires the closure of one or more Saudi diplomatic facilities if the President finds that Saudi Arabia is using diplomatic or consular personnel to harass or harm Saudi nationals in the United States.

Three: It requires a report on whether Saudi Arabia has been engaged in a consistent pattern of acts of intimidation or harassment directed against individuals in the United States.

Four: Finally, it requires a report on whether the United States intelligence community fulfilled its duty to warn Jamal Khashoggi of threats to his life.

These provisions are long overdue. This bill comes after years of fighting for the release of Loujain Al-Hathloul. I am currently fighting for the release of Dr. Saad Al-Jabri. We’ve always known, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that Saudi Arabia is accountable for Jamal Khashoggi’s brutal murder.

I ask my colleagues to join me in sending a message to human rights defenders, dissidents, and journalists worldwide and reaffirming the unshakeable American commitment to basic rights and freedoms. Let me also say this helps ensure that the Saudi diplomatic facilities are not used as a staging ground for their efforts to suppress dissidents.

It is crucial that the United States stand strongly in defense of basic rights and freedom of expression and not allow U.S. weapons or support to be used by Saudi Arabia for the purposes of intimidating, abusing, or even killing peaceful Saudi dissidents.

I hope my colleagues will join me. With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MEIJER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1392, the Protection of Saudi Dissidents Act. Saudi Arabia is one of our strongest partners in the Middle East. That does not mean, however, that we should cast a blind eye to the Kingdom’s most brutal human rights violations, including the murder of Jamal Khashoggi, a U.S. resident. This bill, which passed out of the Foreign Affairs Committee with unanimous support, could push arms sales to Saudi Arabia’s security services until the President certifies the Saudi government is not conducting flagrant human rights violations such as torture, the intimidation and assassination of dissidents, and the unjust imprisonment of U.S. citizens.

America is a beacon throughout the world because of our commitment to democratic values and our commitment to human rights. Our actions must match our convictions. We can and should leverage our close relationship to promote human rights in Saudi Arabia. This bill would do exactly that—sending a message to our ally that if it continues to engage in such actions, there will be consequences. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GRIFFITH) to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 321, nays 101, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 120]
CONDEMNING CONTINUED VIOLATION OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS OF PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEeks) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 418, nays 0, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 121]

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Mr. BABIN changed his vote from "nay" to "yea." So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:
Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 121.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RULE 8, 117TH CONGRESS

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SOUTHEAST ASIA STRATEGIES ACT

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1936) to require a strategy for engagement with Southeast Asia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

SOE is the policy of the United States to—
(a) deepen cooperation with ASEAN and ASEAN member states in the interest of promoting peace, security, and stability in the Indo-Pacific region;
(b) affirm the importance of ASEAN centrality and ASEAN-led mechanisms in the evolving institutional architecture of the Indo-Pacific region; and
(c) establish and communicate a comprehensive strategy toward the Indo-Pacific region that articulates—
(A) the role and importance of Southeast Asia to the United States;
(B) the value of the United States-ASEAN relationship;
(C) the mutual interests of all parties;
(D) the concrete and material benefits all nations derive from strong United States engagement and leadership in Southeast Asia; and
(E) efforts to forge and maintain ASEAN consensus, especially on key issues of political and security concern to the region, such as the South China Sea.

SEC. 4. STRATEGY FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH SOUTHEAST ASIA AND ASEAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the heads of other Federal departments and agencies as appropriate, shall develop and submit to the appropriate congressional committees a comprehensive strategy for engagement with Southeast Asia and ASEAN.

(b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The strategy required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A statement of enduring United States interests in Southeast Asia and a description of efforts to bolster the effectiveness of ASEAN.

(2) A description of efforts to—
(A) deepen and expand Southeast Asian alliances, partnerships, and multilateral engagements, including efforts to expand broad-based and inclusive economic growth, security ties, security cooperation and interoperability, economic connectivity, and expand opportunities for ASEAN to work with other like-minded partners in the region; and
(B) encourage like-minded partners outside of the Indo-Pacific region to engage with ASEAN.

(3) A summary of initiatives across the whole of the United States Government to strengthen the United States partnership with Southeast Asian nations and ASEAN, including to promote broad-based and inclusive economic growth, trade, investment, energy innovation and sustainability, public-private partnerships, physical and digital infrastructure development, education, disaster management, public health and global health security, and economic, political, and public diplomacy in Southeast Asia.

(4) A summary of initiatives across the whole of the United States Government to promote human rights and democracy, to strengthen the rule of law, civil society, and transparent governance, to combat disinformation and to protect the integrity of elections from outside influence.

(5) A summary of initiatives to promote security cooperation and security assistance within Southeast Asian nations, including—
(A) maritime security and maritime domain awareness initiatives for protecting the maritime commons and supporting international law and freedom of navigation in the South China Sea; and
(B) efforts to combat terrorism, human trafficking, piracy, and illegal fishing, and promote more open, reliable routes for sea lines of communication.

(c) DISTRIBUTION OF STRATEGY.—For the purposes of assuring allies and partners in Southeast Asia and deepening United States engagement with ASEAN, the President of the United States shall direct each United States chief of mission to ASEAN and its member states to distribute the strategy required by subsequent section to the appropriate governmental authorities within their countries.

(d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term "appropriate congressional committees" means—
(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives; and
(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. NEWMAN). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO) and the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on H.R. 1936.
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the bipartisan Southeast Asia Strategy Act, of which I am a proud Democratic lead on the bill.

In 2017, Congresswoman WAGNER and I cosponsored the Congressional Caucus on ASEAN to strengthen our Nation’s relationships in Southeast Asia. ASEAN and its member nations are of critical importance to the United States. Enduring organizations like ASEAN will be key to maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific.

The United States is already making key investments in the region alongside allies and partners like Japan, Australia, and India—notably, the recent Quad commitment to fund, manufacture, and distribute vaccines across Southeast Asia.

The Southeast Asia Strategy Act will build on these investments by reinforcing ASEAN centrality as U.S. policy and directing the Secretary of State to develop a comprehensive plan for engaging the institution and the region it represents.

This legislation comes at a crucial time for Southeast Asia, notably amidst the deteriorating situation in Myanmar following the recent military coup.

Given the significant and rapidly developing events in the region, Congress must send a message of the importance of the region by passing this bill.

It is also important that the administration nominates a U.S. Ambassador to ASEAN as quickly as possible. It is also imperative that the administration consistently sends senior officials to regional summits. Our Nation needs a voice in Southeast Asia now more than ever.

I urge my colleagues to pass this legislation and help build stronger ties between the United States and the peoples of Southeast Asia. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. WAGNER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1083, the Southeast Asia Strategy Act, introduced by Mrs. WAGNER, is important legislation that will recommit the United States to strengthening and deepening our ties to Southeast Asia and the ASEAN economic union. This bill will reinforce the United States’ cooperation with countries in the Indo-Pacific region and lay the groundwork for improved engagement and increased prosperity for America and its partner nations.

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 241) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1083, the Southeast Asia Strategy Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1083.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question was taken; and (two-tenths in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TROPICAL FOREST AND CORAL REEF CONSERVATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2021

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 241) to reauthorize the Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Act of 1998.

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 “Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2021.”

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION. Section 806(d) of the Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 2614(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

``(9) $20,000,000 for fiscal year 2022.
(10) $20,000,000 for fiscal year 2023.
(11) $20,000,000 for fiscal year 2024.
(12) $20,000,000 for fiscal year 2025.
(13) $20,000,000 for fiscal year 2026.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rules, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.
bring forth this excellent bipartisan measure that would reauthorize the Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Act. This highly successful debt-for-nature program has yielded tangible environmental benefits and returns on investment since first enacted in 1988. It offers eligible countries the opportunity to reduce debt owed to the United States when they invest in local ecologically and economically vital forest and coral reef ecosystems.

It is a win-win situation. According to the Congressional Research Service, since 1998, restructured debt agreements have saved more than 67 million acres of tropical forests in countries such as Botswana, Brazil, the Philippines, and Indonesia. They help strengthen civil society in conservation and environmental protection efforts and build public-private partnerships in developing countries, thereby advancing U.S. international development and democracy objectives.

Furthermore, these agreements help reduce the debt in these developing countries, lessening fiscal pressures, promoting capital market reforms, and stimulating economic growth while helping protect the environment.

The world’s forests are nature’s lungs, and the ocean’s coral reefs support a quarter of all marine life. This legislation puts in place economic incentives that can help drive good environmental stewardship, while promoting robust democracy and economic growth overseas.

I am pleased to support this important bill and I urge my colleagues to do the same. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise this evening in support of H.R. 241, the Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2021, bipartisan legislation that I introduced along with my Democratic colleague, Mr. SHERMAN of California, earlier this year.

Developing countries are home to some of the world’s most endangered and biologically diverse tropical forests and coral reefs. These critical ecosystems support the livelihoods of local populations, not to mention an abundance of species. Coral reefs are critical to the world’s fish stocks and are magnets for tourism and the accompanying economic growth. It is in the interest of the whole world to protect and responsibly manage both tropical rainforests and coral reefs.

Unfortunately, however, whether it is deforestation, pollution, overfishing, or some other cause, these vital natural resources are threatened across the globe. This legislation seeks to safeguard tropical forests and coral reefs by revitalizing the Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Act of 1998. Since the introduction of this legislation 23 years ago, this effort has been led by Ohio’s great Senator, ROB PORTMAN, who was in the House at that time and who is leading the effort in the Senate one more time before he leaves office. Congressmen SHERMAN and I were co-sponsors of that effort back in 1998. Today, I am proud of its results over the years.

This program has already protected, as my colleague from Texas mentioned, 67 million acres of tropical forests across the globe in terms of carbon emission, that is the equivalent of taking 11 million cars off the road.

This program does development right. It forgives debt, which some developing nations owe the United States, in exchange for investment in local conservation. Instead of providing a handout with questionable results, the debt forgiveness comes with requirements that ensure that the money grows local economies and benefits those who rely on healthy ecosystems.

Also, by assisting developing countries to properly manage and sustainably develop their own resources, it follows the old adage of “teaching a man to fish” so that the American taxpayers don’t have to keep providing the fish.

Our constituents back home are rightfully skeptical oftentimes about foreign aid because we have a lot of ineffective programs that spend their money in the wrong places without moving countries towards self-reliance. We owe it to the American taxpayers to ensure that aid programs are targeted, effective, and come to an end. H.R. 241 is all three.

Further, due to the peculiar structure of the type of debt this program forgives, developing countries would not have been paying back the portion that we are forgiving anytime soon anyway. A lot of it has already been outstanding for 10, 20, or even 30 years. Since the U.S. is unlikely to recoup the debt in a reasonable timeframe anyway, we might as well get something in return that benefits those countries, benefits us, and really benefits the entire world and those ecosystems and those forests and the animals that reside there and the coral reefs and the fish and other life that is there. So, really, it benefits so many.

Finally, our legislation is one more tool to combat climate change. Whereas China’s One Belt One Road initiative often times produces corrupt, elite-centered, get-rich-quick debt traps, our program is exactly the opposite. It brings transparency to natural resource management by engaging civil society, focuses on the people who depend on these ecosystems for food and economic activity instead of on elites, fosters sustainable development and is debt forgiven instead of a debt trap. The One Belt One Road Initiative often times gets these countries in a huge debt trap that they never get out of, and China benefits instead of the countries that one thinks might benefit from One Belt One Road.

With this program, the State Department can showcase the U.S. development model and bring real gains in the developing world. It is in the interest of the whole world to protect tropical forests and coral reefs. This program does so in a targeted, proven, sustainable manner.

I yield myself the balance of my time. I thank Mr. SHERMAN and a lot of Republicans and Democrats for working on this together. This is bipartisan legislation that really does benefit the whole world. I wish we did more stuff like this around here.

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

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 241, introduced by Mr. CHABOT, is a bipartisan bill that reauthorizes the Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Act.

The debt-for-nature swaps created by this program have been highly successful in generating support for tropical forest or coral reef conservation activities in exchange for relieving debt owed to the United States Government. This bill is a win-win, protecting forest and coral reef ecosystems, lessening the fiscal burden of low-income countries, and stimulating economic growth in local communities.

I hope my colleagues, both Republican and Democrat, will join me in supporting this bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question was taken; and (two-thirds of those present voting) the bill was passed. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 241.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds of those being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.
HONORING ROBERT LEDER

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

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, Robert Leder, as his name would suggest, was a natural leader, loved by the thousands of students whose lives he touched.

I, for one, would not be here were it not for Robert Leder, who set me on a trajectory that led from public housing in the Bronx to the House of Representatives in Washington, D.C. My story is a mere footnote in the much larger legacy of public service that Robert Leder left behind after his passing in 2018.

Mr. Leder entered public education in the 1960s as a Spanish teacher. In the late 1970s, he rose to become the principal of Herbert H. Lehman High School in the Bronx, a position he held for nearly three decades, making him, at the time, the longest-serving educator in America’s largest city. As principal, he knew the name of every student. Some held him to the highest standards, but he held himself to the highest standard of all.

We, the alumni of Lehman High School, will always love you, Mr. Leder. We will never forget you.

I will not always be a Member of Congress, but I will always be the grateful student of the greatest educator I have ever known, Robert Leder. May he rest in peace.

□ 2000

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Week of the Young Child. Sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the Week of the Young Child focuses on celebrating early learning, young children, their teachers, families, and communities.

This year’s celebration took place from April 10th to the 16th. The National Association for the Education of Young Children first established the Week of the Young Child in 1971, recognizing the early childhood years lay the foundation for children’s success in school and later in life.

Children’s earliest years are the most important in every way; it comes to shaping their learning and development. High-quality early care and educational services directly correlate to the health and well-being of our communities.

Madam Speaker, with more than 400 childcare facilities in my district, and as a senior member of the Education and Labor Committee, I understand the importance of quality early care and education experiences as well as access to high-quality care.

Madam Speaker, let’s take a moment to recognize the vital work performed by early childcare and education professionals and express our gratitude.

RUSSIAN AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, as co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional Ukraine Caucus, I rise today with deep concern regarding the Kremlin’s increased aggression toward our ally, Ukraine.

Currently, Russia is amassing troops in and close to Ukraine. Ukrainian officials estimate about 80,000 Russian troops are amassed on its border. U.S. European Command General Tod Wolters said, the current Russian force mirrors the size of the infiltration of forces that occurred back in 2014 when Russia illegally invaded Ukrainian territory.

This aggression serves one purpose: Russia’s hybrid warfare to threaten the security of the Transatlantic Alliance. I am so grateful to President Biden for his exceptional leadership and support for Ukraine, and I agree completely that there must be serious consequences should Russia escalate further. I am also thankful for the administration’s latest round of punitive sanctions on Russia given its malign behavior.

To strengthen Ukraine’s deterrence capabilities, our caucus spearheaded efforts to increase Ukraine’s defense assistance funding by $25 million, up to $275 million in fiscal year 2021, and to place mandatory sanctions on Nord Stream 2.

Our caucus stands ready to support NATO and the Transatlantic Alliance to ensure the protection of Ukraine’s sovereignty.

ENDORSEMENT OF VIOLENCE IS UNCONSCIONABLE

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise out of great concern for the violence and looting that has taken over Minneapolis. Even more troubling is the seeming endorsement and, yes, incitement of it by Members of this body.

It is unconscionable that a Member of Congress sent to Washington to make the laws that govern our Nation would encourage Americans to disregard those laws. Yet one of our Democratic colleagues, only one day after the rioters were arrested, called for protesters to “stay on the street,” “get more active,” and “get more confrontational” against our law enforcement, urging this escalation by asking protesters to ignore the city-wide curfew. Hours later, that inevitable escalation did occur, with National Guardsmen and police being fired upon.

These are very dangerous actions. Is this the standard by which we want this House to represent half of this country, that incitement? I recall a lot of talk some months ago about a much lesser speech being inciteful, language must less geared toward that being inciteful, yet it happens here.

Strong action needs to be taken by Speaker Pelosi and this House against these types of words.

SECURITY ON THE SOUTHERN BORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Burgess) is recognized for 10 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to discuss one of the most important problems facing our country, and that is security on our southern border.

I don’t think there is any question that most Americans agree that our immigration system is broken, but before we can fix it, we have to address the crisis at our southern border.

And let’s be clear, what is happening at the border is a crisis. In fact, the President admitted as much recently. His commander of Public Health Service at the convention center in Dallas, when I went to visit there, maintained that they were in crisis management. You don’t manage a crisis unless you see a crisis, so I am a crisis. It is a humanitarian crisis.

The policies being put forward by this administration, basically absolutely opening the border are, in fact, inhumane. Smugglers, traffickers, foreign banks are profiting and enticing a harmful people into sending their children or themselves to make this dangerous journey to unlawfully cross our southern border. These bad actors know how to manipulate our laws to their advantage. Putting forward policies that make it easier for them to do so is, in fact, wrong.

During the month of March record numbers of unaccompanied alien children were referred to the Office of Refugee Resettlement at the Department of Health and Human Services. The total number of people coming in without authorization is the highest it has been in 15 years. Customs and Border Protection encountered over 170,000 individuals along our southern border attempting to cross without authorization. Many of them were single adults.

Over the last month, Members from both sides of the aisle, both sides of the Capitol flock to our southern border to see and assess the situation for
themselves. They held press conferences. They did television interviews and press releases. Yet the reaction from the White House was one of denial.

A little less than 30 days ago President Biden named Vice President Harris to be the point person for the administration to bring a resolution to the problems on our southern border. But the Vice President has not ventured to the southern border. She has not taken a position about what is happening, and certainly we have seen no plan.

It was announced last week that she would be traveling to the Northern Triangle of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. This would be a great first step. But to fully understand what is happening, Madam Vice President, you need to visit our southern border.

Right now, hundreds of thousands of people come across our southern border from Mexico and from Central American countries through Mexico. And among these thousands are unaccompanied children, who are used as pawns to trade with the administration not enforcing our immigration laws. Now smugglers have no issue with using these children as pawns.

From the numbers, we know that America is one of the most generous countries in the world when it comes to accepting migrants. Through our Nation’s legal immigration process, we welcome over a million immigrants into America each year. To be clear, these children who are migrating through the normal and correct process, waiting in line and following our laws. But how discouraging must it be for them to watch as others take full advantage of our laws not being enforced because of Washington putting forward poor policy. Despite the generosity of the American people, others remain intent on entering our country without the full benefit of the law behind them.

To better understand this problem, it is perhaps important to examine its roots. In 2018 it was important for me to visit Northern Triangle countries for myself to see the situation on the ground, to assess the situation, and determine how the United States can better help and better address the root causes of irregular migration.

The Energy and Commerce Committee, which I am a member of, does not have this policy, but it does have jurisdiction over the Department of Health and Human Services and subsequently the Office of Refugee Resettlement, which does take care of children who end up in the United States from any of those Northern Triangle countries.

I learned that there are different drivers for people to migrate from each of those countries. There is, unfortunately, corruption at the highest levels of government in that region. One common theme, however, is campaign rhetoric that places an “open for business” sign on our border.

The vast majority of people in the Northern Triangle countries do live below the poverty level and lack the job opportunities to escape these conditions.

In El Salvador there are problems with violent crime, the endangered level of violence and brutality. Many of the individuals serving in their government are holdovers from revolutionaries in the civil war which ended over 20 years ago.

In Honduras a country that is a through point for narcotics trafficking and, as a consequence, has many of the problems that you would imagine would be attendant with that type of activity. The current President ran for a second term. Although the law limited him to a single term the Supreme Court gave him a favorable decision.

Unfortunately, he won with a very bare majority that only was determined many days after, some significant time after the election. Stop me if you have heard before that the Honduran President is now subject to extensive protests throughout his country that question the legitimacy of his Presidency.

I will say that the First Lady of Honduras, who has headed a task force aimed at addressing irregular migration, is performing a valuable service. The desire to make change is present, but some of the resources and capacity are lacking.

In Guatemala corruption is rampant at every level of government. There are only a couple of ministers who can be trusted. The corruption is, in this case, exacerbated by term limits because the President can only serve one term, and apparently there is a notion in the country that it is important for the President to prepare for the life after the Presidency while they are in office, so they do not have their focus on performing in the public good.

There is also a significant prejudice against some of the indigenous people in the western highlands of Guatemala. These individuals do make up the majority of migrants who are leaving Guatemala. Guatemala, unfortunately, has one of the highest rates of malnutrition in the world, and there is very little effort to combat this because of the lack of resolve of their central government.

In my travels to the Northern Triangle, I know that there are people in those countries who do desire their children stay home. They understand the difficulty, the danger in exporting all of your young people. They do not want irregular migration. They do not want mass migration to happen. However, unfortunately, their governments have yet to eradicate the corruption within.

For example, they do not prohibit financial institutions from contributing to the problem of these desperate populations. The financing of human trafficking from these countries is extremely profitable. Beyond the danger to the migrant, the journey from the Northern Triangle to our southern border is not cheap. It varies what the estimates are, but families take out loans from $1,000 to $10,000 in order to smuggle someone to the United States.

Children that enter the United States will sometimes wait to send remittances back to their homes so that their family is able to pay off the loan. In fact, it is estimated that as much as 20 percent of the GDP of Honduras comes in the form of remittances, so it is disturbing to learn that legitimate businesses in those countries may be in this way aiding the human smuggling trade. It does seem like it is being fueled by cash from sources from which it should not come.

One clear solution to the corruption of these countries is to give more aid to the Bureau of International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement, a United Nations organization, non-governmental organizations and nonprofits; the United States Agency for International Development, USAID; the International Organization for Migration; and other non-governmental entities.

In addition, the United States Development Finance Corporation, previously known as the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, is facilitating needed investment in the region, and numerous nonprofits and NGOs have set up programs to help poverty-stricken and recent returnees.

One of my fears is what you hear discussed. Increasing the amount of aid to Central American countries will help with this problem. I would simply argue that the money not necessarily go to the governments that are not doing their jobs but to these non-governmental agencies, USAID, and the U.S. Development Finance Corporation, which will provide the economic benefit needed by the people who find it necessary to undergo that irregular migration because their economic circumstances are so dire.

In other words, the governments are not the ones that need the aid. The aid needs to be placed in the hands of those who can and will help the people. The answer to this humanitarian crisis is to not give more aid to the governments of the countries that are falling but to keep supporting the community-based organizations that are on the ground and working to solve their people.

In line with this solution, in September 2018, I introduced H. Res. 1092, expressing the sense of the House that the President should redirect foreign assistance given to El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras away from their central governments and toward the driving causes of illegal immigration into the United States and to those nongovernmental organizations. I have reintroduced this as H. Res. 17 in this Congress.

The inability of the central governments of those countries to deal with
and solve these issues has left over half of their populations living in poverty. In fact, millions of El Salvadorans, Guatemalans, and Hondurans face hunger at points each year.

This is why foreign assistance must be targeted to the municipal and regional governments in these countries, as well as community-building organizations that have a direct impact on the lives of the people. Simply giving more aid to the central governments when it is not getting to where it is needed is unlikely to solve the problem.

The amount of foreign assistance could be determined by multiplying the number of unaccompanied alien children from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras and redirecting that amount for each country to these non-central government entities.

Focusing on where aid is directed is an essential part of the solution. That is why, in December 2018, I offered an amendment to the Department of Defense Appropriations Act to redirect foreign aid to nongovernmental organizations in Northern Triangle countries and Mexico from being given to the central governments.

Instead, this funding would only be given to regional or municipal governments or educational institutions in these countries, private entities, or other nongovernmental organizations, or faith-based organizations operating in these countries.

To keep individuals, particularly unaccompanied alien children, from arriving at our southern border, the help necessary to make their homes safer and more prosperous is not through their central governments but for institution-building and other areas that can provide them the help they need to show that we are serious and to demonstrate to the central governments of the Northern Triangle countries that the United States is willing to do more. The generosity of Americans is significant proof that a zero-tolerance policy is not inhumane; nonenforcement is leading to inhumane actions by desperate people. We need to help them at home, not here where the taxpayer is on the hook.

For anyone who turns on the news, you can see the terrible and disheartening situation at the border. So, today, the question is asked: Why would anyone object to enforcement of our laws?

There is significant proof that a zero-tolerance policy for violating our laws is a deterrent for people subjecting themselves to harm by taking a perilous trip to the American southern border.

For example, in early 2017, Department of Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly visited the southern border. It was virtually deserted. In June 2017, a Reuters journalist, Julia Edwards Ainsley, reported on the decreased number of border crossings. She wrote: "Last fall, during the waning months of the Obama administration, hundreds of migrants arrived on rafts at this point each day, many willingly handing themselves over to immigration authorities in hopes of being released into the United States to await court proceedings that would decide their fate.

"Now, the agents look out on an empty landscape. Footpaths up from the water have started to disappear under growing brush, with only the stray baby shoe or toothbrush serving as catch and release, in which immigration authorities in hopes of being released into the United States to await court proceedings that would decide their fate.

"The reason for the change, the agents say, is a perception in Mexico and Central America that President Trump has ended the practice known as catch and release, in which immigration authorities in hopes of being released into the United States to await court proceedings that would decide their fate.

"Now, would-be violators know they will be detained and turned right back around," said one of the two agents, Marlene Castro. "It is not worth it anymore."
used divisive campaign rhetoric as he enacted by President Bush's administration. The movement of these small boats with refuges going across the Straits of Florida to stop the Cubans in the Mariel Boatlift. The Navy represented at this meeting was left grappling with a Cuban immigration problem: how to stop the flow of Cubans. National Security Advisor Brzezinski chaired until Carter came in toward the end of the meeting. There was a long discussion on how the Coast Guard and Navy ships might physically stop the Cuban boats either from leaving the United States or returning back with the Cubans. Because of the Carter administration's left grappling with a Cuban refugee crisis.

In 1997 interview, former Deputy Secretary of State John Bushnell recalled a meeting with President Carter in which he and other key advisers discussed solutions to the Cuban refugee problem:

I remember sitting in that windowless conference room of the National Security Council with the Secretary of State, the Chief of Naval Operations, the Director of the CIA, the head of the Coast Guard, the head of INS, and several other senior officials, debating how to stop this flow of Cubans. National Security Advisor Brzezinski chaired until Carter came in toward the end of the meeting.

There was a long discussion on how the Coast Guard and Navy ships might physically stop the Cuban boats either from leaving the United States or returning back with the Cubans. The Navy and Coast Guard, represented at this meeting by admirals, were concerned.

"How can we do this?" they said, and it was sufficient at that point that Senate Majority Leader and Democratic Vice President-elect Dick Gore said: "We are going to stop these boats, physically prevented from entering the United States, without any major loss of life of the passengers. But they did suggest ways of maneuvering the boats to block their passage, which struck me as sort of wild. It sounded to me like they had in mind a packet line of Coast Guard and Navy boats going across the Straits of Florida to stop the movement of these small boats with refugees. This naval discussion went on for a long time but eventually was inconclusive.

Perhaps wisely.

But from this interview, we understand that President Carter's administration was contemplating how to physically stop Cuban boats from coming to the United States.

Then, moving forward to the early 1990s, rafts of Haitian immigrants from Haiti bound for the United States were intercepted at sea, as authorized by policy enacted by President Bush's administration.

A young governor from Arkansas ran against George H.W. Bush for President. Then-Governor Clinton time and again spoke of his disagreement with President Bush's zero-tolerance immigration policy.

During his campaign, Governor Clinton often called a meeting with President Carter was for not being cruel in the treatment of Haitian refugees traveling to America via boat. Some feared that he was creating an unrealistic expectation for the Haitian people, who were suffering from significant unrest in their country.

In the Newsweek, an article entitled, "Clinton Inspires Hope and Fear in Haiti," a writer, Douglas Farah, wrote: "It was Mr. Clinton who helped create the expectation of an exodus from Haiti when he condemned the Bush administration for a 'cruel policy of returning Haitian refugees to a brutal dictatorship without an asylum hearing.'"

We all know from our history in November of 1992, Governor Clinton won the White House. But from this interview, we understand that perhaps the true toll such an exodus would take as people took to the waters in unseaworthy boats.

In a Voice of America address on January 14, 1993—a mere week before he took the oath of office—President-elect Clinton walked back his promise. Let me just read some of President-elect Clinton's remarks that he spoke directly to the people of Haiti over the Voice of America.

"For Haitians who do seek to leave Haiti, boat departure is a terrible and dangerous choice. I've been deeply concerned by reports that many of you are preparing to travel by boat to the United States. And, I fear that boat departures in the future would result in further tragic losses of life.

"For this reason, the practice of returning those who flee Haiti by boat will continue for the time being after I become President. Those who do leave Haiti for the United States by boat will be stopped and directly returned by the United States Coast Guard.

"To avoid the human tragedy of a boat exodus, I wanted to convey this message directly to the Haitian people: Leaving by boat is not the route to freedom.

Well, as you can imagine, this dramatic change did not go without notice. January 17, 1993, the Chicago Tribune columnist Stephen Chapman wrote: "The President-elect has a terrible time making up his mind and keeping it made up. A lot of Haitians are disappointed to find he's something less than a man of his word. They're not the only ones.

"So just from these historical moments, we understand that border security is not a new debate; it is not an easy debate. President Carter, President Clinton, President Obama, all learned the same lesson. It is, in fact, inhumane to encourage anyone to attempt a treacherous journey in order to reach America's borders without the proper authorization to enter.

There are things we must prioritize to move forward. First, having the understanding that enforcing our laws is, in fact, a humanitarian response.

The next step would be security along the southern border. To put it plainly and simple: You can't put a Band-Aid on an arterial wound. You need to stop the bleeding. Congress first needs to address the humanitarian crisis at our southern border.

So it was encouraging to hear Secretary Mayorkas announce a reconsideration of filling the gaps in the construction on the southern border wall. I recently took a trip down to McAllen. Between McAllen and Laredo, you can see sections where the wall is being built. The construction had stopped. The construction equipment was literally abandoned at the side, but I was grateful that Secretary Mayorkas did say that he was reconsidering filling in the gaps in the construction in the southern border wall. The problem is the smugglers know where those gaps are. They know how to use them to their advantage.

Again, let me say, when it comes to immigration, America is the most generous country in the world. But is it okay for us to allow over 100,000 people a month to enter our country without authorization? Is it all right for us to subject innocent children to a dangerous journey?

Sovereign countries must define and defend their borders. I believe that America is a country worth defending. It is heartbreaking that after achieving operational control of the borders after many years, it was abandoned through a series of executive orders that was signed early in this President's administration. And what has happened in its place, operational control of the border is no longer determined by the United States of America. Operational control of the border is now determined and dictated by cartels.

This week, we are considering two immigration bills: the NO BAN Act and the Access to Counsel Act. The first will prevent the President from banning anyone from entering the United States. The second essentially provides a lawyer to anyone entering our countries, all the while, reducing the wait times for those who are trying to enter our country through the normal legal process. And that all will be done at the taxpayer's expense.

Clearly, these are not wrong solutions at this time. Our priority should be to ensure that every President has the necessary tools to put forward lawful priorities and not prevent them.
from doing so. We should be focused on policies that will encourage legal immigration rather than just reacting to illegal immigration.

It is important that we reinstate the “Remain in Mexico Policy,” also known as the Migrant Protection Protocols. We know this program helped limit fraudulent asylum claims from those who thought they would be able to just walk into the United States, and instead had to wait their turn for a hearing while remaining in Mexico. It is clearly an effective policy by the Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health in 2014. That work led to the unaccompanied minors receiving better health screenings, and better healthcare.

When I visited shelters in 2014, the children did not have access to a doctor. They were not receiving any type of health screening. Today, they have access to a full range of medical and mental health resources and children are being screened for communicable diseases and given vaccinations for the usual childhood diseases prior to their release to sponsors in this country. It makes sense to do that. This protects American communities; it protects American children, where these children will eventually be enrolled.

Today, when a child is released from an ORR facility, they have a phone number to contact the Department of Health and Human Services after they leave. However, they will also receive a wellness check 30 days after their release to a sponsor.

In 2014, it wasn’t that way, children were not given any means of contact after they left Federal custody, and no follow up was conducted. And unfortunately, you know what is going to happen in that situation. Some children will not be placed with a competent caregiver, and they can fall victim to trafficking or abuse.

And reflecting on that time, later, former Deputy Secretary Bushnell said, “I used this appropriation as a key example of why foreign aid through the Caribbean Group was a good investment. It was much better to help our neighbors build a good economic future for themselves at home than to have a flood of desperate refugees, which would cost more money to settle.”

I think, today, it would be wise to consider Secretary Bushnell’s reasoning. Perhaps Congress could heed my recommendation and stop how we send foreign aid to countries such as El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico.

Should it be tied to the care that their children receive? There is the deal. Why should we reward countries whose children are fleeing for their safety to our country?

Certainly, it is something worth consideration.

It is simply irresponsible and it is inhumane for the American Government to incentivize anyone to subject themselves or their children to that perilous journey on our border. It was a lesson that President Clinton learned. It was a lesson that President Carter learned. It was a lesson that President Obama learned. And I do fear that it is a lesson that President Biden will learn.

We know the solution. We do know what works. Simply put, enforcement of Title 42 protections for all age groups, not accepting those younger than 17. Accept enforcement of Title 42, the CDC requirement that, during a pandemic, we restrict travel across the border.

Reinstitution of the Asylum Cooperative Agreements with Central American countries. At great negotiation
skill, these cooperative agreements were established, but, unfortunately, they have recently been abandoned. They could be reconsidered. They could be reestablished. We are going to have to have agreements with the countries of origin around the world if we are going to be able to solve the problem.

The Migrant Protection Protocol, "Remain in Mexico," was successful. It did help in the assessment of the Asylum Cooperative Agreements. This could be reconsidered, and it is probably time that it was.

In fact, it is past time to end a broken and inhumane pattern. It is past time to stop demonizing those who we ask to enforce our laws. It is past time to understand that nonenforcement of our laws does lead to inhumane actions.

It is up to Congress. We are the legislative branch. We are the ones under the Constitution who are responsible for providing this security at our border. What is so critically important is that we must do it sooner rather than later.

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

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker, on Friday, April 16, 2021, announced her signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 164.—An Act to educate health care providers and the public on biosimilar biological products, and for other purposes.

S. 415.—An Act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the scope of new chemical exclusivity.

S. 578.—An Act to improve the health and safety of Americans living with food allergies and related disorders, including potentially life-threatening anaphylaxis, food protein-induced enterocolitis syndrome, and eosinophilic gastrointestinal diseases, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(b) of House Resolution 6, the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow for morning-hour debate and noon for legislative business.

Thereupon (at 8 o'clock and 49 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, April 20, 2021, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF PAYGO LEGISLATION

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 2630, the Extending Temporary Emergency Scheduling of Fentanyl Analogues Act, as amended, would have no significant effect on the deficit, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

EC-849. A letter from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)/Chief Financial Officer, Department of Defense, transmitting results of the financial statement audits of the Department of Defense, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2404b(a); Public Law 115-91, Sec. 1002(b)(1); (131 Stat. 1538); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-840. A letter from the Senior Legislative Liaison, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau’s Consumer Response Annual Report for 2020, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 5420(b)(3)(C); Public Law 111-203, Sec. 3242; (120 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-841. A letter from the Senior Legislative Liaison, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau’s 2020 Annual Report of the Office of Minority and Women Inclusion, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 5420(e); Public Law 111-203, Sec. 3242; (120 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.


EC-843. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission’s final rule — Amendment of section 73.6221(a); Post-Transition Table of DTV Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations (Columbus, Missouri) (MB Docket No.: 20-238) (RM-11879) received March 26, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-844. A letter from the Associate Chief, Mobility Innovation, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission’s final rule — Facilitating Shared Use in the 3000-3550 MHz Band (WT Docket No. 19-518) received March 26, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-845. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month report on the national emergency with respect to Somalia that was declared in Executive Order 13336 on April 12, 2010, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(o); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-846. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report concerning international agreements other than treaties that have been signed by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zabo locki Act, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112(a)(1); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(o); (91 Stat. 1627); by Public Law 108-458, Sec. 7121(b); (118 Stat. 3807); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-847. A letter from the Director, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board’s 2020 No FEAR Act Report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-848. A letter from the Associate Legislative Liaison, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau’s 2020 No FEAR Act Report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-849. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a nomination to the Senate, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-850. A letter from the Director, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s 2020 No FEAR Act Report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-851. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation’s 2020 No FEAR Act Report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-852. A letter from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, Office of Government-wide Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration’s summary presentation of a final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation: Federal Acquisition Regulation Circular 2021-45, Introduction [Docket No.: FAR-OS-2020-0051], received March 16, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-853. A letter from the Director, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting the Administration’s 2020 No FEAR Act Report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-854. A letter from the Director, National Science Foundation, transmitting the Foundation’s 2020 No FEAR Act Report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-855. A letter from the Acting Chairman, Administrative Conference of the United States, transmitting recommendations adopted by the Administrative Conference of the United States, transmitting recommendations adopted by the Administrative Conference of the United States at its 73rd Plenary Session; to the Committee on the Judiciary.


Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 2630, the Extending Temporary Emergency Scheduling of Fentanyl Analogues Act, as amended, would have no significant effect on the deficit, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 2630, the Extending Temporary Emergency Scheduling of Fentanyl Analogues Act, as amended, would have no significant effect on the deficit, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.
such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DeSaulnier:

H.R. 2646. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a grant program to provide self-harm and suicide prevention services in primary care offices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. EVANS:

H.R. 2649. A bill to decriminalize cannabis, to establish a Licensing Grant Program in the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Small Business, 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. GARCIA of California:

H.R. 2650. 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 for purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. GOHMIERT:

H.R. 2651. A bill to provide for the reorganization of the Columbus to Maryland, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GOLDEN:

H.R. 2652. A bill to ensure that entrepreneurial development services of the Small Business Administration are made available to cannabis-related legitimate businesses and service providers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Miss GONZÁLEZ-ColÓN (for herself, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SOTO, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, and Mr. GALLEGO):

H.R. 2653. A bill to rescue domestic medical manufacturing activity by providing incentives in economically distressed areas of the United States and its possessions; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HIGGINS of New York (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. LAEON of Connecticut, Mr. SUGZI, Mr. ADHERHOLT, Mrs. AXNE, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. VAN DREW, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. BENDICK and M. BOYLVIE of Pennsylvania, Mr. BACON, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. SCHRAder, and Ms. TSCHLER):

H.R. 2654. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare coverage for all physicians' services furnished by doctors of chiropractic within the scope of their license, 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. Himes (for himself and Mrs. CAROLYn B. MALONEy of New York):

H.R. 2657. An amendment to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to prohibit certain securities trading and related communications by those who possess material, nonpublic information; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. HIMES, for himself, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. MENDOZA, Mr. MOLLWAY, Mr. TONKO, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. MCNOLLEY, Mr. MEEK, and Mr. CROW:

H.R. 2658. A bill to amend title III, United States Green Bank, and the Community Development Financial Institutions Green Bonds and to establish the United States Green Bank, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 2659. A bill to prohibit Federal funds from being used to develop, implement, support, or endorse vaccine passports; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KELLER (for himself, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, and Ms. MACE):

H.R. 2660. A bill to clarify that aliens who are not lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States may not be vacated until nationals of the United States and aliens who are lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States are fully vaccinated for COVID-19, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LANGEVIN (for himself and Mr. GARbarINO):

H.R. 2661. A bill to establish a grant program at the Department of Homeland Security to promote cooperative research and development between the United States and Israel on cybersecurity; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. LATTi (for himself, Mr. PERRY, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. STINES, Mr. CARL, Mr. CLOuRD, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Ms. MACE, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. WALBEGO, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mrs. McClaIN, Mr. JACKSON, and Mr. PFENGE):

H.R. 2662. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to codify the definition of the term “waters of the United States” for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. LAWRENCE (for herself, Mr. CAHAl, Mr. COGHEny, Mr. EVANS, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. PORTER, and Mr. LIu):

H.R. 2663. A bill to prioritize educating and training for existing and new environmental health professionals; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEy of New York (for herself, Mr. HOYER, Mr. MCDONALD, Ms. GOMEZ, Ms. PORTER, and Mr. LIu):

H.R. 2664. A bill to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MORELLe (for himself, Mr. JEFFPRIES, and Ms. BASS):

H.R. 2665. A bill to prohibit law enforcement officers from using chemical weapons in the course of policing activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. OCARIO-CORTEZ (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. JONES, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Mr. OMAR, Mr. FINgle, Mr. NAPAL, Mrs. BARTTTY, Mr. TLAIR, Mr. NEGUISE, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEy of New York, Mr. SUZEGE, Mrs. DINGEL, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. BRENDAY F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. NAPOLi-TANO, Mr. LIU, Mr. CICILLINE, and Ms. LEE of California):

H.R. 2666. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to prohibit providers of broadband internet access service from increasing rates or enforcing data caps or allowances during an emergency or major disaster, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. VAN DREW:

H.R. 2667. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to prohibit providers of broadband internet access service from charging consumers above certain amounts for certain equipment; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. TAKANO:

H. Con. Res. 29. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of GLSEN’s 2021 Day of Silence in bringing attention to anti-Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQ) bullying, and harassment faced by individuals in schools; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the committees on the jurisdiction of the Speaker, to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committees concerned.

By Mrs. GREENE of Georgia:

H. Res. 327. A resolution in the Matter of Representative Maxine Waters; to the Committee on Ethics.

By Mrs. GREENE of Georgia:

H. Res. 328. A resolution to remove Maxine Waters from the Committee on Financial Services for Incitement of Violence against the United States; to the Committee on Ethics.

By Mrs. LESKO (for herself, Mr. GOSAR, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. KAEHLE, Mr. WHISTER of Florida, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. GROTTIMAN, Mr. JACOBS of New York, Mr. ADHERHOLT, Mrs. CAMPACK, Mrs. HINSON, and Mr. NOLi):

H. Res. 329. A resolution expressing support for the designation of April 18, 2022, as “National Amateur Radio Operators Day”; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

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 that enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. WESTERMAN:

H.R. 2639.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, clause 2
Article I, Section 8, clause 18

By Mr. HUIZENGA:
H.R. 2650.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. BOST:
H.R. 2642.

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

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2.

By Ms. BROWNLEY:
H.R. 2649.

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

By Mr. CONNOLLY:
H.R. 2646.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. COURTNEY:
H.R. 2647.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. DeSAULNIER:
H.R. 2648.

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

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. EVANS:
H.R. 2649.

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

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

By Mr. EVANS:
H.R. 2650.

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

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

By Mr. EVANS:
H.R. 2651.

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

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

By Mr. GOMMERT:
H.R. 2652.

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

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. GOMMERT:
H.R. 2653.

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

By Mr. GOMMERT:
H.R. 2654.

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

By Mr. GOMMERT:
H.R. 2655.

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

By Mr. H立体:
H.R. 2656.

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

By Mr. H立体:
H.R. 2657.

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

By Mr. H立体:
H.R. 2658.

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

By Mr. H立体:
H.R. 2659.

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

By Mr. H立体:
H.R. 2660.

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

By Mr. LATT:
H.R. 2661.

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

By Mr. LAWRENCE:
H.R. 2662.

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

By Mr. LAWRENCE:
H.R. 2663.

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

By Mr. LAWRENCE:
H.R. 2664.

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

By Mr. LAWRENCE:
H.R. 2665.

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

By Mr. LAWRENCE:
H.R. 2666.

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

By Mr. LAWRENCE:
H.R. 2667.

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

By Mr. LAWRENCE:
H.R. 2668.

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

By Mr. LAWRENCE:
H.R. 2669.

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

By Mr. LAWRENCE:
H.R. 2670.

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

By Mr. LAWRENCE:
H.R. 2671.

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

By Mr. LAWRENCE:
H.R. 2672.

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

By Mr. LAWRENCE:
H.R. 2673.

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

By Mr. LAWRENCE:
H.R. 2674.

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

By Mr. LAWRENCE:
H.R. 2675.

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

By Mr. LAWRENCE:
H.R. 2676.

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

By Mr. LAWRENCE:
H.R. 2677.
H.R. 1297: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 1304: Mr. KIND, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. CURTIS, and Mrs. LESKO.
H.R. 1332: Mr. VALADAO, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. McGovern, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. STEINHEF, Mr. MANN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. MANNING, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Ms. MACE, Mr. FITZGERALD, and Mrs. SPARTZ.
H.R. 1346: Mrs. SPARTZ.
H.R. 1378: Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 1384: Mr. WESTERMAN and Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 1477: Miss RICE of New York.
H.R. 1488: Mrs. KIM of California and Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 1491: Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLON.
H.R. 1493: Ms. MACE.
H.R. 1496: Mr. CLINE.
H.R. 1525: Ms. FOXX.
H.R. 1553: Mr. PALAZZO.
H.R. 1567: Ms. BOURDEAUX.
H.R. 1650: Mrs. SPARTZ.
H.R. 1664: Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 1693: Mr. RESCHENTHALER.
H.R. 1704: Mrs. SPARTZ.
H.R. 1730: Mr. LEVIN of California.
H.R. 1745: Mr. PALMER, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. HICK of Georgia, Mr. COMER, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. GUEST, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. TIFFANY, and Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana.
H.R. 1769: Mr. UPTON and Mr. NUGUS.
H.R. 1793: Ms. BROWNLEY and Ms. LOFREN.
H.R. 1808: Mr. RESCHENTHALER.
H.R. 1842: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York and Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 1864: Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 1946: Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. COHEN, Mr. BALDOR, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. RUSH, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. HERN, Mr. DUNN, Mr. VAN Drew, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, and Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 1956: Mr. MCKINLEY.
H.R. 1996: Mr. COMEY, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. ROSS, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mrs. Torres of California, Mr. RUSH, Ms. MENG, Mrs. Rice of Oklahoma, Mr. MIYAN, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.R. 2005: Mr. WITTMAN and Mr. KELLY of Mississippi.
H.R. 2049: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 2079: Mr. CLEAVIER, Mrs. CRAIG, and Mr. DELGADO.
H.R. 2083: Mr. COLE, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. HICK of Georgia, Mr. FULCHER, and Mrs. KIM of California.
H.R. 2085: Mr. POSKY and Mrs. ROSS.
H.R. 2096: Mr. RASKIN and Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 2102: Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. BUCK, Mr. STEUBE, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. ISSA, Mr. CICILLINE, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. TITUS, Ms. GRESH of Tennessee, and Mr. BRAY.
The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MAZIE K. HIRONO, a Senator from the State of Hawaii.

PRAYER

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

O God, our strength, rock, and fortress, we praise Your holy Name. Thank You for being our shield and stronghold.

Today, give our lawmakers the wisdom to seek You, for You deserve their trust. As our Senators remember how You have sustained our Nation in the past, may they have confidence in Your guidance for the future.

Lord, remind them of the times they cried to You for help, and You answered them through Your loving providence. As they recall that when You speak, good things happen, empower them to face whatever the future brings without fear. Use them to speak lifegiving words that bring harmony and hope.

We pray in Your marvelous 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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule 1, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MAZIE K. HIRONO, a Senator from the State of Hawaii, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY, President pro tempore.

Ms. HIRONO 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.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, the Senate returns this week with a full plate. Today, we will continue to work on two important nominations to the Justice Department: Lisa Monaco and Vanita Gupta. Both should be confirmed by the end of this week. The Senate will also vote to confirm SEC Commissioner Gary Gensler to a full term.

At the same time, the Senate will continue to work on the anti-Asian hate crimes bill. Last week, the Senate voted to proceed with the legislation by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 92 to 6. The process will continue to be bipartisan.

Senator COLLINS has worked with Senator HIRONO—you, Madam President—on a few modifications, which we have welcomed. Senators Moran and Blumenthal have worked with Senator Scott of Florida to incorporate his feedback into their legislation called the NO HATE Act, which would improve and strengthen the bill.

Senator WARNOCK has worked with Senators HIRONO and COLLINS to include language acknowledging the recent tragic shootings near Atlanta. All of these ideas will be incorporated into a broader final substitute amendment. I will ensure the Senate votes on the substitute amendment in the coming days. All told, the Senate is on track to finish this bill later this week.

We are seeing that when the Senate is given the opportunity to work, the Senate can work. Members from both sides of the aisle have worked together over the past week to consider, perfect, and—soon—enact legislation responding to a pressing issue.

Regrettably—very regrettably—in recent years, all of us have witnessed a surge of White nationalism and violent extremism in American society. Senators of good will from both sides of the aisle have taken note and developed proposals to give Federal law enforcement officials the tools to better detect, prevent, and prosecute this surge in hate crimes.

The Senate will incorporate many of these ideas in the final substitute amendment to this bill. As a result, I am optimistic we can finish our work on the anti-Asian hate crimes bill later this week in the same manner we started, with an overwhelming bipartisan vote.

And, let me say, it is needed. As I go through New York—I have been to several more rallies, one early this morning—anti-Asian hate crime, unfortunately, is on the upsurge. We hear about the violent acts. We have heard about the deaths. But, every day, thousands—thousands—of Asian Americans are subjected to smaller but nonetheless stinging acts of hate crime by being called names, by being spat upon, by being cursed at, and even just by being stared at in a nasty way like: Who the heck are you?

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


Washington, DC, April 19, 2021.
So we must act. We must act both to strengthen the Department of Justice’s ability to prosecute more hate crimes and to pay attention to hate crimes and to calculate their number, but also to send a message—two messages, in fact: one to Asian American friends—a great 6 percent of America and 10 percent of New York is Asian American—that you are us, we are all Americans together, and we welcome you being here. I, for one, like you, Madam President, would welcome more Asian American coming to America.

But second is a message to those who perpetrate these awful acts: You are not American. We despise what you do, and we are going to remain vigilant until this kind of bigotry is diminished and maybe even snuffed out.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on another note now, the last year, the country has faced a daunting series of crises. After such a difficult year, it is important to take stock of how the country is finally, finally starting to recover.

Over a month ago, Senate Democrats passed the American Rescue Plan, supercharging our Nation’s vaccination drive and putting millions of dollars into the pockets of Americans who needed it most. Already, the benefits are pouring in.

Yesterday, the CDC announced the country has reached a truly remarkable milestone. Over half of U.S. adults, 130 million Americans, have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. It is the result of a rapidly accelerating pace of distribution, which we in the Senate—many of us—pushed for, first in the December bill and then in the ARP bill. The country now averages over 3 million doses per day.

Even better news arrived this morning. Starting today, every single adult in the United States is eligible to get vaccinated. Let me say that again. All U.S. adults in all 50 States, Washington, DC, and Puerto Rico are now eligible to get the vaccine, meeting the deadline President Biden set just 2 weeks ago.

I urge all Americans to go online, find a location where vaccines are being administered, and get the vaccine, up, call in, do whatever you need to do to make your self an appointment. This is about protecting yourself and protecting your family. We are on our way to beating COVID-19, but everyone needs to do their part, and part of doing your part is being vaccinated.

Inoculating a country of 330 million people—a country the size of a continent—is a momentous task. The fact that we have already reached the halfway point in 4 short months is a credit to the Biden administration and our work here in Congress to fund vaccine production and distribution, and it is a credit to the thousands of medical researchers, scientists, doctors, nurses, and all the public health workers who have made this possible.

Thanks to the American Rescue Plan, our economy has gotten its own shot in the arm. The Treasury Department has identified $150 million stimulus payments—$76 billion—have reached people across the country. Last week, jobless claims fell to their lowest levels since the start of the pandemic. Global consumer confidence is now higher than it was even before the pandemic. In the American country, the American Rescue Plan is accelerating our economic recovery. Consumer spending is up, businesses are gradually reopening, and American workers are regaining hope and reentering the workforce.

Thanks to our historic investment in American workers, American families, and the American economy, brighter days are just around the corner. All of us who worked hard on passing the ARP and the previous legislation can be very proud of what we were able to do. Now, of course, we are not completely out of the woods yet. Despite the roaring success of the American Rescue Plan, we must continue to bolster our economic recovery and create good-paying jobs for American workers. That is why infrastructure—big, bold infrastructure—remains at the top of our priority list.

There is no community in this country without some glaring infrastructure challenges, be they crumbling roads, bridges, or school buildings, aging sewer systems, housing properties, or unreliable internet. If America is going to compete in the 21st century, we can’t have an infrastructure that is stuck in the last century, so Congress, in coordination with the Biden administration, is going to work on a comprehensive jobs and infrastructure bill this year.

Today at the White House, President Biden will meet with Members from both parties to continue bipartisan discussions on an infrastructure package. The President has reiterated his intention and desire to work in good faith with our Republican colleagues. Hopefully, our Republican colleagues share that willingness and desire. Reliably investing in our Nation’s infrastructure used to unite our two parties. It can do so again.

Here in Congress, we are going to start getting our teeth into the details of an infrastructure package. Right here in the Senate, there are numerous activities going on this week. Tomorrow, the Senate Appropriations Committee will hear from four Cabinet-level officials on the details of the American Jobs Plan: Secretaries Buttigieg, Raimondo, and Fudge, as well as EPA Administrator Michael Regan. Later in the week, the Democratic Steering and Outreach Committee will hear from four Cabinet-level Secretaries Buttigieg and Raimondo on the President’s Build Back Better agenda, and the Democratic caucus will meet with the Director of the National Economic Council, Brian Deese, on the same subject.

As the Senate begins to shape the contours of a comprehensive infrastructure bill, I will soon move to have the Senate rally up a bipartisan water infrastructure bill. That legislation, the Drinking Water and Infrastructure Act, was advanced by the Environment and Public Works Committee on a unanimous vote earlier this year. It will authorize tens of billions of dollars to make sure American families, especially low-income families, have access to safe and clean drinking water.

The drinking water bill could represent a small but important first step in bringing our two parties together on the work on infrastructure. I salute the chairmen of EPW, Tom CARPER of Delaware, and the ranking member, Senator CAPITO of West Virginia, for coming together on the legislation. We look forward to working with our Republican colleagues later this work period to get that piece of legislation done.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order be suspended. The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

COVID-19 HATE CRIMES ACT

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 937, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 937) to facilitate the expedited review of COVID-19 hate crimes, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1445

(Purpose: To improve the bill.)

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I have an amendment at the desk, and I ask for its immediate consideration.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] for Ms. HIRONO and Ms. COLLINS proposes an amendment numbered 1445.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask to dispense with further reading of the amendment.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.
(The amendment is printed in today’s RECORD under “Text of Amendments.”)

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

COVID–19 HATE CRIMES ACT

Madam President, last week the Senate began consideration of the COVID–19 Hate Crimes Act. It is my understanding that the Democratic leader hopes a final vote on the bill will occur on Wednesday.

Earnest bipartisan conversations have improved this legislation considerably behind the scenes. Senate Republicans helped make the bill better. And I am confident that with a bipartisan process this week that also include votes on Republican amendments, we will be able to continue moving forward toward the outcome the country deserves.

PROTESTS

Madam President, on an entirely different matter, last summer our Nation began grappling in a renewed way with anger and pain at the fact that our progress toward racial justice remains unfinished. Rightly understood, this is not a struggle against our Nation’s founding principles and central pillars; rather, it is a journey to make America even more faithful to itself to ensure that life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness, and equal justice under law are, indeed, the birthright of every single American.

Unfortunately, some of last summer’s demonstrations devolved into violent and destructive riots. Small businesses were looted, civic monuments were defaced, and government buildings attacked, not just insults but rocks and Molotov cocktails were thrown at the good men and women of law enforcement. These were efforts to use violence and disorder as a political tactic to influence or overrule our democratic processes and our justice system.

Now, over the last few weeks, Minneapolis returned to center stage with the trial of the police officer who is accused of killing George Floyd last May. Again, the causes of civil rights, equal justice, and rule of law tell us that this trial and every trial must go forward without social pressure, political considerations, and certainly violent threats playing a role. Every single American deserves a fair trial. This is sacred.

You do not balance the scales of justice by trying to tip them, and yet this past weekend, one Democratic House Member from California took it upon herself to visit the protesters in Minneapolis. We’re looking for a guilty verdict.” Like somebody window shopping or ordering off a menu, she is looking for a guilty verdict. If that verdict is not reached, the Congresswoman said demonstrators should “not only stay in the streets but we’ve got to get more active... get more confrontational... make sure that they know we mean business.”

It is harder to imagine anything more inappropriate than a Member of Congress flying in from California to inform local leaders, not so subtly, that this defendant had better be found guilty or else there will be big trouble in the streets.

Again, so much of our Nation’s quest for civil rights and equal justice has been the fight to get rid of extrajudicial violence, to get rid of rigged trials where the outcome was predetermined by public sentiment by angry mobs. It is beyond the pale for a sitting Member of the U.S. Congress to look at what happened last summer and imply there should be some kind of a sequel, a sequel if a legal case does not unfold as she thinks it should.

Now, just a few hours after those comments, two members, two members of the National Guard who were onsite in Minneapolis keeping the peace were targeted in a drive-by shooting. Thankfully, neither was seriously injured. But let’s hope this is not an injury or a fatality to remind politicians that their words actually have consequences.

Earlier this year, of course, the country heard many strong opinions from Democratic lawmakers bear responsibility when reckless words precede criminal violence. Instead of trying to tilt the scales of justice with threats, policymakers should focus on actually making polls, and one of the most notable polls was from last year. Senator TIM SCOTT and Senate Republicans tried to pass legislation that would have expanded body cameras, increased transparency in policing, and finally made lynching, at long last, a Federal crime. Our Democratic colleagues used the filibuster to kill it because it was not anti-police enough. Our colleagues on the far left have enough work to do here in the Capitol without trying to dictate to the judicial branch.

RECORD under “Text of Amendments.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority is not reached, the Congresswoman should be speaking clearly and leading in Hong Kong. They are just wrong about who the true patriots actually are. Hong Kong’s patriots are people like my friends Jimmy Lai and Martin Lee, who risk their safety to champion democracy. They are the hundreds of thousands of protesters who carried the torch even as their countrymen have been imprisoned.

I appreciate the voices across the globe who are calling attention to the plight of the real patriots and all the other groups in Beijing’s crosshairs.

To the global business and government leaders who haven’t yet spoken out, I hope you are watching closely. If Beijing feels comfortable treating Hong Kongers this way, just think how comfortable China will feel for basic international norms.

I am also grateful to our own American leaders who fight for basic human rights, including our Religious Freedom Commissioners Tony Perkins and William McFarland. They have been comically blacklisted by Beijing and rightly wear that as a badge of honor.

I hope the administration will add teeth to its tough talk on China and reassure our friends in Hong Kong that we have their backs.

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The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majorit...
George W. Bush wrote in the Washington Post this weekend. It was about his new book, a collection of paintings entitled “Out of Many, One.”

He said, in putting this book together, he was really setting “out to accomplish two things: to share my portraits of immigrants”—and he has become an accomplished painter—“with a remarkable story,” he says, “I try to tell, and to humanize the debate on immigration and repercussions.”

George W. Bush, a proud Republican, speaks not only to the people of America but especially to his own political party in this article. “I hope that these faces, and the stories that accompany them, serve as a reminder,” he writes, “that immigration isn’t just part of our heritage. New Americans are just as much a force for good now, with their energy, idealism and love of country, as they have always been.”

He goes on to talk about some of the amazing stories of a young man from France who followed his dream to become an American soldier and went on to earn the Medal of Honor, the story of a champion runner who barely survived ethnic violence in East Africa and who told President Bush: “America has given me everything I dreamed of as a boy.”

He says the backgrounds of these immigrants are varied. “But readers won’t have to search hard for a common theme,” President Bush writes: “It’s gratitude. So many immigrants are filled with appreciation, a spirit nicely summed up,” he writes, “by a Cuban American friend who said: ‘If I live for a hundred years, I could never repay what this country has done for me.’”

President Bush writes: “The help and respect historically accorded to new arrivals is one reason so many people still aspire and wait to become Americans.” He asks the important question: “How is it that in a country more generous to new arrivals than any other, immigration policy is a source of so much rancor and ill will?”

The short answer, he says, is that the issue has been exploited in ways that do little credit to either party. And no proposal on immigration will have credibility without confidence that our laws are carried out consistently and in good faith.

“Overplace to start,” bless him, he writes, “is DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.) Americans,” he writes, “who favor a path to citizenship for those brought here as children, known as ‘dreamers,’ are not advocating open borders. They just recognize that young men and women who grew up in the United States, and who never knew any other place as home, are fundamentally American. And they ought not be punished for choices made by their parents.”

Let me add, thank you, President Bush. He speaks of our border, and he should. Another opportunity for agreement, he calls it. “I have long said that we can be both a lawful and a welcoming nation at the same time.” He writes we need a secure and efficient border, and we should apply all the necessary resources to ensure it.

He goes on to say we need a modernized immigration system that would provide humanitarian support and appropriate legal channels for refugees. The rules for asylum should be reformed by Congress to guard against unmerited entry and reserve that vital status for its intended recipients.

I don’t disagree with a word he has written. “Increased legal immigration, focused on employment and skills,” and here we may have some area of disagreement, “is a choice that both parties should be able to get behind.” He also writes about improving our temporary entry program for some workers.

And listen to what President George W. Bush writes about the undocumented in America, estimated to be in the numbers of millions, 11 million. Here is what he says: “As for the millions of undocumented men and women currently living in the United States, a grant of amnesty would be fundamentally unfair to those who came legally or are still waiting their turn to become citizens. But undocumented immigrants should be brought out of the shadows through a gradual process in which legal residency and citizenship must be earned, as for anyone else applying for that privilege. Requirements should include . . . work history, payment of a fine and back taxes, English proficiency,” and other things.

He closes by saying: “If we trust those instincts in the current debate, then bipartisan reform is possible. And we will again see immigration for what it is: not a problem and source of disagreement, ‘it’s a choice that both parties should be able to get behind.’”

I asked unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an April 5 column of the Chicago Tribune, entitled: “Why aren’t Chicago’s mass shootings included in the outcry over recent violence in Atlanta, Colorado and California?”

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

[From the Chicago Tribune, Apr. 5, 2021]

COLUMN: WHY AREN’T CHICAGO’S MASS SHOOTINGS INCLUDED IN THE OUTCRY OVER RECENT VIOLENCE IN ATLANTA, COLORADO AND CALIFORNIA?

(By Heidi Stevens)

When a gunman killed four people and wounded a fifth at a Southern California office building last week, news outlets, over and over, called it the third in a string of mass shootings.

“But 15 people were shot at a party in Chicago this weekend—5 of them fatally.”

In Austin, TX, three people were fatally shot on Sunday morning in a reported domestic violence incident.

Then, on Thursday of last week and for the third time this year, there was another mass shooting in Indianapolis at an FedEx facility. Eight people died.

These were just some of the more than 100 Americans who are killed every single day by guns in this Nation. This, unfortunately, is not an isolated set of incidents, and this is not the end of this crisis. This is America 2021. One of the key parts of an effective response to this crisis is understanding it, and that raises important questions about the news coverage of gun violence as well as any other crisis.

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“The violence in the city of Orange was the third major mass shooting in just over two weeks,” an Associated Press story published on chicagotribune.com read. “Last week a gunman opened fire at a supermarket in Boulder, Colorado, and killed 10. A week before that, six Asian women were among eight people killed at three Atlanta-area spas.”

No mention of Chicago.

In Sunday’s New York Times, Nicholas Kristof wrote a column headlined, “How do we stop the parade of gun deaths?” Chicago gun deaths were nowhere to be found.

But 15 people were shot at a party in Chicago’s Park Manor neighborhood on March 14 (two days before the Atlanta-area shootings) and eight people were shot outside a Wrightwood neighborhood storefront on March 26 (four days before the Chicago shootings.)
Mr. DURBIN. Heidi Stevens’ column in the Tribune points out that the media often subjectively defines and covers what it considers to be mass shootings. All too often, mass shootings in communities of color are left out of the coverage, and this is wrong. It is unfair. It is nothing short of an outrage. It needs to change.

We need to understand the full scope of this crisis that is taking so many Americans, with reliable, objective data that is quickly made available. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention keeps count, but there is a time lag with its data on firearm deaths and injuries. The latest official CDC report on gun deaths is from the year 2019. There is a website, though, Gun Violence Archive, that keeps track of shooting incidents virtually on a real-time basis.

I believe that new data on the coverage of mass shootings in America should use the definition and statistics provided by the Gun Violence Archive. They define a mass shooting as an incident in which four or more people are shot and either killed or injured, not including the shooter. It is a purely numerical standard. It is not subjective. According to the Gun Violence Archive’s definition—I want to put this on the record in the Senate—so far this year, by its definition, there have been 170 mass shootings. Yet we are only 109 days into the year. Nine of this year’s mass shootings so far have taken place in Chicago. Four people have been fatally shot in these shootings, and 50 have been injured. It is important to gather this data as quickly as possible so that we can respond effectively.

Last week, I spoke on the floor and commended President Biden for speaking out. He recently announced an implementation of Executive Order 13948 on gun violence: steps to limit untraceable ghost guns, help for States to pursue extreme risk protection orders. Incidentally, the State law in Indiana was established in 2019. An understanding of Chicago’s porous borders through which weapons flow, an acknowledgment of the levels of trauma and fear that many of his students carry on their shoulders. Sure.

But the conversations don’t have that tone,” he said. “There’s a, ‘That’s what they get. They shouldn’t have been there’ tone. I’ve seen it.”

More media attention? More politicians invoking Chicago in their gun reform speeches?

"It could be like throwing water on a fire," Rawls said. "You want to see how the things in the community, but how are we supposed to be a community if y’all aren’t being transparent with us?"
minutes, you will realize the Agency that has a major responsibility in that, the ATF, is notorious for being underfunded, understaffed, and going without leadership. That is part of the design of the people who really don’t even want it serviced. I am particularly encouraged by President Biden’s commitment to providing Federal resources for community violence interdiction programs through the American Jobs Plan and other grant programs. This is the type of sensible law enforcement we need to tackle this crisis. This President is taking constitutional, commonsense steps to reduce gun violence, but what have we done? Nothing.

I had a hearing on gun violence in the Judiciary Committee a few weeks ago. We are going to hold more as Senator Blumenthal, of Connecticut, chairs the subcommittee with that responsibility. Hearings are important so that we can put together legislative reform that is bipartisan and adequate funding. The House has already passed a bipartisan bill to close gaps in the gun background check system. Really, the ball is in the Senate’s court at this moment. We need 10 Senate Republicans to help us get to the 60 votes necessary to overcome Republican filibusters.

Will our Republican colleagues stand up and vote to close these gaps in the law? Will our Republican colleagues support the President’s call for funding community violence interdiction? We need to act. Saving lives from gun violence should not be a partisan issue. It is an American tragedy. Sadly, we learn by the day that it is not an exclusively blue State problem. It is a blue State and a red State problem. It is an American problem. We have had too many mass shootings and too many Americans dying in gun homicides, suicides, and accidents. Let’s take the bold action that meets the scale of this public health crisis. Our Nation is counting on us.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, today, I want to talk about two very important topics to America and to the folks back home in Alabama: President Biden’s so-called infrastructure proposal and his proposed budget for the Department of Defense.

Now, the infrastructure and defense aren’t exactly the peanut butter and jelly of issues, but let me tell you how they go together. With these two proposals, the American people can plainly see just how out of place President Biden’s priorities are.

I have traveled every corner of Alabama, from Mobile to Muscle Shoals, to our State’s rural communities and urban centers. All the time, I hear that we need improvements to our transportation and infrastructure, and I have seen it with my own eyes. There are over 100,000 miles of public roads and 16,000 bridges in Alabama. More than 1,000 of those bridges have been condemned. Driving on poor roads costs Alabama drivers a total of $1.2 billion annually due to vehicle operating costs, traffic congestion, and car crashes.

Yet it is not just Alabama. It is everywhere in our country. I have spent decades traveling around the country as a football coach, and I am here to tell you we need help. We need help with our infrastructure. Investment in infrastructure is important and very, very necessary. Sound infrastructure allows people to get work, keeps our goods flowing, and keeps America competitive. That is why every penny of every dollar of any infrastructure proposal should be spent on actual infrastructure.

Sadly, President Biden’s proposal fails that test by a long shot. Out of this massive $2.25 trillion proposal, only 6 percent is for roads and bridges. In fact, the proposal puts more money toward highways, roads, and sidewalks than bridges, ports, and waterways combined. We have to stop treating government spending like it is monoply money. When the American people hear about what is included in this bill, I think too many of them will think we are pretending these are for infrastructure.

The Biden administration is using the umbrella term of “infrastructure” for a host of things folks back home don’t associate with the word. Here are a couple of spending items that qualify according to President Biden: $400 billion for nursing care and $213 billion for government housing. I can see and understand where those fit in but not in an infrastructure bill. What gets me is the $10 billion per year for a Civilian Climate Corps. This $10 billion includes free housing, free clothing, free food, and an allowance for members while they promote “climate justice”—$10 billion a year. Now, is that infrastructure?

We cannot debate the individual merits of these items, but, please, let’s not pretend these are for infrastructure, because we need true infrastructure. To call this an infrastructure proposal is really an insult to the English language. The definition of “infrastructure” is not the “kitchen sink” approach. Let’s call this proposal what it is—a farce. This proposal is simply the Green New Deal in disguise. They need to disguise it because actual infrastructure is unpopular, and the Green New Deal is not.

In order to pay for all of this spending, President Biden has proposed raising the corporate tax by 7 percent—the largest Federal tax increase since 1983. This would undo President Trump’s Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which spurred the greatest economy we have had in decades. I can tell you right now the worst possible time to raise taxes is in the middle of a crisis. So many employers have already been hit hard and are struggling to keep their workers on their feet. Remember who really ends up paying for tax increases, especially corporate tax rates. It is the consumer, like you and me. It is not the corporations.

As Americans for Tax Reform has pointed out, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act directly led to lower utility bills for hard-working folks across the country. How do you think we would see electric bills on millions of Americans, essentially taxing them, too. Tax increases threaten family-owned small businesses and family farms, forcing future generations to sell the legacies their parents and their grandparents worked hard to build.

Here is the real kicker. As the Democrats are out there peddling this proposal as “infrastructure” and “jobs,” President Biden’s tax increase will eliminate 1 million jobs in the first 2 years alone, according to the National Association of Manufacturers—all of that harm just to pay for the Democrats’ wish list consisting of the Green New Deal. That absolutely makes no sense. We need to be focused on creating jobs, not taking money from the American people and giving it to the government to pay for progressive pipe dreams down the road.

This comes on the heels of a massive stimulus that just passed—the one the Democrats called COVID relief, but, in reality, it wasn’t any better than the bill went to COVID and health-related measures.

With all the trillions of new spending proposed by the Biden administration so far, you would think that there would be no spending proposal that they didn’t like.

Yet when it comes to our national defense, President Biden has shown he cares very little about increasing investment to keep our country safe. President Biden recently released his “skinny budget,” which includes a cut of $7 billion for the Department of Defense after accounting for inflation.

President Biden’s proposal and proposed defense budget is disappointing, to say the least, and a disservice to the men and women in uniform. What is more bewildering is that it asks for our troops to do more on a shoestring budget. It adds more duties, like combating climate change and other social priorities of the Democrats to our already thinly stretched forces, and that is very, very dangerous.

Regardless of whether these individual duties may be warranted—and, for the record, I don’t think they are—we shouldn’t expect our military to do more with less. At a time when our enemies grow bolder and the threats to America are increasing, “do more with less” is the last thing we should tell them to do.

These threats to our Nation are real, and they are getting worse. Russia is likely preparing to invade Ukraine and finish what Putin started in Crimea. North Korea continues to test ballistic missiles. Iran is emboldened to continue its nuclear weapons program. And China is working hard to build their navy. I am not in favor of military force; however, I believe we need a strong military ready when needed.

These threats are real, and they are increasing, and we need to be prepared. Our military is already thinly stretched. We need a new plan to rightsize the force and ensure we have the number of troops necessary to meet the threats to our Nation. President Biden’s skinny budget isn’t anywhere near where we need to be.

Mr. President, we need to work across the aisle to find common ground to fund our troops, secure our borders, and ensure America’s military is ready to take on any threat to our Nation. We need 10 Senate Republicans to help us get to the 60 votes necessary to overcome Republican filibusters.

But until we get there, I want to remember who really supports our troops. They are our veterans who served our Nation and died in uniform. They are our active-duty service members who are ready thinly stretched forces, and that is very, very dangerous.

These threats to our Nation are real, and they are getting worse. Russia is likely preparing to invade Ukraine and finish what Putin started in Crimea. North Korea continues to test ballistic missiles. Iran is emboldened to continue its nuclear weapons program. And China is working hard to build their navy. I am not in favor of military force; however, I believe we need a strong military ready when needed.
building up their military to directly challenge the United States for global supremacy.

Over the last 10 years, China’s defense spending increased by $200 billion, while the United States of America decreased its defense budget $400 billion.

We cannot let China continue to gain ground. In order to keep our country safe and protect democratic allies from Chinese aggression, we must stay well ahead of both weapons and technological advances.

President Biden’s defense budget is not just dangerous for America. It is bad for us all. Across our State, Alabama has more than 200,000 jobs supporting national defense. The economic impact of the defense sector represents more than 8 percent of our State’s GDP.

By underinvesting in defense, the critical work done by the service men and women at Alabama military installations—including Redstone Arsenal, Fort Rucker, Maxwell-Gunter, and others—could be seriously hindered. It will set back our entire State’s economy.

I was just at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, where I heard firsthand from Army Material Command how badly we need to invest in modernizing our weapons systems across the world. The best way to avoid a conflict is to have a bigger and better gun than the other guy. Most of President Biden’s appointees at the Department of Defense support the 2018 National Defense Strategy, which is a comprehensive plan to compete, deter, and defeat our adversaries.

This defense budget threatens our military modernization efforts and America’s ability to provide combat-ready forces. We cannot allow anything close to President Biden’s defense budget to become law. Our military needs to focus on winning wars, not planting trees.

The people of Alabama and the men and women in uniform should know that I will stand up to President Biden and the globalists in his administration who want a weak military.

President Biden has gone on and on about unity and his reputation for reaching across the aisle, but ever since he came into office, his actions have been focused on appealing the far-left, progressive voices in his party. We saw it firsthand with the stimulus bill. Shortly after that, we get this loaded-up, improperly named “infrastructure” proposal.

It is not just about the spending, which is a lot, but it is about what is in these proposals—progressive wish-list items that are paid for by the American taxpayer, not the government, the American taxpayer—and are passed on party lines, not bipartisan. And that is where President Biden’s priorities clearly lie. He is signaling that he is more willing to invest in progressions than the safety of our Nation and the world.

My colleagues and I are interested in working with President Biden on a bipartisan bill that addresses actual infrastructure, and we are ready to work on a defense budget that actually invests in our military and prepares us against the growing threats. We just need a President willing to unite rather than divide our great country.

I yield the floor to the PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, over the past few weeks, my Republican colleagues have spent quite a bit of time making sure the American people know just how little of President Biden’s 2-plus trillion dollar infrastructure plan will fund actual infrastructure plans to fix roads and bridges that are so in need of repair.

These are things that the Tennesseans have repeatedly told me they want to see in a bill: Fix the roads. Fix the bridges.

What do they want to be taken out of that bill? This is it. One of the numerous roadblocks these provisions that have nothing to do with infrastructure—nothing.

So imagine their disappointment—people who are ready for a highway bill, who are ready for an infrastructure bill, who are ready for their disappointment—when they discovered that all the funding that they had hoped was going to go to potholes and expanding lanes on the interstate and fixing flooded back roads would instead be spent on electric car charging stations, and climate change ambassadors.

I know pothole repair isn’t flashy, but it is what Tennesseans need. An electric car does not do you one bit of good when you are going to have to have a four-by-four to go pull it out of the mud every single time it rains.

We are pretty practical people, and my wish would be that my colleagues across the aisle would join us in reviewing the needs of the American people—these are the American people—and in being practical.

The lack of practicality has been a recurring problem in the months since President Biden took office. It seems that the Democrats here in Washington, DC, can’t resist the urge to throw money at social-media friendly causes that not even the most talented communicators have been able to tie to the pressing needs of the American people. They did it with COVID relief, they did it with the infrastructure boondoggle.

The wish list just doesn’t match the PR campaign, and that is a shame because this country has its own wish list of urgently needed items that we really can no longer afford to ignore. Just a few weeks ago, I took my own trip down to the southern border to get a sense of the situation on the ground, and it is a dire situation. We are facing an environmental crisis, a national security crisis, and a humanitarian crisis that is massive in scope. If we want to talk about infrastructure projects that matter, let’s talk about all the infrastructure that President Biden abandoned in January when he halted construction on the wall.

To paraphrase a famous saying, a 450-mile-long stretch of border wall serves the purpose right up until you hit mile 451, and here you can see that is the situation that the ranchers and law enforcement officials in southern Arizona are dealing with. The construction just stopped.

President Biden’s proclamation ordered contractors to stop work and forego their progress—immediate, stop. So they walked away because they had to.

What did they leave? They left behind an unfinished wall, piles of supplies, and roads and other infrastructure built to support construction crews. Everything is sitting there—sitting there at the border. The equipment, the border wall—it is all there wasting away—tax dollars right there.

All of that is now vulnerable to exploitation by the cartels and the traffickers—because it is there on the border. This is an absolute shame— an absolute shame. And what we know is that the cartels and the traffickers—whether they are drug traffickers or sex traffickers, or whether they are human traffickers—they are taking full advantage of this situation.

I got the chance to see where the coyotes and the drug smugglers are coming across, now that there is no activity on the border to deter them from crossing. There are gaps in the wall for their own purposes.

In Cochise County alone, officials have seen a 200-percent increase in migrants this year—200 percent.

The holes in the wall have turned into walking paths for the Sinaloa cartel’s drug runners. Law enforcement officials have set up an extensive network of cameras, but there are only so many leads that they can chase when the Border Patrol agents, who should be patrolling these busy streets, are busy implementing useless—useless and detrimental—catch-and-release programs.

And see, you see where there is a gap in the wall. Why do you have these gaps? Because the doors that were to go into these gaps are sitting, not in place. Why do you have these gaps? You have them because the wall components are there in the dirt.

But what did President Biden say? As of today, no more, No more. Stop immediately. Halt. Do not build this wall.

And what is it that our Border Patrol tell us that they need? They need a wall, they need more technology, and they need more agents and officers on the ground. This has been their request for years—for years.

On private property along the border, you can see where migrants have ditched their old clothes in exchange for actual uniforms that identify them to a cartel because they are given them by the cartel. It is their cartel-issued clothing, much like a work uniform.

There are piles of discarded backpacks, water bottles, and medicine at regular intervals. There is no telling
if the people who abandoned these items made it out alive, because we
know many do not make it out alive.

Many of them are left to die in the
desert by their handlers, the coyotes,
and the cartels. It is vital to note that
you do not have to cross the border
when you are working with the cartel, which
means you have paid the cartel a fee
to come across that border or you have
agreed to go into modern-day slavery
and work out your fee. Whether it is
with a smuggler, an MS-13 gang, sex
trafficking gang, you have to work
that fee out once you come across.

Now the ranchers who own these long
stretches of property have seen evi-
dence of this evil disregard for human
life. They will tell you their lands are
no longer safe, they do not feel free,
and they are constantly on their guard
for the safety of themselves and their
property.

I understand that immigration en-
forcement is controversial—so much so
that during his campaign, President
Biden promised to avoid the issue en-
tirely by halting construction of the
border wall forever. But we are living in
the real world, and in the real world,
the globe’s most powerful and
free Republic is being taken advantage of
by the West’s most terrifying drug
lords and human rights abusers, and
the Biden administration is letting it
happen. Congressional Democrats are
letting it happen. Even though they
don’t want to admit it, it is happening.
Look at the reports. Look at the foot-
age. Talk to Customs and Border Pa-
trol, and talk to the sheriffs in these
counties. So I say to my Democratic col-
leagues: Do something. Do something.
Work with us to find common ground
and get this situation under control be-
fore it is too late. And realize that
borders everywhere are working with
the cartel, which means you have paid
the cartel a fee to come across that border
or you have agreed to go into modernday slavery and work out your fee.

You own this crisis. It is from Presi-
dent Trump or Leader MCCONNELL or
his enforcers and his members of Con-
gress that you care about this issue—care
about this issue—the environmental crisis,
the humanitarian crisis, and the national
security crisis. You can spend the next 4 years sit-
ting on your hands and blaming Presi-
dent Trump or Leader McCONNELL or
me or any of my Republican colleagues and
blame us and say: Well, there is
death. There is destruction. There are
people killed, those who were killed,
and those who were changed forever.

So, today, please join me as we re-
member the victims, their families,
and loved ones, as well as extend our
thanks to all the first responders who
were forever changed on April 19, 1995.
Let’s honor them by taking a moment
to recommit ourselves to live.
The Oklahoma Standard—
strangers helping strangers, giving sac-
ificrificially, and performing acts of serv-
vice for each other.

I also want to take a moment to rec-
nize the work of the Oklahoma City
National Memorial Museum. For
the past two decades, they have upheld
their charge to honor those who were
killed, those who were lost,
and those who were changed forever.

As Associate Attorney General,
Ms. Gupta would help restore profes-
sionalism, empathy, and dignity to the
highest levels of the Justice Depart-
ment. Through more than 5 hours of
testimony—5 hours before the Judici-
ary Committee and in a lengthy career
in public service, Ms. Gupta has dem-
strated exactly why our Nation
would be well served by her leadership
in the Department of Justice.

Throughout her career, Ms. Gupta
has paid particular attention to the
most marginalized of our fellow hu-
man beings. From representing
wrongfully convicted individuals as a
young lawyer to her time in leadership
roles at the ACLU, the Leadership
Conference, and the Department of
Justice, Ms. Gupta has demonstrated her
deep commitment to pursuing justice,
eq
ity, and equality for all people.

In pursuit of that goal, Ms. Gupta has
demonstrated her desire and abil-
ity to work with anyone, including
those who might normally disagree
with her. Indeed, Ms. Gupta’s endorse-
ments from groups like the Fraternal
Order of Police and individuals like
Grover Norquist confirm that she is a
thoughtful listener, a bridge builder,
and a consensus seeker.

In this charged political era, it is
hard to imagine that any other nomi-
nation for Associate Attorney General
could give my Republican colleagues
more assurance that their views will be
fairly considered at the Department
of Justice. Yet, our Republican
members on the Judiciary Committee
requested that Ms. Gupta’s nomination
be indefinitely stalled and that she be required
to testify before the committee again.
When those demands were rightfully
denied, they chose to vote en bloc
against referring Ms. Gupta’s nomin-
ation to the floor.

But the opposition to Ms. Gupta’s
nomination is, frankly, frivolous. For 4
years now, the now minority members
of the Judiciary Committee refused to
even comment on, let alone criticize,
President Trump’s tweets antagonizing
judges and Senators, everyday Americans,
and so many others. Yet now they argue
that Ms. Gupta’s occasionally
lively tweets on Twitter over the last 4
years are somehow disqualifying,
de spite her sincere apology, her expres-
sion of respect for Members of this
body, and her promise to participate in
turning down the rhetorical tempera-
ture. My Republican colleagues’ double
standard could not be more clear.

Similarly, our Republican colleagues
spent the last 4 years hastily con-
fiming judges and nominees who re-
fused to answer basic questions, like
whether or not Brown or Board of Edu-
cation was rightfully decided. Of course
it was. But now they argue that more
than 5 hours of testimony and 10,000
pages of documents were not sufficient
to answer basic questions. Again, the double
standard could not be more clear.
I could go on and on, but instead of continuing to point out the obvious hypocrisy, let me say a few more words about why I am excited to have Ms. Gupta serve as the Associate Attorney General.

For years now, civil rights, voting rights, environmental justice, immigrants’ rights, and consumer rights have found themselves as a second thought in the administration of our justice system. No longer. Under Ms. Gupta’s leadership, I look forward to seeing a Justice Department that pursues equal justice for all of our citizens and that recognizes the dignity and humanity of all people.

I look forward to seeing Ms. Gupta work with Republicans and Democrats, with liberals and conservatives to find solutions to our problems, as she has throughout her career. And I look forward to young girls and boys of color once again seeing someone who looks like them in the leadership of our Justice Department and knowing that one day, they, too, can reach such great heights.

Colleagues, let’s not wait a moment longer. It is time for us to confirm Ms. Gupta as the next Associate Attorney General of the United States.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Lisa O. Monaco, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Attorney General of the United States.

The motion is agreed to.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

The majority leader.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 62, the nomination of Vanita Gupta, of Virginia, to be Associate Attorney General.

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 proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

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

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

YEAS—50

Baldwin
Barraco
Bennet
Blackburn
Blumenthal
Booker
Boxer
Boozman
Braun
Brown
Burr
Cantwell
Capito
Cardin
Collins
Coons
Cornyn
Cortez Masto
Crapo
Crabio
Daines
Duckworth
Durbin
Ernst
Feinstein
Gillibrand
Gillibrand
Graham
Hirono
Kennedy
Klobuchar
Lee
Lumina
Manchin
Menendez
Menendez
Murray
Murphy
Fischer
Padilla
Peters

NAYS—49

Barraco
Bennet
Blackburn
Boxer
Boozman
Braun
Capito
Cardin
Collins
Cornyn
Cortez Masto
Crapo
Crabio
Daines
Duckworth
Durbin
Ernst
Feinstein
Gillibrand
Gillibrand
Graham
Hirono
Kennedy
Klobuchar
Lee
Lumina
Manchin
Menendez
Menendez
Murray
Murphy
Fischer
Padilla
Peters

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas are 50, the nays are 49. The motion is agreed to.

The majority leader.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 57, Lisa O. Monaco, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Attorney General.


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 Lisa O. Monaco, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Attorney General, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJAN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 94, nays 3, as follows:

(Roll Call Vote No. 155 Leg.)

YEAS—94

Baldwin
Barraco
Bennet
Blackburn
Blumenthal
Booker
Boxer
Boozman
Braun
Brown
Burr
Cantwell
Capito
Cardin
Collins
Coons
Cornyn
Cortez Masto
Crapo
Cranial
Darby
Ernst
Feinstein
Gillibrand
Gillibrand
Graham

Portman
Reed
Risch
Romney
Rosen
Rounds
Rubio
Sanders
Sasse
Schumer
Scott (FL)
Shahsen
Shelby
Smith
Stern
Tillis
Tuberville
Van Hellen
Vitter
Whitehouse
Wisdom
Young

NAYS—49

Barraco
Bennet
Blackburn
Boxer
Boozman
Braun
Burr
Capito
Collins
Corbyn
Cotton
Crape
Crapo
Crain
Darby
Ernst
Fisher

Graham
Grassley
Hagerty
Klobuchar
Klochbar
Hoover
Hyde-Smith
Idaho
Johnson
Lee
Lumina
Manchin
Menendez
Menendez
Murray
Murphy
Ossoff
Padilla
Peters

Portman
Reed
Risch
Romney
Rounds
Rubio
Sanders
Sasse
Schumer
Scott (FL)
Shahsen
Shelby
Smith
Stern
Tillis
Tuberville
Van Hellen
Vitter
Whitehouse
Wisdom
Young

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 62, Vanita Gupta, of Virginia, to be Associate Attorney General.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the motion. The motion was agreed to.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with a permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING OFFICER JACOB CARLSON

Ms. LUMMIS. Madam President, I rise to honor the true heroism of Officer Jacob Carlson of the Casper, WY, police department. On May 6, 2018, Officer Carlson risked his life to save his fellow officer and the lives of several young children when a routine traffic stop turned deadly. Every day, police officers must remain vigilant because, as we have seen, even routine enforcement actions can go sideways at a moment’s notice. That happened to Officer Carlson, and his actions speak to his character. He put his life on the line to protect his fellow officer and his community. His courage is inspiring, and I am proud to call him a son of Wyoming. For this action, Officer Carlson has been awarded the Congressional Badge of Bravery, and it is a badge he has earned.

His years of service and dedication to the Casper Police Department were cut short by what happened, but Officer Carlson’s career of service as a police officer and former service in the U.S. Army is a legacy for which he can be proud.

Officer Carlson is a remarkable example of the highest caliber of law enforcement professionals. He is the hero we describe when we teach our children and grandchildren about the police officers who protect our communities.

Officers such as Officer Carlson who protect our great State reinforce my belief that Wyoming truly is the best State in the Nation. When Americans want to see an example of how police officers should comport themselves, they can look upon Wyoming as the shining example. Officer Carlson’s actions on May 6, 2018, exemplify why.

The State of Wyoming is blessed to have not only one brave officer deserving of honor. The second officer is one of the people Officer Carlson protected in the face of adversity. Officer Randi Garrett, whose courage and heroism was also on display that day, is equally deserving and will be honored with a Congressional Badge of Bravery.

My thanks to Officer Carlson and to Officer Garrett for making Casper and the State of Wyoming one of the greatest, safest places to live.

RECOGNIZING OFFICER RANDI GARRETT

Ms. LUMMIS. Madam President, I rise to honor Officer Randi Garrett, whose experience and skill and whose strong character helped save lives on May 6, 2018.

Not only did Officer Garrett act with poise under intense pressure when a routine traffic stop turned violent, but while in immediate and real danger, she kept her focus on her mission, and helped to save the lives of two innocent children and the life of a fellow officer because of it. I shudder at the thought of what might have happened had Officer Garrett not acted with speed and purpose. Officer Garrett has been awarded the Congressional Badge of Bravery for her actions, and I am so proud of her for it.

Officer Garrett is a shining example of what steadfast commitment, leadership, and decisionmaking under pressure looks like. It is because of officers like Randi that the people of Casper can feel safe and secure in their community.

As we approach the third anniversary of Officer Randi Garrett’s heroism, I know that her acts that day won’t be forgotten by the Casper community and by those whose lives she helped to save. For without them, it is unknown the tragedies that may have occurred. Instead, she serves as an example today to every young woman and girl interested in serving their community as an officer. I can think of no better example for young women across the State of Wyoming to aspire to.

Now, as she receives the Congressional Badge of Bravery, I hope it serves as a reminder of a day when her courage was called upon and she answered. This prestigious award is also being given to her counterpart who was there with her that day, Officer Jacob Carlson. Just as they faced danger together, this badge acts as yet another bond that the two of them will continue to share.

My sincere thanks to Officer Garrett for her continued service and dedication to the city of Casper and our great State.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE KENTUCKY MUSIC HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, Kentucky has a rich cultural history and is the birthplace of musical artists from every genre and era. Proudly showcasing this heritage is the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame & Museum in Mount Vernon, KY.

John Lee Lair, who served as a sergeant in the U.S. Army during WWII, returned to the States and joined WLS radio in Chicago, where he turned his lifelong love of music into a career. He founded the Renfro Valley Barn Dance, which was broadcast by several powerful AM stations and eventually moved to its final home in Renfro Valley, KY.

Today we honor one of John Lair’s three daughters, Ann Lair Henderson, who developed the plan to house the hall of fame and museum in the family’s vintage horse stable. Following an act of the Kentucky General Assembly in 2002, this special tribute to Kentucky’s storied musicians was born.

The iconic building, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is filled with memorabilia and tributes to over 60 artists as diverse as Rosemary Clooney, Ricky Skaggs, Lionel Hampton, Boots Randolph, and Mary Travers. Nearly 20 years since its founding, Ann Lair Henderson, who recently celebrated her 90th birthday, is still a vital part of the organization that helps recognize the enormous contribution of Kentucky’s incredible musical talents. We are grateful for Ann’s passion for preserving history and for promoting some of the Commonwealth’s finest treasures. She is a treasure in her own right to her local community and a great reminder for us all to keep pursuing those things about which we are truly passionate through every season of life.

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

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

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

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

Enrolled bills signed

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2021, the Secretary of the Senate, on April 19, 2021, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 164. An act to improve the health and safety of Americans living with food allergies and related disorders, including potentially life-threatening anaphylaxis, food protein-induced enterocolitis syndrome, and eosinophilic gastrointestinal diseases, and for other purposes.

S. 415. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the scope of new chemical exclusivity.

S. 576. An act to improve the health and safety of Americans living with food allergies and related disorders, including potentially life-threatening anaphylaxis, food protein-induced enterocolitis syndrome, and eosinophilic gastrointestinal diseases, and for other purposes.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by
Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 422. An act to amend the Controlled Substances Act to provide for the preclearance of controlled substances or list I chemicals, and for other purposes.

S. 578. An act to improve the health and safety of American children with food allergies and related disorders, including potentially life-threatening anaphylaxis, food protein-induced enterocolitis syndrome, and eosinophilic gastrointestinal diseases, and for other purposes.

S. 1216. A bill to extend the temporary scheduling order for fentanyl-related substances.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 446. An act to require the Federal Trade Commission to submit a report to Congress on scams targeting seniors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 941. An act to authorize the debarment of certain registrants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 1195. An act 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; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 1215. An act to establish an office within the Federal Trade Commission and an outside advisory group to prevent fraud targeting seniors and to direct the Commission to include additional information in an annual report to Congress on fraud targeting seniors and for other purposes.

H.R. 1240. An act to require the installation of residential carbon monoxide detectors in homes, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1357. An act to amend the Small Business Act to authorize the debarment of certain registrants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 1429. An act to increase transparency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 1482. An act to amend the Small Business and Entrepreneurship, to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to issue rules relating to environmental obligations of certified development companies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 1487. An act to amend the Small Business Act to increase transparency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 1490. An act to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to improve the loan guarantee program, enhance the ability of small manufacturers to access affordable capital, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 1502. An act to amend the Small Business Act to optimize the operations of the microloan program, lower costs for small business concerns and intermediary participants in the program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 1506. An act to amend the Small Business Act to provide for the modification, transfer, and termination of a registration to manufacture, distribute, or dispense controlled substances or list I chemicals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

S. 415. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the scope of new chemical exclusivity.

S. 572. An act to require the Food and Drug Administration, with respect to single-entity human drug products, to require the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

S. 1206. A bill to limit the authority of the Secretary of Labor to modify the pandemic unemployment assistance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. PORTMAN, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs:

Special Report entitled “Legislative and Oversight Activities During the 116th Congress by the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs” (Rept. No. 117–16).

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. PORTMAN (for himself, Mrs. DEMINT, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. HUBER, and Mr. JOHNSON of Florida):

H.R. 1102. An act to amend the Controlled Substances Act to authorize the debarment of certain registrants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 1195. An act 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; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 1240. An act to require the installation of residential carbon monoxide detectors in homes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 1429. An act to increase transparency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 1487. An act to amend the Small Business Act to increase transparency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 1490. An act to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to improve the loan guarantee program, enhance the ability of small manufacturers to access affordable capital, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 1502. An act to amend the Small Business Act to optimize the operations of the microloan program, lower costs for small business concerns and intermediary participants in the program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 1506. An act to amend the Small Business Act to provide for the modification, transfer, and termination of a registration to manufacture, distribute, or dispense controlled substances or list I chemicals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.
By Mr. WHITEHOUSE:
S. 1207. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to require a Federal court to consider certain factors in imposing a sentence; and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):
S. 1208. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for the issuance of Green Bonds and to establish the United States Green Bank, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. MORAN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. BOOZMAN):
S. 1209. A bill to prohibit the Securities and Exchange Commission from requiring that any personally identifiable information be collected under consolidated audit trail reporting requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. BURBES):
S. 1210. A bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to clarify provisions enacted by the Captive Wildlife Safety Act, to further the conservation of certain wildlife species, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):
S. 1211. A bill to establish the Cahokia Mounds Mississippian Culture National Historic Park in Collinsville, Illinois, Monroe, Madison, and St. Clair Counties, Illinois, and St. Louis County, Missouri, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. WARNOCK, and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):
S. 1212. A bill to address the needs of workers in industries likely to be impacted by rapidly evolving technologies; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. BLUNT):
S. 1213. A bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to seek to enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine to conduct a study on the top 10 emerging science and technology challenges faced by the United States and develop recommendations to address them, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. LEE:
S. 1214. A bill to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to authorize the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into cooperative agreements with States to provide for State administration of allotment management plans; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):
S. 1215. A bill to state the policy of the United States regarding the need for reciprocity in the relationship between the United States and the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. CORNYN):
S. 1216. A bill to extend the temporary scheduling of certain fentanyl-related substances; read the first time.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. SCHAFITZ, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BURBES, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MARKY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BENNET, Mr. CARPER, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. BOOKER):
S. 1217. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require certain disclosures relating to climate change, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. MERKLEY):
S. 1218. A bill to provide economic empowerment opportunities in the United States through the modernization of public housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. MARKEY):
S. 1219. A bill to establish the policy of the United States regarding the no-first-use of nuclear weapons; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. RUBIO): S. Res. 164. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the number of justices of the Supreme Court of the United States should remain at 9; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEE:
S. 1216. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to recognize and honor the service of individuals who served in the United States Cadet Nurse Corps during World War II, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Mr. DAINES, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. TSPER, Mr. HORYN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. S. STABENOW, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. BALDWIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):
S. 1220. A concurrent resolution to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary to provide funds into the Crime Victims Fund, to waive matching requirements, and for other purposes.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 45

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGENTY) 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. 138

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 701, a bill to amend title XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to combat the opioid crisis by promoting access to non-opioid treatments in the hospital outpatient setting.

S. 611

At the request of Mr. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 611, a bill to deposit certain funds into the Crime Victims Fund, to waive matching requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 701

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 613, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on dog training therapy for disabled Veterans.

S. 701

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 701, a bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to provide equal coverage of in vitro specific IgE tests and percutaneous tests for allergies under the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and for other purposes.

S. 747

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the names of the Senator from New York
At the request of Mr. Brown, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. Tester) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. Capito) were added as cosponsors of S. 860, a bill to amend title VIII of the Social Security Act to permit nurse practitioners and physician assistants to satisfy the documentation requirement under the Medicare program for coverage of certain services for individuals with disabilities.

At the request of Mr. Barrasso, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. Boozman) was added as a cosponsor of S. 828, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of marriage and family therapy services and mental health counselor services under part B of the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Trumke, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. Sinema) was added as a cosponsor of S. 844, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain amounts paid for physical activity, fitness, and exercise as amounts paid for medical care.

At the request of Mr. Wyden, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. Cantwell) was added as a cosponsor of S. 892, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exemption from gross income for mandatory restitution or civil damages as recompense for trafficking in persons.

At the request of Mr. Cornyn, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. Inhofe) was added as a cosponsor of S. 985, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exemption from gross income for mandatory restitution or civil damages as recompense for trafficking in persons.

At the request of Mrs. Blackburn, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. Hagerty) was added as a cosponsor of S. 903, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to require a DNA test to determine the familial relationship between an alien and an accompanying minor, and for other purposes.

At the request of Ms. Duckworth, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. Cardin) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. Stabenow) were added as cosponsors of S. 1021, a bill to ensure affordable abortion coverage and care for every person, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Moran, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. Marshall) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1112, a bill to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Chisholm National Historic Trail and the Western National Historic Trail, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Lee, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. Grassley) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 134, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the President should work with the Government of the United Kingdom to conclude negotiations for a comprehensive free trade agreement between the United States and the United Kingdom.

At the request of Ms. Warren, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. Klobuchar) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 148, a resolution recognizing the importance of paying tribute to those individuals 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 past and continued service of military retirees to their local communities and the United States.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION

By Mr. Menendez (for himself, Mrs. Hirono, Mr. Cardin, Mrs. Shaheen, Mr. Merkley, Mr. Schatz, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Kaine, Mr. Markey, Mr. Booker, and Mr. Van Hollen):

S. 1201. A bill to restore the United States' international leadership on climate change and clean energy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. Menendez. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on the United States Climate Leadership on International Mitigation, Adaptation, and Technology Enhancement Act of 2021—the U.S. CLIMATE Act. Mr. President, climate change represents a clear and present threat to the stability, security and prosperity of nations around the world, including the United States. The cost of climate-induced disasters becomes more indisputable and devastating with every passing year. Barraging swift and ambitious action, the moment to prevent the worst forecasts from becoming reality.

Changing climate and weather patterns intensification of global food insecurity and resource scarcity especially threaten the lives and security of the world's most vulnerable populations. For months, heavy rainfall and warmer temperatures have triggered a locust plague in East Africa that has lasted more than an entire year. This historic locust plague—triggered by conditions exacerbated by climate change—has threatened agricultural and pastoral livelihoods and worsened already acute food insecurity in the region. At the same time, similar extreme weather patterns are expected to expand and shift the world's most vulnerable populations, including those at risk of life-threatening diseases like malaria, West Nile Virus, cholera, and others. Beyond the palpable destruction and devastation of climate-induced crises, climate change is a "threat multiplier," a term coined by the CNA Corporation's Military Advisory Board to express the way in which climate change exacerbates instability; conflict and subsequent displacement; terrorism; and other vital security matters.

Clearly, climate change does not begin nor end at any nation's borders. No one is immune to the effects of climate change—which is why we must not only work with the rest of the
world to combat this crisis, but lead the charge. It is simply not enough to enact robust domestic policies—this is a global problem that requires internationally collaborative solutions.

What’s more, our leadership and renewed international engagement can generate, mobilize, and inspire Americans. By committing to international agreements and adhering to emerging international production norms, we are opening the global markets for the innovation, ingenuity, and leadership of the American private sector.

I commend the Biden administration’s commitment to returning the United States to the global stage, thereby granting us the capacity to reengage and lead the international community in tackling the greatest threat of our time. President Biden’s Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad has designated climate action as a core tenant of U.S. diplomacy and national security and appointed former Secretary of State John Kerry as Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, ensuring that climate considerations have a strong advocate where important decisions are being made. And, under the leadership of President Biden, the United States has officially rejoined the Paris Agreement.

The time for debate and discussion on why and how we must tackle this crisis is over. The science is clear: we must achieve net zero emissions by 2050 in order to ensure a safe and prosperous future for ourselves and our posterity. Now is the time for action and implementation of crucial efforts to save our planet.

Congress can and must do more to support the restoration of the United States’ climate diplomacy and leadership. That is why I am introducing the United States Climate Leadership in International Mitigation, Adaptation, and Innovation, Mitigation, and Security Program. The United States reengagement with the Group of Seven and the Group of Twenty on climate action.

Title II—International Agreements and Conventions

Sec. 201. Sense of Congress in support of the United States returning to the Paris Agreement.

Sec. 202. Enhanced United States commitment to the Paris Agreement.

Sec. 203. Sense of Congress regarding ratification of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol.

Sec. 204. Compliance with the carbon offset and reduction scheme for international aviation.

Sec. 205. Short-lived climate pollutants.

Sec. 206. International cooperation regarding clean transportation and sustainable land use and community development.

Sec. 207. Sense of Congress on United States reengagement with the Group of Seven and the Group of Twenty on climate action.

Title III—Climate Change Development Finance and Support

Sec. 301. International Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation, and Security Program.

Sec. 302. United States contributions to the Green Climate Fund.


Sec. 305. Consistency in United States policy on development finance and climate change.

Title IV—Clean Energy Diplomacy and International Development

Sec. 401. Energy diplomacy and security within the Department of State.

Sec. 402. Department of State primacy for energy diplomacy.

Sec. 403. Reports on United States participation in Mission Innovation and the Clean Energy Ministerial.

Sec. 404. Reduced deforestation.

Title V—Bilateral and Regional Multilateral Climate Diplomacy and Cooperation


Sec. 502. Accountability and cooperation with China.

Sec. 503. United States and European Union cooperation on climate finance for developing countries.

Sec. 504. Sense of Congress on clean energy cooperation with India.

Sec. 505. Power Africa.


Sec. 507. Sense of Congress on conservation of the Amazon River basin.

Sec. 508. Sense of Congress regarding renewable energy in Indonesia.

Title VI—Women and Climate Change Act

Sec. 601. Short title.

Sec. 602. Findings.

Sec. 603. Definitions.

Sec. 604. Statement of policy.

Sec. 605. Federal Interagency Working Group on Women and Climate Change.

Sec. 606. Development and implementation of strategy and policies to prevent and respond to the effects of climate change on women globally.

Sec. 607. Climate Change within the Office of Global Women’s Issues.

Sec. 2. Findings; sense of Congress.

(a) Findings.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The United States is a global leader in the fight against climate change and the development of clean energy, and is committed to international cooperation on climate change.

(2) Women and girls are disproportionately affected by climate change, and are essential partners in the efforts to address this crisis.

(3) The United States has a responsibility to lead the international community in addressing climate change.

(4) The United States should support the restoration of the United States’ climate diplomacy and leadership.

(5) The United States should take action to combat the effects of climate change on women globally.

(6) The United States should support the development and implementation of strategies and policies to prevent and respond to the effects of climate change on women globally.

(7) The United States should support the engagement of women and girls in the fight against climate change.
(1) The Special Report: Global Warming of 1.5°C, published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on October 8, 2018, and the Fourth National Climate Assessment, published by the United States Global Change Research Program in 2018, concluded that—
(A) the release of greenhouse gas emissions, most notably the combustion of fossil fuels and the degradation of natural resources that absorb atmospheric carbon from human activity, are the dominant causes of climate change during the past century; and
(B) changes in the Earth’s climate are—
(i) causing sea levels to rise;
(ii) increasing the global average temperature of the Earth; and
(iii) increasing the incidence and severity of wildfires; and
(iv) intensifying the severity of extreme weather, including hurricanes, cyclones, typhoons, flooding, droughts, and other disasters that threaten human life, healthy communities, and critical infrastructure.
(2) An increase in the global average temperature of 2 degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrialized levels would cause—
(A)(i) the displacement, and the forced internal migration, of an estimated 143,000,000 people worldwide. South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa by 2050 if insufficient action is taken (according to the World Bank); and
(ii) the displacement of an average of 17,800,000 people worldwide by floods every year (according to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre) because of the exacerbating effects of climate change.
(B)(i) more than $500,000,000,000 in lost annual economic output in the United States (a 10 percent contraction from 2018 levels) by 2100 (according to the Fourth National Climate Assessment); and
(ii) an additional 100,000,000 people worldwide to be driven into poverty by 2030 (according to the World Bank);
(C)(i) greater food insecurity and decreased agricultural production due to climate change’s effects on the increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events; and
(ii) the proliferation of agricultural pests and crop diseases, loss of biodiversity, degradation of land, and water scarcity (according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization); and
(D) more than 350,000,000 additional people worldwide to be exposed to deadly heat stress by 2050.
(3) According to the International Monetary Fund, a persistent annual increase in average global temperature of 0.4 degrees Celsius would reduce global real domestic product per capita by 7.22 percent by 2100.
(4) According to the United Nations Environment Programme, climate change is exacerbating unusual regional weather conditions, which is driving the current and prolonged monsoon outbreak that is threatening food security across East Africa and Southeast Asia.
(5) According to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services—
(A) an increase in the global average temperature of between 1.5 and 2 degrees Celsius will result in the loss of 29 percent of the world’s terrestrial species at risk of extinction; and
(B) an increase in the global average temperature of 2 degrees Celsius—
(i) will result in the destruction of more than 99 percent of all coral reefs worldwide; and
(ii) will result in the destruction of more than 99 percent of all coral reefs worldwide; and
(C) an increase in the global average temperature of 4.3 degrees Celsius will place 16 percent of the world’s terrestrial species at risk of extinction.
(6) According to the International Energy Agency, the United States, China, India, and the European Union (the so-called United Kingdom) account for more than 58 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions.
(7) China, which is the world’s top greenhouse gas emitter, has indicated that the impact on the United States’ core interest in climate stability—
(A) is likely to achieve its carbon emissions targets by 2060 (as per the Paris Agreement, contained in its 2015 nationally determined contribution, to “peak” emissions around 2030 ahead of schedule);
(B) announced, on September 22, 2020, a pledge to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060; and
(C) has yet to announce an updated nationally determined contribution.
(8) On October 28, 2020, Japan, the world’s third largest economy and fifth greatest carbon emitter, announced a pledge to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. Despite apprehension about growing nuclear energy sources, Japan aims to increase its share of renewable and nuclear energy following new targets unveiled next year.
(9) India has growing energy demands by becoming a global leader in renewable energy generation. Despite significant investment to ensure the implementation of strong national greenhouse gas mitigation policies, India continues to operate some of the world’s dirtiest fossil fuel power plants and has high emissions generated from its transportation sector. India is a critical market for foreign investment and will be a major competitor in international clean energy development futures.
(10) India’s leadership within the Clean Energy Ministerial, the Mission Innovation initiative, and the Solar Alliance has put India at the forefront of renewable energy development and helped India achieve a top 5 global rank among clean energy producers. Installed electricity capacity from renewables in India grew by 141 percent between 2014 and 2020. Approximately $12,000,000,000 was invested into India’s renewable energy capacity in support of development.
(11) The European Union demonstrated its strong commitment to climate action by making the ambitious pledge to reduce the collective greenhouse gas emissions of its 27 member nations by at least 55 percent by 2030 (compared to 1990 levels) and to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. The European Parliament has mandated that the European Investment Bank will increase its investments in renewable energy, and the European Investment Bank will use $23,000,000,000 in new investment opportunities.
(12) The European Union’s member nations have provided the equivalent of approximately $120,000,000,000 between 2014 and 2020 in support and financing to build climate change resilience and develop low carbon energy capacity throughout the developing world.
(13) The European Union has traditionally been a steadfast partner with United States to improve accountability; transparency; and shared responsibility among parties in mitigating greenhouse gas emissions. As the United States Government’s executive branch has pulled away from climate action commitments, the European Union has increased its support for initiatives of States through partnerships such as the United States Climate Alliance.
(14) Among the world’s top greenhouse gas emitters, the United States is the only country that—
(A) has rescinded national policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
(B) has advanced policies aimed at bolstering fossil fuel consumption and extraction, including through the removal of Federal protections of public lands that are critical wilderness areas vital to maintaining healthy natural ecosystems; and
(C) has abstained or withdrawn itself from several global cooperative efforts acknowledging and addressing the climate crisis.
(15) United States leadership during deliberations over the Paris Agreement—
(A) was exemplified by—
(i) its commitment to reduce national emissions by 26 to 28 percent below 2005 levels;
(ii) its leadership in the “Umbrella Group” and its role as co-founder of the “High Ambition Coalition”;
(iii) its co-facilitation of the UNFCCC;
(iv) its work with the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement on agenda item 5: Modalities, procedures and guidelines for the transparency framework for action; and
(v) its support for the enhanced transparency framework for action and support referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement;
(B) harms American diplomacy;
(C) disadvantages the ability of the United State private sector to compete in a clean energy global economy, for which the International Finance Corporation estimates that investments spurred by the Paris Agreement will create up to $23,000,000,000,000 in new investment opportunities; and
(D) erodes the United States’ leadership, standing, and trust within the international community; and
(E) concedes leadership and economic opportunities to foreign governments keen on taking advantage of the United States’ absence from international climate action initiatives.
(16) The Paris Agreement’s central aim is—
(A) to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by maintaining the global temperature rise well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels; and
(B) to pursue efforts to further limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius.
(17) The Paris Agreement—
(A) specifies the need for a strong global response to climate change; and
(B) acknowledges that all “parties shall, when taking action to address climate change, respect, as far as possible, their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous
people’s, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity’’;
(C) notes the importance of ‘‘climate justice’’ when mitigating and adapting to climate change; and
(D) recognizes ‘‘the need for an effective and progressive response to the urgent threat of climate change’’;
(E) states that states should put forward their best efforts through nationally determined contributions and to strengthen these efforts in the future;
(F) requires each party to update its nationally determined contribution every 5 years, with each successive nationally determined contribution representing a progression beyond the previous nationally determined contribution, and reflecting the party’s highest possible ambition;
(G) recognizes that marine ecosystems covering more than 70 percent of the Earth’s surface have an integral role in climate balance; and
(H) we developed under the UNFCCC, an international environmental treaty which the United States ratified, with the advice and consent of the Senate on October 15, 1992.

(19) Seventy percent of the Paris Agreement signatories’ nationally determined contributions in support of the goals of the Paris Agreement are ocean-inclusive, and the Paris Agreement signatories are focused on the inclusion of ocean action in nationally determined contributions through the Because the Ocean initiative.

(20) The United States communicated its nationally determined contribution—
(A) in November 4, 2020, an economy-wide target of reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 26 to 28 percent below its 2005 level; and
(B) to make best efforts to reduce its emissions by 28 percent.

(21) A thriving clean energy industry in the United States, which employs more than 500,000 Americans, is essential in achieving these targets.

(22) A number of existing laws and regulations in the United States also are relevant to achieving, including:
(a) the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.);
(b) the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (Public Law 102–486); and
(C) the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–146).

(23) On November 4, 2020, the United States withdrawal from the Paris Agreement became effective, which at the time resulted in the United States being the only state party (out of 196 parties) to the UNFCCC that is not a party to the Paris Agreement.

(24) On January 20, 2021, President Biden initiated the process for reentering the United States into the Paris Agreement. On February 19, 2021, the United States officially rejoined the Paris Agreement.

(25) Article 8 of the Paris Agreement states, ‘‘Parties recognize the importance of averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow onset events, and the role of sustainable development in reducing the risk of loss and damage.’’ Such adverse effects include strong winds from hurricanes and tropical storms, and flooding from storm surges and heavy rain, that inflict losses on various sectors of the United States economy.

(26) The Paris Agreement requires that parties ‘‘should strengthen their cooperation on enhancing action on adaptation, taking into account the Cancun Adaptation Framework’, which includes measures to enhance understanding, coordination and cooperation with regard to climate change induced disasters or climate change related planned relocation, where appropriate, at the national, regional and international levels.

(27) The Paris Agreement is an example of the multilateral, inclusive and cooperative measures needed to overcome climate change-related challenges facing the global community, such as reducing emissions, promoting economic growth, and deploying clean energy technologies.

(28) The Paris Agreement recognizes ‘‘the fundamental priority of safeguarding food security and ending hunger, and the particular vulnerabilities of food production systems to the adverse impacts of climate change’’.

(29) The Paris Agreement recognizes that—
(A) adaptation is a global challenge facing all countries, with local, subnational, national, regional, and international dimensions; and
(B) adapting to the effects of climate change is a key component of the long-term strategy for global response to climate change and protect people, livelihoods, and ecosystems.

(30) American leadership during the Paris Agreement negotiations encouraged widespread international participation in the Paris Agreement;

(31) American States, cities, and businesses are stepping up and pledging to meet the Paris Agreement targets of absent and uncertain leadership by the President.

(32) The Paris Agreement—
(A) has driven innovation in developing cleaner, more reliable, and more affordable forms of energy;
(B) has demonstrated that addressing climate change and affordability energy to American consumers are not mutually exclusive; and
(C) has encouraged the United States to develop the mid-century strategy for deep decarbonization, which—
(i) was released on November 16, 2016; and
(ii) states, ‘‘Energy efficiency improvements and deployment of emerging technologies will enable the energy system to provide the services we need with fewer resources and emissions. Over the past several years, the United States has demonstrated that progress in this area is key to advancing the energy efficiency of buildings, appliances and vehicles that can cost-effectively cut carbon pollution and lower energy bills, while maintaining significant support from U.S. industries and consumers.”

(33) Global temperatures must be kept below 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrialized levels to avoid the most severe impacts of a changing climate, which will require—
(A) global reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from human sources of 40 to 60 percent from 2010 levels by 2030; and
(B) net-zero global emissions by 2050;

(b) build a consensus—
(i) to expand deployment and access to clean energy;
(ii) to plan and invest in climate change adaptation solutions;
(iii) to improve climate change resilience capacities; and
(iv) to promote—
(I) sustainable agriculture practices;
(II) food security; and
(III) natural resource conservation.

The purpose of this Act is to provide authorities, resources, policies, and recommended administrative actions, and to encourage United States foreign policy; and—

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE.—In this Act:

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;
(b) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;
(C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and
(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) CLEAN ENERGY.—The term “clean energy” means—
(A) renewable energy and energy from systems;
(B) energy production processes that emit zero greenhouse gas emissions, including nuclear power;
(C) systems and processes that capture and permanently store greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel production and electricity generation units;
(D) products, processes, facilities, or systems designed to retrofit and improve the energy efficiency and electricity generated from electrical generation units, while using less fuel; and reducing production sources, or less feedstocks; and
(E) zero emission vehicles.

(3) CLIMATE ACTION.—The term “climate action” means enhanced efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-induced impacts, including—
(A) climate-related hazards in all countries;
(B) integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies and plans;
(C) improving education, awareness-raising, and human and institutional capacity with respect to climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning.

(4) CLIMATE CRISIS.—The term “climate crisis” means the social, economic, health, safety, and security impacts on people, and the biodiversity and natural ecosystem health, which are attributable to the wide-variety of effects on global environmental and atmospheric conditions as a result of disruptions to the Earth’s climate from anthropogenic activities that generate greenhouse gas emissions or reduce natural resource capacities to absorb and regulate atmospheric concentrations.

(5) CLIMATE DIPLOMACY.—The term “climate diplomacy” means methods of influencing the decisions and behavior of foreign governments through dialogue, negotiation, cooperation and other measures short of war or violence around issues related to addressing global climate change, including—
(A) the mitigation of global greenhouse gas emissions;
(B) discussion, analysis, and sharing of scientific data and information on the cause and effects of climate change;
(C) the security, social, economic, and political instability risks associated with the effects of climate change;
(D) economic cooperation efforts and trade matters that are related to or associated with climate change and greenhouse gas mitigation from the global economy;
(E) building resilience capacities and adapting to the effects of climate change;
(F) sustainable land use and natural resource conservation;
(G) accounting for loss and damage attributed to the effects of climate change;
(H) just transition of carbon intense economies to low or zero carbon economies and accounting for laborers within affected economies; and
(I) technological innovations that reduce or eliminate carbon emissions.

(6) CLIMATE SECURITY.—The term “climate security” means the effects of climate change on—
(A) United States national security concerns and subnational, national, and regional political stability; and
(B) overseas security and conflict situations that are potentially exacerbated by dynamic environmental factors and events, including—
(i) the intensification and frequency of droughts, floods, wildfires, and other extreme weather events;
(ii) changes in historical severe weather, drought, and wildfire patterns;
(iii) the expansion and migration of pests, diseases, and species across geographical ranges of droughts, floods, and wildfires into regions that had not regularly experienced such phenomena;
(iv) global sea level rise patterns and the expansion of geographical ranges affected by drought; and
(v) changes in marine environments that effect critical geospatial waterways, such as the Arctic Ocean, the South China Sea, the South Pacific Ocean, the Barents Sea, and the Beaufort Sea.

(7) NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTION.—The term “nationally determined contribution” means a country’s pledged efforts to reduce national greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change, which may include a pledge of support or financing to assist developing countries achieve their climate action goals, in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 4 of the Paris Agreement, which requires each Party—
(A) to “prepare, communicate and maintain successive nationally determined contributions that it intends to achieve”; and
(B) to “pursue domestic mitigation measures, with the aim of achieving the objectives of such contributions.”

(8) NATURAL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS.—The term “natural climate solutions” means actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified natural systems that—
(A) address climate change effectively and adaptively; and
(B) simultaneously provide human well-being and environmental benefits.

(9) NATURAL RESOURCES.—The term “natural resources” means the terrestrial, freshwater, estuarine, and marine fish, wildlife, plants, land, air, water, habitats, and ecosystems.

(10) NET ZERO GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.—The term “net zero greenhouse gas emissions” means all greenhouse gas emissions are balanced or offset by activities that are potentially offset by deliberate activities that absorb or capture and permanently store equivalent amounts of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.


(12) RENEWABLE ENERGY.—The term “renewable energy” means all forms of energy produced from sources that naturally occur or are replenished in nature in a sustainable manner, including bioenergy, geothermal energy, hydropower, ocean energy, solar energy, and wind energy.

(13) RESILIENCE.—The term “resilience” means the ability of human made and natural systems (including their component parts) to anticipate, absorb, cope, accommodate, or recover from the effects of a hazardous event in a timely and efficient manner, including the preservation, restoration, or improvement of its essential basic structures and functions.


(15) UNITED STATES–MEXICO–CANADA AGREEMENT; USMCA.—The terms “United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement” and “USMCA” mean the Agreement between the United States of America, the United Mexican States, and Canada, done at Buenos Aires November 30, 2018.

TITLE I.—CLIMATE AND NATIONAL SECURITY

SEC. 101. CLIMATE DIPLOMACY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President and the Secretary of State shall prioritize climate action and climate diplomacy in United States foreign policy by—
(1) ensuring diplomacy, support, and interagency coordination for bilateral and multilateral actions to address the climate crisis; and
(2) improving coordination and integration of climate action across all bureaus and United States missions abroad.

(b) CLIMATE ACTION INTEGRATION.—The Secretary of State, through the Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment and any other designee, shall—
(1) prioritize climate action and clean energy within the bureaus and offices under the leadership of the Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment;
(2) ensure that such bureaus and offices are coordinating with other bureaus of the Department of State regarding the integration of climate action and climate diplomacy as a cross-cutting imperative across the Department of State;
(3) encourage all Under Secretaries of State—
(A) to assess how issues related to climate change and United States climate action are integrated into their operations and programs;
(B) to coordinate crosscutting actions and diplomatic efforts that relate to climate action; and
(C) to make available the technical assistance and resources of the bureaus and offices with relevant expertise to provide technical assistance and expert support to other bureaus as appropriate.

(c) CLIMATE SECURITY.—The President, the Secretary of State, and their respective designees charged with addressing climate change and associated issues—
(1) advancing United States climate diplomacy;
(2) engaging strategically on opportunities for bilateral climate action cooperation with foreign governments; and
(3) utilizing the technical resources and co-
ordinated engagement with the bureaus re-
(d) REPORT.—Not later than 200 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment, in co-
operation with the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that—
(1) assesses how climate action and United States climate diplomacy is integrated across the Bureaus of the Department of State and Agency for International Development; and
(2) includes recommendations on strategies to improve cross-bureau coordination and understanding of United States climate action and climate diplomacy.
(e) EFFECT OF ELIMINATION OF POSITIONS.— If the positions of Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Envi-
ronment; Secretary of State for Environmental Protection; and Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs are eliminated or under-
go name changes, the responsibilities of such Under Secretaries under this section shall be reassigned to other Under Secretaries of State, as appropriate.
(f) CLIMATE CHANGE EXPERTS IN KEY EM-
bASSADES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
retary of State shall submit a report to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives that—
(1) identifies the number of personnel of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development who—
(A) dedicate a significant portion of their work to climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation, food security, or clean energy matters; and
(B) are stationed at United States missions in countries that are highly vulnerable to the effects of major greenhouse gas emitters;
(2) analyzes the need for Federal climate change policy specialist personnel in United States embassies, United States Agency for International Development missions and other United States diplomatic and international development missions; and
(3) includes—
(A) recommendations for increasing cli-
mate change expertise within United States missions abroad among foreign service offi-
cers; and
(B) options for assigning to such missions climate change attaches from the Environ-
mental Protection Agency, the Department of Energy, the National Oceanic and Atmos-
pheric Administration, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the De-
partment of Agriculture, the Department of Interior, or other relevant Federal agencies.
(g) ADVISORS.—The Secretary of State, or the Secretary’s designee, shall have primary responsibility for the management and execution of United States climate diplomacy and related foreign policy and shall make appropriate arrangements with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Admin-
istration, the Administrator of the Na-
tional Aeronautics and Space Administra-
tion, and other relevant Federal agencies and organizations to ensure such agencies and departments to serve as dedicated advisors on climate change mat-
ters in embassies of the United States or in other United States diplomatic or interna-
tional development missions.
(h) CLIMATE CHANGE SUPPORT AND FINANC-
ing.—The Secretary of State shall facilitate the coordination among the Department of State and other relevant departments and agencies, including the United States Agency for International Development, the Depart-
ment of the Treasury, the United States Trade and Development Agency, and the United States International Development Fin-
ance Corporation, of contributing development finance or foreign assistance relevant to United States international climate ac-
tion and in support of United States climate diplomacy.
(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.— There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 102. ENHANCING UNITED STATES SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS FOR GLOBAL CLI-
MATE DISRUPTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with other relevant agencies, shall conduct biennial comprehensive eval-
uations of present and ongoing disruptions to the global climate system, including—
(1) the intensity, frequency, and range of natural disasters;
(2) the scarcity of global natural resources, including fresh water;
(3) global food, health, and energy inse-
scurities; and
(4) conditions that contribute to—
(A) intrastate and interstate conflicts;
(B) foreign political and economic insta-
bles;
(C) international migration of vulnerable and underserved populations;
(D) the failure of national governments; and
(E) gender-based violence; and
(5) United States and allied military readi-
ness, operations, and strategy.
(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the evalu-
a tions conducted under subsection (a) are—
(1) to support the practical application of scientific data and research on climate change’s dynamic effects around the world to improve resilience, adaptability, security, and stability despite growing global environ-
mental risks and changes;
(2) to ensure that the strategic planning and mission execution of United States international development and diplomatic missions adequately account for heightened and dynamic stresses associated with the effects of climate change;
(3) to improve coordination between United States science agencies conducting research and forecasts on the causes and effects of cli-
mate change and United States national se-
curity agencies;
(4) to better understand the dispropor-
tionate effects of global climate disruptions on women, girls, indigenous communities, and other historically marginalized pop-
ulations; and
(5) to inform the development of the cli-
mate security strategy described in sub-
section (d).
(c) Scope.—The evaluations conducted under subsection (a) shall—
(1) examine developing countries’ vulnerabilities and risks associated with United States regional and localized effects of cli-
mate change; and
(2) assess and make recommendations on necessary measures to mitigate risks and re-
duce vulnerabilities associated with effects, including—
(A) sea level rise;
(B) freshwater resource scarcity;
(C) wildfire and related drought; and
(D) increased intensity and frequency of extreme weather conditions and events, such as flooding, drought, and extreme storm events, including tropical cyclones.
(d) CLIMATE SECURITY STRATEGY.—The Sec-
retary shall use the evaluations required under subsection (a)—
(1) to inform the development and imple-
mentation of a climate security strategy for the Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Op-
erations, the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, embassies, consulates, regional bu-
reaus, and other offices and programs oper-
ating chief of mission authority, including their roles in conflict avoidance, pre-
vention and security assistance, or humani-
tarian disaster response, prevention, and as-
sistance; and
(2) in furtherance of such strategy, to as-
sess, develop, budget for, and (upon approval) implement plans, policies, and actions—
(A) to account for the impacts of climate change to global human health, safety, gov-
ernance, oceans, food production, fresh water and other critical natural resources, settle-
ments, infrastructure, marginalized groups, and economic activity;
(B) to evaluate the climate change vulner-
ability, security, susceptibility, and resil-
ility of United States interests and non-de-
fense assets abroad;
(C) to coordinate the integration of cli-
mate change risk and vulnerability assess-
ments into all foreign policy and security de-
cision-making processes, including awarding foreign assistance;
(D) to evaluate specific risks to certain re-
 gions and countries that are—
(i) vulnerable to the effects of climate change; and
(ii) strategically significant to the United States;
(E) to enhance the resilience capacities of foreign countries to the effects of climate change as a means of reducing the risks of conflict and instability; to advance principles of good govern-
ance by encouraging foreign governments, particularly nations that are least capable of coping with the effects of climate change—
(i) to conduct climate security evalua-
tions; and
(ii) to facilitate the development of cli-
mate security action plans to ensure sta-
bility, health, and public safety in disaster situations in a humane and responsible fashion;
(G) to evaluate the vulnerability, security, susceptibility, and resiliency of United States interests and nondefense assets abroad;
(H) to build international institutional ca-
capacity to address climate security implica-
tions; to advance United States interests, regional stability, and global security; and
(I) other activities that advance the use of climate security risk and vulnerability assessments by encouraging foreign governments, particularly nations that are least capable of coping with the effects of climate change—
(i) to conduct climate security evalu-
tions; and
(ii) to facilitate the development of cli-
mate security action plans to ensure sta-
 bility, health, and public safety in disaster situations in a humane and responsible fashion;
(G) to evaluate the vulnerability, security, susceptibility, and resiliency of United States interests and nondefense assets abroad;
(H) to build international institutional ca-
capacity to address climate security implica-
tions; to advance United States interests, regional stability, and global security; and
(I) other activities that advance the use of climate security risk and vulnerability assessments by encouraging foreign governments, particularly nations that are least capable of coping with the effects of climate change—
(i) to conduct climate security evalu-
tions; and
(ii) to facilitate the development of cli-
mate security action plans to ensure sta-
 bility, health, and public safety in disaster situations in a humane and responsible fashion;
(D) impacts public safety due to increased human activity in the Arctic region where search and rescue capacity remains very limited; and
(E) threatens the health of the Arctic’s fragile and historically pristine environment and the unique and highly sensitive species found in the Arctic’s marine and terrestrial ecosystems; and
(2) the United States should reduce the consequences outlined in paragraph (1) by—
(A) carefully evaluating the wide variety and extent of dynamic set of security and safety risks unfolding in the Arctic;
(B) developing policies and making preparations for mitigating and responding to threats and risks in the Arctic;
(C) adequately funding the National Earth System Prediction Capability to substantially improve weather, ocean, and ice predictions on time scales necessary for ensuring regional security and trans-Arctic shipping;
(D) investing in resources, including a significantly expanded icebreaker fleet, to ensure that the United States has adequate capacity to prevent and respond to security threats in the Arctic region; and
(E) pursuing diplomatic engagements with all nations in the Arctic region to reach an agreement for—
(i) maintaining peace and stability in the Arctic region; and
(ii) fostering cooperation on stewardship and safety initiatives in the Arctic region.

(b) TITLE II—INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND CONVENTIONS

SEC. 201. SENSE OF CONGRESS IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES RETURNING TO THE PARIS AGREEMENT.

It is the sense of Congress that—
(1) President Trump’s decision to withdraw the United States from the Paris Agreement has a mistake that harmed the leadership, economic, national security, and diplomatic interests of the United States; and
(2) the United States’ expeditious return to the Paris Agreement is a critical first step to restoring United States leadership among, and in cooperation with, the international community;

(3) pursuing United States’ global leadership in the Paris Agreement’s implementation process is critical to ensuring that the rules and procedures for implementing the Paris Agreement achieve maximum benefits for the United States;
(4) prioritizing the immediate preparation and communication of an updated United States’ nationally determined contribution in support of the Paris Agreement will demonstrate a renewed and increasingly ambitious United States’ commitment to climate action, which should encourage—
(A) strategies for achieving domestic greenhouse gas emissions reductions that achieve the United States’ 2015 national determined contribution to the Paris Agreement;
(B) an ambitious 2030 mitigation target representing a mid-term goal that signifies the emission reductions trajectory the United States needs to be on to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050;
(C) commitments to engage constructively with parties to the Paris Agreement regarding the development of strategies to secure additional commitments to climate actions and to ensure adequate progress on mitigating greenhouses sufficiently to prevent 1.5 degree Celsius increase of warming;
(D) announced intent of the United States’ to accept and fulfill United States obligations to other international agreements to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions, including the International Civil Aviation Organization’s Carbon Offset and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation and the Kipali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol;
(E) an intention to resume the United States’ cooperation and support for cooperative climate action detailed and announced in various climate action plans produced by the G7, the G20, the Arctic Council, the United Nations, and others for which the United States has recently abstained;
(F) a platform and policy incentives for the United States private sector, State and local governments to accurately account for their contributions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
(G) a new, increased contribution pledge to the Green Climate Fund, and contributions to other complementary multilateral funds; and
(H) a commitment to resume a leadership role in the Global Environment Facility and work cooperatively on the transit policies for access to
and transit in the Arctic Region by non-Arctic Nations; and
(E) to facilitate the development of Arctic Region Security Action Plans to ensure stability and public safety in disaster situations in a humane and responsible fashion; and
(6) to evaluate the vulnerability, security, susceptibility, and resiliency of United States interests and non-defense assets in the Arctic Region;
(I) other activities that advance United States climate-related foreign policy objectives, including global greenhouse gas mitigation, climate change adaptation activities, and global food security;

(5) United States collaboration with other nations, especially developing countries most impacted by the need to transition carbon intensive sectors, to address the workforce development and deployment opportunities that arise in a transition to economies powered by clean energy, including engagements on—

(A) realizing the potential to create significant employment opportunities through increases in the number of decent jobs through investments in environmentally sustainable production and consumption and management of natural resources;

(B) improving the quality of jobs and increased incomes on a large scale from more productive processes, and environmentally sustainable products and services in sectors such as agriculture, renewable energy, transport, construction, recycling, and tourism;

(C) advancing through improved access to affordable, environmentally sustainable energy and payments for environmental services, which are of particular relevance to women and children and rural residents who face more economic challenges;

(D) protections from the effects of economic restructuring that would otherwise result in the displacement of workers and possible job losses;

(E) training and access to new job opportunities attributable to new environmentally sustainable and clean energy powered enterprises and workplaces;

(F) attracting new environmentally sustainable and clean energy powered enterprises and workplaces to communities transitioning to low carbon economies and assist with adapting to climate change to avoid loss of assets and livelihoods and involuntary migration; and

(G) avoiding adverse effects on the incomes of poor households from higher energy and commodity prices; and

(6) the United States should communicate its intention to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

SEC. 202. ENHANCED UNITED STATES COMMITMENTS UNDER THE PARIS AGREEMENT.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING NEED FOR UPDATED UNITED STATES NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTION.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) all parties determine their voluntary contributions to the Paris Agreement, in accordance with Article 4.2 of the Paris Agreement;

(2) the development and submission of a new United States’ nationally determined contribution should be prioritized, in accordance with the Paris Agreement;

(3) the new United States’ nationally determined contribution should—

(A) represent an ambitious 2030 target, in accordance with Articles 4.2 and 4.3 of the Paris Agreement; and

(B) put the United States on an appropriate trajectory towards achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050; and

(4) the plan required under subsection (b) should—

(A) be developed in accordance with Article 4.3 of the Paris Agreement;

(B) inform United States’ obligations under Article 13.7 of the Paris Agreement; and

(C) clearly demonstrate how the United States will achieve the target referred to in paragraph (3).
(A) contribute more than $158,000,000,000 annually to services to the economy of the United States; and
(B) employ more than 700,000 individuals, with an annual industry-wide payroll of more than $32,000,000,000.

(11) Foreign competitors to United States chemical refrigerant and refrigeration equipment based and operating in countries that have ratified the Kigali Amendment and are implementing policies in compliance with the Kigali Amendment are gaining an advantage on United States based industries in the manufacturing and sale of next-generation chemicals and equipment.

(12) The United States’ ratification of the Kigali Amendment—
(A) could support and promote the technological leadership of the United States’ industries to lead global production and marketing of replacement refrigerants and equipment in compliance with the Kigali Amendment; and
(B) according to industry analysis, would potentially create approximately 33,000 new manufacturing and jobs in the United States and add approximately $12,500,000,000 per year to the economy of the United States.

This sense of Congress.—It is the sense of Congress that
(1) the President should immediately submit the Kigali Amendment to the Senate for advice and consent; and
(2) the Senate should promptly provide its advice and consent on the Kigali Amendment.

SEC. 204. COMPLIANCE WITH THE CARBON OFFSET AND REDUCTION SCHEME FOR INTERNATIONAL AVIATION.

The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall promulgate regulations establishing uniform policies and procedures necessary to implement the terms of the Carbon Offset and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (commonly known as “CORSIA”), which was adopted by International Civil Aviation Organization in October 2016 as Assembly Resolution A39-3, and any amendments to such Resolution with which the United States concurs, as means to secure a single global carbon emissions market-based mechanism to facilitate the participation of operators of civil aircraft of the United States in international aviation.

SEC. 205. SHORT-LIVED CLIMATE POLLUTANTS.

(a) Definitions.—In this section:
(1) HIGH-GWP HFC.—The term “high-GWP HFC” means a hydrofluorocarbon with a global warming potential calculated over a 100-year period of greater than 150, as described in the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

(2) SHORT-LIVED CLIMATE POLLUTANTS.—The term “short-lived climate pollutants” means—
(A) black carbon;
(B) methane; and
(C) high-GWP HFC.

(b) To take effect.—The President shall direct the United States representatives to appropriate international bodies and conferences (including the United Nations Environment Programme, the UNFCCC, the Montreal Protocol, the Arctic Council, the Group of 7, the Group of 20, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, the Arctic Council, the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, the World Bank, the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture, and the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture) to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States, consistent with the broad foreign policy goals of the United States, to advocate that each such body or conference—
(1) commit to significantly increasing efforts to reduce short-lived climate pollutants;
(2) invest in and develop alternative energy sources, industrial and agricultural processes, appliances, and products to replace sources of short-lived climate pollutants;
(3) enhance coordination with the private sector—
(A) to increase production and distribution of clean energy alternatives, industrial processes, and products that will replace sources of short-lived climate pollutants;
(B) to develop action plans to mitigate short-lived climate pollutants from various private sector operations;
(C) to encourage best technology, methods, and management practices for reducing short-lived climate pollutants;
(D) to draft specific financing mechanisms for the incremental costs associated with mitigating short-live climate pollutants; and
(E) to grow economic opportunities and develop markets, as appropriate, for short-lived climate pollutants trading, capture, and other efforts that support economic growth using low and zero carbon energy sources;
(4) provide technical assistance to foreign regulatory authorities and governments to remove unnecessary barriers to investment in short-lived climate mitigation solutions, including—
(A) the use of safe and affordable clean energy;
(B) the implementation of policies requiring industrial and agricultural best practices for phasing out sources of short-lived climate pollutants and expanding capacity for innovative instruments to mitigate short-lived climate pollutants at the national and subnational levels of for- eign countries, particularly countries with little capacity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and deploy clean energy facilities, and countries that lack sufficient policies to advance such projects;
(C) to encourage the development of standards and practices, and increasing transparency and accountability efforts for the reduction of short-lived climate pollutants; and
(D) integrating tracking and monitoring systems into industrial processes;
(E) fostering research to improve scientific understanding of—
(i) how high concentrations of short-lived climate pollutants affect human health, safety, and our climate;
(ii) changes in the amount and regional concentrations of black carbon and methane emissions, based on scientific modeling and forecasting; and
(iii) effective means to sequester short-lived climate pollutants; and
(iv) other related areas of research the United States representatives deem necessary;
(F) encouraging observers of the Arctic Council (including India and China) to adopt mitigation plans consistent with the findings and recommendations of the Arctic Council’s Framework for Action on Black Carbon and Methane;
(G) collaborating on technological advances in short-lived climate pollutant mitigation, sequestration and reduction technologies; and
(H) advising foreign countries, at both the national and subnational levels, regarding the development and implementation of regulatory policies, services, and laws pertaining to re- ducing the creation and collection and safe management of short-lived climate pol- lutants.

(c) Enhancing international outreach and partnership of United States agencies involved in greenhouse gas reductions.—

(1) Finding.—Congress recognizes the suc- cess of the United States Climate Alliance and the greenhouse gas reduction programs and strategies established by the Environmental Protection Agency’s Center for Corporate Climate Leadership.

(2) Authorization of efforts to build foreign partnerships.—The Secretary of State shall work with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to build partnerships with the governments of foreign countries and to support international efforts to reduce short-lived climate pollutants and combat climate change.

(d) Negotiation of new international agreements and reassertion of targets in existing agreements.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit a report to Congress that—
(1) assesses the potential for negotiating new international agreements, new targets within existing international agreements or cooperative bodies, and the creation of a new international forum to mitigate globally short-lived climate pollutants to support the efforts described in subsection (b);
(2) describes the provisions that could be included in such agreements;
(3) assesses potential parties to such agree- ments;
(4) describes a process for reengaging with Canada and Mexico regarding the methane targets that were negotiated in 2015 through the North American Leaders’ Summit; and
(5) describes a process for reengaging with the countries of the Arctic Council regarding the methane and black carbon targets that were negotiated in 2015 through the Framework for Action.

(e) Extension of short-lived climate pollutants in negotiating international agreements.—In negotiating any relevant
international agreement with any country or countries after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall—

(1) consider the impact short-lived climate pollutants on the increase in global average temperatures and the resulting global climate change;

(2) consider the effects that climate change is having on the environment; and

(3) ensure that the agreement strengthens efforts to eliminate short-lived climate pollutants from such country or countries.

SEC. 206. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION REGARDING CLEAN TRANSPORTATION AND SUSTAINABLE LAND USE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Agriculture, forestry, and other land use accounted for 24 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions during 2010, which

(A) is caused primarily from agriculture (cultivation of crops and livestock) and deforestation; and

(B) does not take into account the carbon dioxide that ecosystems remove from the atmosphere by sequestering carbon in biomass, dead organic matter, and soils, which offset approximately 20 percent of emissions from this sector.

(2) The transportation sector accounts for 14 percent of global gas emissions and 28 percent of the United States’ greenhouse gas emissions.

(3) According to the National Center for Biotechnology Information’s report, “National Mitigation Potential of Natural Climate Solutions in the Tropics”—

(a) better land stewardship is needed to achieve the Paris Agreement’s temperature goal of holding the increase in global average temperature below 2 degrees Celsius, particularly in the tropics;

(b) as countries enhance their national determinated contributions, confusion persists about the potential contribution of better land stewardship to meeting such goal;

(C) in 50 percent of the tropical countries, cost-effective natural climate solutions could mitigate more than 50 percent of national emissions;

(D) in more than 25 percent of the tropical countries, cost-effective natural climate solutions potential is greater than national emissions; and

(E) natural climate solutions can transform the global economy and contribute to sustainable development goals.

(4) According to the International Energy Agency—

(A) global transport emissions increased by less than 0.5 percent in 2019 (compared with an average annual increase of 1.9 percent since 2000), owing to efficiency improvements in electrification, and greater use of biofuels;

(B) transportation is responsible for 24 percent of direct carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel use; and

(C) electric car deployment has grown rapidly since 2010, with the global stock of electric passenger cars passing 5,000,000 in 2018 (an increase of 63 percent from the previous year);

(D) in 2018—

(i) approximately 45 percent of all electric cars on the road were in China; and

(ii) approximately 24 percent of such cars were in Europe; and

(iii) approximately 22 percent of such cars were in the United States;

(E) existing measures to increase efficiency and reduce energy demand must be deepened and extended for compliance with the巴黎 Agreement; and the scenario of the International Energy Agency’s World Energy Model;

(F) prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, emissions from aviation and shipping were increasing faster than all other transportation modes; and

(G) energy demand and emissions have continued to rise in all modes of road transport (cars, trucks, buses, and 2- and 3-wheeler), particularly in heavy-duty road freight transport, which accounted for 75 percent of global transportation sector emissions.

(5) The worldwide market share of sport utility vehicles rose 15 percentage points between 2014 and 2017, which comprises 40 percent of the global light-duty vehicle market.

(6) China is the world’s largest automobile market, with more than 23,700,000 light vehicles sold in China in 2018. As China’s road network rapidly continues to expand, the number of vehicle miles traveled per capita will most likely lead to growth in China’s transportation sector carbon dioxide emissions.

(7) Even with India’s advancement of policies to promote electric vehicles and biofuels—

(A) India relies heavily on oil, and comprises 29 percent of India’s total energy consumption;

(B) prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, India was the world’s fastest growing aviation country, with its domestic and international flights doubling since 2010;

(C) India is planning to build 100 new airports between 2020 and 2035, and industry analysts have projected up to 520,000,000 Indian air travelers annually by 2037; and

(D) the World Health Organization reports that 15 of the cities worldwide with the worst air pollution are in India, largely due to urban vehicle emissions.

(8) In 2018, China became the first vehicle market in Latin America to establish fuel economy or carbon dioxide emissions standards.

(9) The Department of State, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and the Environmental Protection Agency do not have a program in place to encourage other countries to adopt standards that are compatible with United States fuel economy and emissions standards.

(10) Many countries adopt European emissions standards for the European Union (EU) that are not acceptable to the United States, consistent with the broad foreign policy goals of the United States, to advocate that such bodies—

(1) promote transportation sector investment in—

(A) electric vehicles and other low and zero carbon transportation technologies; and

(B) sustainable land use development that incorporates—

(i) multi-modal transportation designs aligned with—

(I) traffic congestion;

(II) carbon emissions from motor vehicles; and

(III) travel times between high volume destinations with a community;

(IV) vehicle crashes and other threats to motorist and pedestrian safety; and

(V) stormwater runoff from impervious road surfaces, vehicle conflicts with wildlife, habitat destruction, and other forms of environmental degradation commonly associated with roads and motor vehicles;

(ii) sustainable land-use development and dense development that accounts for locating residential development near essential goods, services, and job opportunities (to reduce individual reliance of motorized personal transportation);

(iii) transportation systems designed—

(I) to maximize the safety of all users; and

(II) to reduce the probability of motorized vehicle crashes, including motorized vehicle crashes that injure or kill pedestrians and bicyclists;

(iv) to improve mobility by advancing equitable access to transportation services among all populations, particularly historically underserved or marginalized populations; and

(v) improve environmental quality and community health outcomes through—

(3) to use the voice and vote of the United States in multilateral institutions to advance international efforts to advance sustainable land-use planning, climate-smart agricultural practices, sustainable forest management, and community-led conservation and development;

(4) to improve the reliability and sustainability of transportation systems, particularly in developing countries, through a focus on mitigating carbon emissions, improving health and safety outcomes through improved land use and community design, and improved mobility for all populations;

(5) to promote collaboration regarding international research and development in—

(A) zero-emission vehicles;

(B) sustainable urban development and smart growth; and

(C) advanced low carbon biofuels for transportation;

(6) to facilitate and support the ability of parties to the Paris Agreement to more accurately monitor, record, and report transportation sector emissions;

(7) to develop greater cooperation among parties for strengthening the rules and ambition of the Paris Agreement’s mitigation targets for transport and support sustainable land use and community design;

(8) to improve the structural integrity of critical transportation infrastructure to withstand current and forecasted effects of climate change; and

(9) to explore new opportunities or seek enhanced initiatives within existing multilateral and bilateral agreements to develop mechanisms and policies for reducing transportation sector greenhouse gas emissions.

(b) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the President that—

(1) the United States should—

(A) better leverage existing measures to increase efficiency and reduce energy demand;

(B) work closely with other countries to adopt standards that are compatible with United States fuel economy and emissions standards;

(C) promote greater cooperation in—

(iii) mobility, transportation, and land-use development with the United States representatives to appropriate international bodies to use the influence of the United States, consistent with the broad foreign policy goals of the United States, to advocate that such bodies—

(1) promote transportation sector investment in—

(A) electric vehicles and other low and zero carbon transportation technologies; and

(B) sustainable land use development that incorporates—

(i) multi-modal transportation designs aligned with—

(I) traffic congestion;

(II) carbon emissions from motor vehicles; and

(III) travel times between high volume destinations with a community;

(IV) vehicle crashes and other threats to motorist and pedestrian safety; and

(V) stormwater runoff from impervious road surfaces, vehicle conflicts with wildlife, habitat destruction, and other forms of environmental degradation commonly associated with roads and motor vehicles;

(ii) sustainable land-use development and dense development that accounts for locating residential development near essential goods, services, and job opportunities (to reduce individual reliance of motorized personal transportation);

(iii) transportation systems designed—

(I) to maximize the safety of all users; and

(II) to reduce the probability of motorized vehicle crashes, including motorized vehicle crashes that injure or kill pedestrians and bicyclists;

(iv) to improve mobility by advancing equitable access to transportation services among all populations, particularly historically underserved or marginalized populations; and

(v) improve environmental quality and community health outcomes through—

(3) to use the voice and vote of the United States in multilateral institutions to advance international efforts to advance sustainable land-use planning, climate-smart agricultural practices, sustainable forest management, and community-led conservation and development;

(4) to improve the reliability and sustainability of transportation systems, particularly in developing countries, through a focus on mitigating carbon emissions, improving health and safety outcomes through improved land use and community design, and improved mobility for all populations;

(5) to promote collaboration regarding international research and development in—

(A) zero-emission vehicles;

(B) sustainable urban development and smart growth; and

(C) advanced low carbon biofuels for transportation;

(6) to facilitate and support the ability of parties to the Paris Agreement to more accurately monitor, record, and report transportation sector emissions;

(7) to develop greater cooperation among parties for strengthening the rules and ambition of the Paris Agreement’s mitigation targets for transport and support sustainable land use and community design;

(8) to improve the structural integrity of critical transportation infrastructure to withstand current and forecasted effects of climate change; and

(9) to explore new opportunities or seek enhanced initiatives within existing multilateral and bilateral agreements to develop mechanisms and policies for reducing transportation sector greenhouse gas emissions.

(c) INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.—In implementing the policy described in subsection (b), the President should direct the United States representatives to appropriate international bodies to use the influence of the United States, consistent with the broad foreign policy goals of the United States, to advocate that such bodies—

(1) promote transportation sector investment in—

(A) electric vehicles and other low and zero carbon transportation technologies; and

(B) sustainable land use development that incorporates—

(i) multi-modal transportation designs aligned with—

(I) traffic congestion;

(II) carbon emissions from motor vehicles; and

(III) travel times between high volume destinations with a community;

(IV) vehicle crashes and other threats to motorist and pedestrian safety; and

(V) stormwater runoff from impervious road surfaces, vehicle conflicts with wildlife, habitat destruction, and other forms of environmental degradation commonly associated with roads and motor vehicles;

(ii) sustainable land-use development and dense development that accounts for locating residential development near essential goods, services, and job opportunities (to reduce individual reliance of motorized personal transportation);

(iii) transportation systems designed—

(I) to maximize the safety of all users; and

(II) to reduce the probability of motorized vehicle crashes, including motorized vehicle crashes that injure or kill pedestrians and bicyclists;

(iv) to improve mobility by advancing equitable access to transportation services among all populations, particularly historically underserved or marginalized populations; and

(v) improve environmental quality and community health outcomes through—
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SEC. 207. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON UNITED STATES REENGAGEMENT WITH THE GROUP OF SEVEN AND THE GROUP OF TWENTY ON CLIMATE ACTION.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) President Trump has abstained from several heads of state meetings on climate action and cooperation with the heads of state from countries comprising the Group of Seven (referred to in this section as the “G7”) and the Group of Twenty (referred to in this section as the “G20”).

(2) The G7 summit held in Charlevoix, Quebec in June 2018 produced a climate action communique that was signed by the heads of state from Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom, and the United States. However, the United States did not sign the G20 leaders communique.

(3) The G7 climate action communique states, “Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom, and the United States reaffirm our commitment to implement the Paris Agreement, through ambitious climate action, in particular through reducing emissions while stimulating innovation, enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening and financing resilience and vulnerability, as well as ensuring a just transition, including increasing efforts to mobilize climate finance from a wide variety of sources.”

(4) In 2019, the United States blocked the G7 from making any new or additional commitments on climate change, to the expressed disappointment and frustration of the other states.

(5) The G7, without the active participation of the United States, continues to work together to support commitments on initiatives such as the 2014 Rome Initiative for Energy Security, the 2015 Hamburg Initiative for Sustainable Energy Security, the 2016 Kitakyushu Initiative on Energy Security for Global Growth, and the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative. However, United States objections to global cooperative climate action have prevented the G7 from undertaking new clean energy and climate action initiatives in recent years.

(6) The 2018 Buenos Aires Leaders Declaration by the G20:

(A) recognizes the risks that climate change poses to global security, global health, and economic development; and

(B) affirms the significance of the Paris Agreement.

(7) The United States insisted on the inclusion of a statement in the G20 Buenos Aires Leaders Declaration in which the United States was the only subscriber, expressing dissenting opinions on international climate action cooperation and equivocation on “utilizing all energy technologies, while protecting the environment”.

(8) In 2019, the G20 narrowly avoided concluding without a leaders declaration, when the President tried to pressure the other 19 heads of state to weaken commitments on combating climate change in the 2019 G20 Osaka Leaders Declaration, leaving the United States to provide a dissenting provision articulating its outlier position on climate action in the Declaration.

(9) In GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President, acting through the Secretary of State, shall initiate a China-focused agenda at the G7, in respect to:

(1) trade and investment issues and enforcement;

(2) establishing and promulgating international climate action standards;

(3) the erosion of democracy in Hong Kong;

(4) human rights concerns in Xinjiang, Tibet, and other areas in the People’s Republic of China;

(5) the security of 5G telecommunications;

(6) anti-competitive behavior;

(7) coercive and indentured international finance and conditional provision of foreign assistance;

(8) international influence campaigns;

(9) climate change;

(10) China’s domestic and international investments in new coal power plants; and

(11) environmental standards; and

(12) coordination with like-minded regional partners, including the Republic of Korea and Australia.

(c) BRIEFING ON PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall provide a briefing to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives regarding the progress of any negotiations described in subsection (b).

(d) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress—

(1) in the next G7 communique and G20 Leaders’ Declaration—(A) renounce the United States contrarian positions on climate change expressed in the 2018 and 2019 official documents of the G7 and G20 summits; and

(2) reiterate the United States renewed commitment to climate cooperation and support for fulfilling the goals of the Paris Agreement in the context of the G7 and the G20;

(3) urge the G7 to renew its efforts to formalize new mechanisms and commitments to climate action cooperation between the heads of state of the G7 and of the G20, which are aimed at—

(A) increasing ambition on greenhouse gas mitigation; and

(B) strengthening support for climate finance in developing countries, particularly countries that are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change; and

(4) challenge the heads of state of the G7 and the G20 to leverage private financing and increase grants and official development assistance in clean energy and sustainable development projects in their own countries and in developing countries, especially countries that are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change; and

(5) reiterate the United States supported agenda described in subsection (b) at the G7.

TITLE III—CLIMATE CHANGE DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AND SUPPORT SEC. 301. INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION, MITIGATION, AND SECURITY PROGRAMS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:


(2) MOST VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES AND POPULATIONS.—The term “most vulnerable communities and populations” means communities and populations that are at risk of substantial adverse effects of climate change and have limited capacity to respond to such effects, including women, impoverished communities, children, indigenous peoples, and formal and informal workers.

(3) MOST VULNERABLE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.—The term “most vulnerable developing countries” means, as determined by the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, developing countries that are at risk of substantial adverse effects of climate change and have limited capacity to respond to such effects, considering the goals included in any international treaties and agreements.

(4) PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means the International Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation, and Security Program established pursuant to subsection (c).

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to provide authorities for additional, new, current, and ongoing bilateral and regional international development assistance, and, as appropriate, to leverage private resources, support of host country projects, planning, policies, and initiatives designed to improve the ability of host countries—

(1) to primarily produce reliable renewable energy and reduce or mitigate carbon emissions from the power sector while facilitating the transition in key global markets from electricity generated from fossil fuel power to low-cost clean energy sources, in a manner that is equitable for workers and communities;

(2) to adapt and become more resilient to current and forecasted effects of climate change; and

(3) to employ—

(A) sustainable land use practices that mitigate desertification and greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation; and

(4) to improve the ability of host countries to respond to adverse effects of climate change, including through the provision of renewable energy services and climate risk management assistance.

(c) AUTHORITY.—The Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, may, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Commerce, take such actions as deemed necessary to implement the Program.
(B) agricultural production practices that reduce poverty while improving soil health, protecting water quality, and increasing food security and nutrition.

(c) Expenditure of Program.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall establish a program, to be known as the “International Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation, and Security Program,” to provide bilateral and regional assistance to developing countries for programs, projects, and activities described in subsection (e).

(d) Statement of Supplant.—Assistance provided under this section shall be used to supplement, and not to supplant, any other projects or local responses available to carry out activities that fit the characteristics of the Program.

(e) Policy.—It shall be the policy of the United States to ensure that the Program provides resources to developing countries, particularly the most vulnerable communities and populations in such countries, to support the development and implementation of programs, projects, and activities that—

(1) reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the integration and deployment of clean energy, which may include transmission, distribution, and interconnections to renewables while facilitating the transition in key global markets from electricity generated from fossil fuel power to low-cost renewable energy sources, in a manner that is equitable for workers and communities;

(2) advance the use of clean energy technologies facing financial or other barriers to widespread deployment that could be addressed through support under the Program to reduce, sequester, or avoid greenhouse gas emissions;

(3) improve the availability, viability, and accessibility of zero emission vehicles, including support for design and development of transportation networks and land use practices that mitigate carbon emissions in the transportation sector;

(4) support building capacities that may include—

(A) developing and implementing methodologies and programs for measuring and quantifying greenhouse gas emissions and verifying emissions mitigation, including building and conducting emission inventories and meeting reporting requirements under the Paris Agreement;

(B) assessing, developing, and implementing technology and policy options for greenhouse gas emissions mitigation and avoidance of future emissions, including sector-based and cross-sector policies and measures, that substantially reduce, sequester, or avoid greenhouse gas emissions from the domestic energy and transportation sectors of developing countries;

(C) reduce deforestation and land degradation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and implement sustainable forestry practices;

(5) promote sustainable land use activities, including supporting development planning, design, and construction with respect to transportation systems and land use that incorporates—

(A) multi-modal transportation designs aimed at reducing—

(i) traffic congestion;

(ii) carbon emissions from motor vehicles;

(iii) travel times between high volume destinations within a community;

(iv) motor vehicle crashes and other threats to motorist and pedestrian safety; and

(v) stormwater runoff from impervious road surfaces, motor vehicle conflicts with wildlife, habitat destruction, and other forms of environmental degradation commonly associated with roads and motor vehicles;

(B) multi-use community designs and dense development that account for locating residential development near essential goods, services, and job opportunities to reduce individual reliance on motorized personal transportation;

(C) transportation systems designed to—

(i) maximize the safety of all users;

(ii) improve mobility by advancing equitable access to transportation services among all populations, particularly historically marginalized populations and communities; and

(iii) reduce the probability of vehicle crashes and pedestrian and bicyclist injuries and mortality; and

(6) promote agricultural production practices that mitigate carbon emissions, conserve soil, and improve food and water security of communities;

(16) foster partnerships with private sector entities and nongovernmental international organizations, a fund or institution with developing solutions and economic opportunities that support projects, planning, policies, and initiatives described in subsection (b); and

(18) establish investment channels designed to leverage private sector financing in—

(A) clean energy;

(B) sustainable agriculture and natural resource management; and

(C) the transportation sector as described in paragraph (3); and

provide technical assistance and support for non-extractive activities that provide alternative economic growth opportunities while preserving critical habitats and natural carbon sinks.

(f) Provision of Assistance.—

(1) In General.—The Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, under the direction of the Secretary of State, and in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and, as appropriate, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Secretary of Energy, and the Secretary of Commerce, shall provide assistance under the Program described in subsection (e); or

(2) Limitation.—

(A) Conditional Distribution to Multilateral Funds or International Institutions.—In any fiscal year, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, under the direction of the Secretary of State, may provide up to 40 percent of the assistance available to carry out the Program to 1 or more multilateral funds or international institutions that meet the requirements of subparagraph (B).

(B) Multilateral Fund or International Institution Eligibility.—A multilateral fund or international institution is eligible to receive assistance under subparagraph (A)—

(i) if—

(aa) such fund or institution is established pursuant to—

(bb) an agreement negotiated under the Convention; or

(ii) the assistance is directed to 1 or more multilateral funds or international development institutions, pursuant to an agreement negotiated under the Convention; and

(i) if such fund or institution—

(i) specifies the terms and conditions under which the United States is to provide assistance to the fund or institution, and under which the fund or institution is to provide assistance to recipient countries; and

(II) ensures that assistance from the United States to the fund or institution that the principal and income of the fund or institution are disbursed only—

(aa) to support projects, planning, policies, and initiatives described in subsection (b); or

(bb) consistent with the policy described in subsection (e); and
change adaptation plans.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $2,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2022 and each fiscal year thereafter.

SEC. 302. UNITED STATES CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GREEN CLIMATE FUND.

(a) UNITED STATES CONTRIBUTIONS.—On behalf of the United States, the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of State—

(1) shall join the United States to the Green Climate Fund; and

(2) may contribute to the Green Climate Fund, in addition to the amounts authorized under subsection (a)(1), additional amounts from other relevant foreign assistance accounts.

(b) LIMITS ON COUNTRY ACCESS.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall impose a freeze on the vote, and influence of the United States to ensure that—

(1) the Fund does not provide more than approximately 15 percent of the resources of the Fund to any one country;

(2) each country that receives amounts from the Fund submits to the governing body of the Fund an investment plan that describes how—

(A) energy efficiency or production projects will achieve significant and lasting reductions in national-level greenhouse gas emissions; and

(B) adaptation projects will—

(i) provide long-term enhancements to national and food security; and

(ii) protect lives and livelihoods;

(iii) ensure lasting access to freshwater resources; or

(iv) advance public health outcomes; and

(3) in the case of a country that is not classified by the World Bank as having a low-income economy, provides for not less than 15 percent of the total amount that is to be contributed from the public funds of the country.

(c) PROJECT AND PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to ensure that support from the Fund is used exclusively to support the deployment by developing countries of clean energy technologies and the development of projects that demonstrate the financial, capacities and ability of countries to adapt to the effects of climate change, including, as appropriate, through the provision of technical support or support for policy or institutional reforms.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to the amounts authorized to be appropriated under section 301(b), there are authorized to be appropriated for contributions to the Green Climate Fund—

(1) $4,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2022;

(2) $4,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2023;

(3) $2,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2024; and

(4) $2,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2025.

(e) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 240 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of the Treasury shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report describing—

(1) the purpose and progress on each project supported by the Fund; and

(2) how each such project furthered the national objectives and initiatives referenced in subsection (b)(2) of each country in which the project is implemented.

SEC. 303. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON UNITED STATES ENGAGEMENTS AT THE WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) In 2020, the World Economic Forum (referred to in this section as the “WEF”) in Davos, Switzerland, put addressing the climate crisis at the top of its agenda. World and business leaders reinforced the need for urgent action to avoid human destruction from the clear and present climate crisis.

(2) At the 2020 annual meeting of the WEF, the President, accompanied by the Secretary of the Treasury, delivered a contrarian message—emphasizing that the future of tomorrow, we must reject the perennial prophets of doom and their predictions of the apocalypse.”

Nevertheless, the WEF, without support from the United States, announced climate initiatives on sustainable markets, reaching carbon neutrality on insurance investment and decarbonizing the sector through circular economies, and transitioning to healthier, more sustainable food systems.

(3) The one initiative the United States did agree to join is the Trillion Tree Campaign, which aims to grow, restore, and conserve 1 trillion trees by 2030.

(4) The President’s dismissal of the threat climate change poses to economic growth and global security has isolated the United States from the 117 represented countries at the WEF that support its climate crisis.

(5) The one initiative the United States did agree to join is the Trillion Tree Campaign, which aims to grow, restore, and conserve 1 trillion trees by 2030.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that at the 2021 WEF, or at an appropriate time and venue as early as possible in 2021—

(1) the Secretary of State should commit to restoring diplomatic engagement and cooperation on mobilizing investment and support for growing the global economy while addressing the net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050;

(2) the Secretary of the Treasury should announce—

(A) the intention of the United States Government to divest from future investment and support for fossil fuel energy and extraction projects in developing countries; and

(B) the establishment of an international clean energy private finance fund to support the development of large-scale renewable energy projects in middle income countries; and

(c) the Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Development Finance Corporation should commit to—

(A) divesting the United States International Development Finance Corporation from future fossil fuel energy development and extraction projects; and

(B) investing a significant portion of the asset portfolio of the United States International Development Finance Corporation in clean energy development projects; and

(4) the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development should commit to prioritizing building resilience and adaptation capacities in the most climate-vulnerable countries.

SEC. 304. CLEAN ENERGY AND THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1451 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9671) is amended by adding at the end the following:

(4) CLEAN ENERGY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report describing—

(i) a plan to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with projects...
and subprojects within the Corporation’s portfolio, as required by paragraph (2); and

(ii) a plan for facilitating the transition in key global markets from electricity generated using coal to clean, low-cost renewable energy sources, in a manner that is equitable for workers and communities, as required by paragraph (3); and

(C) deficiency. Incentives that the Corporation to reduce all greenhouse gas emissions associated with projects and subprojects within the Corporation’s portfolio, including a full accounting of the reductions, achieved in accordance with the plan described in paragraph (2).

(2) PLAN TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Corporation shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a climate change mitigation plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with projects and subprojects within the Corporation’s portfolio by, relative to October 1, 2020—

(i) at least 50 percent by 2025; and

(ii) 100 percent by 2030.

(B) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Corporation shall begin implementation of the plan required by subparagraph (A) not later than 20 days after the date the plan is submitted to the appropriate congressional committees.

(C) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than one year after the date on which the Corporation begins implementation under subparagraph (B) of the plan required by subparagraph (A), and every 2 years thereafter until the Corporation achieves the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with projects and subprojects within the Corporation’s portfolio by 100 percent, the Corporation shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees on the Corporation’s progress and efforts to achieve the greenhouse gas emissions reductions goals of the plan.

(3) CLEAN ELECTRICITY TRANSITION.—The Corporation shall seek, in providing support for projects under title II, to facilitate the transition in key global markets from electricity generated using fossil fuel power to clean, low-cost renewable energy sources, in a manner that is equitable for workers and communities.

(A) enabling the phase-out of uneconomic coal-fired power plants that are shielded from competitive approaches, like reverse auctions, to ensure the best value in investing in renewable energy sources; and

(B) to seek to ensure that all loans, grants, policies, and strategies of the institution are aligned with the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

(4) PROHIBITION.—Section 1451 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development of Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9671), as amended by section 304, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

(K) CONSISTENCY IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL POLICIES.—The Corporation may not adopt any environmental or social policy that provides less protection for communities and the environment than the level of protection required under title XIII of the International Financial Institutions Act (22 U.S.C. 262q et seq.).

(e) INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTION DEFINED.—In this section, the term “international financial institution” means the International Financial Institutions Act (22 U.S.C. 262q et seq.).

TITLE IV—CLEAN ENERGY DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SEC. 401. ENERGY DIPLOMACY AND SECURITY WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

(a) ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY RESOURCES.—Section 1(c) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 261et seq.) is amended—

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

(2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

"(4) ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY RESOURCES.—"

(A) AUTHORIZATION FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—Subject to the numerical limitation specified in paragraph (1), there is authorized to be appointed in the Department of State an Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Resources.

(B) PERSONNEL.—The Secretary of State, in collaboration with the Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Resources, and in accordance with the authorization under subparagraph (A), shall ensure that sufficient personnel are dedicated to energy matters within the Bureau of Energy Resources in order—

(i) to formulate and implement international policies, in coordination with the Secretary of Energy, as appropriate, aimed at protecting and advancing United States interests in international energy development and access to electricity, in accordance with the United Nation’s sustainable development goals in ways that ensure responsible global energy resources by effectively managing United States bilateral and multilateral relations;

(ii) to ensure that analyses of public health and national security implications of global energy and environmental development are reflected in the interagency decision-making process within the Department of State;

(iii) to incorporate energy security and clean energy development priorities into the Department’s work on the Department related to matters involving global energy development, accounting for the effects global energy development has on—

(I) United States national security;

(II) quality of life and public health of people, households, and communities, particularly vulnerable and underserved populations affected by, or proximate to, energy development, transmission, and distribution projects;

(III) United States economic interests;

(IV) emissions of greenhouse gases that contribute to global climate change; and

(V) local and regional land use, air and water quality, and risks to public health of communities described in paragraph (1); and

(iv) to coordinate energy activities within the Department of State and with relevant Federal departments and agencies;

(v) to work internationally—

(I) to support socially and environmentally responsible development of energy, and projects that mitigate deforestation, energy security, and the distribution of such resources for the benefit of the United States and United States allies and trading partners for their energy security, climate security, and economic development needs;

(II) to promote—

(aa) the availability of clean energy technologies, including carbon capture and storage;

(bb) energy sector innovation;

(cc) well-functioning global markets for clean energy resources and technologies; and

(dd) expertise for the benefit of the United States and United States allies and trading partners;

(III) to resolve international disputes regarding the exploration, development, production, or distribution of energy resources; and

(IV) to support the economic, security, and commercial interests of United States persons operating in the energy markets of foreign countries; and

(vi) to support and coordinate international efforts—

(aa) to alleviate energy poverty;

(bb) to protect vulnerable, exploited, and underserved populations affected by, or displaced by energy development projects;

(cc) to account for and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions from energy development projects; and

(dd) to promote fair labor practices, labor protections for workers, and training for and access to good-paying jobs within the clean energy sector;

(ee) to increase access to clean energy for vulnerable and underserved communities;

(vi) to lead the United States commitment to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative; and

(vii) to coordinate energy security and climate security and other relevant functions with the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative; and

SEC. 305. CONSISTENCY IN UNITED STATES POLICY ON DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AND CLIMATE CHANGE.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the strength and credibility of United States climate policy is undermined when there is a lack of consistency between the policies practiced at the United States International Development Finance Corporation and the policies and practices the Corporation promotes at the International Financial Institutions.

(b) ENHANCING TRANSPARENCY AT MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall instruct the United States executive director of each international financial institution to use the voice and vote of the United States to advocate for enhancing transparency by providing sufficient and adequate information to facilitate independent verification of the climate finance reporting of the institution.

(c) POLICY ALIGNMENT.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall instruct the United States executive director of each international financial institution to use the voice and vote of the United States—

(1) to challenge loans or lending through financial intermediaries that directly or indirectly supports fossil fuels; and

(2) to seek to ensure that all loans, grants, policies, and strategies of the institution are aligned with the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

(2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

"(4) PROHIBITION.—Section 1451 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development of Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9671), as amended by section 304, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

"(K) CONSISTENCY IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL POLICIES.—The Corporation may not adopt any environmental or social policy that provides less protection for communities and the environment than the level of protection required under title XIII of the International Financial Institutions Act (22 U.S.C. 262q et seq.)."
“(I) the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs; “
“(II) the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs; “
“(III) other offices within the Department of State.”;

(b) ELIMINATION OF AUTHORITY FOR COORDINATION OF U.S. INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AFFAIRS.—Section 931 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17371) is amended—

(1) by striking subsections (a) and (b); and

(2) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (a) and (b), respectively.

SEC. 402. DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRIMACY FOR ENERGY DIPLOMACY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Department of State shall have primacy for all United States diplomatic engagements with regard to international energy affairs.

(b) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—The Secretary of State, as appropriate, shall coordinate with and use the technical expertise and resources of the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of the Interior, and other relevant Federal agencies and departments in the planning and execution of United States foreign policies and objectives related to international energy affairs.

SEC. 403. REPORTS ON UNITED STATES PARTICIPATION IN MISSION INNOVATION AND THE CLEAN ENERGY MINISTERIAL.

(a) MISSION INNOVATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that details the scope and nature of United States participation in Mission Innovation, including—

(1) who in the United States Government serves as the lead for Mission Innovation;

(2) what objectives the United States has used Mission Innovation to advance;

(3) what partnerships the United States has established through Mission Innovation and the date on which any partnerships the United States has entered were announced;

(4) how the United States has leveraged Mission Innovation to engage in technology transfer arrangements with foreign governments;

(5) how the United States has attracted private sector entities to contribute to and participate in Mission Innovation;

(6) what financial support provided by the United States Government to Mission Innovation each year since the establishment of Mission Innovation; and

(7) the outline of a strategic engagement plan and objectives for delivering new energy technology innovation outcomes through Mission Innovation.

(b) CLEAN ENERGY MINISTERIAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that details the scope and nature of United States participation in the Clean Energy Ministerial, including—

(1) the number of Clean Energy Ministerial meetings that the Secretary of Energy has participated in;

(2) the diplomatic objectives, including with respect to energy technologies and private sector entities, that the United States has aimed to promote within the Clean Energy Ministerial;

(3) the consensus initiatives, if any, among the chief entities to the Clean Energy Ministerial that the United States objected to, refused to join, or refrained from contributing to the development of; and

(4) a plan to leverage United States leadership in using the Clean Energy Ministerial to promote the development and deployment of renewable energy and carbon mitigation technologies from the energy and transportation sectors.

(c) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In the section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(2) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate;

(3) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(4) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 404. REDUCED DEFORESTATION.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—Except as otherwise expressly provided, the term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

(2) DEFORESTATION.—The term “deforestation” means a change in land use from a forest (including peatlands) to any other land use.

(3) DEVELOPING COUNTRY.—The term “developing country” means a country eligible to receive official development assistance according to the income guidelines of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

(4) EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS.—The term “emissions reductions” means greenhouse gas emissions that have been achieved from reduced or avoided deforestation under this section.

(5) FOREST.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “forest” means a terrestrial ecosystem, including wetland forests, comprised of native tree species generated and maintained primarily through natural ecological and evolutionary processes.

(B) EXCLUSION.—The term “forest” does not include plantations, such as crops of trees planted by humans primarily for the purposes of harvesting.

(6) FOREST DEGRADATION.—The term “forest degradation” is any reduction in the carbon stock of a forest due to the effects of human land-use activities, including such land-use activities on peatlands.

(7) HUMAN RIGHTS.—The term “human rights defender” means an individual, group, or association that peacefully and non-violently promotes and protects human rights, including the right to freedom of association and the right to organize and engage in collective bargaining, the right to freedom of thought, belief, and expression, the right to freedom from arbitrary arrest, detention, or exile, the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, the right to freedom of religion, and the right to freedom of all individuals, whether members of minority groups or not, to enjoy their cultural, national, ethnic, or other social background.

(8) INTACT FOREST.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “intact forest” means an unbroken expanse of natural ecosystems within the global extent of forest cover that—

(i) covers an area of at least 500 square kilometers and is at least 10 kilometers in each direction; and

(B) consists of forest and non-forest ecosystems minimally influenced by human economic activity and large enough that all native biodiversity, including viable populations of wide-ranging species, could be maintained.

(B) LEAKAGE.—The term “leakage” means the unexpected loss of anticipated carbon credits from the implementation of activities in a project area to areas outside the project, resulting in carbon emissions.

(10) LEAKAGE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES.—The term “leakage prevention activities” means activities in developing countries that are directed at preserving existing forest carbon stocks, including forested wetlands and peatlands that might, absent such activities, be lost through leakage.

(11) NATIONAL DEFORESTATION REDUCTION ACTIVITIES.—The term “national deforestation reduction activities” means activities in developing countries that reduce a quantity of greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation that is calculated by measuring actual emissions against a national deforestation baseline established pursuant to subparagraphs (B) and (C) of subsection (d)(4).

(a)(2) INTERNATIONAL DEFORESTATION REDUCTION ACTIVITIES.—The term “subnational deforestation and forest degradation reduction activities” means activities in developing countries that reduce a quantity of greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation that is calculated by measuring actual emissions using an appropriate baseline, or an alternative determined under subsection (d)(4)(B)(ii), established by the Administrator at the State or provincial level.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

(1) to provide United States assistance to developing countries to develop, implement, and improve actions that reduce deforestation and forest degradation or conserve or restore forest ecosystems;

(2) to protect the value of forest ecosystems with respect to permanent carbon capture and sequestration in a manner in which such value is measurable, reportable, and verifiable; and

(2) to participate in developing countries to develop, implement, and improve actions that reduce deforestation and forest degradation or conserve or restore forest ecosystems;

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(1) to provide United States assistance to developing countries to develop, implement, and improve actions that reduce deforestation and forest degradation or conserve or restore forest ecosystems;

(2) to protect the value of forest ecosystems with respect to permanent carbon capture and sequestration in a manner in which such value is measurable, reportable, and verifiable; and

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(2) to protect the value of forest ecosystems with respect to permanent carbon capture and sequestration in a manner in which such value is measurable, reportable, and verifiable; and

(2) to participate in developing countries to develop, implement, and improve actions that reduce deforestation and forest degradation or conserve or restore forest ecosystems;
(ii) supporting the development of domestic policy frameworks to ensure effective, efficient, and equitable benefit-sharing of the proceeds of such credits issued by national and subnational governments;
(C) to preserve forest carbon stocks in countries where such forest carbon may be vulnerable to leakage, particularly in developing countries with largely intact native forests;
(D) to build the scientific knowledge and institutional capacity to help developing countries—
(1) monitor the effects of climate change on their forests; and
(ii) support forest-dependent communities to adapt to climate change; and
(E) to the extent practicable, to reduce deforestation in ways that reduce the vulnerability and increase the resilience to climate effects for forests and forest-dependent communities;
(d) Requirements for International Deforestation Reduction Programs.—
(1) Eligible Countries.—
(A) in general.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Administrator may provide assistance under this section only with respect to a developing country that—
(i) is experiencing deforestation or forest degradation; or
(ii) has standing forest carbon stocks that may be at risk of deforestation or degradation;
(B) Exception.—A developing country that does not meet the requirements described in paragraph (1)(A)(ii) may receive assistance under this section under paragraph (2), if—
(i) the Administrator, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Secretary of Agriculture, determines—
(I) the provision of incentives for policy reforms to achieve the objectives described in subsection (c)(2); and
(J) the development of pilot projects—
(ii) to explore where mitigation and adaptation activities in forest ecosystems coincide; and
(iii) to develop and implement strategies to conserve their forests; and
(B) support forest-dependent communities to adapt to climate change; and
(II) has standing forest carbon stocks that—
(i) are additional, measurable, verifiable, and permanent activities that identify intact and primary forest areas that are projected to be at significant risk of deforestation or forest degradation, but has not established a baseline for each country with national deforestation and forest degradation baseline established under subsection (c)(2); and
(iii) establishes a trajectory that would result in net zero deforestation by not later than 2030; and
(E) to the extent practicable, to reduce deforestation in ways that reduce the vulnerability and increase the resilience to climate effects for forests and forest-dependent communities;
(2) Authorized activities.—Subject to the requirements of this section, in providing assistance under this section for the purpose of building capacity to meet such requirement, the Administrator may support activities to achieve the objectives described in subsection (c)(3), including activities such as—
(A) national deforestation reduction activities;
(B) subnational deforestation and forest degradation reduction activities, including pilot activities, policies, and measures that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and are subject to significant uncertainty;
(C) activities to measure, monitor, and verify deforestation, avoided deforestation, and rates of change, including, if applicable, spatially explicit land use plans that identify intact and primary forest areas and managed forest areas; and
(D) leakage prevention activities;
(E) the development and implementation of measurement, monitoring, reporting, and verification capacities and governance structures, including, if applicable, a country’s system for accounting for greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation; and
(F) with respect to assistance provided for activities described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (2), require emissions reductions to be achieved and verified before the provision of any assistance under this section;
(G) with respect to accounting for subnational deforestation and forest degradation reduction activities that lack the standardized or precise measurement and monitoring techniques needed for a full accounting of changes in emissions or baselines, or are subject to other sources of uncertainty, apply a conservative discount factor to reflect the uncertainty regarding the levels of reductions achieved;
(H) ensure that activities under this section are designed, carried out, and managed—
(i) using forest management practices that, in an open and transparent process—
(I) the average annual historical deforestation rates of the country during a period of at least 5 years; and
(ii) is consistent with nationally appropriate mitigation commitments of the United States to address the climate crisis; and
(II) the promotion of mechanisms to deliver resources for local action and to address the needs, rights, interests, and participation of local and indigenous communities; and
(L) monitoring and evaluation of the results of the activities conducted under this section.
(3) Mechanisms.—The Administrator shall apply the administrative authorities under the Forest Service Act of 1981 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.), except to the extent inconsistent with the provisions of this section, to the same extent and in the same manner as such authorities apply to the implementation of such Act in order to support activities to achieve the objectives described in subsection (c)(2) by—
(A) developing and implementing programs and project-level activities that achieve such objectives;
(B) to the extent practicable, giving priority in any review process to activities under paragraph (2)(A); and
(C) as appropriate, considering multi-year funding arrangements in carrying out the purposes of this section;
(4) Standards.—The Administrator, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Secretary of Agriculture, shall establish program standards that—
(A) ensure that emissions reductions achieved through support activities—
(i) are additional, measurable, verifiable, and permanent activities; and
(ii) account for leakage, uncertainty, and permanency;
(B) establish a national deforestation baseline for each country with national deforestation reduction activities that is used to account for reductions achieved from such activities;
(C) ensure that activities under this section, seek to ensure the establishment and enforcement of legal regimes, standards, processes, and safeguards by the country in which the activities are conducted as a condition of such assistance or as a proposed activity for which such assistance may be provided, which—
(A), the Administrator shall determine, based on the criteria specified that subparagraph, whether such assistance should include assistance for subnational deforestation and forest degradation reduction activities.

(11) CONTINUED ASSISTANCE.—The Administrator may extend the period during which assistance is authorized for subnational deforestation and forest degradation reduction activities beyond the 5-year period described in subparagraph (A) in order to further the objectives described in subparagraph (B) or (C) of subsection (c)(2).

(9) COORDINATION WITH FOREIGN ASSISTANCE.—Subject to the direction of the President, the Administrator may to the extent practicable and consistent with the objectives described in subsection (c)(2), seek to align activities under this section with broader development, poverty alleviation, or natural resource management objectives and initiatives in countries receiving assistance under this section.

(10) ASSISTANCE AS SUPPLEMENT.—The provision of assistance for activities under this section shall be used to supplement, and not to supplant, any other Federal, State, or local support available to carry out activities under this section.

(11) FUNDING LIMITATION.—Of the funds made available to carry out this section in any fiscal year, not less than 75 percent may be used for the administrative expenses of the United States Agency for International Development in support of activities described in paragraph (2). Such amount shall be in addition to other amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

(12) INDONESIA.—Not less than 10 percent of the funds made available in any fiscal year to carry out this section shall be used for activities described in paragraph (2) in Indonesia.

(1) LEGAL EFFECT.— (1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this section may be construed to supersede, limit, or otherwise affect any restriction imposed by Federal law (including regulations) on any interaction between an entity located in the United States and an entity located in a foreign country.

(2) ROLE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE.—Nothing in this section may be construed to affect the role of the Secretary of State or the responsibilities of the Secretary under the Arms Export Control Act of 1976 (22 U.S.C. 3801 et seq.).

(1) INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.—The President shall direct the United States representatives to the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and other international financial institutions (as defined in section 1701(c) of the International Financial Institutions Act (22 U.S.C. 262c(c))) to prioritize efforts to combat deforestation.

TITLE V—BILATERAL AND REGIONAL MULTILATERAL CLIMATE DIPLOMACY AND COOPERATION

SEC. 501. NORTH AMERICAN STRATEGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall develop a strategy to seek opportunities for trilateral cooperation between the United States, Mexico, and Canada—

(1) to support increased ambition on reducing greenhouse gas emissions among these countries; and

(2) to advance collaboration on the development and promotion of shared climate action among the United States, Mexico, and Canada.

(b) ELEMENTS AND PRIORITIES.—The strategy described in subsection (a) shall include efforts—

(1) to ensure that potential projects and initiatives pursued pursuant to this section under the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement—

(A) are compatible with long-term climate goals and the collective targets established under the Paris Agreement;

(B) meet all environmental and social responsibility standards required under the USEA;
(2) to explore shared and common interests and cooperative actions to promote clean energy development, climate security, and climate change mitigation strategies within institutions (such as the UNFCCC, the Montreal Protocol, the Green Climate Fund, the Group of Twenty and the United Nations) with the aim of developing approaches and actions to address the climate crisis that may include—

(A) providing support in developing midcentury low-carbon strategies;

(B) extending coal finance restrictions to coal mining operations; and

(C) strengthening and expanding carbon pricing by—

(i) considering the cost of carbon in long-term decision making;

(ii) supporting the development of national or subnational systems;

(iii) scaling up technical expertise; and

(iv) making efforts to align pricing instruments where feasible;

(A) to commit to a methane reduction goal and cooperate to reduce black carbon and to recommit to the formal agreement reached at the June 2016 North American Leaders Summit in Ottawa to reduce methane emissions from the oil and gas sector by 40 to 45 percent by 2025, and to work to develop a new, more ambitious target for 2030;

(B) to develop and implement a North American strategy for sustainable transportation—

(A) to encourage State and provincial leaders to negotiate interstate and interprovincial sustainable transportation agreements between Mexican, American, and Canadian jurisdictions;

(B) to expand the West Coast Electric Highway between Canada, the United States, and Mexico; and

(C) to work with automakers to standardize charging infrastructure;

(5) develop and implement coordinated forest and land use strategies to further cooperation among the United States, Mexico, and Canada on climate change; the adoption of practices and policies that increase carbon sequestration in new and existing forests and reduce emissions from forest conversion to other land uses; and

(6) strengthen resilience and equity among low-income and indigenous communities; and

engage international partners in an existing multilateral forum or, if necessary, establish a new multilateral forum to improve global cooperation by—

(1) encouraging the adoption of an emissions reduction target by the International Maritime Organization; and

(B) collaborating with the International Civil Aviation Organization to establish a market-based measure to reduce aviation emissions.

SEC. 502. ACCOUNTABILITY AND COOPERATION

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) successful mitigation of global greenhouse gas emissions to sufficiently avoid the worst impacts of climate change requires global cooperation and coordination of efforts;

(2) all other countries look towards the United States and Canada as the world’s largest emitters and largest economies, for leadership by example to effectively mitigate
greenhouse gas emissions, develop and deploy energy generation technologies, and integrate sustainable adaptation solutions to the inevitable effects of climate change;

(3) United States, Japan, China, and European Union greenhouse gas emissions and the scientific imperative to swiftly reduce global greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero emissions around 2050, China should—

(A) revise its long-term pledge;

(B) seek to immediately peak its emissions;

(C) begin reducing its greenhouse gas emissions significantly to meet a more ambitious long-term 2050 reductions target; and

(D) update its nationally determined contribution along a trajectory that aligns with achieving a more ambitious net-zero by 2050 emissions target;

(4) it is in the United States’ national interest to prioritize climate change in its bilateral engagement with China, as global climate risks cannot be mitigated without a significant reduction in Chinese domestic and overseas emissions;

(5) the United States and China, to the extent practicable, should coordinate on making and delivering ambitious pledges to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, with aspirations to phase out economic net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050;

(6) the United States and its allies should work together through diplomacy and economic tools to hold China accountable for any failure by China—

(A) to increase ambition in its 2030 nationally determined contribution, in line with net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 before the 26th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC scheduled for November 2021 and meet a more ambitious nationally determined contribution; and

(B) to work faithfully to uphold the principles, goals, and rules of the Paris Agreement;

(C) to avoid and prohibit efforts to undermine or devolve the Paris Agreement’s rule or underlying framework, particularly within areas of accountability transparency, and shared responsibility among all parties;

(D) to eliminate greenhouse gas intensive projects from China’s Belt and Road Initiative and other overseas investments, including—

(i) working with allies and partners of the United States to eliminate support for coal power projects in China’s Belt and Road Initiative;

(ii) providing financing and project support for cleaner and less risky alternatives; and

(iii) parallel initiatives to enhance capacity building programs and overseas sustainable investment criteria, including in areas such as integrated energy planning and power sector reform, just transition, distributed generation, procurement, transparency, and standards to support low-emissions growth in developing countries; and

(E) to phase out existing coal power plants and reduce net coal power production;

(7) the United States should pursue confidencetype initiatives for the United States and China to undertake “parallel initiatives” on clean energy research, development, finance, and deployment, including through economic and stimulus measures with clear, mutually agreed upon rules and policies to protect intellectual property, ensure equitable, nonpatentive provision of support, and implementation of which would provide catalytic progress towards delivering a global clean energy transformation that benefits all people; and

(8) the United States should pursue cooperative initiatives to shift toward the import and consummation of forest and agricultural commodities that are produced in a manner that does not contribute to deforestation.

SEC. 503. UNITED STATES AND EUROPEAN UNION COOPERATION ON CLIMATE FINANCE FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is—

(1) to restore the historic alliance between the United States and countries of the European Union on climate action; and

(2) to renew the United States’ commitment to advancing global cooperation on addressing climate change and achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE UNITED STATES-EUROPEAN UNION SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT DIALOGUE.—It is the sense of Congress that the United States should restart the United States-European Union Security and Development Dialogue to focus specifically on climate action, climate security, and clean energy cooperation, including—

(1) partnering and formulating strategies to counter efforts to weaken or change critical elements of the implementation of the Paris Agreement that would disadvantage the United States or the European Union;

(2) building coalitions of like-minded parties committed to including large reductions in greenhouse gas emissions under the Paris Agreement and putting pressure on all parties to do the same;

(3) coordinating joint strategies to promote climate action by the People’s Republic of China, and deter Chinese domestic and international investment in high carbon infrastructure;

(4) finding opportunities to engage and facilitate private sector collaboration regarding clean energy and innovations on green hydrogen and clean gas technologies in India;

(5) pursuing clean energy services projects in India’s Belt and Road Initiative alternative.

(c) IN GENERAL.—The President should seek opportunities to partner with European Development Finance Institutions to develop financing tools based on shared development and climate finance criteria and mechanisms to support investments in developing countries that support low carbon economic development and promote climate change resiliency and adaptation.

(d) PARTNERSHIP FUND.—The Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Development Finance Corporation should partner with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to create a fund or multilateral financing mechanism to advance and support clean energy development and climate change adaptation and resilience activities in developing countries.

(e) RESPONSE TO THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA’S BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE.—The President shall work with European counterparts to establish a formal United States–European Commission Working Group to develop a comprehensive strategy to respond to and counteract the Belt and Road Initiative established by the Government of the People’s Republic of China. United States participants in this working group shall develop strategies to integrate existing efforts into the strategy, including—

(1) the European Union Strategy on Connecting Europe and Asia;

(2) the Three Seas Initiative;

(3) the Blue Dot Network among the United Nations, including the transformation of memoranda of understanding between the People’s Republic of China and United Nations funds and programs on the implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative;

(4) Co-financing of Infrastructure Projects—

(A) Authorization of Appropriations.—Subject to subparagraph (B), there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to co-finance infrastructure projects that could otherwise be included within China’s Belt and Road Initiative.

(B) Conditions.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to subparagraph (A) may not be expended unless—

(i) the United States can leverage existing and future projects that have entered into contracts with the Belt and Road Initiative and further promote transparency and debt sustainability; and

(ii) the projects to be financed—

(I) promote the public good;

(II) will not promote the use of fossil fuels; and

(III) will have substantially lower greenhouse gas intensity than the proposed Belt and Road Initiative alternative.

(d) SUPPORT FOR EASTERN EUROPEAN DEMOCRACY ACT.—Section 2 of the Support for Eastern European Democracy Act (22 U.S.C. 5401) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (I), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (J), by adding “and” at the end; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) JUST TRANSITION ASSISTANCE.—Assistance to support workers and communities in countries most dependent on fossil fuel energy that may be vulnerable to socioeconomic changes due to the European Union’s transition to net zero greenhouse gas emissions.

(e) SEC. 504. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON CLEAN ENERGY COOPERATION WITH INDIA.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States should support efforts to strengthen India’s resilience capacities that ensure people, households, communities, institutions, and systems can assess, anticipate, prevent, adapt to, cope with, and recover from shocks and stresses associated with the effects of climate change;

(2) the United States, through the Bureau of Energy Resources of the Department of State, the United States Agency for International Development, the United States International Development Finance Corporation, the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and the International Trade Administration, should encourage private sector investment in and support for the development and deployment of clean energy and climate mitigation technologies in India;
There is authorized to be appropriated $750,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 to provide assistance in accordance with subsection (a) and section 3.

(4) in section 7(a)—
(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “and every 2 years thereafter,” after “Act;” and
(B) in paragraph (1), by striking “power generation” each place such term appears and inserting “renewable energy generation”; and
(5) by adding at the end the following:

SEC. 8. COORDINATOR FOR POWER AFRICA.
(a) In General.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the United States Climate Leadership in International Mitigation, Adaptation, and Technology Enhancement Act of 2021, the Administrator for the United States Agency for International Development, under the direction of the Secretary of State, shall appoint a Coordinator for Power Africa, who shall serve in the Bureau of Economic Growth, Education, and the Environment of the United States Agency for International Development.
(b) Duties.—The Coordinator for Power Africa shall—
(1) be primarily located at a mission in sub-Saharan Africa;
(2) lead—
(A) the execution of the Power Africa Initiative in accordance with the purpose and policies set forth in sections 2 and 3; and
(B) the development and execution of the strategy established under section 4;
(3) coordinate the Interagency Working Group established under section 4(c);
(4) manage the funding appropriated for the Power Africa Initiative by Congress; and
(5) execute the directives described in sections 2, 3, and 4.
(c) Deputy.—
(1) In general.—The Coordinator of Power Africa may designate a Deputy Coordinator of Power Africa.
(2) Duties.—The Deputy Coordinator of Power Africa shall—
(A) in the case of the President’s absence, perform the duties of the Coordinator of Power Africa; and
(B) perform such other duties as the Coordinator of Power Africa may designate.
(d) Authorization of Appropriations.—There is authorized to be appropriated

(8) the ongoing domestic economic crisis and political turmoil in Venezuela has forced the Government of Venezuela to retract its commitments to the Petrocaribe oil alliance and step away as a major investor in the Caribbean. Only Cuba still receives preferential Petrocaribe pricing on fuel exports from Venezuela, while other Petrocaribe member countries are experiencing a de-stabilized flow of oil.

(9) China has spent more than $244,000,000,000 on energy projects worldwide since 2000, 25 percent of which was spent in Latin America and the Caribbean. Although the majority of this spending was for oil, gas, and coal, China has also been the largest investor in clean energy globally for almost a decade.

(10) The World Bank estimates that the Caribbean will need $12,000,000,000 in power investments through 2035.

(11) Renewable energy technology costs have decreased dramatically in recent years, offering a more viable economic alternative for energy production. Solar energy prices have fallen by 80 percent since 2008, causing significant market growth, and according to data released by the International Renewable Energy Agency, 13 of global power capability is based in renewable energy.

(12) In 2018, the International Monetary Fund estimated that transportation accounted for 36 percent of the total primary energy consumption in the Caribbean subregion.

(13) According to the United Nations Environment Programme, Latin America and the Caribbean could achieve annual savings of $221,000,000,000 and a reduction of 1,100,000,000 tons of CO2 by 2050 if the region’s energy and transport sectors reach net zero emissions.

(14) The Caribbean has an abundance of onshore and offshore resources needed for renewable energy, including sun, wind, geothermal, and some hydropower production capacity.

(15) The United States Government is deeply engaged in providing technical and policy assistance to countries of the Caribbean on energy issues through—

(A) the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas;

(B) Connecting the Americas 2022; and

(C) bilateral assistance programs.

(16) February 28, 2012; attended the North American Leaders’ Summit, President Barack Obama, Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Canada, and President Enrique Peña Nieto of Mexico to commit to bring affordable, reliable, and increasingly renewable power to the Caribbean, while opening wider markets for clean energy, and green technology.

(17) On June 19, 2015, President Barack Obama announced the Caribbean Energy Security Initiative, which would partner with individual countries—

(A) to transform its energy sector;

(B) to work to increase access to finance, good governance, and diversification; and

(C) to maximize the impact of existing donor efforts.

(18) On May 4, 2016, at the United States-Caribbean-Central American Energy Summit, the energy security force formally launched the Caribbean Sustainable Energy Roadmap and Strategy (C-SERMS) as a mechanism to manage regional coordination on energy needed to expand the regional market and transmission system.

(19) The United States has an important opportunity—

(A) to deepen this engagement;

(B) to work as a partner with Caribbean countries on a more regional and coordinated basis; and

(C) to help ease the region’s dependence on imported oil; and
to promote affordable alternative sources of energy.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES.—The term "Caribbean countries" means the national governments of the Caribbean region, but does not including Cuba or Venezuela.

(2) CARIBBEAN GOVERNMENTS.—The term "Caribbean governments" means the national governments of the Caribbean countries.

(c) POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States to help Caribbean countries—

(1) achieve greater energy security and improve domestic energy resource mobilization;

(2) lower their dependence on imported fuels;

(3) eliminate the use of diesel, heavy fuel oil, other petroleum products, and coal for the generation of electricity;

(4) increase production of renewable energy; and

(5) meet the greenhouse gas mitigation goals of their national determined contributions to the Paris Agreement.

(d) STRATEGY.—

(1) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit a multi-year strategy to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives that describes how the Department of State will promote regional cooperation with Caribbean countries—

(A) to lower dependence on imported fuels, grow domestic clean energy production in the region, strengthen regional energy security, and lower energy sector greenhouse gas emissions;

(B) to decrease dependence on oil in the transportation sector;

(C) to increase energy efficiency, energy conservation, and investment in alternatives to imported fuels;

(D) to improve grid reliability and modernize electricity transmission networks;

(E) to extend deployment of innovative solutions to expand community and individuals' access to electricity;

(F) to help reform energy markets to encourage regulatory and governance reforms and to promote a climate of private sector investment; and

(G) to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and development.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall include—

(A) a thorough review and inventory of United States government activities that are being carried out bilaterally, regionally, and in coordination with multilateral institutions;

(i) to promote energy and climate security in the Caribbean region; and

(ii) to reduce the region's reliance on oil for electricity generation;

(ii) the entities for marshaling regional cooperation—

(i) to overcome market barriers resulting from the small size of Caribbean energy markets;

(ii) to address the high transportation and infrastructure costs faced by Caribbean countries;

(iii) to ensure greater donor coordination between governments, multilateral institutions, multilateral banks, and private investors; and

(iv) to expand regional financing opportunities to allow for lower cost energy entrepreneurship;

(C) measures to ensure that each Caribbean government has—

(i) an independent utility regulator or equivalent;

(ii) affordable access by third party investors to its electrical grid with minimal regulatory interference;

(iii) effective energy efficiency and energy conservation programs; and

(iv) to bolster the sale of renewable energy solutions; and

(D) recommendations for how United States policy, technical, and economic assistance can be used in the Caribbean region—

(i) to advance renewable energy development and the incorporation of renewable technologies into existing energy grids and the development and deployment of microgrids where appropriate and feasible to boost energy security and reliability, particularly to underserved communities;

(ii) to increase the generation of clean energy sufficiently to replace and allow for the retirement of obsolete fossil fuel energy generation units in Caribbean countries;

(iii) to create national financing opportunities to allow for lower cost energy entrepreneurship;

(iv) to deploy transaction advisors in the region to help attract private investment and break down any market or regulatory barriers; and

(v) to establish a mechanism for each host government to have access to independent legal advice—

(I) to speed the development of energy-related contracts; and

(II) to better protect the interests of Caribbean governments and citizens.

(3) CONSULTATION.—In devising the strategy under this section, the Secretary of State shall work with the Secretary of Energy and shall consult with—

(A) the Secretary of the Interior;

(B) the Secretary of Commerce;

(C) the Secretary of the Treasury;

(D) the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States; and

(E) the Board of Directors of the Development Finance Corporation;

(F) the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development;

(G) the Caribbean governments;

(H) the Inter-American Development Bank;

(I) the World Bank Group; and

(J) the Caribbean Electric Utility Services Corporation.

SEC. 507. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON CONSERVATION OF THE AMAZON RIVER BASIN.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Amazon River basin and the Amazon rainforest, often referred to as Amazonia—

(A) covers more than 2,670,000 square miles in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela; and

(B) is home to more species of plants and animals than any other terrestrial ecosystem on the planet, housing nearly 30 percent of the world's species, which apart from their intrinsic value as living organisms, have potential value in the form of medicine, research, textiles, food, and other products for the region's population.

(2) Tens of millions of people depend on services afforded by the Amazon forest, including—

(A) the use of rivers for transportation;

(B) reliance on logging and collection of non-timber forest products as major industries for employment; and

(C) the growth of nutrients in floodplain areas for agriculture and areas for which the Amazon Basin is a watershed.

(3) The Amazon River has long been recognized as an important repository of biodiversity and natural resources, not only for local peoples and indigenous communities, but also for the rest of the world due to—

(A) its fresh water, which provides countless services for humans in the form of water agriculture, transportation, and food and security for an important number of species, including over 2,500 species of fish and river dolphins;

(B) its medicinal plants, which are continuously used by local peoples for traditional diseases, including malaria (one of the most lethal diseases in the tropics), and which constitute 70 percent of the plant species in the world found to have anti-cancer properties;

(C) its important role as an oxygen source, producing 20 percent of the Earth’s oxygen and earning the Amazon forest the nickname “lungs of our Earth” for its role in taking in enormous amounts of the carbon dioxide emitted by human activity and the burning of fossil fuels and replacing it with the oxygen we breathe through the process of photosynthesis;

(D) its food supply, which is associated with rainforests, including coffee, rice, choco- lates, bananas, black pepper, pineapples, and corn;

(E) its role in climate control caused by its emissions of enormous quantities of water and energy with the surrounding atmosphere, which is estimated as being responsible for creating 75 percent of its own rainfall, which feeds the nearby rivers through evapotranspiration before flowing directly into the ocean and influencing the currents that impact the climate; and

(F) its ecotourism, which produces annual profits of more than $11.600,000, which benefits the local economy, enhances the quality of living through securing more jobs, and educates the global citizenry on the importance of maintaining the world’s natural spaces.

(4) Public opinion research, conducted by the Brazilian polling firm Datafolha in 2020, found that—

(A) 87 percent of the respondents felt strongly that conservation of the Amazon is very important;

(B) 73 percent of the respondents are concerned with the rate of increased deforestation in the Amazon basin;

(C) 77 percent of the respondents believed strongly that the conduct and policies of the ministries responsible for management and conservation of the Amazon have contributed to deforestation; and

(D) 92.5 percent of the respondents believe Brazil should prioritize the pursuit of economic activities in the Amazon basin that do not contribute to deforestation; and

(E) only 5.6 percent of the respondents think that forests need to be cut down to promote economic growth in the region.

The recent 8,950 fires in Brazilian rainforest, the deforestation of the Amazon forest, exacerbated by climate change, has resulted in a significant decrease in the ample benefits described in paragraph (3), in addition to the displacement of many indigenous peoples due to the lessened economic opportunity.

(6) Clear cutting has disrupted the habitat for plants and animals in the region, frustating the fragile forest ecology by causing species to migrate and sometimes disappear.

(7) As of September 2020, Brazil’s National Institute for Space Research reported that 45,067 fires have burned in the Amazon River basin and more than 63,000 fires have burned in all of Brazil in 2020.

The removal of trees from the Amazon River basin has decreased water and nutrient uptake, while increasing runoff with greater
loads of both nitrogen and phosphorus concentrations, deteriorating the quality of fresh water, and putting the environment at greater risk for disasters like flooding and landslides.

(9) The Government of Brazil has historically recognized the negative repercussions of deforestation via processes like clear cutting, which are destroying Brazil’s forest and maintenance and maintenance of numerous successful conservation policies and payments for environmental service programs, such as:

(A) amplifying the Brazilian people’s concerns—
- (i) about climate change and seeking opportunities for cooperative climate action through the United States-Brazil bilateral relationship;
- (ii) with Brazil’s management and land use conversion policies affecting the Amazon River basin;
(B) reinforcing United States’ support for the important role civil society is playing to keep the public informed about the importance of forest preservation, particularly as it relates to regulating carbon in the Earth’s atmosphere; and
(C) offering further efforts to combat fires in the Amazon River basin that are exacerbating Brazil’s environmental crisis;

(10) the United States and multinational cooperation efforts to protect and restore the Amazon have yielded significant benefits such as:

(A) the reduction of deforestation by more than 80 percent; and
(B) the World Bank’s establishment of more than 25 percent of the areas protected from deforestation.

(11) The UNESCO World Heritage site verifies the importance of the Amazon River basin being one of the richest areas in the planet in terms of biodiversity, ecological and biological processes. Deforestation and potential new policies could harmfully limit its natural resources if their benefits are not taken into serious consideration.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the President should—

(A) engage with the Government of Brazil, through bilateral and multilateral efforts, on its Amazon development and deforestation policies, the Brazilian people’s interest in conserving the Amazon rainforest;
(B) promote stewardship and conservation policies that support sustainable economic growth activities in the Amazon River basin;
(C) consider the Government of Brazil’s management and land use conversion of the Amazon River basin policies when assessing, negotiating, or developing new bilateral agreements with Brazil, including trade agreements, or engaging in relevant international negotiations;

(2) in the spirit of Brazil’s leadership hosting the 1992 Rio Summit, which led to the establishment of the UNFCCC, urge the Government of Brazil to enhance the ambition of Brazil’s efforts to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions; and

(E) encourage the Government of Brazil, through bilateral and multilateral efforts, to immediately work proactively to address climate change and to promote low carbon and sustainable economic development.

(2) the United States Ambassador to Brazil should immediately engage with the Government of Brazil to support improvements to stewardship efforts of the Amazon rainforest and to the United States-Brazil bilateral relationship and maintenance of numerous successful conservation policies and payments for environmental service programs, such as:

(A) reducing the responsibility of managing indigenous reserves and the demarcation of lands back to indigenous peoples; and
(B) deescalating violence against indigenous peoples, prosecuting individuals and entities that threaten or harm indigenous peoples or communities, and maintain the National Indigenous Resources Foundation.

(3) offering further efforts to combat fires in the Amazon River basin that are exacerbating Brazil’s environmental crisis;

(4) the United States should—

(A) support and encourage Indonesia to pursue ambitious growth from solar and wind sources of energy generation; and
(B) provide technical assistance to the Government of Indonesia and subnational authorities on regulatory reforms and addressing other barriers to deployment of renewable energy; and

(5) it is in the interest of United States re-frigerator and refrigerant production industries to help serve Indonesia’s increased demand for refrigeration and air conditioning, and the adoption of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, is driving innovation and investments in next-generation refrigeration equipment and refrigerants in Indonesia.

TITIE VI—WOMEN AND CLIMATE CHANGE ACT

SEC. 601. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Women and Climate Change Act”.

SEC. 602. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) in the United States and around the world are—

(A) the linchpin of families and communities; and
(B) often the first to feel the immediate and adverse effects of social, environmental, and economic stresses on their families and communities.

(2) the United Nations has recognized, as a central organizing principle for its work, that “no enduring solution to society’s most threatening social, economic and political problems can be found without the full participation, and the full empowerment, of the world’s women.”

(3) The United Nations Development Programme’s Human Development Report 2003 predicted that the number of people living in extreme poverty could increase by up to
3,000,000,000 by 2050 unless environmental disasters are averted by coordinated global action.

(4) Climate change is already forcing the most vulnerable communities and populations in developing countries to face unprecedented climate stress, including—

(A) slow onset effects of climate change, such as increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather conditions, water scarcity, and drought; and

(B) severe weather events and floods, which can lead to reduced agricultural productivity, food shortages, and increased disease.

(5) Climate change—

(A) exacerbates issues of resource scarcity and limits access to primary natural resources, such as land, water, and arable land for food production;

(B) contributes to increased tension and instability, particularly in countries and regions with poor or weak governance systems; and

(C) increases the workload and stress on women farmers, who are estimated to produce nearly 50 percent of the food consumed in most developing countries, which exacerbates food insecurity.

(6) Women disproportionately face harmful impacts from climate change, particularly in poor and developing countries in which women regularly assume increased responsibilities for—

(A) growing the family’s food;

(B) collecting water, fuel, and other resources;

(C) earning money; and

(D) sending remittances.

(7) Epidemics, such as malaria and Zika, are expected to worsen and spread due to variations in climate, putting women and girls (especially those who are pregnant, who are lactating, or who hope to become pregnant) at risk and children without access to the well-being of their children and families, playing a critical role in reducing food insecurity, poverty, and socioeconomic effects of climate change.

(14) Despite having unique capabilities and knowledge to promote, plan, and execute actions to mitigate climate change and adapt to its impacts, women are often not empowered to take such actions, and are often excluded from leadership and decision-making processes.

(15) Women have a multiplier effect because women use their income and resources, when given the necessary tools, to improve the well-being of their children and families, playing a critical role in reducing food insecurity, poverty, and socioeconomic effects of climate change.

(16) Women are often underrepresented in the development and formulation of policy regarding adaptation and mitigation of climate change, even though women are often in the best position to provide and consult on adaptive strategies.

SEC. 605. FEDERAL INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON WOMEN AND CLIMATE CHANGE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Department of State the Federal Interagency Working Group on Women and Climate Change.

(b) CHAIRPERSON.—The Ambassador-at-Large, or the Special Coordinator, shall serve as the chairperson of the Working Group.

(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Working Group shall be composed of a senior-level representative from each of the Federal agencies and bureaus and offices of the Department of State described in paragraph (2), as selected by the head of the respective agency or subagency.

(2) FEDERAL AGENCIES.—The Federal agencies and bureaus and offices of the Department of State described in this paragraph are—

(A) the Department of State, including—

(i) the Office of Global Women’s Issues;

(ii) the Office of Civil Rights;

(iii) the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs;

(iv) the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration;

(v) the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor; and

(vi) the Bureau of International Organization Affairs;

(B) the United States Agency for International Development;

(C) the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

(D) the Environmental Protection Agency;

(E) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;

(F) the National Institutes of Health;

(G) the National Science Foundation;

(H) the Council on Environmental Quality; and

(I) the Millennium Challenge Corporation.

(2) REPRESENTATIVE.—Each of the representative agencies or departments shall be represented on the Working Group by a representative with appropriate knowledge and the necessary decision-making authority.

(2) SPECIAL COORDINATOR.—The Ambassador-at-Large, or the Special Coordinator, shall serve as the chairperson of the Working Group pertaining to issues and responsibilities related to climate change and women.

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(vi) the Bureau of International Organization Affairs;

(B) the United States Agency for International Development;

(C) the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

(D) the Environmental Protection Agency;

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(2) SPECIAL COORDINATOR.—The Ambassador-at-Large, or the Special Coordinator, shall serve as the chairperson of the Working Group pertaining to issues and responsibilities related to climate change and women.
direct policy for programs relating to climate change and women—
(A) have access to, receive, and appropriately disseminate best practices in the administration of such programs;
(B) have adequate resources to maximize the public awareness of such programs;
(C) increase the reach of such programs;
(D) ensure that relevant data, including sex and age disaggregated data; and
(E) issue relevant guidance; and
(f) identify and disseminate best practices to each relevant Federal department and agency regarding how to improve the collection of data relevant to the disparate impact of climate change on women (especially marginalized women), including—
(1) unpaid and paid care work;
(2) access to decent work opportunities;
(3) access to advocacy, activism, and representation;
(4) access to education for women and girls;
(5) access to comprehensive health care, including reproductive health and rights;
(6) participation in professional trades, including agriculture;
(7) rights and access to resources, such as land, financial services and credit, training, and tools and equipment;
(8) abilities to achieve durable solutions to displacement, including integration, return, or resettlement;
(9) food insecurity and desertification;
(10) community infrastructure, multilevel government adaptability, and climate resilience;
(11) climate and weather-related crisis response, including safety from gender-based violence; and
(L) women’s involvement and leadership in the development of frameworks and policies for climate responses.
(e) CONSULTATION.—The Working Group may consult and obtain recommendations from such independent nongovernmental policy experts, State and local government officials, independent groups and organizations, or other groups or organizations as the Ambassador-at-Large, or the Special Coordinator, determines will assist in carrying out the mission of the Working Group.
(f) FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS.—The Working Group shall meet not less frequently than quarterly to discuss and develop policies, projects, and programs referred to in subsection (d).
SEC. 606. DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGY AND POLICIES TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON WOMEN GLOBALLY.
(a) INITIAL STRATEGY REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Ambassador-at-Large, or the Special Coordinator, in consultation with the Working Group, shall develop and submit to the appropriate congressional committees a United States National and International Strategy to prevent and respond to the effects of climate change on women.
(b) CONTENTS.—The strategy submitted under subsection (a) shall include—
(1) recognizing the disparate impacts of climate change on women and the efforts of women globally to address climate change;
(2) taking effective action—
(A) to prevent and respond to climate change and mitigate the effects of climate change on women around the world; and
(B) to promote gender equality, economic growth, public health, racial justice, principles of humanitarian access, and human rights;
(3) implementing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals listed in subsection (c) from 2000 to prevent and respond to the effects of climate change on women globally;
(4) implementing balanced gender participation to avoid reinforcing binary roles, especially among individuals from the communities most impacted, in climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts, including in governance and diplomatic positions within the United States Government;
(5) working at the local, national, and international levels with individuals, families, and communities, to prevent and respond to the effects of climate change on women;
(6) systematically integrating and coordinating efforts to prevent and respond to the effects of climate change on women internationally and in foreign policy and foreign assistance programs;
(7) investing in research on climate change through appropriate Federal departments or agencies and in partnership and independent research groups on the various causes and effects of climate change;
(8) developing and implementing gender-sensitive frameworks in policies to address climate change that account for the specific impacts of climate change on women;
(9) developing policies to support women who are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change to prepare for, build their resilience to, and adapt to such impacts, including a commitment to increase education and employment opportunities for women to develop local resilience plans to address the effects of climate change;
(10) developing and investing in programs, in coordination with diplomatic missions of other countries, that—
(A) educate and empower women and girls in the United States and around the world;
(B) gather information on how climate change is affecting their lives; and
(C) provide guidance on the needs of their families and communities in the face of climate change;
(11) consulting with representatives of civil society, including nongovernmental organizations, community and faith-based organizations, multilateral organizations, local and international civil society groups, and local climate change organizations and their beneficiaries, that have demonstrated experience in preventing and responding to the effects of climate change on women;
(12) supporting and building local capacity in developing countries, including in government entities at all levels and in nongovernmental organizations (especially women-led organizations), to prevent and respond to the effects of climate change on women;
(13) developing programs to empower women in communities to meaningfully engage in the planning, design, implementation, and evaluation of strategies to address climate change while taking into account their roles and resources;
(14) including women in economic development policies, and practices that directly improve conditions that result from climate change;
(15) integrating gender analysis in all policies and programs that are globally related to climate change; and
(16) ensuring that such policies and programs support women globally to prepare for, build resilience for, and adapt to, climate change.
(c) UPDATES.—The Ambassador-at-Large, or the Special Coordinator, shall—
(1) consult with the Working Group to collect information and feedback; and
(2) update the strategy and programs to prevent and respond to the effects of climate change on women globally, as the Ambassador-at-Large, or the Special Coordinator, considers appropriate.
(d) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AND BUDGET REQUIRED.—Not later than 60 days after the submission of the strategy under subsection (a), the Senior Coordinator shall submit an implementation plan and budget for the strategy to the appropriate congressional committees.
SEC. 607. CLIMATE CHANGE WITHIN THE OFFICE OF GLOBAL WOMEN’S ISSUES.
(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Ambassador-at-Large for the Office of Global Women’s Issues of the Department of State shall chair the Federal Interagency Working Group on Women and Climate Change.
(b) FUNCTIONS.—The Ambassador-at-Large shall—
(1) direct the activities, policies, programs, and funding of the Department of State relating to the effects of climate change on women, including with respect to efforts to prevent and respond to those effects;
(2) coordinate closely with the Climate Security Coordinator appointed pursuant to section 1(g) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956, as added by section 102, regarding matters related to climate change’s effects on women and related security and diplomatic matters and engagements;
(3) advise the Secretary of State, the relevant heads of other Federal departments and independent agencies, and the President on matters related to climate change’s effects on women and related security and diplomatic matters and engagements within the Executive Office of the President, regarding the establishment of...
entering the House and Senate in 1990 and 2005, respectively. I would like to thank my colleagues who have joined me by cosponsoring the Reconnecting Communities Act. In particular, I am appreciative of the leadership of the junior senator from Maryland, Mr. Van Hollen, who helped to bring this bill to the attention of the Environment and Public Works Committee last Congress.

I hope that all of my colleagues will join us to advance this important legislation, which I will be working to include in our comprehensive surface transportation reauthorization bill this year.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. CRAPRO, and Ms. CORNYN):

S. 1206. A bill to limit the authority of the Secretary of Labor to modify the pandemic unemployment assistance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

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

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

S. 1206

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 “PUA Eligibility Clarification Act of 2021.”

SEC. 2. PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE.

(a) AMENDMENTS. — Section 2102(a)(3) of the CARES Act (15 U.S.C. 9021(a)(3)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (A), by striking ``through (kk)’’ and inserting ``through (jj)’’.

(2) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking item (kk); and

(b) REPEAL OF GUIDANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor shall rescind the guidance entitled, Expanded Eligibility Provisions for the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) Program, issued on February 25, 2021.

(2) REPAYMENT NOT REQUIRED.—(A) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to any individual who, as of the date of enactment of this Act, the individual shall not be required to repay the amounts.

(B) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to any individual who, as of the date of enactment of this Act, was approved to receive compensation amounts pursuant to the guidance described in paragraph (1) before the date of enactment of this Act, the individual who received pandemic unemployment assistance amounts pursuant to the guidance described in paragraph (1) before the date of enactment of this Act, the individual shall not be required to repay the amounts.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 1211. A bill to establish the Cahokia Mounds Mississippian Culture National Historic Park in Collinsville, Illinois, Monroe, Madison, and St. Clair Counties, Illinois, and St. Louis City County, Missouri, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.
There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1211

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 “Cahokia Mounds Mississippian Culture National Historical Park Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) HISTORICAL PARK.—The term “historical park” means the Cahokia Mounds Mississippian Culture National Historical Park established by section 3(a).

(2) MAP.—The term “map” means the map entitled “Cahokia Mounds Mississippian Culture National Historical Park, Boundary”, numbered CMMC-NHP-107, and dated 05-31-2019.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(4) STATES.—The term “States” means the States of Illinois and Missouri.

SEC. 3. CAHOKIA MOUNDS MISSISSIPPIAN CULTURE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK, ILLINOIS AND MISSOURI.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) In general.—Subject to paragraph (2), in order to preserve and interpret for the benefit and education of future generations the historical, cultural, and natural resources associated with the life of the Mississippian Culture and to preserve access for Native American spiritual practices and expressions, there is established, as a unit of the National Park System, the Cahokia Mounds Mississippian Culture National Historical Park in—

(A) Collinsville, Illinois;

(B) Monroe, Madison, and St. Clair Counties, Illinois; and

(C) St. Louis City County, Missouri.

(2) DETERMINATION BY SECRETARY.—The historical park shall not be established until the date on which the Secretary determines that a sufficient quantity of land, or interests in land, has been acquired in accordance with subsection (c) to constitute a manageable unit.

(3) NOTICE.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary acquires sufficient land under subsection (c) to achieve the required education and public interpretation, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register a notice of the establishment of the historical park.

(4) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(b) BOUNDARY.—The boundary of the historical park shall be the boundary as depicted on the map.

(c) LAND ACQUISITION.—

(1) In general.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary may acquire land and interests in land within the boundary of the historical park by—

(A) donation;

(B) purchase from a willing seller with deeded or appropriated funds; or

(C) eminent domain.

(2) LIMITATION.—Any land owned by the States or a political subdivision of 1 of the States may be acquired only by donation.

(d) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) In general.—The Secretary shall administer the historical park in accordance with—

(A) this section; and

(B) the laws generally applicable to units of the National Park System, including—

(i) section 100101(a), 100751(a), 100752, 100753, and 10201 of title 54, United States Code; and

(ii) chapters 1003 and 3201 of title 54, United States Code.

(2) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with the States, institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, Indian Tribes, and individuals—

(i) to identify and interpret nationally significant historical or cultural and natural resources relating to the life of the Mississippian Culture within the boundaries of the historical park, subject to the condition that such an agreement shall provide for reasonable public access; and

(ii) to conduct research relating to the Mississippian Culture and Pensions.

(B) COST-SHARING.—

(i) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the total cost of any activity carried out under this paragraph shall be no more than 50 percent.

(ii) FORM OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Federal share of the cost of carrying out an activity under this paragraph may be in the form of—

(A) in-kind contributions; or

(B) goods or services fairly valued.

(c) GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

(1) In general.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this section, the Secretary shall prepare a general management plan for the historical park in accordance with section 100502 of title 54, United States Code.

(2) CONTENTS.—In preparing the general management plan under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consult with—

(A) the States and political subdivisions of the States;

(B) institutions of higher education;

(C) nonprofit organizations;

(D) Indian Tribes; and

(E) other affected individuals and entities, including—

(i) the Illinois Department of Natural Resources;

(ii) the Osage Tribe; and

(iii) the Heartlands Conservancy.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. WARNOCK, and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 1212. A bill to address the needs of workers in industries likely to be impacted by rapidly evolving technologies; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be ordered to be printed in the RECORD there being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1212

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 “Investing in Tomorrow’s Workforce Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) In 2014, the United States spent just 0.1 percent of the Nation’s Gross Domestic Product on labor market policies, less than half of what the United States spent on labor market policies 30 years ago.

(2) The number of workers receiving federally supported training has declined in the past 3 decades as advances in technology have simultaneously shifted labor market demand over time.

(3) Job losses from automation are more likely to impact women, people of color, and workers making less than $40,000 annually.

(4) The COVID–19 pandemic has accelerated trends in automation, with 43 percent of businesses in the World Economic Forum’s Future of Jobs survey indicating they plan to reduce their workforce as a result of technology integration.

(5) Strong Federal investment in expanding training services for workers whose jobs may be at risk due to automation could enable the United States workforce to better adapt to changes in the labor market and enter into skilled positions in technologically oriented occupations and industries.

(6) A focus on preparing the workforce of the United States for jobs that utilize advanced technologies could increase economic productivity, and boost the competitiveness of the United States.

SEC. 3. IN-DEMAND INDUSTRY SECTOR OR OCCUPATION.

(1) AUTOMATION.—The term “automation” means a device, process, or system that functions without continuous input from an operator, including—

(A) advanced technologies, such as—

(i) data collection, classification processing, and analytics; and

(ii) 3-D printing, digital design and simulation, and digital manufacturing;

(B) robotics, including collaborative robotics, and worker augmentation technology;

(C) autonomous vehicle technology; or

(D) autonomous machinery technology.

(2) DISLOCIATED WORKER.—The term “dislocated worker” has the meaning given in the term in section 2 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).

(3) IN-DEMAND INDUSTRY SECTOR OR OCCUPATION.—The term “in-demand industry sector or occupation” has the meaning given the term in section 3 of that Act.

(4) INTEGRATED EDUCATION AND TRAINING.—The term “integrated education and training” has the meaning given the term in section 203 of that Act (29 U.S.C. 3272).

(5) ELIGIBLE PARTNERSHIP.—The term “eligible partnership” means an industry or sector partnership, as defined in section 3 of that Act, except that—

(A) for purposes of applying paragraph (b)(3) of that section, the term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001); and

(B) the partnership shall include, in addition to the representatives described in clauses (i) through (iii) of paragraph (b)(3)(A) of that section, representatives of—

(i) State workforce investment boards or local workforce development boards; and

(ii) an economic development organization.

(6) GAO STUDY ON AUTOMATION.—The term “GAO study on automation” means the study on automation conducted by the Comptroller General of the United States, as directed in House Report 116–450 (incorporated in the explanatory statement regarding the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260) in accordance with section 4 of such Act).

(7) LOCAL AND STATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARDS.—The terms “local workforce development board” and “State workforce development board” have the meanings given in the terms “local board” and “State board”, respectively, in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).

(8) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Labor.

(9) TRAINING SERVICES.—The term “training services” means training services described in section 1 of the Act (29 U.S.C. 3102(c)(3)(D)).

SEC. 4. GRANTS TO IMPROVE TRAINING FOR WORKERS IMPACTED BY AUTOMATION.

(a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—
mand industry sectors or occupations.

Include training to provide skills related to technology-based skills training, which may include—

(i) job training for dislocated workers as a result of automation;

(ii) job training for dislocated workers as a result of automation, including activities that prepare the individuals for occupations in the technology sector;

(iii) job training for dislocated workers as a result of automation, including activities that prepare the individuals for occupations in the technology sector.

(2) DURATION.—A grant awarded under this section shall be for a period not to exceed 4 years.

(3) USE OF REPORT.—The Secretary shall use the GAO study on automation to inform the grant program carried out under this section.

(4) APPLICATION.—Each grant application submitted under paragraph (1) shall include a description of the demonstration or pilot project to be completed with the grant funds, which description shall include—

(A) a description of the members of the eligible partnership who will be involved in the demonstration or pilot program and the services each member will provide;

(B) a description of the training services that will be available to individuals participating in the demonstration or pilot project, which may include—

(i) a plan to train dislocated workers from industries likely to be impacted by automation and transition the workers into regionally in-demand industry sectors or occupations; and

(ii) a plan to partner with local businesses to retrain, upskill, and re-deploy workers within an industry as an alternative to layoffs;

(C) a plan to provide workers with technology-based skills training, which may include training to provide skills related to coding, systems engineering, or information technology security, in addition to other skills; and

(D) a description of the goals that the eligible partnership intends to achieve to upskill workers and prepare them for in-demand industry sectors or occupations.

(e) ELIGIBLE PARTNERSHIPS.—Eligible partnerships under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to—

(1) eligible partnerships that are located in an area with a high likelihood of being impacted by automation; or

(B) industries included in in-demand industry sectors, as determined under subparagraphs (A)(i) and (B) of section 3(23) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102(23));

(2) partnerships—

(A) with a plan to provide incumbent worker training—

(i) to assist workers in obtaining the skills necessary to retain employment or avert layoffs; or

(ii) that allows a worker working for an employer to acquire new skills that allow the worker to obtain a higher-skilled or higher-paid position with such employer; and

(B) that partner with local employers that intend to backfill the pre-training positions that have, or are expected to have, high rates of job loss as a result of automation.

(1) GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.—An eligible partnership that receives a grant under this section shall use the grant funds in a manner that is consistent with the labor standards and protections described in section 181 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3241) and nondiscrimination provisions described in section 186 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 3248).

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $40,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

SEC. 5. EXPANSION OF WORKER TRAINING SERVICES.

(a) ADULT AND DISLOCATED WORKER EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING.—Section 134(d)(1)(A) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3174(d)(1)(A)) is amended by striking “and” at the end;
noted that Court packing was a “boneyhead idea” and “a terrible, terrible mistake” that “put in question for an entire decade the independence of the most significant body— including the Congress, in my view—the most significant body in this country, the Supreme Court of the United States of America.”

Whereas, in 2005 during a speech on the Senate floor, then-Senator Joe Biden praised members of the Democrat Party for their “act of courage” in opposing the Court-packing plan of Franklin Roosevelt, which he described as a “power grab”;

Whereas, in 2019, the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg stated, “I think it was a bad idea when President Franklin Roosevelt tried to pack the Court”, and that “if anything would make the Court look partisan, it would be that.”

Whereas, in 2021, Justice Stephen Breyer urged supporters of court packing to “think long and hard” about undermining the independence of the court, noting that it is imperative the public “trust that the court is guided by legal principle, not politics” and that “structural alteration motivated by the perception of political influence can only lead that latter perception, further eroding that trust”;

Whereas the Constitution of the United States is based on the principle of separation of powers to provide for checks and balances on each branch of the Federal Government and in standing to this the Court of the United States has repeatedly for political advantage threatens the separation of powers and the system of checks and balances established in the Constitution of the United States;

Whereas the Federal judiciary is insulated from political influence through lifetime appointments and other measures to preserve its independence and an attempt to expand the Supreme Court of the United States purely for political purposes threatens the independence and integrity of the Supreme Court and, thus, the entirety of the judiciary it oversees; and

Whereas any attempt to increase the number of justices of the Supreme Court of the United States or “pack the Court” would undermine the democratic institutions and destroy the credibility of the highest court in the United States, and therefore,

Resolved, That the Senate opposes any attempt to increase the number of justices of the Supreme Court of the United States or otherwise pack the Court.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1445. Mr. SCHUMER (for Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. WARNOCK)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 937, to facilitate the expedited review of COVID-19 hate crimes, and for other purposes.

SA 1446. Mr. WARNOCK submitted an amendment, to be proposed by him to the bill S. 937, supra, which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1445. Mr. SCHUMER (for Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. WARNOCK)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 937, to facilitate the expedited review of COVID-19 hate crimes, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the first word and insert the following:

SEC. 2. FINDINGS. Congress finds the following:

(1) Following the spread of COVID-19 in 2020, there has been a dramatic increase in hate crimes and violence against Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders.

(2) According to a recent report, there were nearly 3,800 “hate incidents” against Asian American and Pacific Islander Americans from December 20, 2020, to February 28, 2021, and that apart from incidents of COVID-19-related hate crimes or incidents, and to have online reporting of hate crimes or incidents, and to have online reporting of hate crimes.

(3) expand public education campaigns aimed at raising awareness of hate crimes and reaching victims, that are equally effective for people with disabilities as for people without disabilities.

(4) Guidance relating to COVID-19 Pandemic.—The Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in coordination with the Community Health Task Force and community-based organizations, shall issue guidance aimed at raising awareness of hate crimes during the COVID-19 pandemic.

SEC. 5. JABAHA-HEYER NO HATE ACT.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Jabaha and Heather Heyer National Opposition to Hate, Assault, Intimidation and Threats to Equality Act of 2021” or the “JabaHA-HEYER NO HATE Act”.

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The incidence of violence known as hate crimes, or crimes motivated by bias, poses a serious national problem.

(2) According to data obtained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the incidence of such violence increased in 2019, the most recent year for which data is available.


(4) However, a complete understanding of the national problem posed by hate crime is in the public interest and supports the Federal interest in eradicating bias-motivated violence referenced in section 259(b)(1)(C) of title 18, United States Code.

(5) However, a complete understanding of the national problem posed by hate crimes is hindered by incomplete data from Federal, State, and local jurisdictions through the Uniform Crime Reports program authorized under section 534 of title 28, United States Code, as amended by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(6) Multiple factors contribute to the provision of inaccurate and incomplete data regarding the incidence of hate crimes.

(7) The problem of crimes motivated by bias is sufficiently serious, widespread, and interstate in nature as to warrant Federal financial assistance to States and local jurisdictions.

(8) Federal financial assistance with regard to certain violent crimes motivated by bias enables Federal, State, and local authorities to work together as partners in the investigation and prosecution of such crimes.

(9) The problem of crimes motivated by bias is sufficiently serious, widespread, and interstate in nature as to warrant Federal financial assistance to States and local jurisdictions.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) HATE CRIME.—The term “hate crime” means an act described in section 245, 247, or 249 of title 18, United States Code.

(2) PRIORITY AGENCY.—The term “priority agency” means an act described in section 245, 247, or 249 of title 18, United States Code, or in section 901 of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 2000e).

(3) AUTHORITY.—The term “authority” means:

(A) a law enforcement agency of the United States government.

(B) a law enforcement agency of a unit of local government that—
(i) serves a population of not less than 50,000 and less than 100,000, as computed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and
(ii) has reported no hate crimes through the Uniform Crime Reports program for any of the 3 most recent calendar years for which such data is available.

(3) STATE.—The term ‘State’ has the meaning given in section 901 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10251).

(4) UNIFORM CRIME REPORTS.—The term ‘Uniform Crime Reports’ means the reports authorized under section 504 of title 28, United States Code, and administered by the Federal Bureau of Investigation that compile nationwide criminal statistics for use—
(A) in law enforcement administration, operation, and management; and
(B) in understanding the nature and type of crime in the United States.


(6) REPORTING OF HATE CRIMES.—
(I) DEFINITION OF CRIMES.—For the purposes of this paragraph, ‘hate crime’ has the meaning given in section 2457(f) of title 28, United States Code, as modified by the Hate Crimes Statistics Act of 2009 (42 U.S.C. 25605).

(II) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—
(A) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall issue guidance to States and units of local government to assist the State or unit of local government in implementing the National Incident-Based Reporting System, including to train employees in identifying and classifying hate crimes in the National Incident-Based Reporting System.

(B) FAILURE TO COMPLY.—If a State or unit of local government fails to report data to the Attorney General, the Attorney General may provide a 30-day extension to the State or unit of local government.

(7) GRANTS FOR STATE-RUN HATE CRIME HOTLINES.—
(I) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—
(A) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall make grants to States to create State-run hate crime hotlines.

(B) HOTLINE REQUIREMENTS.—A State shall ensure that any grant made under subparagraph (A) shall be for a period of not more than 5 years.

(II) HOTLINE REQUIREMENTS.—A State shall ensure that any grant made under subparagraph (A) shall be for not more than 3 years.

(C) GRANTS.—A grant made under paragraph (1) shall be for not more than 3 years.

(8) INFORMATION COLLECTION BY STATES AND UNITS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—
(I) COLLECTION OF INFORMATION.—
(A) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General may make grants to States to create State-run hate crime hotlines.

(B) DEFERRED GRANTS.—
(A) COVERED AGENCY.—The term ‘covered agency’ means—
(i) a State or unit of local government; and
(ii) a priority agency.

(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible entity’ means—
(i) a State or unit of local government; and
(ii) a unit of local government that has a priority agency.

(C) GRANTS.—
(A) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General may make grants to eligible entities to assist covered agencies within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity in conducting law enforcement activities or crime reduction programs to prevent, address, or otherwise respond to hate crime, particularly as those activities or programs relate to reporting hate crimes through the Uniform Crime Reports program, including—
(i) establishing a liaison with formal community-based organizations or leaders; and
(ii) conducting public meetings or educational forums on the impact of hate crime, services available to hate crime victims, and the relevant Federal, State, and local laws pertaining to hate crime.

(B) COMPLIANCE AND REDIRECTION OF FUNDS.—
(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), beginning not later than 1 year after the date of this Act, a State or unit of local government receiving a grant or subgrant under paragraph (2) shall comply with paragraph (3).

(B) EXTENSIONS; WAIVER.—The Attorney General—
(i) may provide a 120-day extension to a State or unit of local government that is making good faith efforts to comply with clause (i); and
(ii) shall waive the requirements of clause (i) if compliance with that subparagraph by a State or unit of local government would be unconstitutional under the constitution of the State or in the unit of local government in which the unit of local government is located, respectively.

(B) FAILURE TO COMPLY.—If a State or unit of local government that receives a grant under paragraph (1) fails to comply substantially with this subparagraph, (A), or, if clause (ii) of this subparagraph, the State or unit of local government shall repay the grant in full, plus reasonable interest payments and applicable local support services.

(C) GRANTS.—A grant made under subparagraph (A) shall be for not more than 3 years.

(9) INFORMATION REPORT.—
(I) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall issue guidance to States on best practices for implementing the requirements of paragraph (2).

(II) INFORMATION REPORT.—
(A) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General may provide a 120-day extension to a State or unit of local government.

(B) FAILURE TO COMPLY.—If a State or unit of local government fails to report data to the Attorney General, the Attorney General may provide a 30-day extension to the State or unit of local government.

(II) COMPLIANCE—
(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (i), in each fiscal year beginning after the date that is 3 years after the date on which a State or unit of local government first receives a grant under paragraph (1), the State or unit of local government shall provide to the Attorney General, through the Uniform Crime Reporting system, the information pertaining to hate crimes committed in that jurisdiction during the preceding fiscal year.

(ii) EXTENSIONS; WAIVER.—The Attorney General—
(i) may provide a 120-day extension to a State or unit of local government that is making good faith efforts to comply with clause (i); and
(ii) shall waive the requirements of clause (i) if compliance with that subparagraph by a State or unit of local government would be unconstitutional under the constitution of the State or in the unit of local government in which the unit of local government is located, respectively.

(B) FAILURE TO COMPLY.—If a State or unit of local government that receives a grant under paragraph (1) fails to comply substantially with this subparagraph, (A), or, if clause (ii) of this subparagraph, the State or unit of local government shall repay the grant in full, plus reasonable interest payments and applicable local support services.

(C) GRANTS.—A grant made under subparagraph (A) shall be for not more than 3 years.

(10) INFORMATION REQUIRED OF STATES AND UNITS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—
(I) INFORMATION REPORT.—
(A) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year in which a State or unit of local government receives a grant, or subgrant under paragraph (2), the State or unit of local government shall—
(i) collect information from each law enforcement agency that receives funding from the grant, or subgrant, including the law enforcement activities or crime reduction programs conducted by the agency to prevent, address, or otherwise respond to hate crime, particularly as those activities or programs relate to reporting hate crimes through the Uniform Crime Reports program, or
(ii) submit to the Attorney General a report containing the information collected under clause (i).

(B) ANNUAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY REPORT.—
(I) IN GENERAL.—In collecting the information required under subparagraph (A)(i), a State or unit of local government shall require each law enforcement agency that receives funding from a grant or subgrant under the National Incident-Based Reporting System under paragraph (2) to submit a semiannual report to the State or unit of local government that includes a summary of the law enforcement activities or crime reduction programs conducted by the agency during the reporting period to prevent, address, or otherwise respond to hate crime, particularly as those activities or programs relate to reporting hate crimes through the Uniform Crime Reports program.

(ii) CONTENTS.—In a report submitted under clause (i), a State or unit of local government shall, at a minimum, disclose—
(A) whether the agency has adopted a policy on identifying, investigating, and reporting hate crimes;
(B) whether the agency has developed a standardized system of collecting, analyzing, and reporting the incidence of hate crime;
(C) whether the agency has established a unit specialized in identifying, investigating, and reporting hate crimes;
(D) whether the agency engages in community relations functions related to hate crime, such as—
(aa) establishing a liaison with formal community-based organizations or leaders; and
(bb) conducting public meetings or educational forums on the impact of hate crime, services available to hate crime victims, and the relevant Federal, State, and local laws pertaining to hate crime; and
(V) the number of hate crime trainings for agency personnel, including the duration of the trainings, conducted by the agency during the reporting period.

(C) INFORMATION REPORT.—
(I) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year in which a State or unit of local government receives a grant or subgrant under paragraph (2), the State or unit of local government shall—
(i) collect information from each law enforcement agency that receives funding from the grant, or subgrant, including the law enforcement activities or crime reduction programs conducted by the agency to prevent, address, or otherwise respond to hate crime, particularly as those activities or programs relate to reporting hate crimes through the Uniform Crime Reports program, or
(ii) submit to the Attorney General a report containing the information collected under clause (i).

(11) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) COVERED AGENCY.—The term ‘covered agency’ means—
(i) a State or unit of local government; and
(ii) a priority agency.

(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible entity’ means—
(i) a State or unit of local government; and
(ii) a unit of local government that has a priority agency.

(12) REQUIRED REPORT.—
(I) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year in which a State or unit of local government receives a grant or subgrant under paragraph (2), the State or unit of local government shall—
(i) collect information from each law enforcement agency that receives funding from the grant, or subgrant, including the law enforcement activities or crime reduction programs conducted by the agency to prevent, address, or otherwise respond to hate crime, particularly as those activities or programs relate to reporting hate crimes through the Uniform Crime Reports program, or
(ii) submit to the Attorney General a report containing the information collected under clause (i).
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the first time en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1216) to extend the temporary scheduling order for fentanyl-related substances.

A 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.

Mr. SCHUMER. I now ask for a second reading, and I object to my own request, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bills will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2021

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, April 20; 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 resume consideration of S. 937, the COVID-19 Hate Crimes legislation; that at 12 noon, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Gensler nomination and the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination; that the Senate recess following the cloture vote on the Gensler nomination until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; further, that if cloture is invoked on the Gensler nomination, all postcloture time be considered expired at 2:15 p.m.; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; finally, that following the confirmation vote, the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.
ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:28 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, April 20, 2021, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

FAISAL AMIN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, VICE HOLLY W. GREAVES.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

SHANNON ANEAL ESTENZOL, OF FLORIDA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE, VICE ROBERT WALLACE.

TANYA MARIE TRUJILLO, OF NEW MEXICO, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, VICE TIMOTHY R. PETTY.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

LARRY EDWARD ANDRE, JR., OF TEXAS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF LIECHTENSTEN.

MARC EVANS KNAPPER, OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM.

CHRISTOPHER JOHN LAMORA, OF RHODE ISLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON.

TULIVAO S. MUSHINGI, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE.

MICHAEL RAYNO, OF MARYLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA-BISSAU.

MICHELE JEANNE SHON, OF MARYLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREERS AMBASSADOR, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS, VICE KEVIN EDWARD MOLEY, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

JON HUGUENI MEYER, OF OHIO, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, VICE JOHN MARSHALL MITNICK.

THE JUDICIARY

RUPA RANGA PUTTAGUNTA, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE PATRICIA A. BRODERICK, RETIRED.

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

BORN C. ASHTON, OF MARYLAND, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, VICE DAVID B. BUCKLEY, RESIGNED.

THE JUDICIARY

DEBORAH L. BOARDMAN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND, VICE RICHARD D. BENNETT, RETIRED.

Tiffany P. Cunningham, of ILLINOIS, To be United States Circuit Judge for the Federal Circuit, VICE EVAN JONATHAN WALLACE, RETIRED.

LYDIA KAY DRAGO, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND, VICE CATHERINE C. BLAKE, RETIRED.

KETANJI BROWN JACKSON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, VICE MERRICK B. GARLAND, RETIRED.

CANDACE JACKSON-AKTUMI, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT, VICE JAI R. M. PLAUM, RETIRED.

JULIEN XAVIER NEAL, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY, VICE WILLIAM J. MARTINI, RETIRED.

EARL N. QUABASH, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY, VICE FRED G. SHERIDAN, RETIRED.

REGINA M. RODRIGUEZ, OF COLORADO, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO, VICE MARCIA S. KRIEGER, RETIRED.

MARGARET IRISH STRICKLAND, OF NEW MEXICO, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO, VICE ROBERT C. BRACK, RETIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

PATRICIA L. ROSS, OF OHIO, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (CONGRESSIONAL AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS, VICE BRIEN S. TUCKER.

MARYANNE T. DONAGHY, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (OFFICE OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION, VICE TAMARA BONZANTO.

Mary Jo C. Benefield, Of Virginia, To Be Under Secretary Of Veterans Affairs For Memorial AFFA, Vice Handy Barnes.

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 61:

To be vice admiral

BRIAR ADM. WILLIAM J. HOUSTON
Charles Spencer was a central figure in the education of countless Mississippi students and I commend him for his lifetime commitment to his community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TODD SPIKER
HON. TROY BALDERSON
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. BALDERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Todd Spiker. Todd was a longtime friend of my family and we will miss him dearly.

Todd passed away on Sunday, April 4, 2021. Todd spent a lifetime in service to his country beginning at the age of 19 when he joined the U.S. Army. Upon leaving active duty, he joined the Alabama National Guard and served in the operation Desert Storm with the 214th MP Company.

After graduating from Jacksonville State University, he went to work at the at the City of Gadsden Police Department. Five years later, he would join the Federal Bureau of Investigation as a Special Agent where he would proudly serve for the next 23 years. Todd had a wonderful life and left an incredible legacy. I am grateful for his service and I offer my deepest condolences to his family.

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE GARY STAPLES
HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Gary Staples who passed away on January 2, 2021 at the age of 80. I send my condolences and prayers to Mr. Staples' family and friends.

Born and raised in Laurel Mississippi, he attended the University of Southern Mississippi and Jones County Junior College. Representative Staples served as a member of the Mississippi House of Representatives for the 88th District. Mr. Staples was loved and respected by his constituents, family, friends and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

From serving Mississippi's 88th District for 17 years, he has left behind a legacy of commitment to the State of Mississippi for us to remember him.

Although we are sad to hear of his passing, we take comfort in his example of a life well lived and the legacy he leaves behind. On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Mississippi, we honor the memory of Representative Gary Staples, a loving husband, father, man of God, and dedicated civil servant.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF CHARLES SPENCER
HON. TREAT KELLY
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Mr. Charles Spencer who passed away at the age of 94 on Monday, March 22. I am grateful for the service of men like Mr. Spencer, and I join his family and loved ones in mourning his loss.

Mr. Spencer was born on November 21, 1926 in Clay County. He grew up on his family's farm and spent his entire life as a resident of Itawamba County. In 1944, he was married to his childhood sweetheart, Martha West.

Charles was passionate about education. He spent his life inculcating into his students the value of education. He began his career under the Emergency Certificate in 1947 teaching 5th and 6th grade at Tilden and Banner. He taught social studies and coached the men's and women's basketball teams at Cleveland Vocational School in 1951 and 1952. In 1952 Mr. Spencer earned his BS in Education from Mississippi State University before returning to Itawamba County to serve as principal at Mantachie. He taught night classes to veterans who sought to further their education. In 1972 he returned to Mississippi State to earn his MA in Education Administration. He was then appointed as Superintendent of Education of Itawamba County.

Charles is survived by his son, Keith; daughter, Brenda; grandchildren, Klista, Ina, Matthew, Beth Ann, Stephanie and Max; and great-grandchildren Mia Rae, Aiden, Charlie, Catherine, Colin, Anthony, Marina, and Alexios. Mr. Charles Spencer was a central figure in the education of countless Mississippi students and I commend him for his lifetime commitment to his community.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF TERRY SEALS
HON. TRENT KELLY
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Terry Seals who passed away on Monday, March 29 at the age of 80. I send my condolences and prayers to his family, loved ones and friends.

Mr. Seals was a longtime friend of my family and we will continue to mourn his passing. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 104.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF KEN SEALS
HON. TREAT KELLY
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Ken Seals who passed away on Monday, March 29 at the North Mississippi Medical Center in Tupelo. I join Ken’s family and loved ones in mourning his loss.

Ken, born to M.L. and Viola Laprade Seals, grew up in Pontotoc. He graduated from Pontotoc High School in 1956 and received his associate's degree from Itawamba Junior College. He later attended Mississippi State University before joining the United States Army. He served in Germany from 1958 to 1961. In 1965, Ken married Shelby Jean Seals. The two were married for 45 years until her passing in 2010.

Ken worked for 33 years as a purchasing agent for Malone and Hyde. He was an active member of First Baptist Church and West
Jackson Street Baptist in Tupelo. He was an avid collector of baseball cards and coins.

Left to cherish his memory are his daughter, Diana Lynn; sons, Jeffery Lane and Michael Allen; and ten grandchildren.

I am grateful for the impact of men like Mr. Seals and I commend him for his lifetime of service to family, state, and country.

HONORING COLONEL GREGORY MICHEL

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Colonel Gregory Michel for his years of service to the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency. Col. Michel has led our state’s emergency agency since 2018—and what a fine job he has done.

Colonel Gregory Michel retired from the military in 2017 after nearly 30 years of service to the Army. He began his career with his command at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center in Hattiesburg, MS where he served as Installation Commander.

Colonel Michel is a Veteran of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm and a Combat Veteran of Operation Iraq Freedom. Col. Michel’s military decorations include the Bronze Star and the Combat Infantryman’s Badge.

Col. Michel has remained dedicated to our state in his many roles, and during his time at MEMA was responsible for declaring more than nine Presidential Disaster Declarations, a critical piece of post-hurricane recovery efforts. Although retirement from MEMA might be different given the pandemic, I am confident the impact Col. Michel left on our state and at MEMA will be a lasting one. I want to thank Colonel Michel for his service to our country and to the state of Mississippi.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF FOSTER CITY

HON. JACKIE SPEIER
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, April 19, 2021

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Foster City on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of its incorporation as a city on April 27, 1971. This is a young city with a long history, and it all began as a salt pond.

Leslie Salt Company sold its land, then known as Brewer’s Island, to developer T. Jack Foster and a partner in 1958. The vision for the city was to develop a community that was more aesthetically pleasing, following an orderly development plan with neighborhoods that aged better over time. 218 surface acres of lagoons containing 425 million gallons of water were ultimately created within 4 square miles of land. Financing through bonds issued in the 1960’s, totaling $88.5 million, drove the creation of Foster City. Adjusted for inflation, this sum would be the equivalent of $738 million in 2021 terms.

Now 33,000 residents inhabit this glistening four square mile jewel adjacent to San Francisco Bay. Residents love their parks and waterways. There are 24 parks and tennis courts, basketball fields, soccer fields, trails, picnic areas and an unlimited number of smiles from residents. Throughout America, this past year has been challenging because we must either shelter in place or stay distant from one another when outside. Foster City’s architecture makes it simple to maintain your mental health.

You can walk a quiet street, go to a trail or park, ride a bike on flat ground throughout the city, and enjoy getting dunked in the bay when your kite sailing skills are overcome by Mother Nature. It’s big news in Foster City when jellyfish show up in the lagoons. These marvelous creatures pose special challenges, but modern engineering and a bit of wisdom have kept them on the bay side of the levee system during most years. On occasion, one can even spot the descendants of Brewer Island’s once most energetic and prolific of species: jackrabbits. There’s a lot for a rabbit to love about the city, filled as it is by such greenery that it would make Peter Rabbit swap Mr. McGregor’s garden for a city block in Foster City.

This wonderful community loves its children. In normal times, youth sports are the center of community life for hundreds of families. Among the city’s many wonderful attributes is that its inhabitants come from the four corners of the earth. If you are raised in Foster City and join a youth soccer league, you’d better be prepared for parents who grew up with a soccer ball in every closet. Coupled with all of the foreign languages heard on the streets and what you have is a city that celebrates global diversity and brings people together through sports and cultural programs that highlight the kindness of the human spirit. Global powerhouses Gilead Sciences and Visa International, companies that need to recruit talent globally, call Foster City home in part because it is so welcoming.

Madam Speaker, I close with this other special note about Foster City. In 2003, the city redeveloped its original park and renamed it after the late Congressman Leo J. Ryan. As we know, Congressman Ryan served the people of Foster City and his district until his assassination on November 18, 1978. The people of Foster City did not have to rename a park in memory of a man who died a quarter century earlier, but they did. This tells you something about the character of civic leadership in this community. These good people re- alized then, and now, that public service is an honorable endeavor, and that those who seek justice and pay the heaviest price because of that most important of goals have died in service to every constituent, past, present and future. Foster City does not forget. It does not forget to enjoy life and it does not forget to honor life.

In the decades to come, on the waterways and the roads, within the council chambers and city offices, and amongst the general populace, this community will thrive. Even when jellyfish bloom in the lagoons, the optimism that sparked the creation of this town never fades. Let us all wish Foster City and its residents another 50 years of friendship and progress.

IN HONOR OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF COMMANDER HOUSSAIN “SAM” SAREINI, ONE OF THE FIRST MUSLIM-AMERICAN NAVAL COMMANDERS

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, April 19, 2021

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Commander Housssain “Sam” Sareini of Dearborn, Michigan. His accomplishments and service to our nation are worthy of commendation.

As a young man with an interest in government service, Commander Sareini enlisted in the United States Navy when he was 18 years old. During his first tour of duty, he was selected for the Enlisted Commissioning Program and went on to study Biochemistry at Iowa State University.

Commander Sareini has served in the United States Navy for nearly 27 years in a variety of roles all over the globe. He has served as Air Defense Commander, Reactor Laboratories Division Officer, Chemistry and Radiological Controls Principal Assistant, Radiation Health Officer, Senior Warrant Officer, and now Commanding Officer for the USS Nitze. A dedicated servicemember, he has earned the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal.

On April 9, 2021 at a ceremony in Portsmouth, Virginia, Commander Sareini took command of the USS Nitze, an Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer. He is one of the first ever Muslim-Americans to command his own naval ship. His Islamic faith tells him to “live for others” and military service allows him to do just that. A dedicated leader and inspiration to all, Commander Sareini embodies the unofficial Navy motto of “Not self, but country.”

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Commander Housssain “Sam” Sareini for his invaluable service to this nation. I join with Commander Sareini’s family, friends, and colleagues in extending my gratitude to him for his continued exemplary service to this country and congratulate him on this terrific achievement.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF J.T. BYRD, JR.

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of J.T. Byrd, Jr. who passed away on December 8th at the age of 87. I send my condolences and prayers to Mr. Byrd’s family and friends.

Born and raised in Mississippi, he served as Pastor of Eastlawn Baptist Church, Bethany Baptist Church and Oneal Road Baptist Church. Mr. Byrd was loved and respected by his church members, family, friends and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

I had the distinct honor of meeting Mr. Byrd and honoring his service to our country during an Honor Flight to the nation’s capital.
He leaves behind a legacy of service for us to remember him by. From his service in World War II to his faithful dedication of sharing the gospel with others, we now know he is resting in Glory with his bride.

Although we are sad to hear of his passing, we take comfort in his example of a life well lived and the legacy he leaves behind. On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Mississippi, we honor the memory of Mr. J.T. Byrd, Jr., a loving husband, father, man of God, and dedicated civil servant.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF BARBARA IVY

HON. TRENT KELLY
OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. KELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Ms. Barbara Ivy who passed away on February 15, 2021 at North Mississippi Medical Center. I join her family, friends, and loved ones in mourning her loss.

Ms. Ivy was born to Earlie Lewis King and Munola Jones King. In 1968, she graduated from Siggers High School. She worked at Lanier Clothing and Alan White until her retirement in 2007.

On January 29, 2021, Ms. Ivy celebrated 50 years of marriage to her husband Tommie Lee Ivy. The two had three children and a stepson. She was a dedicated wife, mother, and friend. She was a member of Union Missionary Baptist Church in Shannon where she served on the Missionary Society, Deacon’s Wife Auxiliary, Kitchen Committee, and the usher board.

Left to cherish her memory are her husband, Tommie Lee Ivy; children, Cynthia, Octavius, Timothy, and Marcus; and nine grandchildren.

Ms. Barbara Ivy was a dedicated community servant and a beacon of love and light to all who knew her.

JASMINE TORRES

HON. ED PERLMUTTER
OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jasmine Torres for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Jasmine Torres is a 12th grader at Vantage High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jasmine Torres 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 Jasmine Torres for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners 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

Monday, April 19, 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.


Samantha Whitley, Richard Whittelock, Abigail Whitlock, Teresa Whitmore, Sarah Whitney, Mariah Wiliams, Morgan Whitley, Devon Whitley, Ashley Wibeto, Kathleen Wick, Andrea Wickersham, Kristy Wickett, Kara Wickman, JoAnn Widrig, Valerie Wieje, Jere Wiebe, Kristin Wiebe, Paula Wiebe, Daax Wiebelhaus, Betty Wiebelhaus-Vosler, Morgan Wieber, Kathy Wiebers, Angie Wiebers, Barbara Wiegmans, Hilary Wiek, Alison Wieczorek, Lacey Wieczorek, Krista Wiedeman, Lisa Wiedohr, Brent Wiederhoft, Jeannie Wiebe, Jean Wiekamp, Sarah Wielenga, Sarah Wieloch, Jill Wieman, Tanya Wiens, Bonnie Wierenga, Lindsay Wiese, Jaime Wiese, Shanna Wiese, Richard Wieseler, Abbie Wieseler, Emily Wiford, Daylon Wigart, Pearl Wigdahl Aldrich, Miranda Wigg, Wendy Wight, Elizabeth Wightman, Jennifer Wik, Vickie Wilbur, Glenda Wilcox, Susan Wilcox, Kimberly Wilcox, Linda Wilcox, Lauren Wilcox, Gail Wild, Pamela Wild, Jacqueline Wilde, Mandy Wilde, Kristina Wildeman, Michael Wildermuth, Deborah Wilder, Alysen Wilen, Cynthia Wiles, Madison Wiley, Lori Wilford, Melanie Wilgers, Jill Wilgers, Holly Wilgers, Katie Wilk, Patty Wilkening, Cheryl Wilke, Kimberly Wilkins, Mariah Wilkinson, Lesley Wilkinson, Sarah Wilkinson, Elizabeth Will, Beverly Willadsen, Chantelle Willet, Elizabeth Willers, Kelli Willing, Candace Willhite, Debra Williams, Darlene Williams, Lori Williams, James Williams, Charlene Williams, Gordon Williams, Paul Williams, Marie Williams, Barbara Williams, Lisa Williams, Christy Williams, Jennifer Williams, Katherine Williams, Vanessa Williams, Aleen Williams, Kirstin Williams, Autumn Williams, Britt Williams, Kathy Williams, Sarah Williams, Jennifer Williams, Rebecca Williams, Brian Williams, Beth Williams, Jael Williams, Rebecca Williams.

Barbara Williams, Melissa Williams, Amie Williams, Amy Williams, Carrie Williams, Danielle Williams, Teryn Williams, Hanna Williams, Erin Williams, Brandis Williams, Hannah Williams, Annette Williams-Buthe, Marcia Williamson, Carrie Williamson, Brian Williamson, Travis Williamson, Alec Williamson, Mary Willis, Damain Willis, Alana Williams, Stephen Willis, Randi Williams, Robert Willoughby, Jessica Willprecht, Wendy Willrodt, Jennifer Willis, Rhonda Willson, Kellie Willson, Hannah Willson, Patricia Willuweit, Jessica Willuweit, Elizabeth Wilson, Cheryl Wilson, Tracy Wilson, Teresa Wilson, Joanna Wilson, Jame Wilson, Terrie Wilson, Donnelle Wilson, Catherine Wilson, Brenda Wilson, Kevin Wilson, Joslin Wilson, Leslie Wilson, Jeremy Wilson, Nicole Wilson, Alexandria Wilson, Stephanie Wilson, Mark Wilson, Lara Wilson, Barbara Wilson, Amy Wilson, Ladonna Wilson.


Micah Worsley, Caitlin Worth, Amanda Worontz, Micheala Wosjie, Cindy Wozna, Alicia Wright, Cherie Wright, Janet Wright, Debra Wright, Allinda Wright, Linda Wright, Sandra Wright, Melissa Wright, Vicki Wright, Shannon Wright, Sara Wright, Melissa Wright, Donna Wright, Brittany Wright, Michaela Wright, Elizabeth Wright, Krista Wright, Blake Wright, Kelsie Wright, Ashley Wright, Jessica Wright, Vicki Wright, Madison Wright.


Kami Yost, Nichole Yost, Jacqueline Yotter, Tara Young, Sandra Young, Doyle Young. Mary Young, Laurie Young, Linda Young, Tamarra Young, Tamara Young, Jaime Young, Jade Young, Tricia Young, Nicole Young. Chelsea Young, Brant Young, Brenna Young, Katrina Young, Heathern Young, Jessica Young, Jordyn Young, Hunter Young. Katharine Young, Judy Youngbluth, Karen Younger, Carla Youngworth, Sandra Youngworth, Renay Youpeue, Rashad Yousef, Ashley Yousef, Kathleen Ysbrand, Lindsey Yull, Tonia Yuker, Jay Yungbluth, Nadia Yusufi, Tricia Zabel, Jacqueline Zacharias, Renee Zacher, Tracy Zacher, Karen Zacher, Tiffany Zachman, Michelle Zaffi, Kathleen Zambo, Carina Zaroma, Vicki Zamow-Laney, Janice Zandstra, Mary Zanoni, Dawn Zastoupil, Mariah Zavadil, Sasha Zavesky, Jaycob Zdenek, Tanya Zdenek, Stephanie Zebroski, Afton Zediker, Kari Zeeb, Rachael Zeiger, Alexia Zeigler, Shanon Zell, Emily Zeller, Kendra Zellers, Emily Zellmer, Nancy Zemczuknik.


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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARY E. MILLER
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, April 19, 2021

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 118.

HENRY STRAUSS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Henry Leopold Strauss of Denver, Colorado who passed away on April 8, 2021.

Henry was born in Germany in 1927. As Hitler was rising to power his family fled for Spain, then ultimately Denmark. After immigrating to New York in 1937 Henry moved to Denver in 1939. A graduate of East High School and the University of Colorado, Henry obtained a real estate broker's license and opened Strauss Realty. Henry and his first wife, Florence, married in 1958 and spent nearly four decades together before Florence passed away in 1995.

Henry was a strong advocate of civic engagement and was active in Democratic politics and a number of community organizations including the Rotary Club and the Council on Foreign Relations. Henry also served for 22 years on the Metropolitan State University Foundation Board. An avid traveler, Henry was crossing the globe well into his 80s with his second wife, Joan. Henry had a particular appreciation for China and made an impressive total of 26 trips there over the years.

In 1995, Henry set up the Florence G. Strauss Indigenous Medicine Collection Fund to collect books related to complementary health practices and indigenous therapies around the world. This collection became Henry's greatest pride and joy over the past 25 years and currently contains over 4,000 columns.

Henry was a devoted husband and loving father and grandfather. He is survived by his wife, Joan, and daughters Pam and Mimi, and his grandchildren Abbie, Emily, Emma, and Edie. I am deeply grateful for his lifetime of service to our community.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF JERRY BOYD

HON. TRENT KELLY
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. KELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of Jerry Boyd, one of the First African American State Troopers in Northeast Mississippi and the first man of color to serve in Tishomingo County law enforcement. I am grateful for Mr. Boyd's service to the state of Mississippi and join his family and loved ones in celebrating his lifetime of service.

Mr. Boyd, a native of Hernando, attended the University of Mississippi and graduated with a degree in public administration in 1977. In 1980, Jerry attended the Mississippi Highway Patrol School. For 23 years he served Tishomingo County and eventually retired from the MHP. Jerry Boyd joined the Corinth Police Department where he currently serves as a Lieutenant. After 14 years of dedicated service, Lieutenant Boyd will be retiring from CPD. He will also be retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel after 28 years of service in the Mississippi National Guard.

I am thankful for great men like Jerry Boyd who dutifully protect our great state, and I cherish the opportunity to celebrate his many accomplishments.

HONORING COLONEL BOBBY GINN
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding military service of Colonel Bobby Ginn. Colonel Ginn, his wife Vicki, and their four children hail from Tylertown, Mississippi. Bobby comes from a long line of family members rich in military tradition. His grandfather served in WWII and his father served in WWII, both mobilizing through Camp Shelby MS, the very same military post that Colonel Ginn commanded from July 2017 through November 2020.

Colonel Ginn grew up working on a dairy farm, later becoming a cattle rancher. However, he had a desire to serve his country and, in 1990, enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve.

He received his commission in 1993 through Officer Candidate School and served in numerous leadership positions including Company and Battalion Command. He became a
HONORING BERTINE BAHIGE ON BEING NAMED THE 2021 WYOMING NATIONAL DISTINGUISHED PRINCIPAL

HON. LIZ CHENEY OF WYOMING IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, April 19, 2021

Ms. CHENEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Bertine Bahige on being named the 2021 Wyoming National Distinguished Principal.

Bertine was born and raised in the Democratic Republic of the Congo until he was kidnapped by the Mai Mai Rebel Group who came to his town in eastern DRC looking to abduct new recruits. He escaped after two years and spent five years in a refugee camp before being resettled in the United States. After he arrived in the United States, he juggled three jobs to put himself through community college and never missed a class. Bertine did so well in school that he was offered a scholarship to study at the University of Wyoming, and after graduating, decided to make Wyoming his home and begun looking for ways to give back to his community.

He started his career as a high school teacher in Gillette and is now the Principal at Rawhide Elementary school. Bertine has had such an impact on his students that many of them come back later to ask him for advice or guidance in their lives. This outstanding accomplishment is a true reflection of Bertine’s hard work, dedication, and commitment to his students. Rawhide Elementary school is lucky to have someone who puts students first and values the positive impact teachers have on the students they teach.

I thank Bertine for his dedication to Wyoming students and his contributions to education.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JOSEPH MCCOY

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR. OF VIRGINIA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of Joseph McCoy.

On the morning of April 23, 1897, an African American named Joseph McCoy, just a teenager, was lynched in Alexandria, Virginia. On April 22, Joseph McCoy was arrested without a warrant. That evening and into the early morning of April 23 a white mob made two attempts to break into the police station where he was being held. In the second attempt the mob forcibly took him from his jail cell, shot him, bludgeoned him, and hanged him from the lampost on the southeast corner of Cameron and Lee Streets. McCoy was buried in a pauper’s grave at Penny Hill Cemetery. Joseph McCoy was the first documented lynching victim in Alexandria.

The lynching of Joseph McCoy is only one of 86 documented lynchings committed in Virginia between 1880 and 1930. These acts of premeditated violence were deliberate attempts by whites to terrorize and control black populations across the state. On April 23, the City of Alexandria’s Equal Justice Initiative Community Remembrance Project will hold a remembrance event for Joseph McCoy. It will feature the unveiling of a small ин-person marker and a wider commemoration via an In Memoriam web page. It is incumbent on all of us, particularly those born into privilege, to remember this shameful episode of our history and others like it. In doing so, we are better able to see the continuous chain of racially motivated violence against black Americans that spans our Nation’s history. We can truly honor the memory of Joseph McCoy along with the countless number of named and unnamed victims of racial violence by seeking justice for all Americans and working to build a more inclusive society.

HONORING COLONEL PHYLLIS LUTTMAN

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO OF MISSISSIPPI IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Colonel Phyllis Luttmann who passed away on March 1, 2021. I send my condolences and prayers to her husband, Walter, as well as her family and friends.

Col. Luttmann joined the Air Force in 1962 and was commissioned as a 1st Lieutenant in October 1969 after receiving her basic nursing education in New Jersey. She served on active duty for 30 years and in the Reserves for 2 years, later retiring in January 1993 from Keesler AFB. Col. Luttmann served at numerous installations as an Operating Room and Central Supply Director including Otis AFB, Massachusetts; Bunker Hill AFB, Indiana; Tuzlak Det 37 in Ankara Turkey; Sheppard AFB in Texas, David Grant Medical Center in California, and the Medical Center at Keesler AFB.

Col. Luttmann was very active in numerous professional organizations including the Aerospace Medical Association. She was elected President of the Flight Nurse Section from 1979 through 1980 and during her career received the Brig. Gen. E.A. Hoefly Award for clinical and managerial excellence.

Col. Luttmann was awarded numerous decorations for her service, including the Legion of Merit, Air Force Meritorious Service with two oak leaf clusters, the Joint Services Commendation Medal, and the Air Force Commendation Medal. I admire Colonel Luttmann for her unwavering dedication to our country.

Although we are saddened by her passing, we take comfort in her example of a life well lived and the legacy she leaves behind. On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Mississippi, we honor the memory of Colonel Phyllis Luttmann, a loving wife, a dedicated civil servant and a woman of God.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF GERALD THOMAS KIDD

HON. TRENT KELLY OF MISSISSIPPI IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Mr. Gerald Kidd who passed away on February 20 at North Mississippi Medical Center in Tupelo. I join his family and loved ones in mourning his loss.

Mr. Kidd grew up in Pontotoc County, graduating from Hurricane High School. In 1944 he married Mildred Dowdy. In that same year he entered service as a private in the United States Army and was assigned to the European Theatre during WWII. He was a rifleman in the 2nd platoon of Company B 318th Infantry. Shortly before Christmas of 1944, he was taken prisoner by German soldiers. He was released in April of 1945 and was awarded the purple heart.

Gerald returned to Pontotoc and his wife, Mildred where they had two children. He soon began a career in home building that started in Memphis but quickly moved he and his family around the country. The pair retired to the Alabama Gulf Coast before finally returning to Pontotoc.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife of 77 years, Mildred; children Sandy and Gary; two grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

I am grateful for the service of men like Mr. Kidd who dedicated their life to family, faith, and country.

FRANCISCA VASQUEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER OF COLORADO IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Francisca Vasquez for receiving the Youth County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. Francisca Vasquez is an 11th grader at Lester Arnold High School and received this award because her determination and hard
work have allowed her to overcome adversities. The dedication demonstrated by Francisca Vasquez 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 Francisca Vasquez for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. HUIZENGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today regarding a missed vote due to attending a friend’s funeral. Had I been present for roll call vote number 118, On Passage to the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act, I would have voted “aye.” Had I been present for roll call vote number 118, On Passage to the 504 Credit Risk Management Improvement Act, I would have voted “yea.”

APRIL VETERAN OF THE MONTH

HON. KEVIN HERN
OF OKLAHOMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. HERN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the First District of Oklahoma’s April Veteran of the Month, Willie Braggs.

Willie Braggs is a retired Air Force officer and Vice Wing Commander of the 138th Fighter Wing of the Oklahoma Air National Guard. His service included two combat tours in the Middle East. Colonel Braggs faithfully served our country for over thirty years and continues to give back to his community and fellow veterans.

He is involved with the Jenks Public School System as their assistant webmaster and varsity photographer for their athletic department. As the father of two Jenks graduates, he is a man of impeccable integrity who helps service members transition to civilian life. He is a man of impeccable integrity who has dedicated his life to serving others.

He answered the call to defend freedom across the globe and sacrificed whatever was necessary in the name of that noble cause. It is my honor to recognize Willie Braggs as the first Congressional District of Oklahoma’s April Veteran of the Month.

HONORING MRS. DELLA McCaughan
HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mrs. Della McCaughan who passed away on February 4, 2021 at the age of 92. I send my condolences and prayers to her family and friends.

Born and reared in Pass Christian Mississippi, Della was the youngest child in her family and was honored to claim the Mississippi Gulf Coast as her lifelong home. Mrs. McCaughan was a teacher in the Biloxi Public School System for 44 years. She was the first person in the nation to teach Marine Biology at the high school level. Additionally, she wrote the first textbook to be used for that purpose.

Della loved teaching and believed in her students, helping them realize their potential. Della was the recipient of many awards. Some of her most valued awards include: Shell Merriott Fellowship, Mother of the Year, and Teacher of the Year. She was awarded an Einstein Congressional Fellowship to work in the U.S. Senate as an educational advisor, and in 1994, received a commendation through Senate Concurrent Resolution Number 578, whereby the Mississippi State Legislature recognized her outstanding career and meritorious service during her years as an educator.

Although we are saddened by her passing, we take comfort in her example of a life well lived and the legacy she leaves behind to all the young lives she touched. On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Mississippi, we honor the memory of Mrs. Della McCaughan, a loving teacher, mother, wife, and woman of God.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF SCOT AMES, JR.

HON. TREN T KELLY
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Lt. Scot Ames, Jr. who passed away on a pilot training mission on February 19, 2021. I join his family and his squadron in mourning his loss.

Scot grew up in Pekin, Indiana and attended Eastern High School. He was an athlete and outdoorsman. Before graduating, he earned his Private Pilots License. He attended Indiana State University, where he was an active member of the ISU Bass Fishing Team. He studied Aviation Management and met his wife Audra. The two met almost three years ago and were married in the Fall of 2020.

Scot was known by his squadron for his love of flying. When he was young, he spoke of one day becoming a pilot in the United States Air Force. He was dedicated to his students as an instructor pilot and he impacted countless lives throughout his career. Left to cherish Scot’s memory are his wife, Audra Dial Ames; parents Ginger Bailey and Scot Wayne Ames; sister, Courtni; nieces Fe-

EMMA ARVIZO-AGUIRRE
HON. ED PERLMUTTER
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Emma Arvizo-Aguirre for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. Emma Arvizo-Aguirre is a 12th grader at MESA and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Emma Arvizo-Aguirre 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 Emma Arvizo-Aguirre for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING JOSEPH CHERUP, JR.

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, April 19, 2021

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent of mine and a true American hero from Fenton, Michigan—Mr. Joseph Cherup, Jr.

Throughout the course of his life, Mr. Cherup has worn many hats in the service of his nation, his community, and his family. While serving his country in Korea, he proudly wore the cap of an Army captain. As an officer at the Koje Do POW prison, Mr. Cherup was instrumental in negotiating the successful release of General Francis Dodd when he was held hostage for three days.

When Mr. Cherup returned home, he wore the hat of an engineer. He has owned several businesses and was a founding member of the Leelanau Conservancy, Traverse City Condominiums, Custom Electric, Revolution DC, Kolene Corporation, and Trade Winds Bar in Detroit.

But beyond his honorable service and his achievements in business, at his core, Mr. Cherup is simply a kind man who has helped take care of others.

When he was 21 years old, his father, Joseph Sr. passed away, leaving him to care for his mother, Rose, and his younger sister, Delores. In 1984, his mother moved in with him in Fenton so he could take better care of her, which he did until she passed away in 2007.

His entire life, Mr. Cherup has generously donated his time and his money to charities and causes that help others. He has worn
many hats—Army officer, business owner, and loving son. For this and for all he has given back, it is my honor to recognize his contributions on the floor of the People’s House.

IN MEMORY OF STEVE FOX
HON. EARL BLUMENAUER
OF OREGON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the tragic passing of Steve Fox, a pioneering advocate, strategist, a true leader in the cannabis legalization effort. It is fitting today that we are passing the SAFE Banking Act. We wouldn’t be where we are today without Steve and his amazing efforts. His life work, leadership, and strategic brilliance are unmatched.

Passing this critical legislation today would be a small part of a fitting memorial for a man whose life work made it possible, indeed, imperative to solve this problem.

I first met Steve as we were strategizing on the Oregon legalization effort. Back in 2013, after the Colorado legalization campaign that he orchestrated had passed and before Oregon joined the ranks of legalization, he was already a legend. He pioneered so much of the groundwork for the legalization movement that exploded after the success of the Colorado campaign which owed so much to his strategic brilliance.

Steve was thoughtful, hardworking, and self-effacing. While he has become a national movement with many leaders now emerging, none compare with Steve. Few will fully understand his many contributions and importance. I for one will miss his genuine, quiet leadership. As someone who’s been working on this longer than anyone in American politics, I know we are all deeply, deeply indebted to Steve. We mourn his loss, extend our thoughts to his family and many friends.

This should be the year that we finish the pioneering work of his career. It would be a fitting capstone to a lifetime of cannabis leadership, activism, and progress.

HAFJR MOHAMMED
HON. ED PERLMUTTER
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Hajir Mohammed for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF REVOKERED JOSEPH McKNIGHT
HON. TREN'T KELLY
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Reverend Joseph McKnight who passed away February 27, 2021. I join his family, friends, and loved ones in mourning his loss.

Born to Reverend Richard Franklin McKnight and Flora Hicks on January 4, 1956, Rev. McKnight was raised with the conviction of service to God. He grew up near Nashville, Tennessee and graduated high school before continuing his education in Theology and Psychology. At the age of 16 he recognized his call to ministry. In September of 1988 he was ordained as a Licensed Minister with the Assemblies of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Rev. McKnight married Roxan Prater on June 10, 1977. Throughout his ministry he has served as Pastor of Middle Ridge Pentecostal Church, Youth President of the Tennessee District AJLC, and Youth Pastor for the Pentecostal Church of Blue Mountain. He has also served on the board of Iron Hill Christian Academy, Chairman of the Board of Blue Mountain Academy, and New Beginnings International Children’s & Family Services Board.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Roxan; brothers Robert, Richard, Ron, and Steve; sister, Glenda; and many nieces and nephews.

Rev. McKnight had an immeasurable impact on the faith community across Mississippi and I am grateful to his service to God, family, and state.

HONORING HANK ROGERS
HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Hank Rogers who passed away on January 4, 2021. My deepest condolences and most sincere prayers are with his wife of 49 years, Nancy, as well as his family and friends.

Mr. Rogers grew up in D’Iberville, and proudly lived and raised his family in South Mississippi. He is a 1970 graduate of D’Iberville High School and obtained his associate degree in Drafting from MGCCC.

Hank was a principled man devoted to his faith, his country, and his family. Many describe him as a funny, quick witted, intelligent, strong willed, “Southern Gentleman” who was committed to his beliefs, maintained a strong work ethic and served as a mentor to many in the community.

Hank was a volunteer leader having served as the President of the D’Iberville Historical Society, for two years, “heading up” many projects geared toward revitalizing his hometown. He was a member of the Mississippi Civil Air Patrol, serving as Wing Commander from 2016 until his death, advancing up to the rank of Colonel. We honor Mr. Rogers for the service he showed to his country and to his community.

Although we are sad to hear of his passing, we take comfort in his example of a life well lived and the legacy he leaves behind. On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Mississippi, we honor the memory of Mr. Hank Rogers, a loving husband, a dedicated civil servant and a man of God.

IN HONOR OF THE HANNAFORD SUPERMARKETS ACHIEVING ZERO WASTE IN THE YEAR 2020
HON. CHRIS PAPPAS
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Hannaford Supermarkets in producing zero pounds of food waste in 2020. Hannaford Supermarkets has 183 stores located across New England and New York, making it the first large-scale supermarket to achieve this landmark in sustainability.

In 2020, Hannaford Supermarkets successfully diverted 65 million pounds of food waste out of landfills.

Instrumental in Hannaford’s success in this endeavor is that each of its 183 stores has a team of hardworking individuals dedicated to leading a landmark achievement, including the Food Recovery Hierarchy. After reducing surplus at the source of production, the Food Recovery Hierarchy advises that to create a more sustainable food system, we donate surplus product to food insecure individuals, followed by donations to local farmers for animal feed.

Food recovery and donation have long been staples of Hannaford operations. However, when donations are not feasible, Hannaford Supermarkets partners with Agri-Cycle to engage in the hierarchy’s fourth tier, industrial repurposing. Based in Scarborough, Maine, Agri-Cycle is a food waste recycling company that turns food into energy. Through this partnership, Hannaford has been able to fully realize their zero-food waste goal.

Achieving zero waste is an accomplishment on its own, but I would like to highlight the added difficulty to this task caused by the coronavirus pandemic. As the coronavirus waged on with no clear end in sight, our agriculture and food system industries were disrupted in an unprecedented degree. While shoppers began to decrease their number of supermarket visits to limit their exposure to the disease, they simultaneously began spending more per trip. Hannaford Supermarkets were able to not only weather this supply and demand shock, but also to divert all unsold food away from landfills.

New Hampshire’s way of life is rooted in our natural surroundings and keeping our foodlands as empty as possible is imperative to preserving the environment and our natural resources. Hannaford’s pioneering curiosity has led to a landmark achievement in supermarket sustainability. Hannaford Supermarkets’ continuing dedication to sustainability and service are immeasurable.
On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire’s First Congressional District, I want to congratulate Hannaford Supermarkets on the success of its sustainability initiative. I look forward to the continuation of their sustainability initiative and am hopeful about the example this company sets for supermarkets across the nation. One of the Hannaford Supermarkets for all that it does to protect our environment while also aiding food insecurity.

THE PARRISH FAMILY

HON. JAMES COMER
OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the bravery and sacrifice of the Parrish Brothers of Burkesville, Kentucky.

Barney, Watson, and Taylor Parrish each honorably served our country during World War II, with Barney paying the ultimate sacrifice. The Parrish Brothers’ service to our country did not end after World War II as Watson and Taylor continued defending America during the Korean War. During the war, Watson was seriously wounded and returned to duty less than a week later, where he also paid the ultimate sacrifice. After the Korean War, Taylor returned to Kentucky and continued serving others and raising a family in the First District of Kentucky. The family’s sacrifice was awarded two purple hearts and a bronze star.

The legacy of the Parrish family leads us all to reflect on the freedoms we hold dear and the sacrifices American heroes make to protect them. The service and sacrifices they bravely gave should not and will not be forgotten. I join their family in friends to celebrate their legacy and honor their noble service to our country.

EVELYN ANNE SMITH

HON. ED PERLMUTTER
OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Evelyn Anne Smith for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Evelyn Anne Smith is an 11th grader at Vantage Point High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Evelyn Anne Smith 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 Evelyn Anne Smith for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF ROBERT ALLAN SMITH

HON. TRENTE KELLY
OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Robert Allan Smith. On November 12, 2020 Lieutenant Colonel Robert Allan Smith passed away. Allan served his Nation for over 45 years in the United States Air Force (USAF) and in the Department of Defense (DoD), Pentagon.

Alan was dedicated to his faith. He was a devoted member of the Fort Belvoir Community Chapel, Fort Belvoir, VA. Allan married the love of his life, Dr. Patricia Moseley. Happily, they celebrated over twenty years of joyful devotion. Allan graduated from Mississippi State University with a Bachelor of Science degree and as a member of the USAF Reserve Officer Training Corps. Later he obtained a Masters of Science degree from Troy State University.

Upon his Military commissioning, he completed USAF Pilot Training, Fort Rucker, AL, and a decade later served there as a Flight Examiner. As an Instructor Pilot and Academic Instructor, he became a Master Pilot. As a Commander for multiple Squadrons and missions worldwide, his leadership and focus on his unit personnel achieved outstanding results in rescue and medical evacuation missions. He was assigned to the Pentagon, USAF Headquarters, and upon retirement began an exemplary career as a federal civilian employee in the DoD, USAF Headquarters.

Mr. Smith is greatly missed by many Military colleagues for his dedication and significant contributions and by his Pentagon Chapel friends. Allan is survived by his devoted brother, David Smith (Jeanne); daughters, Ms. Jenny Pechou, Ms. Ashley Smith and Mrs. Sarah Tinsley (Daniel); and cousins, Maxwell Carroll (Barbara) and Dr. Cheryl Powell (Gill). Allan loved his brothers and sisters-in-law, Mrs. Janet Sellers (David), Frank Moseley (Dr. Christine), and Jeff Moseley (Edith); and father-in-law, Retired CMSgt James Moseley.

I join countless friends, family members, and colleagues in mourning the loss of Lieutenant Colonel Robert Smith. He was an outstanding man dedicated to family, faith, and country, and he will be deeply missed.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF DR. RONALD LUBRITZ

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO
OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Ronald Lubritz who passed away on February 13, 2021 at the age of 87. I send my condolences and prayers to Ronald’s wife, Carol, as well as his family and friends.

Born in New Orleans, he grew up in the Big Easy alongside his brothers and sisters. As a young boy during WWII, his father instilled in him a robust respect for hard work, integrity, and love for his nation.

Dr. Lubritz joined the National Guard and Reserve where he achieved the rank of Full Colonel and commanded a Medical Brigade. He graduated from LSU School of Medicine in 1959 and practiced medicine across South Mississippi for more than 62-years.

In honor of his lifelong service to the community of Hattiesburg, the University of Southern Mississippi Veterans Center established a scholarship in his honor. The scholarship is entitled “Dr. Ronald Lubritz Excellence in Medical Care Memorial Scholarship.” Although we are sad to hear of his passing, we take comfort in his example of a life well lived and the legacy he leaves behind. On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Mississippi, we honor the memory of Dr. Ronald Lubritz, a loving husband, father, man of God, and dedicated civil servant.

HONORING CYNTHIA PEARSON AND HER OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE HEALTH OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

HON. ROSA L. DELAURIO
OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Ms. DELAURIO. Madam Speaker, it is an honor and pleasure to extend my congratulations to Cynthia Pearson, a leader of the women’s health movement for many decades, on her exceptional service to the women of the United States and on her well-earned retirement.

Cynthia has served as Executive Director of the National Women’s Health Network (NWHN) for more than 24 years, and prior to that led the organization’s program and policy work. In that time she established an exemplary record as an effective and influential advocate, leading campaigns to protect women from risky drugs and devices; require the government to research conditions that affect women; ensure that women have access to full information about medical products and clinical trials; expand women’s access to comprehensive reproductive health care services; and protect women against coercion and abuse in health care. I would like to highlight just a few of the accomplishments of her leadership at the NWHN and the contributions it made to advancing research for women’s health and increasing access to health care.

In 1987, Cynthia and the National Women’s Health Network led a grassroots campaign that convinced the National Cancer Institute to fund the first breast cancer prevention trial that examined the effects of a low-fat diet on breast cancer. And Cynthia helped the NWHN to produce the first-ever fact sheets on breast cancer and African American, Latina, Native American and Asian American women, highlighting the disparities in survival experienced by women of color and building momentum for targeted outreach programs. Her work on breast cancer also included advocacy that prompted the U.S. Congress to investigate the lack of informed consent in trials of a breast cancer treatment drug that was being given to healthy women. As a result of that investigation, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) revised their informed consent rules for government clinical trials. Future volunteers would be given complete information about serious and potentially fatal risks associated with study drugs.
With Cynthia’s leadership, the NWHN became one of the first and most prescient critics of the unproven, yet widespread, use of menopause hormone therapy to prevent heart disease in women. In 1990, Cynthia testified at the Food and Drug Administration, persuading the agency not to approve preventive use of hormone therapy for the first time. She also worked with sponsors to provide the same standard of evidence from placebo controlled trials that it had required for all drugs approved for heart disease prevention in men. A year later, she spearheaded the NWHN’s successful advocacy to persuade the NIH to fund and launch the largest ever study of the health of older women, the Women’s Health Initiative, which enrolled more than 27,000 women in clinical trials of menopause hormone therapy.

In 2002, Cynthia’s skepticism about menopause hormone therapy was proven well-founded when the Women’s Health Initiative showed that hormone therapy does not prevent heart disease and, in fact, increases the risk of stroke and in some cases, breast cancer. Cynthia and the NWHN educated women about the results of the study so that they could make more informed decisions about whether to use menopause hormone therapy. This led to the largest-ever drop in breast cancer rates. In one decade, more than 160,000 women did not get breast cancer because the NWHN helped them avoid exposure to the drugs that would have caused it. In 2012, Cynthia received the Grassroots Activism Award from the National Breast Cancer Coalition in recognition of this lifesaving work.

Cynthia also successfully advocated for the NIH to fund the multi-ethnic longitudinal study of the menopause transition in healthy women. The study enrolled more than 3,000 women and has resulted in nearly 500 publications, providing essential information that enables women to understand what is normal in menopause, and how that’s different across race and ethnicity.

Starting in 2007, as a co-founder of Raising Women’s Voices for the Health Care We Need, a national collaborative initiative that supports quality affordable health care for all, Cynthia leveraged the grassroots support that was integral to the successful enactment of the Affordable Care Act, which extended health insurance coverage to tens of thousands of women. The coverage made possible by the Affordable Care Act has provided women with access to lifesaving health care, including no co-pay coverage for preventive care such as cervical cancer screening and contraceptive care. In recent years, Cynthia worked within the Raising Women’s Voices collaborative to help defeat multiple attempts to dismantle the Affordable Care Act and has been instrumental in bringing the voices of women, people of color, and LGBTQ people to the national health care debate.

In the reproductive health arena, working in partnership with the SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective, Cynthia and the NWHN created a statement of principles to guide the provision of long-acting reversible contraceptives. The statement was signed by over a hundred organizations and has helped keep patient autonomy front and center, protecting patients from coercive practices by requiring access to contraception.

Finally, in addition to being an effective educator of consumers and a persuasive advocate in her attempts to influence government policy, Cynthia has been an essential ally and partner to policymakers working within the federal government. In 2018, she helped organize a lightning-speed advocacy campaign that in just one week saved the Food and Drug Administration Office of Women’s Health from an attempt to defund it and prevent its staff from doing the work the office was established to do.

I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our sincerest appreciation to Cynthia Pearson for her vital contributions to the health of women and girls.

RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN GOLD STAR MOTHERS, INC.

HON. CHRIS JACOBS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. JACOBS of New York, Madam Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize a recent event that generously contributed to and positively impacted the welfare of our community and citizenry here in the 27th Congressional District of New York. I gladly welcomed the Department of New York of the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. to my hometown of Buffalo, New York for their 84th Convention on April 9–10, 2021.

I recognize the American Gold Star Mothers, women that share the tragedy of having children that died in connection to military service or are missing in action. The American Gold Star Mothers strive to keep the memory of their sons and daughters alive by working to help veterans, those currently serving in the military, their families, and their communities. I am grateful for their efforts to come together to respect and honor our fallen service members, especially considering the immense hardship they have experienced themselves.

There are many instances in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of service flags being adopted that precede the creation of the American Gold Star Mothers organization—and I would like to highlight two in particular. In 1917, the Gold Star Mother whose five sons were killed in action, George, Francis, Joseph, Madison, and Albert Sullivan-brothers from Waterloo, IA—sailed from Hoboken, New Jersey aboard the passenger liner SS America on the inaugural pilgrimage to the European graves of their sons and husbands who died in World War I. When this program ended three years later, nearly 6,700 Gold Star women had journeyed across the Atlantic to bid a final farewell to loved ones laid to rest in war cemeteries in France, Belgium, and Great Britain.

Congress later granted a federal charter to the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. and designated the last Sunday in September as “Gold Star Mother’s Day.” Congress also authorized and requested President Franklin D. Roosevelt issue a proclamation in observance of this occasion. Each year on this day, we express the love, sorrow, and reverence of the American public for its fallen sons and daughters who gave their country in the name of the United States for American Gold Star Mothers.

We especially recognize our American Gold Star Mothers and their fallen soldiers in New York’s 27th District. At the Buffalo & Erie County Naval & Military Park resides the U.S. Navy destroyer USS The Sullivans (DD–537). This National Historic Landmark has been a public memorial and museum ship since 1979, and is sponsored by Alella Sullivan, a Gold Star Mother whose five sons were killed in action. George, Francis, Joseph, Madison, and Albert Sullivan-brothers from Waterloo, IAHad their final resting place at the First Naval Battle of Guadalcanal in 1942.

I am glad the Gold Star Mothers recently had the opportunity to gather in Buffalo, New York for the 2021 Convention of the Department of New York of the American Gold Star Mothers. I remain incredibly grateful for and humbled by the Gold Star Mothers’ commitment to honoring and reflecting on the legacies of their sons and daughters lost in service to our Nation; finding strength in the fellowship of other mothers; and helping veterans, current military service members, and their families, and our communities.

JAMES TORRES

HON. ED PERLMUTTER
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud James Torres for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. James Torres is a 12th grader at Vantage Point High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by James Torres 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 James Torres for winning the Adams County
Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF TODD GALE
HON. TRENT KELLY
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Todd Gale. Mr. Gale was an outstanding Mississippian and I join his loved ones in mourning his loss.

Todd was born in Columbus, Mississippi on October 9, 1968. He was educated at Heritage Academy before matriculating to Mississippi State University where he studied Landscape Architecture. After graduating, he joined the United States Forest Service in Ketchikan, Alaska.

Todd Gale married Stephanie McLain on July 16, 1994. With her support, Todd earned his Masters Degree in Economic Development from the University of Southern Mississippi. He soon became the General Manager of Columbus Light and Water. He served on the boards of the Tennessee Valley Public Power Association and American Public Power Association. Todd was a community servant and was active on the boards of Main Street Columbus, Columbus Lowndes Humane Society, Mississippi University for Women Advisory Board and St. Paul’s Episcopal Church Vestry and Junior Warden.

Left to cherish Todd’s memory are his wife, Stephanie; children, Stormy and Gunnar; and his godchildren. Todd was a beloved member of the Columbus community and a man dedicated to his family and faith. He will be deeply missed.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MS. SUSAN SHANK
HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Ms. Susan Ann Shank who passed away on January 17, 2021 at the age of 70. I send my condolences and prayers to her family and friends.

Susan was born and raised in Biloxi, Mississippi. Susan was the mother of Michael Wills and Angela Hoener. Susan faithfully served the City of Biloxi Police Department Communication Division from March 26, 1987 until retiring on November 26, 2013.

In Susan’s twenty-six years of dedicated service, she achieved the position of Floor Supervisor and received many written commendations from citizens for her professional service. Mr. Andrew “FoFo” Gillich, Mayor of Biloxi, commemorated and commended the lifelong devotion of Susan by declaring January 17th as “Susan Ann Shank Day”.

Susan will be remembered by her family and friends who knew her best for her devotion to the state of Mississippi, her faith, accomplishments, and devotion to others.

While we are saddened by her passing, we take comfort in her example of a life well lived and the legacy she leaves behind. On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Mississippi, we honor the memory of Ms. Susan Ann Shank, a loving wife, a dedicated civil servant, and a woman of God.

FAITH WALKER
HON. ED PERLMUTTER
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Faith Walker for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Faith Walker is a 7th grader at Bennett Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Faith Walker is exemplary of the type of achievements 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 Faith Walker for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF WALTER GANN
HON. TRENT KELLY
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and service of Corporal Walter Gann, an American hero and an outstanding representation of the state of Mississippi.

Walter Gann was born on January 31, 1922 to John and Mary Rogers Gann. He spent the first eighteen years of his life in Calhoun County, Mississippi. Only July 3, 1941 he joined the United States Army Air Forces in Jackson, Mississippi and was soon deployed to the Philippines. At eighteen years old Walter faced attack by the Japanese Imperial Army. After several months of battle with minimal food, supplies, and medical care, the American soldiers were forced to surrender; the Bataan Death March began on April 9, 1942. Corporal Gann, enduring shrapnel wounds and malnutrition, marched 65 miles in the blistering heat.

It is believed Corporal Gann arrived at Fukukoa POW Camp No. 1 on Kyushu Island where he faced barbaric treatment from Japanese guards. He was eventually transported to Japan; Gann and his fellow soldiers stood shoulder to shoulder on the Japanese hell ship. Men died by the dozens of suffocation, starvation, and dysentery. In Japan, Corporal Gann was a POW for three and a half years. Corporal Gann was released upon American Victory and was immediately treated in a Washington hospital before returning home. His family rejoiced to see him alive and safe. He was called to testify in the war crime trials following WWII but could not attend because he was hospitalized. For the remainder of his life Corporal Gann bore the weight of all he had witnessed.

In 1949 Walter moved to Booneville, Mississippi and married Juanita Goddard. Together they raised four children. In August of 1963 his wife passed, and in November of that year his son was killed in a motorcycle accident. In 1970 he moved to Chattanooga, Tennessee until his death on October 14, 1980. He was laid to rest at Crossroads cemetery in Jumptown, Mississippi with his wife and son.

In the course of his life Corporal Gann was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, a Purple Heart, the WWII Victory Medal, an A.P. Theater Medal with 1 Bronze Star, the American Defense Medal with 1 Bronze Star, and the Philippine Liberation Medal with 1 Bronze Star. He also received a letter from President Harry S. Truman thanking him for his service to the United States.

I am grateful for the service of Corporal Walter Gann and admire his commitment to faith, family, and country.

HONORING JAMES WHITE
HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of James White.
who passed away on January 12, 2021 at the age of 74. I send my condolences and prayers to James’s wife, Jeannie, as well as his family and friends.

Chief White started with the Gulfport Fire Department in 1965 and worked his way up to becoming the Fire Chief in 1984. Chief White was a great leader and helped guide the department into emergency medical service delivery in the early 80’s, making them one of the first fire departments in the area to provide such a service.

He served the City of Gulfport with honor and distinction and was very well respected during his years of service with the Gulfport Fire Department. I know he will be greatly missed by many in our community.

Although we are saddened by his passing, we take comfort in his example of a life well lived and the legacy he leaves behind. On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Mississippi, we honor the memory of James White, a loving husband, father, man of God, and dedicated civil servant.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, April 19, 2021

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, April 15, 2021 I was unable to vote on Roll Call No. 114. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, April 20, 2021 may be found in the Daily Digest of today’s RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED APRIL 21

Time to be announced
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Business meeting to consider the nominations of Julie A. Su, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Labor, Cynthia Mudge Moule, of California, to be Deputy Secretary, and James Richard Kvaal, of Massachusetts, to be Under Secretary, both of the Department of Education, and other pending calendar business.

10 a.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Bill Nelson, of Florida, to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Lina M. Khan, of New York, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner, and Leslie B. Kiernan, of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the Department of Commerce.

Committee on Foreign Relations
Business meeting to consider S. 413, to establish the China Censorship Monitor and Action Group, S. 814, to promote security partnership with Ukraine, and an original bill entitled, “Strategic Competition Act of 2021.”

2 p.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Legislative Branch
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the Capitol Police, Architect of the Capitol, and Senate Sergeant at Arms.

Committee on Foreign Relations
Subcommittee on Near East, South Asia, Central Asia, and Counterterrorism
To hold hearings to examine U.S. policy on Yemen.

Select Committee on Intelligence
To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities
To hold hearings to examine science and technology, technology maturation, and technology transition activities.

Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Personnel
To hold hearings to examine the current and future cyber workforce of the Department of Defense and the military services.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Subcommittee on Aviation Safety, Operations, and Innovation
To hold hearings to examine America’s safe return to air travel.

Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights
To hold hearings to examine competition in the market, focusing on antitrust.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Dilawar Syed, of California, to be Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

APRIL 22

Time to be announced
Committee on Veterans’ Affairs
Business meeting to consider the nomination of Richard A. Sauber, of the District of Columbia, to be General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs.

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Jewel Hairston Bronaugh, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Agriculture.

Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine United States Central Command and United States Africa Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2022 and the Future Years Defense Program; to be immediately followed by a closed session in SVC–217.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine 21st century communities, focusing on capitalizing on opportunities in the clean energy economy.

10 a.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the opportunities and challenges that exist for advancing and deploying carbon and carbon-dioxide utilization technologies in the United States.

Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine U.S.-China Relations, focusing on improving U.S. competitiveness through trade.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine protecting U.S. biomedical research, focusing on efforts to prevent undue foreign influence.

Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Criminal Justice and Counterterrorism
To hold hearings to examine behavioral health and policing, focusing on interactions and solutions.

10:15 a.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Kiran Arjandas Ahuja, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management, and Anton George Hajjar, of Maryland, to be Deputy Administrator of the Missile Defense Agency, focusing on a program update.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine energy development on federal lands, focusing on the current status of the Department of the Interior's onshore oil and gas leasing program.

10 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense
To hold hearings to examine the Missile Defense Agency, focusing on a program update.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine energy development on federal lands, focusing on the current status of the Department of the Interior's onshore oil and gas leasing program.
2:30 p.m.
Committee on Environment and Public Works
Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate, and Nuclear Safety
To hold hearings to examine S. 283, to establish a National Climate Bank.
SD-406

Committee on Finance
Subcommittee on Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Growth
To hold hearings to examine creating opportunity through a fairer tax system.
SD-215

APRIL 29
10 a.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Eric S. Lander, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.
SR-253
**Daily Digest**

**Senate**

**Chamber Action**

**Routine Proceedings, pages S2001–S2042**

**Measures Introduced:** Twenty-one bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 1200–1220, and S. Res. 164.  

**Pages S2011–12**

**Measures Reported:**  
Special Report entitled “Legislative and Oversight Activities During the 116th Congress by the Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs”. (S. Rept. No. 117–16)  

**Page S2011**

**Measures Considered:**  
COVID–19 Hate Crimes Act—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of S. 937, to facilitate the expedited review of COVID–19 hate crimes, taking action on the following amendment proposed thereto:  

Pending:  
Schumer (for Hirono/Collins) Amendment No. 1445, of a perfecting nature.  

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 10 a.m., on Tuesday, April 20, 2021.  

**Pages S2002–03**

**Appointments:**  
United States Holocaust Memorial Council: The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 96–388, as amended by Public Law 97–84, and Public Law 106–292, reappointed the following Senators to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council for the 117th Congress: Senators Rubio and Scott (SC).  

**Page S2041**

Monaco Nomination: By 94 yeas to 3 nays (Vote No. EX. 154), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination of Lisa O. Monaco, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Attorney General.  

**Page S2009**

Gupta Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Vanita Gupta, of Virginia, to be Associate Attorney General, Department of Justice.  

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Wednesday, April 21, 2021.  

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:  
Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.  

By 50 yeas to 49 nays (Vote No. EX. 155), Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.  

**Pages S2009**

Estenoz Nomination Referral—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the nomination of Shannon Aneal Estenoz, of Florida, to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife, sent to the Senate by the President on Monday, April 19, 2021, be referred jointly to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on Environment and Public Works.  

**Page S2041**

Gensler Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at 12 noon, on Tuesday, April 20, 2021, Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Gary Gensler, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission, and Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination; and that if cloture is invoked on the nomination, all post-cloture time be considered expired at 2:15 p.m.  

**Pages S2009**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:  
Faisal Amin, of Maryland, to be Chief Financial Officer, Environmental Protection Agency.  
Shannon Aneal Estenoz, of Florida, to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife.  
Tanya Marie Trujillo, of New Mexico, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior.  
Larry Edward Andre, Jr., of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Somalia.  
Elizabeth Moore Aubin, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria.  
Steven C. Bondy, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain.  
Maria E. Brewer, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Lesotho.
Marc Evans Knapper, of California, to be Ambassador to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Christopher John Lamora, of Rhode Island, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cameroon.

Tulinabo S. Mushingi, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Angola, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe.

Michael Raynor, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Senegal, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea-Bissau.

Michele Jeanne Sison, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Organization Affairs).

Jon Eugene Meyer, of Ohio, to be General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security.

Rupa Ranga Puttagunta, of the District of Columbia, to be Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

Robin C. Ashton, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Central Intelligence Agency.

Deborah L. Boardman, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.

Tiffany P. Cunningham, of Illinois, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Federal Circuit.

Lydia Kay Griggsby, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.


Candace Jackson-Akiwumi, of Illinois, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

Julien Xavier Neals, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey.

Zahid N. Quraishi, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey.

Regina M. Rodriguez, of Colorado, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado.

Margaret Irene Strickland, of New Mexico, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico.

Patricia L. Ross, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Congressional and Legislative Affairs).

Maryanne T. Donaghy, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection).

Matthew T. Quinn, of Montana, to be Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Memorial Affairs.

1 Navy nomination in the rank of admiral.
House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 29 public bills, H.R. 2639–2667; and 4 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 29; and H. Res. 327–329, were introduced. Pages H1953–54

Additional Cosponsors: Pages H1955–56

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Dingell to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. Page H1893

Recess: The House recessed at 12:16 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. Page H1895

Recess: The House recessed at 2:08 p.m. and reconvened at 2:30 p.m. Page H1896

Recess: The House recessed at 3:13 p.m. and reconvened at 3:27 p.m. Page H1906

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

- **Trusted Traveler Reconsideration and Restoration Act of 2021**: H.R. 473, to require a review of Department of Homeland Security trusted traveler programs; Pages H1898–99

- **Secure And Fair Enforcement Banking Act of 2021**: H.R. 1996, amended, to create protections for financial institutions that provide financial services to cannabis-related legitimate businesses and service providers for such businesses, by a 2⁄3 yea-and-nay vote of 321 yeas to 101 nays, Roll No. 120; Pages H1915–24, H1942–43

- **Condemning the continued violation of rights and freedoms of the people of Hong Kong by the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region**: H. Res. 130, condemning the continued violation of rights and freedoms of the people of Hong Kong by the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, by a 2⁄3 yea-and-nay vote of 418 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 121; Pages H1927–30, H1943–44

- **Southeast Asia Strategy Act**: H.R. 1083, to require a strategy for engagement with Southeast Asia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN); and Pages H1944–45


Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measures under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

- **Department of Homeland Security Morale, Recognition, Learning and Engagement Act of 2021**: H.R. 490, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to improve morale within the Department of Homeland Security workforce by conferring new responsibilities to the Chief Human Capital Officer, establishing an employee engagement steering committee, requiring action plans, and authorizing an annual employee award program; Pages H1896–98

- **Quadrennial Homeland Security Review Technical Corrections Act of 2021**: H.R. 370, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make technical corrections to the requirement that the Secretary of Homeland Security submit quadrennial homeland security reviews; Pages H1900–01

- **Homeland Security Acquisition Professional Career Program Act**: H.R. 367, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish an acquisition professional career program; Pages H1901–02

- **Department of Homeland Security Mentor-Protege Program Act of 2021**: H.R. 408, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a mentor-protege program; Pages H1902–04

- **CBRN Intelligence and Information Sharing Act of 2021**: H.R. 397, amended, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear intelligence and information sharing functions of the Office of Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security and to require dissemination of information analyzed by the Department to entities with responsibilities relating to homeland security; Pages H1904–05

- **Transit Security Grant Program Flexibility Act**: H.R. 396, to amend the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 to clarify certain allowable uses of funds for public transportation security assistance grants and establish periods of performance for such grants; Pages H1905–06

- **Improving FHA Support for Small-Dollar Mortgages Act of 2021**: H.R. 1532, to require a review of the effects of FHA mortgage insurance policies, practices, and products on small-dollar mortgage lending; Pages H1906–08

- **Fair Debt Collection Practices for Servicemembers Act**: H.R. 1491, to amend the Fair
Debt Collection Practices Act to provide enhanced protection against debt collector harassment of members of the Armed Forces;

**Housing Financial Literacy Act of 2021:** H.R. 1395, to require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to discount FHA single-family mortgage insurance premium payments for first-time homebuyers who complete a financial literacy housing counseling program;

**National Senior Investor Initiative Act of 2021:** H.R. 1565, to create an interdivisional taskforce at the Securities and Exchange Commission for senior investors;

**Promoting Transparent Standards for Corporate Insiders Act:** H.R. 1528, to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to carry out a study of Rule 10b5–1 trading plans;

**Eliminate Barriers to Innovation Act of 2021:** H.R. 1602, to direct the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission to jointly establish a digital asset working group;

**Cyber Diplomacy Act of 2021:** H.R. 1251, amended, to support United States international cyber diplomacy;

**Supporting the People of Belarus and Their Democratic Aspirations and Condemning the Election Rigging and Subsequent Violent Crackdowns on Peaceful Protesters by the Illegitimate Lukashenka Regime:** H. Res. 124, supporting the people of Belarus and their democratic aspirations and condemning the election rigging and subsequent violent crackdowns on peaceful protesters by the illegitimate Lukashenka regime;

**Young African Leaders Initiative Act of 2021:** H.R. 965, amended, to establish a comprehensive United States Government initiative to build the capacity of young leaders and entrepreneurs in Africa; and

**Protection of Saudi Dissidents Act of 2021:** H.R. 1392, amended, to protect Saudi dissidents in the United States.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1942–43 and H1943–44.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 p.m. and adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

**Committee Meetings**

No hearings were held.
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Department of the Interior, 10 a.m., Webex.


Committee on Armed Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled “National Security Challenges and U.S. Military Activities in the Greater Middle East and Africa”, 11 a.m., 2118 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Education and Labor, Full Committee, business meeting to approve new subcommittee assignments, 10:15 a.m., Zoom.

Full Committee, hearing entitled “For-Profit College Conversions: Examining Ways to Improve Accountability and Prevent Fraud”, 10:15 a.m., Zoom.


Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, markup on Views and Estimates of the Committee on Financial Services on Matters to be Set Forth in the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2022 Budget; resolution to establish the Task Force on Artificial Intelligence in the Committee on Financial Services; resolution to establish the Task Force on Financial Technology in the Committee on Financial Services; H.R. 1087, the “Shareholder Political Transparency Act”; H.R. 1187, the “ESG Disclosure Simplification Act”; H.R. 1277, the “Improving Corporate Governance Through Diversity Act”; H.R. 2123, the “Diversity and Inclusion Data Accountability and Transparency Act”; H.R. 2516, the “Promoting Diversity and Inclusion in Banking Act”; H.R. 2543, the “Federal Reserve Racial and Economic Equity Act”; H.R. 2547, the “Comprehensive Debt Collection Improvement Act”; and H.R. 2553, the “Real Estate Valuation Fairness and Improvement Act of 2021”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Europe, Energy, the Environment, and Cyber, hearing entitled “Restoration of the Transatlantic Dialogue: The Global Fight Against Climate Change”, 2 p.m., Webex.

Committee on the Judiciary, April 20, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1843, the “COVID–19 Hate Crimes Act”; H.R. 2383, the “National Opposition to Hate, Assault, and Threats to Equality Act of 2021”; H.R. 2393, the “No Oil Producing and Exporting Cartels Act of 2021”; H.R. 704, the “Artistic Recognition for Talented Students Act”; and H.R. 2453, the “Driving for Opportunity Act of 2021”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.


Committee on Oversight and Reform, Subcommittee on Government Operations, hearing entitled “Restoring Independence: Rebuilding the Federal Offices of Inspectors General”, 9:30 a.m., 2154 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 51, the “Washington, D.C. Admission Act”; H.R. 1333, the “NO BAN Act”; and H.R. 1573, the “Access to Counsel Act of 2021”, 9:30 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Small Business, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Update on SBA’s Pandemic Response Programs”, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn and Zoom.

Select Committee On The Climate Crisis, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Making the Case for Climate Action: Creating New Jobs and Catalyzing Economic Growth”, 12 p.m., Zoom.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of April 20 through April 23, 2021

Senate Chamber

On Tuesday, Senate will continue consideration of S. 937, COVID–19 Hate Crimes Act.

At 12 noon, Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Gary Gensler, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission, with a vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon.

If cloture is invoked on the nomination of Gary Gensler, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination, at 2:15 p.m.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: April 22, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Jewel Hairston Bronaugh, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, 9:30 a.m., SR–301.

Committee on Appropriations: April 20, Subcommittee on Defense, to hold hearings to examine Defense Health Programs, 9:30 a.m., SD–192.

April 20, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the American Jobs Plan, focusing on infrastructure, climate change, and investing in our nation’s future, 10:30 a.m., SD–106.

April 21, Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the Capitol Police, Architect of the Capitol, and Senate Sergeant at Arms, 2 p.m., SD–192.

Committee on Armed Services: April 20, to hold hearings to examine United States Strategic Command and United States Space Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2022 and the Future Years Defense Program; to be immediately followed by a closed session in SVC–217, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

April 21, Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, to hold hearings to examine science and technology, technology maturation, and technology transition activities, 2:30 p.m., SR–222.

April 21, Subcommittee on Personnel, to hold hearings to examine the current and future cyber workforce of the
Department of Defense and the military services, 2:30 p.m., SR–232A.

April 22, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine United States Central Command and United States Africa Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2022 and the Future Years Defense Program; to be immediately followed by a closed session in SVC–217, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: April 20, to hold hearings to examine investing in rural communities, 10 a.m., WEBEX.

April 22, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine 21st century communities, focusing on capitalizing on opportunities in the clean energy economy, 9:30 a.m., WEBEX.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: April 20, to hold hearings to examine strengthening the Federal Trade Commission's authority to protect consumers, 10 a.m., SR–253.

April 21, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Bill Nelson, of Florida, to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Lina M. Khan, of New York, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner, and Leslie B. Kiernan, of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the Department of Commerce, 10 a.m., SR–253.

April 21, Subcommittee on Aviation Safety, Operations, and Innovation, to hold hearings to examine America’s safe return to air travel, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: April 22, to hold hearings to examine the opportunities and challenges that exist for advancing and deploying carbon and carbon-dioxide utilization technologies in the United States, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Finance: April 20, to hold hearings to examine combating inequality, focusing on the tax code and racial, ethnic, and gender disparities, 10 a.m., WEBEX.

April 22, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine U.S.-China Relations, focusing on improving U.S. competitiveness through trade, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: April 21, business meeting to consider S. 413, to establish the China Censorship Monitor and Action Group, S. 814, to promote security partnership with Ukraine, and an original bill entitled, "Strategic Competition Act of 2021", 10 a.m., SD–106.

April 21, Subcommittee on Near East, South Asia, Central Asia, and Counterterrorism, to hold hearings to examine U.S. policy on Yemen, 2 p.m., SD–106.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: April 20, to hold hearings to examine COVID–19 recovery, focusing on supporting workers and modernizing the workforce through quality education, training, and employment opportunities, 10 a.m., SD–430.

April 21, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the nominations of Julie A. Su, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Labor, Cynthia Minette Marten, of California, to be Deputy Secretary, and James Richard Kvaal, of Massachusetts, to be Under Secretary, both of the Department of Education, and other pending calendar business, Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

April 22, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine protecting U.S. biomedical research, focusing on efforts to prevent undue foreign influence, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: April 22, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Kiran Arjandas Ahuja, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management, and Anton George Hajjar, of Maryland, Amber Faye McReynolds, of Colorado, and Ronald Strom, of the District of Columbia, each to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service, 10:15 a.m., SD–342/VTC.

Committee on the Judiciary: April 20, to hold hearings to examine voting rights, 10 a.m., SH–216.

April 21, Subcommittee on Intellectual Property, to hold hearings to examine improving access and inclusivity in the patent system, focusing on unleashing America’s economic engine, 10 a.m., SD–226.

April 21, Subcommittee on Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights, to hold hearings to examine competition in app stores, focusing on antitrust, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

April 22, Subcommittee on Criminal Justice and Counterterrorism, to hold hearings to examine behavioral health and policing, focusing on interactions and solutions, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: April 21, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Dilawar Syed, of California, to be Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration, 2:30 p.m., SR–301.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: April 22, business meeting to consider the nomination of Richard A. Sauber, of the District of Columbia, to be General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

Select Committee on Intelligence: April 21, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2 p.m., SVC–217.

House Committees

Committee on Appropriations, April 21, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled "Oversight of the Economic Development Administration’s Role in Pandemic Response", 10 a.m., Webex.

April 21, Subcommittee on Defense, budget hearing on U.S. Africa Command, 10 a.m., 2212 Rayburn. This hearing is closed.

April 21, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Environmental Protection Agency, 10 a.m., Webex.

April 21, Subcommittee on Defense, budget hearing on U.S. Central Command, 2 p.m., 2212 Rayburn. This hearing is closed.

April 21, Subcommittee on Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Armed Services, April 21, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, hearing entitled “FY22 Strategic Forces Posture Hearing”, 4 p.m., 2118 Rayburn and Webex.
April 22, Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces; and Subcommittee on Readiness, joint hearing entitled “Update on F–35 Program Accomplishments, Issues, and Risks”, 9:30 a.m., 2118 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Education and Labor, April 22, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Members Day Hearing: Committee on Education and Labor”, 10:15 a.m., Zoom.


Committee on Foreign Affairs, April 21, Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and Global Counterterrorism, hearing entitled “The Crisis in Yemen: Part 2”, 10 a.m., Webex.

April 21, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1488, the “Global Electoral Exchange Act of 2021”; H.R. 1036, the “Bassam Barabandi Rewards for Justice Act”; H.R. 402, the “CROOK Act”; H.R. 2538, the “FENTANYL Results Act”; H. Res. 186, calling for the immediate release of Trevor Reed, a United States citizen who was unjustly found guilty and sentenced to nine years in a Russian prison; H.R. 2471, the “Haiti Development, Accountability, and Institutional Transparency Initiative Act”; H.R. 1228, the “Libya Stabilization Act”; H.R. 496, the “Ukraine Religious Freedom Support Act”; H.R. 826, the “Divided Families Reunification Act”; H. Res. 294, encouraging reunions of divided Korean-American families; H.R. 1155, the “Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act”; and H. Res. 317, condemning the ongoing genocide and crimes against humanity being committed against Uyghurs and members of other religious and ethnic minority groups by the People’s Republic of China, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn and Webex.


Committee on House Administration, April 21, Full Committee, continue hearing entitled “Oversight of the United States Capitol Police and Preparations for and Response to the Attack of January 6th”, 2 p.m., Webex.


Committee on Natural Resources, April 21, Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States, hearing entitled “Infrastructure in Indigenous Communities: Priorities for American Jobs Plan”, 10 a.m., Webex.

April 21, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands, hearing on H.R. 820, the “New Philadelphian National Historical Park Act”; H.R. 920, the “Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site Expansion Act”; H.R. 2497, the “Amache National Historic Site Act”; and H.R. 2626, the “Pullman National Historical Park Act”, 1 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, April 22, Subcommittee on Environment, hearing entitled “The Role of Fossil Fuel Subsidies in Preventing Action on the Climate Crisis”, 10 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, April 21, Subcommittee on Environment, hearing entitled “Working Towards Climate Equity: The Case for a Federal Climate Service”, 11 a.m., Zoom.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, April 21, Full Committee, markup on Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Views and Estimates of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 10:30 a.m., 2167 Rayburn and Zoom.

April 21, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, hearing entitled “Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure: Measures to Promote Resiliency and Climate Adaptation and Mitigation”, 11 a.m., 2167 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, April 21, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing on H.R. 711, the “West Los Angeles VA Campus Improvement Act of 2021”; H.R. 1948, the “VA Employee Fairness Act of 2021”; H.R. 2082, the “VA Supply Chain Resiliency Act”; H.R. 2428, the “Strengthening Oversight for Veterans Act of 2021”; H.R. 2429, the “VA Police Improvement and Accountability Act”; legislation on Strengthening VA Whistleblower Protection Act of 2021; legislation on VA FOIA Reform Act of 2021; legislation on revising the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make certain information publicly available on one internet website of the Department of Veterans Affairs; legislation on Improving VA Accountability to Prevent Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Act of 2021; legislation on VA Beneficiary Debt Collection Improvement Act; legislation on VA Equal Employment Counseling Modernization Act; legislation on Strengthening VA Background Checks Act; legislation on directing the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a plan for expending Coronavirus pandemic funding made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; and legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to the Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes”, 10 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Ways and Means, April 21, Full Committee, hearing entitled “In Their Own Words: Paid Leave, Child Care, and an Economy that Failed Women”, 12 p.m., 1100 Longworth and Webex.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
10 a.m., Tuesday, April 20

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will continue consideration of S. 937, COVID–19 Hate Crimes Act.

At 12 noon, Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of the nomination of Gary Gensler, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission, with a vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon.

If cloture is invoked on the nomination of Gary Gensler, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination, at 2:15 p.m.

(Senate will recess following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Gary Gensler until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
10 a.m., Tuesday, April 20

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of measures under suspension of the Rules.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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