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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 17, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ED PERLMUTTER 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.

UPHOLD DIGNITY OF WORK

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, right now, our Nation is facing a growing workforce crisis.

For anyone who is paying attention, the most recent jobs report was incredibly disappointing, but it wasn't a surprise. Nearly everywhere I go across my district in Pennsylvania, I see ''help wanted'' signs.

Every day, I hear from small businesses that are struggling to hire and struggling to keep staff. Despite the progress that we are making in our fight against the COVID–19 virus, Democrats are continuing their Big Government, socialist plans. This alarming workforce trend is rooted in the Democrat's scheme to keep paying people to stay at home, and it must end now.

Thanks to American innovation and the success of Operation Warp Speed, our Nation is winning the fight against the COVID–19 pandemic. Safe vaccines are the key to restoring our personal liberties, eradicating this virus, getting our kids back to school full time, and, yes, getting the American people back to work.

Just like every previous challenge in our history, I know that our Nation has the potential to recover from this pandemic and to recover stronger than ever before. This truly is the American way.

To succeed, we cannot allow President Biden and the Democrats to sabotage our forward momentum. From day one in office, the President has promised Big Government interference that comes with higher taxes and more regulation for American businesses.

Now, in the name of so-called infrastructure reforms, the Biden administration is flaunting job-killing plans that would crush America's and Pennsylvania's robust manufacturing and energy industries.

Mr. Speaker, job-killing schemes and higher taxes are not the answer to the problem that lies in front of us. The dignity of work is a core tenet of our national fabric. This belief has motivated the generations of courageous Americans who built and forged our Nation.

Now it is once again time to get America safely back to work. Alongside President Trump, I worked hard to advance a pro-growth agenda to support the workforce and create American jobs for American workers. We need to return to these solutions today to secure our success for tomorrow.

American workers are the key to our recovery. They are truly essential. For centuries, hard work has been the key to uplifting families and achieving the American Dream. We cannot allow this longstanding tradition to be lost.

For the sake of our workforce and for our communities, we must uphold the dignity of work. We must support the workforce, and we must get our Nation back on the road to recovery.

RECOGNIZING NORWEGIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Norwegian Constitution Day. On May 17, 1814, Norway's Constitution was officially signed, declaring Norway as an independent country.

Mr. Speaker, 207 years later, we remember this important history and join Norwegians around the globe in celebrating its independence.

I would like to extend our appreciation to the Norwegian-American community for all the tremendous contributions they make to make America great.

I would also like to recognize my amazing scheduler, Kristine Nichols. She is a proud Norwegian-American who recently obtained her U.S. citizenship. I want Kristine to know that I appreciate all that she does to keep my office running smoothly and, most importantly, to keep me sane every day.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

Printed on recycled paper.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MORELLE) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

God, You are our savior, our strength, and our song.

Lord, even as we reflect on these words of the Psalmist, call to our minds how often throughout history, and in our own lives, You have been our salvation.

Help us to recall how You have intervened time and again in the health and welfare of our loved ones as well as our own.

May we recollect how often You have set Your shield before us in the presence of our enemies, in moments of despair, and in the face of harm.

Give us reason to remember the innumerable times You have protected us from our own foolish actions and prideful behavior.

Inspire us by these memories of Your saving acts, large and small, that we would allow them to shape our present.

Save us, we pray. We beseech You, O Lord, grant that all that we say today would reflect our gratitude for the success You have given us. May all that we do today be a prosperous celebration of Your redemptive love to us and to those around us.

Salvation belongs to You, O Lord. May Your blessings remain upon Your people. It is in Your merciful name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BOST 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 PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STIVERS), the whole number of the House is 430.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize May as Mental Health Awareness Month. The focus of this campaign is to break down the stigma surrounding mental health.

Each year, millions of Americans face the reality of living with a mental illness. By breaking the stigma and talking about depression, anxiety, and other conditions, we can help those affected to seek the quality care that they deserve.

After spending the past year locked down and secluded from society, it is more important than ever to check in on your loved ones. If you are suffering or feel alone, please reach out for help. It is important to remember that you are not alone.

Mr. Speaker, by bringing attention to mental health, we can elevate the conversations surrounding mental health. We are focusing on prioritizing mental health and acknowledging it is okay to not be okay.

This month, reach out to your loved ones and check in. By starting the conversation, we are one step closer to ending the stigma surrounding mental health.

RECOGNIZING JAKE WEGNER

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share an uplifting story about a young man from my congressional district.

Jake Wegner, a senior at Central College in Pella, Iowa, took his first at bat after beating cancer twice.

Jake's first battle with cancer began when he was diagnosed with neuroblastoma before the start of his high school senior baseball season.

After recovering from surgery, Jake enrolled at Central College, where he finished his first semester, but upon returning home for a checkup, he learned that the cancer had relapsed.

Jake kept his faith strong and family close while he endured chemotherapy for the next 15 months, and in January of 2018, he was ready to begin classes again.

In yesterday's game against Simpson College, after 3 years of being cancer-free, Jake took his first at bat for senior night.

Jake, your story of following your dreams and overcoming adversity is an inspiration to all of us, and I couldn't be prouder to represent you in Congress.

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.

IMPROVING VA ACCOUNTABILITY TO PREVENT SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND DISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2021

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2704) to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the equal employment opportunity functions of Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2704

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 ''Improving VA Accountability To Prevent Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS TO EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY FUNCTIONS OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) ALIGNMENT OF EEO DIRECTOR.—

(1) REPORTING AND DUTIES.—Subsection (h) of section 516 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking ''The provisions'' and inserting ''(1) The provisions''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(2) Beginning not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, in carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall ensure that the official of the Department who serves as the Equal Employment Opportunity Director of the Department—

''(A) reports directly to the Deputy Secretary with respect to the functions under this section; and

''(B) does not also serve in a position that has responsibility over personnel functions of the Department or other functions that conflict with the functions under this section.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such section is further amended—

(A) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting '', in accordance with subsection (h)(2),'' after ''an Assistant Secretary or a Deputy Assistant Secretary''; and

(B) in subsection (e)(1)(A), by striking ''the Assistant Secretary for Human Resources and Administration'' and inserting ''the Secretary''.

(b) ALIGNMENT OF EEO PROGRAM MANAGERS.—Such section is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(i) In accordance with subsection (b), not later than December 31, 2021, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that each

Equal Employment Opportunity program manager of the Department at the facility level reports to the head of the Office of Resolution Management, or such successor office established pursuant to subsection (a), with respect to the equal employment functions of the program manager.''.

(c) REPORTING HARASSMENT AND EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINTS.—Subsection (a) of such section 516 is amended—

(1) by striking ''The Secretary'' and inserting ''(1) The Secretary''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(2) The Secretary shall ensure that the employment discrimination complaint resolution system established under paragraph (1) requires that any manager of the Department who receives a sexual or other harassment or employment discrimination complaint reports such complaint to the Office of Resolution Management, or such successor office, immediately, or if such immediate reporting is impracticable, not later than two business days after the date on which the manager receives the complaint.''.

(d) TRAINING.—Subsection (c) of such section 516 is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: ''Beginning not later than September 30, 2021, the Secretary shall provide to each employee of the Department mandatory annual training on identifying and addressing sexual and other harassment and employment discrimination, including with respect to processes under the Harassment Prevention Program of the Department, or such successor program. An employee of the Department who is hired on or after such date shall receive the first such mandatory annual training not later than 60 days after being hired.''.

(e) HARASSMENT AND EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION POLICIES AND DIRECTIVES.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall—

(1) by not later than September 30, 2021, and on a regular basis thereafter, review the policies relating to sexual and other harassment and employment discrimination of the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure that such policies are complete and in accordance with the sexual and other harassment and employment discrimination policies established by the Office of Resolution Management of the Department, or such successor office; and

(2) by not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, issue a final directive and a handbook for the Harassment Prevention Program of the Department.

(f) REPORTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and semiannually thereafter for one year, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report on the progress the Secretary has made in carrying out this section and section 516 of title 38, United States Code, as amended by this section, including with respect to reporting sexual and other harassment and employment discrimination complaints pursuant to subsection (a)(2) of such section 516.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 2704.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2704, sponsored by Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Chair PAPPAS, takes important steps to address sexual harassment and discrimination at the VA.

This bipartisan legislation, the Improving VA Accountability to Prevent Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Act, would prioritize VA's tracking and responses to allegations.

For example, it requires VA's Equal Employment Opportunity Director to report directly to the Deputy Secretary. It also requires that any VA manager who receives a report of sexual or other harassment, or employment discrimination, report that complaint within 2 business days.

Among other important actions, this bill will also mandate additional training to identify and address sexual, and other types of harassment, and employment discrimination.

This legislation is based largely on the work of the Government Accountability Office, who testified in our committee during July of last year.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2704, the Improving VA Accountability to Prevent Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Act of 2021.

It is a terrible reality that, according to a recent study, roughly 26 percent of female employees and 14 percent of male employees at VA have reported experiencing sexual harassment over a 2-year period.

Sadly, an even higher percentage of employees reported some type of discrimination, such as reprisal or racial discrimination.

Though these problems are large, I applaud the work of the VA Office of Resolution Management, Diversity and Inclusion and what they do. They are taking these issues on headfirst, but there is still a long way to go.

That is why I am proud to support H.R. 2704, which would eliminate the potential conflict of interest in VA's chain of command; require stricter reporting of allegations of sexual harassment and discrimination; and require VA to finalize and deploy the Harassment Prevention Program, along with increasing training and reviews.

I am grateful to Chairman CHRIS PAPPAS and Congresswoman ASHLEY HINSON for introducing this bill and leading it. The bill has my full support.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. PAPPAS), my good friend, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, and also the author of this important piece of legislation.

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by thanking Chairman TAKANO and Ranking Member BOST for their work in putting together this comprehensive group of bills today to support our veterans, including this bill, and I appreciate their support for it.

I rise in support of this legislation, the Improving VA Accountability to Prevent Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Act, a bill that I introduced, along with Representative HINSON.

This bipartisan, bicameral bill will take critical steps to combat sexual harassment by updating VA's antiquated policies and structure, in addition to creating stronger reporting requirements.

We know that at least 1 in 4 women and 1 in 10 men who have served in the military are survivors of sexual assault, harassment, or abuse.

At the VA, we know that at least 1 in 4 women veterans and 1 in 4 women employees experience sexual harassment in healthcare settings.

It is simply unacceptable that someone who has proudly served our Nation is subjected to sexual harassment in the institution whose charge it is to serve them.

It is long past time for us to make systemic change at the VA that will honor the service of our veterans and healthcare providers and keep people safe.

This is commonsense legislation that came out of an Oversight and Investigation Subcommittee hearing that we held last July. We heard from the GAO and the VA on this issue. While important steps have been made by the VA in the recent past, this is important legislation that is going to continue to improve this situation and make the kind of long-lasting change that is long overdue.

I urge my colleagues to pass this commonsense bill.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. HINSON), the cosponsor of the bill.

Mrs. HINSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2704, the Improving VA Accountability to Prevent Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Act.

I was proud to introduce this legislation alongside Congressman CHRIS PAPPAS and Senator MAGGIE HASSAN, as well as my fellow Iowan, Senator JONI ERNST, who is a combat veteran and sexual assault survivor herself.

Last year, a Government Accountability Office report exposed disturbing failures at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to handle sexual harassment and discrimination at the agency properly. The report also revealed that between 18 and 27 percent of VA employees experienced some form of sexual harassment at work between 2014 and 2016.

This is completely unacceptable.

This bipartisan, bicameral bill will improve the way sexual harassment is

handled at the VA and will crack down on instances of harassment and discrimination within the Department.

Nobody should feel unsafe at work. The care VA employees provide for our veterans is absolutely critical, but they cannot provide that best care, the care our veterans deserve, if they are suffering in a hostile work environment.

Not only is this an accountability and workplace safety issue, it is a disservice to our veterans who rely on the VA for high-quality care, and a disservice to taxpayers who fund the Department.

We can do better, and this legislation will ensure that those who serve our veterans feel safe at work so they can do their jobs effectively.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this important bipartisan legislation.

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

□ 1415

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in passing this important piece of legislation, H.R. 2704, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2704.

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(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.

VA EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COUNSELOR MODERNIZATION ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2788) to amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate the cap on full-time employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs who provide equal employment opportunity counseling.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2788

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 ''VA Equal Employment Opportunity Counselor Modernization Act''.

SEC. 2. ELIMINATION OF CAP ON FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS WHO PROVIDE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COUNSELING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 516 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (g); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (g).

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report regarding the effect of the amendment under subsection (a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 2788.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support Representative LAMB's bipartisan legislation, the VA Equal Employment Opportunity Counselor Modernization Act, which is cosponsored by Representative MANN.

This bill would help the Department address diversity and equity issues within VA's workforce. It removes a portion of a 1997 law that limits the number of VA counselors who can advise employees on equal employment opportunity issues, provides alternative dispute resolution, and helps process formal complaints.

VA's workforce has roughly doubled in size since the 1997 law was enacted, and VA requested for the limit to be removed to allow the Department to hire additional counselors to support the needs of a large and still growing workforce.

Our Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee recently held a hearing to examine important steps to address workforce diversity and inclusion at VA. At this hearing, the subcommittee, once again, learned how important these counselors are. This bill builds off that oversight and will assist VA's efforts to support its workforce, which serves veterans every single day.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2788, the VA Equal Employment Opportunity Counselor Modernization Act.

Current law prohibits VA from having more than 40 full-time EEO counselors. With a workforce of around 400,000, that is only one counselor for every 10,000 employees.

This arbitrary cap has hamstrung VA, and we have heard from the Department and stakeholders that the lack of counselors prevents VA from addressing complaints quickly. H.R. 2788 would remove this cap and finally allow VA to rightsize its need for EEO counselors.

I thank Congressman CONOR LAMB and Ranking Member TRACEY MANN for introducing and leading this commonsense legislation. I am pleased to support it this afternoon.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. LAMB), my good friend and the author of this bipartisan legislation, H.R. 2788; and a member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. LAMB. Mr. Speaker, I think the key term that Ranking Member BOST used was ''common sense.'' That can sometimes be in short supply around here.

When we found out that the VA has roughly the same number of EEOC counselors today—38—that it had in 1997, you ask yourself the simple question: Well, what else has happened at the VA since that time?

Their workforce has nearly doubled. Since 1997, the VA has become one of the largest Federal agencies, with a workforce of over 400,000 people, which means those same 38 EEOC counselors are handling roughly double the amount of complaints of unfair and illegal discrimination today that they were in 1997.

See, the law placed an artificial cap on the number of counselors, but it did not place a cap on the amount of unjust discrimination in our society. That has continued. If anything, the last year has shown us how deep and intransigent racial discrimination, sex discrimination, and other illegal forms of discrimination remain in our society and how we have to take active steps to dismantle them wherever we find them.

Unfair and illegal discrimination exists at the VA. It doesn't make me proud to say it as a veteran, as a lawmaker, as a public servant, but it exists there just like it exists everywhere else. These folks know how to deal with it. They know how to listen. They know how to make the employees feel like they have a safe place to go and tell their side of the story. They know how to stick up for these employees who are giving their careers to helping our veterans.

All we need to do is lift the cap, and the VA will hire EEOC counselors who can do their job effectively and take care of those who are taking care of our veterans every day.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I, again, urge all of my colleagues to join me in

passing this important piece of legislation, H.R. 2788.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2788.

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(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.

VA TRANSPARENCY & TRUST ACT OF 2021

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2911) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a plan for obligating and expending Coronavirus pandemic funding made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2911

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 ''VA Transparency & Trust Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT OF CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC FUNDING MADE AVAILABLE TO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) PLAN AND REPORTS BY SECRETARY.—

(1) PLAN.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a detailed plan for obligating and expending covered funds, including a detailed justification for each type of obligation of such funds.

(2) BIWEEKLY REPORTS.—Every 14 days during the period beginning on the date on which the plan under paragraph (1) is submitted and ending seven days after the date on which the Secretary has expended all covered funds, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report detailing the obligation and expenditure of, and the planned uses for, such funds during the period covered by the report, including a written justification for any deviation in such obligations, expenditures, or planned uses from such plan.

(b) INSPECTOR GENERAL AUDITS.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and semiannually thereafter for three years or until the Secretary has expended all covered funds, whichever occurs first, the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report examining the obligations and expenditures made using covered funds during the period covered by the report. Each such report shall include—

(1) a comparison of how the funds are being obligated and expended to how the funds were planned to be obligated and expended in the plan under subsection (a)(1);

(2) areas of waste, fraud, and abuse, if any; and

(3) any other matter the Inspector General determines relevant.

(c) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEWS.—

(1) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than September 30, 2022, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate an interim report containing a review of obligations and expenditures made using covered funds. The report shall include—

(A) a review of the process of the Department of Veterans Affairs for preparing the request for funds;

(B) an explanation of how the expenditure of such funds met the goals of the Department during the public health emergency for which the funds were made available;

(C) any recommendations to improve the process of identifying needs and expending funds during similar situations in the future; and

(D) a review of the plans of the Department to continue programs or investments that were begun with such funds but will continue after such funds are expended.

(2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than September 30, 2024, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a final report on the matters specified under paragraph (1).

(d) COVERED FUNDS DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''covered funds'' means funds that are made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs pursuant to—

(1) the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (Public Law 116–127);

(2) the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (Public Law 116–136); or

(3) the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117–2).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 2911.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support Representative BOST's bipartisan legislation, the VA Transparency & Trust Act, for which Representative PAPPAS, Representative MANN, and I are original cosponsors.

This bill provides additional oversight for the funds Congress made available to the VA through the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and the CARES Act in 2020, as well as the American Rescue Plan, which we passed earlier this year.

In addition to requiring the VA to report biweekly on how it spends these supplemental funds, the bill mandates the VA Office of Inspector General and the Government Accountability Office to periodically report on VA's spending of these funds.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2911 adds to the existing oversight on VA's spending and will enable greater transparency for Congress and the public to ensure that these funds are spent efficiently and effectively to support critical VA programs and services as we recover from the COVID–19 pandemic.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2911, the VA Transparency & Trust Act of 2021.

In the American Rescue Plan, the VA requested and received $17.1 billion in emergency funding. I demanded justification from the VA to support that funding, and very little came. I asked why the VA needed additional money since roughly $10 billion in CARES Act funding was still available, and no one answered.

Ranking Member TRACEY MANN offered an amendment to oversee the use of those funds during the committee's markup of the American Rescue Plan. It was voted down on party lines.

What I feared at that time I can now confirm. The American Rescue Plan has essentially become a blank check for the VA to the tune of $17.1 billion.

H.R. 2911 would establish strict oversight and reporting requirements over all remaining COVID supplemental funds. It would also require the VA inspector general to conduct regular audits of these funds.

Lastly, it would require the GAO to conduct a complete review after all funds have been spent.

I believe these requirements are appropriate given that we are talking about tens of billions in taxpayer dollars. We should all expect full transparency on the use of these funds.

I thank Chairman PAPPAS and Ranking Member MANN for joining me in introducing this bill. I encourage all my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. PAPPAS), my good friend and the chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Ranking Member BOST, for introducing this legislation. I was proud to support it alongside my colleague, TRACEY MANN, from the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee. It is the VA Transparency & Trust Act of 2021.

Now, the COVID–19 pandemic and economic crisis turned our world upside down, and it hit our veteran community especially hard. The issues our veterans faced before the pandemic

have only been exacerbated by COVID–19, and they contend with a new host of health and financial hardships.

That is why I joined with many in this Chamber to strongly urge for support to our veterans in COVID–19 relief packages, including the American Rescue Plan. That plan provided a much-needed investment in the VA, but we must all work together to ensure that this funding is used effectively to support our veterans and to increase the quality care that they receive.

As chair of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse, and ensuring veterans get the care they have earned is a top priority.

This legislation would require the VA to report to Congress on the emergency funding that it has already received. It will provide the enhanced oversight that is warranted to ensure funds are being used efficiently and in ways that are truly meeting the needs of those who have served us all.

Mr. Speaker, I urge swift passage of this legislation.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I also ask all my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 2911, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2911.

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(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.

□ 1430

HOMELESS VETERANS WITH CHILDREN REINTEGRATION ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 240) to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Labor to prioritize the provision of services to homeless veterans with dependents in carrying out homeless veterans reintegration programs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 240

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 ''Homeless Veterans with Children Reintegration Act''.

SEC. 2. PRIORITY UNDER HOMELESS VETERANS REINTEGRATION PROGRAMS FOR HOMELESS VETERANS WITH DEPENDENTS.

(a) PRIORITY FOR HOMELESS VETERANS WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN.—Subsection (a) of section 2021 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''Subject to'' and inserting ''(1) Subject to'';

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (5) as subparagraphs (A) through (E), respectively; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(2) In conducting programs under this section, the Secretary shall prioritize the provision of services to homeless veterans with dependents.''.

(b) ADDITIONAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Subsection (d) of such section is amended—

(1) by striking ''the report an evaluation of services'' and all that follows and inserting ''each such report—''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(1) an evaluation of services furnished to veterans under this section and an analysis of the information collected under subsection (b);

''(2) an analysis of any gaps in access to shelter, safety, and services for homeless veterans with dependent children; and

''(3) recommendations for improving any gaps identified under paragraph (2).''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 240.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to speak on H.R. 240, the Homeless Veterans with Children Reintegration Act introduced by Congresswoman JULIA BROWNLEY.

There is increasing concern that shelters and homeless veteran housing is not created to serve families, and that homeless veterans with children may avoid seeking out services because they are afraid of being separated from their children.

Representative BROWNLEY's legislation seeks to start addressing the issue by ensuring that veterans with families are prioritized within the homeless veterans reintegration program, or HVRP. HVRP seeks to address reintegrating homeless veterans into the workforce through grants to partner organizations.

Mr. Speaker, in 2018, the Department of Labor identified homeless female veterans and veterans with families as one of the three priority populations for HVRP services. H.R. 240 would prioritize homeless veterans with dependent children within the homeless veteran reintegration program to ensure they get the resources they need to return to housing without the fear of losing their children should they seek help.

I applaud Representative BROWNLEY for her work on this legislation, and I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the Homeless Veterans with Children Reintegration Act.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 240, the Homeless Veterans with Children Reintegration Act.

This legislation would direct the Secretary of Labor to prioritize homeless veterans with dependents when administering homeless reintegration programs.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development recently released 2020's Point-in-Time count for homeless veterans. This count showed that on a single night in 2020, there were 37,252 veterans living on the street. This is a slight increase of 0.4 percent from 2019.

With COVID–19 impacting the economy and increasing unemployment, we must do everything we can to help our homeless veterans find work.

By passing this bill to prioritize job training for homeless veterans with dependents, we are ensuring this vulnerable population is at the front of the line for help.

I thank Congresswoman BROWNLEY for her hard work on drafting this bill, and I am proud to support it today.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BROWNLEY), my good friend, the chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Health, and also the author of this important piece of legislation.

Ms. BROWNLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, the Homeless Veterans with Children Reintegration Act.

On any given day, there are more than 550,000 people experiencing homelessness in our country. An estimated 40,000 of them are veterans. This is categorically unacceptable.

Although the Department of Housing and Urban Development and VA have made progress toward eliminating veterans' homelessness, there is still more that must be done to ensure that every veteran has a home.

We know it is 10 times cheaper to provide resources to prevent homelessness in the first place than it is to house someone once they have become homeless.

We also know that so many of our veterans suffer from PTSD related to combat or, far too often, military sexual trauma. These traumatic experiences put veterans at increased risk of mental health conditions, substance use disorders, and homelessness.

We owe it to our veterans to spare no effort in providing the security and assistance they need to transition to civilian life. One way to help our veterans experiencing homelessness is to help them gain new employment skills and get stable jobs.

The Department of Labor's homeless veterans reintegration program focuses on securing employment opportunities for homeless veterans. The program provides grants to State and local agencies and nonprofit organizations that teach veterans occupational skills, provide on-the-job training, help them attain apprenticeships, and help with job searches and placement.

Grantees also collaborate with public and private partners at all levels—Federal, State, and local—to provide supportive services and access to housing.

The program has been extremely successful, helping place thousands of homeless veterans in competitive employment every year.

Over the last several years, the Department of Labor has identified certain homeless veteran populations that are in particular need of reintegration services, including female veterans and veterans with families. My bill would direct the Department of Labor to prioritize homeless veterans with dependent children participating in its reintegration program.

This subpopulation of homeless veterans is particularly vulnerable, and it is so important to ensure they have access to the wraparound services necessary to support a parent with children.

Research shows that families experiencing homelessness often have to contend with intimate partner violence, child separation, and other extremely challenging issues. That is why my bill would also require the Department of Labor to study access to shelter, safety, and other relevant services for homeless veterans with dependent children. This information will help us understand the problem and identify opportunities to resolve issues in providing services to this vulnerable population.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman an additional 2 minutes.

Ms. BROWNLEY. Mr. Speaker, this legislation will also go a long way toward supporting veterans who have sacrificed so much for our country and are now struggling to adjust to civilian life and to support families.

This bill has received broad bipartisan support in the past, and I ask that my colleagues, as my colleagues have on the committee, join me in getting it across the finish line. We owe our veterans nothing less.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 240 as we did unanimously in committee. I suspect that if this bill were brought to a vote before the entire body, it would pass with near-unanimous support.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 240.

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(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.

WEST LOS ANGELES VA CAMPUS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2021

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 711) to amend the West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016 to authorize the use of certain funds received pursuant to leases entered into under such Act, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 711

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 ''West Los Angeles VA Campus Improvement Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. TREATMENT OF LAND USE REVENUES UNDER WEST LOS ANGELES LEASING ACT OF 2016.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (d) of section 2 of the West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016 (Public Law 114– 226; 130 Stat. 927) is amended to read as follows:

''(d) LAND USE REVENUES AT THE CAMPUS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Any land use revenues received by the Secretary shall be credited to the applicable Department medical facilities accounts or minor construction accounts and shall be available, without fiscal year limitation and without further appropriation, exclusively for any of the following:

''(A) Supporting construction, maintenance, and services at the Campus relating to temporary or permanent supportive housing for homeless or at-risk veterans and their families.

''(B) Renovating and maintaining the land and facilities at the Campus.

''(C) Carrying out minor construction projects at the Campus.

''(D) Carrying out community operations at the Campus that support the development of emergency shelter or supportive housing for homeless or at-risk veterans and their families.

''(2) LAND USE REVENUE DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'land use revenue' means—

''(A) any funds received by the Secretary under a lease described in subsection (b); and

''(B) any funds received as proceeds from any assets seized or forfeited, and any restitution paid, in connection with any third-party land use at the Campus.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to funds received by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs after the date of the enactment of the West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–226; 130 Stat. 927).

SEC. 3. MODIFICATION TO ENHANCED USE LEASES AT THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS WEST LOS ANGELES CAMPUS.

Paragraph (1) of section 2(b) of the West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–226; 130 Stat. 927), is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: ''Notwithstanding section 8162(b)(2) of such title, the term of such an enhanced-use lease at the Campus may not exceed 99 years.''.

SEC. 4. 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 Congressional 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 rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 711, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this bill, the West Los Angeles VA Campus Improvement Act, would amend a 2016 law concerning the West Los Angeles VA campus.

H.R. 711, as amended, is sponsored by Congressman TED LIEU, and is critical to the Department of Veterans Affairs' efforts, together with community partners, to address veteran homelessness in the Los Angeles area.

In addition, this legislation helps VA use already available funding streams to fund supportive housing for homeless and at-risk veterans and their families; community operations that support emergency shelter and supportive housing; and renovations and minor construction projects.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 711, as amended, the West Los Angeles VA Campus Improvement Act.

In 2016, Congress gave the West Los Angeles VA campus the authority to carry out leases with third parties. These leases have the potential to create revenue for the VA. However, the funds generated by these leases could only be used for renovation and maintenance. This bill would change that.

It would require that any land use revenues received by the VA from a third party be credited to the medical facility's account. The funding in these accounts would be used to meet existing needs and new services for homeless veterans.

Revenues would now be available for the medical center to provide emergency shelter and supportive housing services for homeless or at-risk veterans and their families. These funds would be available without fiscal year limitations and further appropriations.

It makes sense that the medical center receives these funds and can use them to improve its campus and help homeless veterans.

I thank Congresswoman BROWNLEY for her amendment at the markup which eliminated the mandatory score for this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support H.R. 711, as amended. I thank the gentleman and his staff for the hard work they have done on this bill to get it right. I appreciate it very much.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I also want to express my gratitude to my colleague, Ranking Member BOST, and the Republicans on the committee for working with the majority. I believe that the issues that we worked out were common sense, and upon further examination, I think taxpayers and most independent, reasonable observers would say this is what Congress should be doing on behalf of our veterans. I can't imagine why there would be any objection to this on the floor of the House.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 711, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill H.R. 711, the West Los Angeles VA Campus Improvement Act of 2021. This legislation is critical to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) efforts, together with community partners, to address veteran homelessness in the Los Angeles area. In addition, it helps VA use already available funding streams for certain homeless veteran programs, thus reducing the need for taxpayer funds.

I represent the West LA VA, a 388-acre campus that serves thousands of veterans in Southern California and across the state, including offering temporary housing for homeless veterans, legal aide, training, and other services. The land was deeded to the federal government in 1888 and for decades thousands of veterans lived there. Unfortunately, following damage from a major earthquake in 1971, the VA began transitioning the land away from housing, costing Los Angeles County a crucial node in the battle to fight veteran homelessness. On top of that, fraud and general neglect of the campus before my tenure led to some of the campus falling into a state of disrepair. Finally, the VA settled in a suit alleging that many enhanced use leases on campus were not principally benefiting veterans, but instead serving other purposes.

Mr. Speaker, a year after I took office, Congress passed my West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016, a law intended to clean up the campus and which directly led to the end of most non-veteran related leases. The law has also helped spur the redevelopment of the property into a true home for veterans. The VA is now implementing a plan to build at least 1,200 new subsidized apartments, which is composed of 23 projects that range from renovating existing structures to developing and building new units.

This progress is encouraging. But there is a serious problem that was brought to my attention recently by veteran advocates. A drafting error in the 2016 legislation prevents the West LA VA from using funds from enhanced use leases (EULs) for the purposes of housing construction. The VA can only use such funds for "renovation and maintenance" of the campus which means money is lying stagnant that could be used to build housing but instead, because of a technical error, cannot go toward helping the VA fight homelessness. This legislation fixes that error.

Second, as a result of fraud on campus, the VA was supposed to get several million dollars in asset forfeiture funds. But instead, such funds go back to the general fund at the Treasury Department to be dispersed around the country, for any purpose at all. Veterans at the West LA VA are doubly harmed—first, by the initial fraud, and second, by the theft of funds that are supposed to make them whole. My legislation fixes this problem by making it clear funds from settlement money and asset forfeiture resulting from any past or future fraud on campus go to veterans at the facility that was harmed. It's just common sense.

Finally, my bill increases the life of enhanced use leases on the campus from 75 to 99 years. Increasing the length of the leases would reduce the financing costs for new housing, further helping the VA and its partners tackle homelessness.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues on the House Veterans Affairs Committee for their support, including Chairman TAKANO, who has been a tireless champion for our nation's veterans and specifically veterans in Los Angeles. I am grateful to Members on both sides of the aisle who passed this bill out of Committee on May 4th by voice vote, bringing us one step closer to ensuring the VA has the legal authorities it needs help our veterans. Let's not let technical errors stand in the way of housing our nation's heroes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 711, 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. ROSENDALE. 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.

□ 1445

GI BILL NATIONAL EMERGENCY EXTENDED DEADLINE ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2167) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for extensions of the time limitations for use of entitlement under Department of Veterans Affairs educational assistance programs by reason of school closures due to emergency and other situations, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2167

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 "GI Bill National Emergency Extended Deadline Act".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF TIME LIMITATION FOR USE OF ENTITLEMENT UNDER DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS BY REASON OF SCHOOL CLOSURES DUE TO EMERGENCY AND OTHER SITUATIONS.

(a) MONTGOMERY GI BILL.—Section 3031 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting "and subsection (i)" after "through (g)"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(i)(1) In the case of an individual eligible for educational assistance under this chapter who is prevented from pursuing the individual's chosen program of education before the expiration of the 10-year period for the use of entitlement under this chapter otherwise applicable under this section because of a covered reason, as determined by the Secretary, such 10-year period—

"(A) shall not run during the period the individual is so prevented from pursuing such program; and

"(B) shall again begin running on a date determined by the Secretary that is—

"(i) not earlier than the first day after the individual is able to resume pursuit of a program of education with educational assistance under this chapter; and

"(ii) not later than 90 days after that day.

"(2) In this subsection, a covered reason is—

"(A) the temporary or permanent closure of an educational institution by reason of an emergency situation; or

"(B) another reason that prevents the individual from pursuing the individual's chosen program of education, as determined by the Secretary.".

(b) POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.—Section 3321(b)(1) of such title is amended—

(1) by inserting "(A)" before "Subsections";

(2) by striking "and (d)" and inserting "(d), and (i)"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(B) Subsection (i) of section 3031 of this title shall apply with respect to the running of the 15-year period described in paragraphs (4)(A) and (5)(A) of this subsection in the same manner as such subsection (i) applies under such section 3031 with respect to the running of the 10-year period described in subsection (a) of such section.".

SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF PERIOD OF ELIGIBILITY BY REASON OF SCHOOL CLOSURES DUE TO EMERGENCY AND OTHER SITUATIONS UNDER DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TRAINING AND REHABILITATION PROGRAM FOR VETERANS WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES.

Section 3103 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''or (g)'' and inserting ''(g), or (h)''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(h)(1) In the case of a veteran who is eligible for a vocational rehabilitation program under this chapter and who is prevented from participating in the vocational rehabilitation program within the period of eligibility prescribed in subsection (a) because of a covered reason, as determined by the Secretary, such period of eligibility—

''(A) shall not run during the period the veteran is so prevented from participating in such program; and

''(B) shall again begin running on a date determined by the Secretary that is—

''(i) not earlier than the first day after the veteran is able to resume participation in a vocational rehabilitation program under this chapter; and

''(ii) not later than 90 days after that day.

''(2) In this subsection, a covered reason is—

''(A) the temporary or permanent closure of an educational institution by reason of an emergency situation; or

''(B) another reason that prevents the veteran from participating in the vocational rehabilitation program, as determined by the Secretary.''.

SEC. 4. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS DISAPPROVAL OF COURSES OFFERED BY PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING THAT DO NOT CHARGE VETERANS THE IN-STATE TUITION RATE FOR PURPOSES OF SURVIVORS' AND DEPENDENTS' EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3679(c) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''or 33'' and inserting ''33, or 35'';

(2) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(D) An individual who is entitled to assistance under section 3510 of this title.''; and

(3) in paragraph (6), by striking ''and 33'' and inserting ''33, and 35''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 3679(e) of such title is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''or 33'' and inserting '', 33, or 35''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''or 33'' and inserting ''33, or 35''; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ''or 33'' and inserting ''33, or 35''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this Act shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply with respect to an academic period that begins on or after August 1, 2022.

SEC. 5. IMPROVEMENTS TO INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES USED TO PROCESS CLAIMS FOR EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) MODERN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICE.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall implement an information technology service to process claims for educational assistance under chapters 30, 33, 35, and 36 of title 38, United States Code, using one or more commercial software systems. The Secretary shall complete such implementation not later than August 1, 2024.

(b) REQUIRED CAPABILITIES.—The Secretary shall ensure that the modern information technology service under subsection (a) has the following capabilities:

(1) As compared to legacy information technology systems—

(A) the ability to process claims faster and in a more efficient manner by improving processing integration and accuracy;

(B) improved data exchange and reporting; and

(C) improved customer integration and simplification of the online experience.

(2) Timely communication by employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs to individuals and educational institutions using an online portal that can provide real-time information on claims for educational assistance.

(3) The ability to be customized to address future capabilities required by law.

(4) Fully automated to the extent practicable for all original and supplemental claims, including with respect to calculating accurate awards.

(5) The ability for individuals entitled to educational assistance to electronically apply for, withdraw from, and amend such entitlement, and to reallocate a transferred entitlement.

(6) The ability to electronically process changes made by educational institutions.

(7) The ability to verify attendance at an educational institution.

(8) The ability to process validations made by an educational institution.

(c) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report containing information on the cost, schedule, and performance of the project for implementing such system, including, with respect to such project, the following:

(1) An estimate of acquisition, implementation, and life cycle costs (including all direct and indirect costs to acquire, implement, operate, and maintain such system).

(2) An intended implementation schedule indicating significant milestones, initial operating capability, and full operating capability or completion.

(3) Key business, functional, or performance objectives.

(4) With respect to both original claims and supplemental claims processed on a monthly basis, statistics regarding—

(A) the number of such claims processed using legacy information systems;

(B) the number of such claims that were off-ramped and processed manually; and

(C) the number of such claims estimated to be processed using the modern information technology service.

(5) The amount of savings that are estimated to be realized from using the modern information technology service rather than legacy information technology systems.

(6) The estimated accuracy of processing claims.

(7) The estimated timeliness for—

(A) processing original claims; and

(B) processing supplemental claims.

(8) A description of how the modern information technology service will—

(A) automate the processing of original claims; and

(B) automate the processing of supplemental claims.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term ''legacy information technology system'' means an information technology system used by the Department of Veterans Affairs to process claims for educational assistance under chapters 30, 33, 35, and 36 of title 38, United States Code, before the date on which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs awards a contract under subsection (a) for the modern information technology service.

(2) The term ''modern information technology service'' means the information technology service implemented under subsection (a) to process claims for educational assistance under chapters 30, 33, 35, and 36 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 6. TIME PERIOD FOR ELIGIBILITY UNDER SURVIVORS' AND DEPENDENTS' EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3512 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (f); and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(g) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the following persons may be afforded educational assistance under this chapter at any time after August 1, 2023, and without regard to the age of the person:

''(1) A person who first becomes an eligible person on or after August 1, 2023.

''(2) A person who—

''(A) first becomes an eligible person before August 1, 2023; and

''(B) becomes 18 years of age, or completes secondary schooling, on or after August 1, 2023.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such section is further amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''The educational'' and inserting ''Except as provided in subsection (g), the educational'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting ''subsection (g) or'' after ''provided in''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''Notwithstanding'' and inserting ''Except as provided in subsection (g), notwithstanding''; and

(3) in subsection (e), by striking ''No person'' and inserting ''Except as provided in subsection (g), no person''.

SEC. 7. PILOT PROGRAM ON SHORT-TERM FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS.

(a) AUTHORITY.—The Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training shall carry out a pilot program under which a State may use a grant or contract under section 4102A(b)(5) of title 38, United States Code, to carry out a short-term fellowship program.

(b) LOCATIONS; AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary shall select at least three, but not more than five, States to carry out a short-term fellowship program pursuant to subsection (a). Each such State shall enter into an agreement with a non-profit organization to carry out such program.

(c) SHORT-TERM FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.—Each short-term fellowship program carried out by a State pursuant to subsection (a) shall—

(1) consist of veterans participating as fellows with an employer for a period not exceeding 20 weeks;

(2) provide to such veterans a monthly stipend during such period; and

(3) provide to such veterans an opportunity to be employed on a long-term basis with the employer following such period.

(d) AMOUNT OF STIPEND.—The amount of the stipend provided to a veteran pursuant to subsection (c)(2) for a month shall be the amount equal to the amount of the wages earned by the veteran during that month for participating in the fellowship.

(e) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT.—Not later than four years after the date on which the pilot program commences under this section, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report on the pilot program.

(f) DEFINITION OF STATE.—In this section, the term ''State'' has the meaning given such term in section 4101(6) of title 38, United States Code.

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to funds made available under section 4102A(b)(5) of title 38, United States Code, there is authorized to be appropriated to the Assistant Secretary to carry out the pilot program under this section $15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025.

SEC. 8. 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 Congressional 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 rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 2167, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to speak on H.R. 2167, as amended, the GI Bill National Emergency Extended Deadline, or GI Bill NEED Act, introduced by Congresswoman SHERRILL.

The COVID–19 pandemic didn't only impact veterans' health, but it also put a serious strain on veterans' access to educational benefits. The COVID–19 pandemic exposed the limit on VA authority to extend the time for use of its educational assistance program benefits amid an emergency.

Representative SHERRILL's bill fixes these limits during times of emergency for Montgomery GI bill users and those participating in the Veteran Readiness and Employment Program.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes VA to pause the clock as needed when an institution must close temporarily, or permanently, due to an emergency, or when a student is prevented from continuing his or her program for other reasons. This was an authority VA lacked during COVID–19, and if not for the quick action by Congress, thousands of veterans would have seen their benefits wasted.

Now it is time to take the lessons from the pandemic and fix this problem once and for all. Not only that, but H.R. 2167, as amended, includes additional improvements to VA education programs used by veterans and their families. This legislation would require that VA ensure the modern information technology (IT) service can process claims faster and more efficiently through improved processing integration and accuracy, data exchange and reporting, customer integration, and simplification of the online experience.

The legislation would also expand in-State tuition rates at public universities to participants in the Dependents' Educational Assistance program.

Guaranteeing in-State tuition for those survivors using Dependents Education Assistance, otherwise known as DEA, under Chapter 35, is a low-cost lift that will drastically improve educational options for surviving families and reduce their need for student loans.

I, therefore, ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the GI Bill National Emergency Extended Deadline, or GI Bill NEED Act.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2167, as amended, the GI Bill National Emergency Extended Deadlines—or NEED—Act.

This bill would extend time limitations for the use of entitlement for VA education programs due to an emergency. I am supportive of the underlying bill. I also thank Chairman TAKANO, Congresswoman SHERRILL, for including several Republican provisions in this legislation.

This bill includes the text of two of Congressman MOORE's bill, H.R. 2420, the Overseeing the GI Bill Act of 2021; and H.R. 2457, the Colonel John McHugh Tuition Fairness for Survivors Act.

H.R. 2420 would require VA to submit regular reports to Congress on the progress of the Digital GI Bill program. This is a system that the VA is purchasing to overhaul the antiquated system that processes GI bill claims. The failed implementation of the Forever GI Bill in 2018 led to thousands of veterans waiting weeks for their claims to be processed. This provision would provide the needed oversight to ensure that these mistakes are not repeated.

H.R. 2457 would require institutions of higher learning to provide an in-State tuition to participants in the Survivors' and Dependents' Education Assistance Program. This would bring the benefits in line with other GI Bill programs that require that veterans be provided in-State tuition.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman MOORE for his hard work on both of these bills. H.R. 2167, as amended, also includes texts from Congresswoman MACE's bill, H.R. 2327. Congresswoman MACE's provisions would ensure that benefits through the Dependents' Education Assistance GI Bill program will never expire for eligible students. This would bring this program in line with the way the post-9/11 GI bill benefits work for most other veterans. I commend Congresswoman MACE for her hard work on this bill to expand benefits to dependents and survivors.

Finally, this bill also includes the text of Congressman CAWTHORN's bill, H.R. 2391, the Veterans Fellowship Act. This bill would direct the Department of Labor to carry out a pilot program to help veterans find meaningful employment through short-term fellowships. The DOL would provide a stipend for the veterans to participate in the pilot program.

Madam Speaker, I thank all of these Members for their hard work drafting these important pieces of legislation. I am pleased to support the bill, and I urge all of my colleagues to do the same.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. MOORE).

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Madam Speaker, today I rise and I am proud that two of my bills, the Colonel John McHugh Tuition Fairness for Survivors Act, and the Overseeing the GI Act of 2021, were included in the GI bill.

Members of our military and their families have sacrificed so much in their service to our country. As a grateful Nation, we have a responsibility to take care of our heroes and their families. My bill, the Colonel John McHugh Tuition Fairness for Survivors Act, secures in-State tuition benefits for the survivors and dependents for eligible veterans under the Dependent Educational Assistance program.

This bill is named after the U.S. Army Colonel John McHugh, who was tragically killed in 2010 in Afghanistan by a roadside bomb. His family currently resides in my district. Like many Americans, Colonel McHugh dreamed of building a bigger and better life for his family, and we owe it to them, and the millions of families like the McHughs, to help them realize this dream.

The second bill, the Overseeing the GI Bill Act of 2021, provides much-needed oversight for the VA's digital GI Bill project by requiring the VA to submit a series of base-level reports to ensure the VA is on track.

These reports will provide Congress with the critical information needed to perform proper oversight over these IT upgrades and ensure that they are using taxpayer dollars efficiently and effectively. These bipartisan developments bring us closer to securing long overdue support for our veterans and their families, and I appreciate my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for lending their support to take care of our veterans and their families.

Madam Speaker, I appreciate and thank Chairman TAKANO and Ranking Member BOST for their leadership.

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

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS).

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues, Ranking Member BOST and Chair TAKANO, for their leadership, and I thank Representative BOST for yielding me time.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of my bipartisan GI Bill National Emergency Extended Deadline Act, which I was proud to introduce with a fellow veteran, Congresswoman SHERRILL.

Our legislation would protect veterans' educational benefits from expiring due to institutional closures or other factors caused by the COVID–19 national emergency.

This important legislation will allow the Department of Veterans Affairs to pause the time limit currently placed on the use of GI bill benefits and to permit them to restart the clock after it is safe for veterans to return to school.

I am pleased to see that our legislation was amended in the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, to include my Veterans Readiness and Employment National Emergency Extended Deadline Act, which I was also proud to introduce with Congresswoman SHERRILL.

The VR&E NEED Act would ensure disabled veterans get the support they need to enter the civilian workforce through the VA's VR&E program. Our legislation will allow the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to pause the 12-year time limit to use VR&E benefits during national emergencies and other crises when eligible, disabled veterans are prevented from leveraging those benefits through no fault of their own.

The VR&E program is an excellent path for our veterans to receive the education and training they need to reenter the workforce. By pausing the timer on their benefits when programs are closed, we preserve the opportunities veterans have earned through their service to our country. Our disabled veterans sacrificed greatly in service to our country, so now it is our turn to serve them.

It is critical these benefits are not reduced due to no fault of the individual veteran. Over the past year, we have seen the COVID–19 public health emergency force universities and colleges across the country to temporarily close their doors. As a 24-year Army veteran, I know how important being able to use GI benefits is to ensure that our veterans can find meaningful employment. In fact, I used the GI bill benefit throughout medical school.

Madam Speaker, I thank Congresswoman SHERRILL for her partnership on both of these commonsense bills to help our veterans to access the benefits they have earned.

Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support the bipartisan GI NEED Act.

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 2167, as amended, as sponsored by Congresswoman SHERRILL of New Jersey.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. MCCOLLUM). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2167, 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. ROSENDALE. 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.

NATIVE VETSUCCESS AT TRIBAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES PILOT PROGRAM ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2878) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a Native VetSuccess at Tribal Colleges and Universities Pilot Program, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2878

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 ''Native VetSuccess at Tribal Colleges and Universities Pilot Program Act''.

SEC. 2. NATIVE VETSUCCESS AT TRIBAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a five-year pilot program, to be known as the ''Native VetSuccess at Tribal Colleges and Universities Pilot Program''. Under such pilot program the Secretary shall—

(1) identify three regional Native VetSuccess service areas consisting of at least two participating Tribal colleges or universities;

(2) assign to each regional Native VetSuccess service area a VetSuccess on Campus counselor and a full-time Vet Center outreach coordinator, both of whom shall be based on one or more of the participating Tribal colleges or universities in the service area; and

(3) provide for eligible students at such participating colleges and universities with all services for which such students would be eligible under the VetSuccess on Campus program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(b) ELIGIBLE STUDENTS.—For purposes of the pilot program, an eligible student is a student who is a veteran, member of the Armed Forces, or dependent of a veteran or member of the Armed Forces who is eligible for any service or benefit under the VetSuccess on Campus program of the Department.

(c) CONSULTATION REQUIREMENT.—In developing the pilot program under this section, the Secretary, acting through the Veteran Readiness and Employment Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs and in coordination with the Office of Tribal Government Relations of the Department, shall consult with Indian tribes, Tribal organizations, and veterans service organizations regarding each of the following:

(1) The design of the pilot program.

(2) The selection of the three regional Native VetSuccess service areas and participating Tribal colleges and universities, taking into consideration—

(A) the number of eligible students enrolled in the college or university and in the regional service area;

(B) the capacity of the colleges and universities in the regional service area to accommodate a full-time VetSuccess on Campus counselor and a full-time Vet Center outreach coordinator;

(C) the lack of information available at the colleges and universities in the regional service area about and lack of access to benefits and services under the laws administered by the Secretary; and

(D) any other factor that the Secretary or the Indian tribes, Tribal organizations, and veterans service organizations identify as relevant.

(3) The most effective way to provide culturally competent outreach and services to eligible students at Tribal colleges and universities.

(d) OUTREACH TO COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.—The Secretary shall provide notice of the pilot program to all Tribal colleges and universities and encourage all Tribal colleges and universities to coordinate with each other to create regional service areas to participate in the pilot program.

(e) BRIEFINGS AND REPORTS.—

(1) IMPLEMENTATION BRIEFING.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall provide for the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate a briefing on—

(A) the design, structure, and objectives of the pilot program; and

(B) the three regional Native Vet Success service areas and the Tribal colleges and universities selected for participation in the pilot program and the reason for the selection of such service areas and such colleges and universities.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than four years after the date on which the Secretary establishes the pilot program, the Secretary shall submit to such Committees a report on the pilot program. Such report shall include each of the following:

(A) The number of eligible students provided services through the pilot program.

(B) The types of services that eligible students received through the pilot program.

(C) The graduation rate of eligible students who received services through the pilot program.

(D) The rate of employment within one year of graduation for eligible students who received services through the pilot program.

(E) Feedback from each Tribal college or university that participated in the pilot program, including on the regional nature of the program.

(F) Analysis of the feasibility of expanding a regionally based Native VetSuccess at Tribal Colleges and Universities Program, including an explanation of the challenges of such a model due to issues with distance, communication, and coordination, and to the level of unmet services.

(G) A detailed legislative proposal regarding a long-term extension of the pilot program, including a budget, if the Secretary determines that such an extension is appropriate.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term ''Tribal college or university'' has the meaning given such term under section 316 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c).

(2) The term ''tribal organization'' has the meaning given that term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

(3) The term ''culturally competent'' means considerate of the unique values, customs, traditions, cultures, and languages of Native American veterans.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR HIGH TECHNOLOGY PILOT PROGRAM.

Subsection (g) of section 116 of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 (Public Law 115–48; 38 U.S.C. 3001 note), as amended by section 4302 of the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 (Public Law 116–315), is amended to read as follows:

''(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Funds shall be made available for carrying out the pilot program under this section from funds appropriated to, or otherwise made available to, the Department for the payment of readjustment benefits, in the following amounts for a fiscal year in which the Secretary carries out the pilot program:

''(1) For fiscal year 2019, $62,000,000.

''(2) For fiscal year 2020, $63,000,000.

''(3) For fiscal year 2021, $90,000,000.

''(4) For fiscal year 2022, $90,000,000.

''(5) For fiscal year 2023, $60,000,000.

''(6) For fiscal year 2024, $0.''.

SEC. 4. PROVISION OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS WHO ARE ''ROUNDING OUT'' UNDER EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3680(a) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''paragraph (2)'' and inserting ''paragraphs (2) and (3)''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), in the case of an eligible veteran or eligible person who is pursuing a program of education on less than a half-time basis during a period that is the last semester, term, or academic period the veteran or person will be enrolled in the program of education because the veteran or person will complete the program of education at the end of that semester, term or academic period, the Secretary may, pursuant to such regulations as the Secretary shall prescribe, provide to the veteran or person educational assistance under chapter 30, 32, 33, 34, or 35 of this title or under chapter 1606 of title 10, including a monthly housing stipend described in section 3313(c) of this title, on the basis of the total number of credits or courses in which the veteran or person is enrolled, if—

''(A) the number of credits the veteran or person needs to complete the program of education is less than the number of credits that would constitute enrollment on a more than half-time basis for that last semester, term, or academic period; and

''(B) the veteran or person—

''(i) is enrolled in, or has completed, every course offered by the program of education during the last semester, term, or academic period in which the veteran or person is enrolled in the program of education; and

''(ii) enrolls in an additional course that is not required for the completion of such program of education and the enrollment in the non-required course in addition to the required course or courses in which the veteran or person is enrolled constitutes enrollment on more than a half-time basis.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on August 1, 2021, and apply with respect to any semester, term, or academic period that begins on or after that date.

SEC. 5. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN HOUSING LOAN FEES.

Section 3729(b)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking ''October 1, 2030'' each place it appears and inserting ''December 9, 2030''.

SEC. 6. EXPANSION AND EXTENSION OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ASSISTANCE FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.

(a) EXPANSION.—Subsection (a) of section 2041 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting ''or permanent housing'' after ''shelter'';

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''named in, or approved by the Secretary under, section 5902 of this title'' and inserting ''that is the recipient of a grant under section 2011, 2013, 2044, or 2061 of this title''; and

(C) in subparagraph (B), by inserting '', tribal entity,'' after ''State''; and

(2) in paragraph (3)(B)—

(A) in clause (i), by inserting ''or to sell or rent the property directly to homeless veterans or veterans at-risk of homelessness'' after ''families''; and

(B) in each of clauses (i), (ii), and (iii), by striking the comma and inserting a semicolon.

(b) EXTENSION.—Subsection (c) of such section is amended by striking ''September 30, 2017'' and inserting ''September 30, 2025''.

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 Congressional 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 rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 2878, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to speak on H.R. 2878, as amended, the Native VetSuccess at Tribal Colleges and Universities Pilot Program Act, introduced by Congressman GALLEGO.

Started in 2009, the VetSuccess On Campus Program helps student veterans succeed and thrive through delivery of on-campus benefits, assistance, and counseling. This outreach is intended to help veterans complete their education and prepare them for jobs.

Since its inception, the program has expanded multiple times, and currently supports 104 schools across the country and is served by 87 VetSuccess counselors.

□ 1500

However, Tribal colleges and universities are not currently served by the VetSuccess program, creating a gap in access to the services and benefits our Native American veterans have earned.

Madam Speaker, Native veterans serve in the Armed Forces at five times the national average, and have served with distinction in every major conflict for over 200 years. Native Americans have the highest per capita involvement of any population in service in the U.S. military, yet these same communities that serve disproportionately in our military don't see the same resources delivered back to their communities.

Congressman GALLEGO's legislation begins to close this gap by creating the Native VetSuccess at Tribal Colleges and Universities Pilot Program Act at three sites around the Nation serving Tribal colleges.

But that is not all. This legislation also includes additional improvements that will deliver more benefits to all veterans using their earned educational benefits.

Included in this legislation is expanded housing benefits for veterans as they seek to finish programs of education; additional funding for high-technology education courses to serve more veterans during our economic rebound from the COVID–19 pandemic; and an extension of VA housing partnerships with local communities to house more veterans who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Madam Speaker, I applaud Congressman GALLEGO, a veteran himself, for bringing this package to us, and I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the Native VetSuccess at Tribal Colleges and Universities Pilot Program Act.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2878, as amended, the Native VetSuccess at Tribal Colleges and Universities Pilot Program Act.

This bill would direct the VA to carry out pilot programs on at least two Tribal colleges or university campuses.

During the pilot, a VetSuccess counselor would be assigned to these campuses to help eligible veterans navigate VA programs and benefits.

I support the underlying bill. I am also pleased that the bill, as amended, included many Republican provisions.

This bill includes the revised text of Congresswoman MILLER-MEEKS' bill, H.R. 2335, the VET TEC Enhancement Act of 2021. Her bill would increase funding for the popular VET TEC pilot program to ensure that funding does not run out before the end of the fiscal year. The bill also provides additional funding for those programs in fiscal year 2022 and 2023.

Madam Speaker, I am glad we authorized additional funds for this important program that is putting veterans back to work with a 70 percent placement rate. I think we would be hard-pressed to find another program with such a high rate of success.

This bill also includes the text of Congressman MANN's bill, H.R. 2419, the Affordable Housing for Homeless Veterans Act of 2021. Congressman MANN's provision would authorize the VA to sell, lease, rent or donate homes to homeless veterans providers.

These homes were acquired by the VA due to veterans defaulting on their VA-guaranteed home loans. This change would increase the stock of affordable housing that is available to house homeless veterans.

Finally, this bill would provide authorization for the VA to continue the practice of rounding out the semester for GI Bill students. This practice ensures that the students who are finishing their education early are able to take an additional class to receive their full housing stipend.

I am dismayed that, without this legislative fix, the Biden administration is poised to end the decades-long practice on August 1.

Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman LEVIN for working with us to ensure rounding out continues and students are not hurt by the VA's decision. I also thank Congresswoman MILLER-MEEKS and Congressman MANN for their hard work on both of these bills.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to support this bill, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO), my good friend and an author of this legislation, H.R. 2878, and a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. GALLEGO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 2878, the Native VetSuccess at Tribal Colleges and Universities Pilot Program Act.

I thank Chair TAKANO for bringing this bill to the floor. I also thank my co-leads on this legislation: Representative DUSTY JOHNSON, Representative TOM O'HALLERAN, and Representative TOM COLE.

Native Americans have served our country in every war since the American Revolution. To this day, Native Americans volunteer to serve at higher rates than any other demographic group. I, myself, served alongside Native American Marines in Iraq.

Indigenous peoples have a decorated history of service, yet Native veterans have less access to benefits than other groups of veterans. That must change.

Today, we consider a bill that will give Native veterans attending Tribal colleges and universities access to an already successful student veteran program, the VetSuccess on Campus Program.

The VetSuccess program helps student veterans graduate on time, successfully enter the workforce, and access VA benefits at over 100 colleges and universities. H.R. 2878 would extend this successful program to TCUs in a regional model to reach as many Native veterans as possible. There is no time to waste in passing this important legislation.

In addition to expanding the VetSuccess to Native veterans, H.R. 2878 includes emergency funds for veteran technology education courses, known as VET TEC. The VET TEC program was created to allow veterans to pursue vocational training for 21st century careers in high-tech fields like software development, programming, coding, media, and more.

During the pandemic, more veterans than ever are looking for training in high-skilled, high-tech careers, so much so that the VET TEC program has run out of money for this year already. That is why H.R. 2878 includes an immediate influx of funds for VET TEC so more veterans can receive this critical funding.

H.R. 2878 also includes a provision to fight veteran homelessness. The COVID–19 pandemic devastated our economy and healthcare system in general, disproportionately hurting veterans. We don't know yet the full impact of the pandemic on veteran homelessness, but we know veterans need our help immediately.

My bill will extend the authorization allowing the VA to partner with nonprofits, States, Tribes, and localities to help more veterans find both temporary shelter and permanent housing. This provision will save veterans' lives, period.

Finally, H.R. 2878 includes a provision to help student veterans keep their housing benefits in their final semester of education. Ensuring student veterans can remain housed for the duration of their education is essential to ensure that veterans graduate on time and can successfully enter the workforce.

Before I close, I want to especially thank Representatives MILLER-MEEKS, LEVIN, MANN, and PAPPAS for their work with me on this bipartisan bill.

Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS).

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague, Representative BOST, for yielding to me.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of Congressman GALLEGO's bipartisan Native VetSuccess at Tribal Colleges and Universities Pilot Program Act.

I am proud that this legislation was amended by the Veterans' Affairs Committee to include my bipartisan VET TEC Enhancement Act. This legislation, which I proudly introduced with a fellow veteran, Congressman KAHELE, would increase the amount authorized to be appropriated for the Veteran Employment Through Technical Education Courses program.

VET TEC is a 5-year pilot program that allows eligible veterans to use GI Bill-style benefits to attend innovative job training programs to prepare them for future employment in the technology industry.

My bill to support our veterans would increase current funding for the VET TEC program from $45 million to $90 million per year to allow the VA to enroll more veterans in this popular program. This program ensures that our veterans have the tools they need to gain meaningful employment.

To date, over 1,800 veterans have completed the VET TEC program and found well-paying jobs with an average salary of $57,000 per year.

I have spoken to veterans' groups in my district and across the country, and there is overwhelming support for this commonsense program.

This is another highly successful avenue to assist veterans reentering the civilian workforce, and I am proud to see the House taking action to support our veterans.

In closing, I would like to thank Congressman KAHELE for his partnership on this important issue, and Congressman GALLEGO for his support.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support the bipartisan Native VetSuccess at Tribal Colleges and Universities Pilot Program Act.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. PAPPAS), my good friend and chair of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the veterans of our military who, following their service, are housing insecure.

Although we have made significant strides in combating veteran homelessness, the fact remains that more than 37,000 veterans are homeless right now, and many more are worried about keeping a roof over their heads.

That is why the Affordable Housing for Homeless Veterans Act is needed. I introduced this bill with Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Ranking Member MANN, and it is included as part of H.R. 2878 today.

This legislation will allow the VA to continue to acquire homes through foreclosure, and then sell or lease these homes to veterans in need of housing.

This much we know: A veteran who has sworn to give everything for the United States, up to and including their life, should not be without a roof over their head and a safe place to sleep when their service is over.

As President Kennedy said of those who have served: ''As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.''

Let's show our veterans our gratitude by addressing housing insecurity and passing this legislation today, as well as the underlying bill sponsored by Representative GALLEGO.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN), my good friend.

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight veterans bills before the House floor.

I appreciate the opportunity to first highlight legislation that Representative PAPPAS and I introduced, aimed at helping veteran homelessness.

H.R. 2878 and the Affordable Housing for Homeless Veterans Act of 2021 would increase the number of affordable housing options to help reduce the recent uptick in veteran homelessness due to the ongoing pandemic.

Our job on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee is to ensure that we are taking care of and doing right by our veterans. This legislation works to do just that. Curbing veterans' homelessness and ensuring our Nation's heroes are not without shelter for themselves and their families is a top priority for me. There are over 37,000 veterans experiencing homelessness in America. This is not acceptable for our veterans, and we must be part of the solution.

I was pleased to see the Department of VA and the Department of Housing and Urban Development align efforts to join forces to find ways to end veteran homelessness. One of the priorities mentioned by VA and HUD is increasing the supply and access to affordable housing.

My legislation reauthorizes and amends the program that allows the Secretary of VA to sell, lease, rent or donate a home which was acquired by VA because a veteran defaulted on their VA-guaranteed home loan to a public housing authority, grant and per diem provider, or a Supportive Services for Veterans Families service provider.

The public housing authority or providers could then use these homes to shelter other veterans and their families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

By reauthorizing this program and removing some burdensome regulations from the old program, the number of affordable housing options in higher cost areas will increase and provide relief to veterans who have limited affordable housing options.

I was pleased this legislation received bipartisan support from my colleagues on the committee, as well as many members not on the committee. This broad support shows a willingness by this House of Representatives to implement these impactful changes for our veterans across the country.

I also had the opportunity to speak with VA Secretary McDonough when he visited VA facilities in Kansas. I spoke to him about the Affordable Housing for Homeless Veterans Act, and he was encouraged about the work we were doing in the committee to help veterans. I look forward to my continued partnership with Secretary McDonough and the VA.

I also want to quickly highlight another piece of legislation I introduced along with Representative LAMB, the VA Equal Employment Counseling Modernization Act.

□ 1515

This legislation removes burdensome regulations by simply removing the cap on the number of full-time employees at the Department of Veterans Affairs who provide equal opportunity employment counseling. It is a small, incremental change, but changes like this help the VA get our veterans into jobs quickly and ensure we are giving them the best care and guidance possible.

I thank Chairman TAKANO and Ranking Member BOST for allowing me to speak on behalf of the Affordable Housing for Veterans Act. I look forward to passing these pieces of legislation and continuing to work with everyone to help veterans.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from the State of Hawaii (Mr. KAHELE).

Mr. KAHELE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding me time.

Madam Speaker, today, I rise to speak in favor of H.R. 2878, the bipartisan Native VetSuccess at Tribal Colleges and Universities Pilot Program, which includes a bill that I co-led with my esteemed colleague from Iowa's Second Congressional District, Congresswoman MILLER-MEEKS, the VET TEC Enhancement Act.

In our Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard, our veterans and their families have sacrificed so much to protect our Nation and keep our country whole. We owe them our thanks, we owe them our respect, but most importantly, we owe them our support as they transition back into civilian life once their service is over.

The Veteran Employment Through Technical Education Courses, or VET TEC, is a 5-year pilot program that allows eligible veterans to use GI Bill-style benefits to attend innovative job training programs and prepare them for future employment in the technology industry. Our bill would expand funding of this program from $45 million to $125 million a year, allowing more of our men and women in uniform to enroll each year.

The VET TEC program is highly popular and has a 90 percent completion rate, giving our veterans the tools they need to gain meaningful employment in well-paying jobs. No servicemember who has taken the oath to protect and defend our country should be left behind in today's 21st century workforce. I am proud to co-lead this important legislation, and I look forward to its passage and benefit to America's servicemembers. Mahalo.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers. In closing, I ask all my colleagues to join me in passing this important piece of legislation, H.R. 2878, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2878, 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. ROSENDALE. 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.

DIRECTING SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO SUBMIT A REPORT ON USE OF CAMERAS IN MEDICAL CENTERS OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1510) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on the use of cameras in the medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1510

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

SECTION 1. REPORT ON USE OF CAMERAS IN MEDICAL FACILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in collaboration with the Office of Operations, Security, and Preparedness of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Veterans Health Administration, and the Office of Construction and Facilities Management of the Department, shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report analyzing the policies, use, and maintenance of cameras deployed by the Department for patient safety and law enforcement at medical facilities of the Department.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A comprehensive review of the policies and procedures of the Department regarding the use and maintenance of cameras with respect to the following:

(A) Patient safety, including—

(i) an analysis of how cameras are used to monitor staff and patients;

(ii) an analysis of the specific units within medical facilities in which the use of cameras is prioritized to protect patient safety;

(iii) an analysis of the procedures regarding the positioning of cameras;

(iv) an analysis of the extent to which cameras monitor locations where drugs are stored to ensure that drugs are accounted for, and an assessment of whether this is a widely used practice; and

(v) an analysis of the actions taken to preserve and protect patient privacy.

(B) Law enforcement of medical facilities of the Department, including—

(i) how exterior cameras are used;

(ii) how interior cameras are used; and

(iii) an analysis of locations, interior and exterior, in which camera use is prioritized.

(2) Recommendations of the Secretary to improve patient safety and law enforcement, including—

(A) the placement and maintenance of cameras;

(B) the storage of data from such cameras;

(C) the authority of supervisors at medical facilities of the Department to review recordings from cameras;

(D) the number of staff required to monitor live footage from cameras at each medical facility of the Department;

(E) the funding necessary to address shortfalls with respect to cameras and the specific uses for such funding;

(F) any additional actions required to preserve and protect patient privacy; and

(G) such other matters the Secretary determines appropriate.

(c) CAMERA DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''camera'' means any video camera used in a medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs for purposes of patient safety or law enforcement, but does not include cameras used solely by the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs to assist in criminal investigations conducted by the Inspector General.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 1510, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1510, the Veterans' Camera Reporting Act, introduced by Representative MCKINLEY of West Virginia.

This bill, as amended by the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, requires VA to submit a report to Congress analyzing the Department's use and maintenance of video cameras for the purposes of patient safety and law enforcement within all of its medical facilities.

Last Tuesday, a nursing assistant who was formerly employed at a VA hospital in West Virginia was sentenced to seven consecutive life sentences plus 20 years after she pleaded guilty to murdering seven veterans and assaulting an eighth veteran with intent to commit murder. She took insulin that she was not authorized to administer, and she injected it into veterans who did not need it, killing all eight of them.

Following the sentencing last week, the VA Office of the Inspector General issued a report identifying numerous deficiencies in patient care and failures in VA oversight at the facility where these murders occurred. Among other things, the OIG found that there were no cameras in the ward where these events occurred, nor in the medication room where the insulin was stored, and there were no locks or other mechanisms for monitoring access to medication carts where insulin was also kept.

There are no words to adequately express the horror and sorrow we feel about the heinous crimes committed against these veterans. We cannot imagine the pain the families have endured since evidence of these murders came to light nearly 3 years ago. We can only hope that last week's sentencing will help the victims' families begin to heal and to find a sense of closure.

In Congress, we have a responsibility to help ensure that VA never allows something like this to happen again. Now, as an initial step, we need to better understand how VA uses video cameras for monitoring patient safety and physical security within its medical facilities. To that end, H.R. 1510 will require VA to submit a report summarizing how cameras are used to monitor staff and patients, the units within which cameras are prioritized, and how cameras are used to monitor drug storage. The report also must include recommendations on improving the use of cameras at VA, including whether the Department needs additional resources to install cameras for patient safety and law enforcement purposes.

This bill will require VA's report to encompass all of its medical facilities nationwide. Drug diversion, assaults, harassment, suicides, and other patient safety incidents can occur at any VA medical facility, not just hospitals. VA operates more than 1,000 inpatient and outpatient facilities across the country. Congress needs a complete picture of the extent to which cameras are used across VA so that we can better assist the Department in addressing any shortfalls.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to join me in approving this important bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1510, as amended, the Veterans' Camera Reporting, or the VCR, Act. The VCR Act would require VA to assess how cameras are used for patient safety and law enforcement purposes in VA medical center facilities. It would also require VA to report to Congress about how camera use could be improved to make VA safer and more responsive to veterans' needs.

I was proud to introduce this bill with Congressman DAVID MCKINLEY of West Virginia and others earlier this year. We drafted it in response to a series of incidents across the country where missing or malfunctioning cameras played a role in serious lapses. In some of those incidents, veterans' lives were lost. Those tragedies have no place in the VA healthcare system. The VCR Act will help make sure they will never happen again.

Most importantly, it will help ensure that veterans are safe seeking the care that they have earned. The VCR Act is a bipartisan bill. It is supported by the VA and the veterans service organizations, including The VFW and the Wounded Warrior Project. I am grateful for that support.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers. In closing, I ask all my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 1510, which cleared the committee unanimously. I can see no reason why any Member would vote against this bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1510, 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. ROSENDALE. 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.

ESTABLISHING VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION ADMINISTRATION

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2494) to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2494

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

SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION ADMINISTRATION.

(a) VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Part V of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new chapter:

''CHAPTER 80—VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION ADMINISTRATION

''Sec.

''8001. Organization of Administration.
''8002. Functions of Administration.
''8003. Annual report to Congress.

''§ 8001. Organization of Administration

''(a) VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION ADMINISTRATION.—There is in the Department of Veterans Affairs a Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration. The primary function of the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration is the administration of the programs of the Department that provide assistance related to economic opportunity to veterans and their dependents and survivors.

''(b) UNDER SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION.—The Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration is under the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition, who is directly responsible to the Secretary for the operations of the Administration.

''§ 8002. Functions of Administration

''The Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration is responsible for the administration of the following programs of the Department:

''(1) Vocational rehabilitation and employment programs.

''(2) Educational assistance programs.

''(3) Veterans' housing loan and related programs.

''(4) The verification of small businesses owned and controlled by veterans pursuant to subsection (f) of section 8127 of this title, including the administration of the database of veteran-owned businesses described in such subsection.

''(5) The Transition Assistance Program under section 1144 of title 10.

''(6) Any other program of the Department that the Secretary determines appropriate.

''§ 8003. Annual report to Congress

''The Secretary shall include in the annual report to the Congress required by section 529 of this title a report on the programs administered by the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition. Each such report shall include the following with respect to each such program during the fiscal year covered by that report:

''(1) The number of claims received.

''(2) The number of claims decided.

''(3) The average processing time for a claim.

''(4) The number of successful outcomes (as determined by the Secretary).

''(5) The number of full-time equivalent employees.

''(6) The amounts expended for information technology.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The tables of chapters at the beginning of title 38, United States Code, and of part V of title 38, United States Code, are each amended by inserting after the item relating to chapter 79 the following new item:

''80. Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration .... 8001''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Chapter 80 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall take effect on October 1, 2022.

(c) AUTHORIZATION FOR APPROPRIATIONS FOR VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2022 for the General Operating Expenses account of the Veterans Benefits Administration $3,207,000,000.

(d) LABOR RIGHTS.—Any labor rights, inclusion in the bargaining unit, and collective bargaining agreement that affects an employee of the Department of Veterans Affairs who is transferred to the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, as established under chapter 80 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall apply in the same manner to such employee after such transfer.

SEC. 2. UNDER SECRETARY FOR VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION.

(a) UNDER SECRETARY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 306 the following new section:

''§ 306A. Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition

''(a) UNDER SECRETARY.—There is in the Department an Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition, who is appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition shall be appointed without regard to political affiliation or activity and solely on the basis of demonstrated ability in—

''(1) information technology; and

''(2) the administration of programs within the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration or programs of similar content and scope.

''(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition is the head of, and is directly responsible to the Secretary for the operations of, the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration.

''(c) VACANCIES.—(1) Whenever a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition occurs or is anticipated, the Secretary shall establish a commission to recommend individuals to the President for appointment to the position.

''(2) A commission established under this subsection shall be composed of the following members appointed by the Secretary:

''(A) Three persons representing education and training, vocational rehabilitation, employment, real estate, mortgage finance and related industries, and survivor benefits activities affected by the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration.

''(B) Two persons representing veterans served by the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration.

''(C) Two persons who have experience in the management of private sector benefits programs of similar content and scope to the economic opportunity and transition programs of the Department.

''(D) The Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

''(E) The chairman of the Veterans' Advisory Committee on Education formed under section 3692 of this title.

''(F) One person who has held the position of Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition, if the Secretary determines that it is desirable for such person to be a member of the commission.

''(3) A commission established under this subsection shall recommend at least three individuals for appointment to the position of Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition. The commission shall submit all recommendations to the Secretary. The Secretary shall forward the recommendations to the President and the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives with any comments the Secretary considers appropriate. Thereafter, the President may request the commission to recommend additional individuals for appointment.

''(4) The Assistant Secretary or Deputy Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs who performs personnel management and labor relations functions shall serve as the executive secretary of a commission established under this subsection.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 306 the following new item:

''306A. Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Title 38, United States Code, is further amended—

(1) in section 306(c)(2), by striking subparagraphs (A) and (E) and redesignating subparagraphs (B), (C), (D), and (F), as subparagraphs (A) through (D), respectively;

(2) in section 317(d)(2), by inserting after ''Under Secretary for Benefits,'' the following: ''the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition,'';

(3) in section 318(d)(2), by inserting after ''Under Secretary for Benefits,'' the following: ''the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition,'';

(4) in section 516(e)(2)(C), by striking ''Health and the Under Secretary for Benefits'' and inserting ''Health, the Under Secretary for Benefits, and the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition'';

(5) in section 541(a)(2)(B), by striking ''Health and the Under Secretary for Benefits'' and inserting ''Health, the Under Secretary for Benefits, and the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition'';

(6) in section 542(a)(2)(B)(iii), by striking ''Health and the Under Secretary for Benefits'' and inserting ''Health, the Under Secretary for Benefits, and the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition'';

(7) in section 544(a)(2)(B)(vi), by striking ''Health and the Under Secretary for Benefits'' and inserting ''Health, the Under Secretary for Benefits, and the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition'';

(8) in section 709(c)(2)(A), by inserting after ''Under Secretary for Benefits,'' the following: ''the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition,'';

(9) in section 7701(a), by inserting after ''assistance'' the following: '', other than assistance related to Economic Opportunity and Transition,''; and

(10) in section 7703, by striking paragraphs (2) and (3) and redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 306A of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), and the amendments made by this section, shall take effect on October 1, 2022.

SEC. 3. TRANSFER OF SERVICES.

(a) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on the progress toward establishing the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, as established under section 8001 of title 38, United States Code, as added by section 4, and the transition of the provision of services to veterans by such Administration.

(b) CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may not transfer the function of providing any services to veterans to the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, as established under section 8001 of title 38, United States Code, as added by section 4 until the Secretary submits to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives certification that—

(1) the transition of the provision of services to such Administration will not negatively affect the provision of such services to veterans;

(2) such services are ready to be transferred.

(c) DEADLINE FOR CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives the certification required by subsection (b)—

(1) no earlier than April 1, 2022; and

(2) no later than September 1, 2022.

(d) FAILURE TO CERTIFY.—If the Secretary fails to submit the certification required by subsection (b) by the date specified in subsection (c)(2), the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report that includes—

(1) the reason why the certification was not made by such date; and

(2) the estimated date when the certification will be made.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 2494.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to speak on H.R. 2494, introduced by Congressman WENSTRUP, and which would establish a fourth administration at the Department of Veterans Affairs focused on economic opportunity and transition.

When our servicemembers conclude their time with the armed services, they are tasked with returning to civilian life. This is the sacrifice they make for our security, and in exchange, we owe them more than a thank you and well wishes. We owe them a commitment that they will be supported in their transition to civilian life, and that they will have a VA that is responsive to their needs.

That is why we passed the first GI Bill nearly 75 years ago to the day and why we continue today to make improvements in providing our Nation's veterans with the benefits they have earned.

Unfortunately, VA has struggled to track the effectiveness of programs for education and employment, and Congress has struggled to determine the Department's resource needs in these areas.

Madam Speaker, one of the main reasons we have identified through hearings and discussion with our veterans service organizations is that the Veterans Benefits Administration is simply asked to do too much. While managing compensation claims is important, the responsibility of managing transition, education, and housing benefits often takes a backseat. To put it in perspective, the Veterans Benefits Administration's structure has not significantly changed since the Veterans Administration was established in 1930.

Madam Speaker, during the last 89 years, the services needed by veterans has dramatically changed, which is why our committee has an Economic Opportunity Subcommittee. It is time for the importance of economic opportunity to be elevated at VA as well.

This bipartisan bill would create a new administration within the Department to manage educational assistance, vocational rehabilitation, and employment, education, career counseling programs, and broadly defined shared transition assistance programs. That means a dedicated Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition solely focused on fulfilling our promise to the veterans that they will get the education they want, the housing they need, and the careers they deserve.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2494, which would direct the VA to create a new fourth administration. This new administration would oversee programs that support economic opportunity for our veterans.

During my time in Congress, I have seen repeated instances of mismanagement within the programs. I believe it is time for this new administration to be created so that more focus can be placed on economic opportunities for our veterans. This new focus is even more important today as we are trying to help veterans get back on the right economic track following the COVID–19 pandemic.

I want to thank Congressman WENSTRUP for his dedication and hard work on this bill.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues. I urge them to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1530

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in passing this important piece of legislation, H.R. 2494, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2494.

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. 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.

SGT. KETCHUM RURAL VETERANS MENTAL HEALTH ACT OF 2021

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2441) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to expand the Rural Access Network for Growth Enhancement Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study to assess certain mental health care resources of the Department of Veterans Affairs available to veterans who live in rural areas.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2441

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 ''Sgt. Ketchum Rural Veterans Mental Health Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF RURAL ACCESS NETWORK FOR GROWTH ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) EXPANSION.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish and maintain three new centers of the RANGE Program.

(b) LOCATIONS.—The centers established under subsection (a) shall be located in areas determined by the Secretary based on—

(1) the need for additional mental health care for rural veterans in such areas; and

(2) interest expressed by personnel at facilities of the Department in such areas.

(c) TIMELINE.—The Secretary shall establish the centers under subsection (a) during fiscal year 2022.

(d) FUNDING.—There is authorized to be appropriated $1,200,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2024 to carry out this section.

SEC. 3. GAO STUDY OF MENTAL HEALTH CARE FURNISHED BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO RURAL VETERANS.

(a) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study to assess whether the Department of Veterans Affairs has sufficient resources to serve rural veterans who need covered mental health care. Such study shall include assessments of—

(1) whether the mental health care furnished by the Secretary (through resources including the RANGE Program, Enhanced RANGE Program, mental health residential rehabilitation treatment programs, inpatient mental health services, and PRR centers) is sufficient to meet the covered mental health care needs of rural veterans;

(2) how best to expand and to appropriately locate resources described in paragraph (1);

(3) whether to require the establishment of a PRR center at a medical facility of the Department that serves 1,000 or more veterans on the National Psychosis Registry;

(4) the demand by rural veterans for mental health resources specified in paragraph (1);

(5) the average wait time for a rural veteran for mental health resources specified in paragraph (1); and

(6) how many rural veterans died by suicide or overdose—

(A) while on a wait list for mental health resources specified in paragraph (1); and

(B) during the term of the study.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report containing the results of the study under this section.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) The term ''covered mental health care'' means mental health care that is more intensive than traditional outpatient therapy.

(2) The term ''PRR center'' means a psychosocial rehabilitation and recovery center of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(3) The term ''RANGE Program'' means the Rural Access Network for Growth Enhancement Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(4) The term ''rural veteran'' means a veteran who lives in a rural or highly rural area (including such an area in a Tribal or insular area), as determined through the use of the Rural-Urban Commuting Areas coding system of the Department of Agriculture.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 2441.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to speak on H.R. 2441, the Sgt. Ketchum Rural Veterans Mental Health Act of 2021, introduced by Congresswoman AXNE.

This bill has not only bipartisan support, but also bicameral support with the recent introduction of a companion bill from Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman TESTER and Ranking Member MORAN.

This bill is named for an Iowa veteran who died by suicide after failing to receive intensive treatment for his PTSD. It is designed to honor his memory with action and to prevent a similar outcome for his fellow veterans.

Through this legislation, VA will open three new RANGE programs in rural locations, including territories and insular areas. VA RANGE programs offer intensive outpatient services and case management for rural veterans with mental illness, housing and food insecurity, financial issues, and problems with daily living. They can be absolutely lifesaving for veterans who need this kind of wraparound care and safety nets.

Additionally, this bill calls for a GAO study of how accessible VA's continuum of superior mental healthcare services, from outpatient to residential and inpatient, really is for rural veterans.

We all know that even a well-designed system may not reach every veteran who needs it. With this legislation, our work to close the gaps will be guided by data. I, therefore, ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the Sgt. Ketchum Rural Veterans Mental Health Act.

Madam Speaker, I support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2441, the Sgt. Ketchum Rural Veterans Mental Health Act.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. I am pleased to commemorate it today by passing this bill to expand mental healthcare to veterans in rural areas.

The Sgt. Ketchum Rural Veterans Mental Health Act would expand VA's RANGE program. The RANGE program provides veterans who have serious mental illness or who are at risk of homelessness with intense case management.

Almost a quarter of our Nation's veterans reside in rural communities. I am one of those veterans who does. While I wouldn't have it any other way, I know firsthand that living in a rural area can be a barrier to care. This bill will help remove that barrier for some of our most vulnerable veterans. It will help ensure that they do not fall through the cracks. It will help them heal.

It will also require GAO to assess whether VA has sufficient resources to support mental health in rural areas. That will help identify any other barriers to care that may exist for these veterans so that we can break them down.

This bill is supported by the entire Iowa delegation, including by my friend, fellow veteran, and fellow committee member, Congresswoman MARIANNETTE MILLER-MEEKS.

It is named after Brandon Ketchum, an Iowa veteran who died by suicide in 2016. My heartfelt condolences go out to his family and friends. I am honored to support this bill today in Brandon's memory.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. AXNE), my good friend and the author of H.R. 2441.

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an Iowan, a Marine, and a fallen hero, Brandon Ketchum.

I am also here to make a promise to his mother, Bev. When I introduced this legislation, I told Bev that Brandon's story was one that would ensure that other veterans get the mental health help that they need. Today, we are here to take that next step in keeping that promise.

Five years ago, retired Sergeant Brandon Ketchum took his own life when he was unable to get the mental healthcare he needed. Sergeant Ketchum had served two tours in Iraq and another in Afghanistan. In his first tour alone, he helped clear 92 roadside bombs in 7 months, service that earned him the Combat Action Ribbon.

His heroic service wasn't his only role, however. He was a loving father, son, brother, and friend. But like many veterans, Sergeant Ketchum struggled with depression, addiction, and PTSD related to his time in uniform.

After his service, Brandon volunteered and spoke publicly to students about his experience with PTSD. But despite receiving therapy and addiction treatment after returning from his tours, Brandon had a hard time adjusting to civilian life.

When he sought inpatient hospitalization in 2016 from an Iowa VA, the treatment rooms were full, and he was turned down for the care he needed. Hours later, Sergeant Ketchum took his own life.

We all know that veterans do not have enough mental health resources across this country. Nearly 17 veterans die by suicide every day, and a recent HHS study found that only 50 percent of returning vets who need mental health treatment will receive it. And, in particular, these mental health services are even harder to find in our Nation's rural areas, areas that I and my Iowa colleagues represent here in Congress.

The truth is sad, but it is pretty simple. We are failing our veterans. Brandon asked us for help, but he was turned away because of a lack of resources. So, we must make sure, in his memory and for the sake of others still serving, that when our soldiers return home, they can get the treatment that they need.

My bill will increase mental health facilities in rural areas by establishing three new Rural Access Network for Growth Enhancement programs, known by their acronym RANGE. RANGE programs provide rural veterans with more mental health resources, including access to a team of experts who can provide intensive addiction and mental health treatment, helping veterans reintegrate into their communities.

My bill will also study how the VA is currently meeting the needs of rural veterans with mental health issues and what resources may be needed to improve their care so that we can actually address the root causes of mental health issues in our rural areas and with our veterans.

Not only is this an important cause, but it is a bipartisan one, too. As mentioned, all four members of our Iowa delegation have joined together and signed on to this. I would like to thank them all for doing that, my incredible cosponsors, and, of course, Chairman TAKANO and subcommittee Chairwoman BROWNLEY for their support of this bill, as well as their constant dedication to our veterans.

Veterans put their lives on the line and serve our Nation with honor. When they come home, they should be able to receive the care that they need regardless of ZIP Code.

We can't simply accept that Brandon's death is a tragedy, and that is just what it is. We have to use his story to make the changes that are long overdue and to ensure that no other veteran falls through the cracks.

We must take action to address the rural health shortages and the mental health needs of our Nation's veterans. I urge all of my colleagues to honor Sergeant Ketchum's legacy with a ''yes'' vote on this bill.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS), from the Second Congressional District.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from Illinois for yielding me time.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of the bipartisan Sgt. Ketchum Rural Veterans Mental Health Act, which I was proud to introduce with the Iowa House delegation.

This legislation was named in honor of the memory and service of Sergeant Brandon Ketchum of Davenport, which is in my congressional district. Sergeant Ketchum died by suicide in 2016 after being denied access to much-needed mental health services for PTSD at the VA facility in Iowa City.

Our legislation would establish new Rural Access Network for Growth Enhancement, or RANGE, programs throughout the VA and support additional research on rural veteran mental healthcare needs.

The case of Sergeant Ketchum is tragic and shows us that we must do more to serve our veterans. Expanding healthcare services in rural America and among our veterans are two of my top priorities in Congress, so I am proud to join the entire Iowa delegation in this effort. We simply have to do better for our veterans. There is no other option.

I would like to thank my colleagues in the Iowa delegation, Congresswoman AXNE, Congresswoman HINSON, and Congressman FEENSTRA, for their partnership in this simple legislation to help veterans. I urge all of my colleagues to support the bipartisan Sgt. Ketchum Rural Veterans Mental Health Act.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

But before I reserve the balance of my time, let me say that I am very, very pleased that we are addressing the issue of mental healthcare in our rural areas. As we wind down this pandemic, I think we are going to see not just veterans but Americans of all stripes who live in our rural areas dealing with the need for increased numbers of mental healthcare practitioners.

I congratulate and I thank the work of my colleague, Congresswoman AXNE, in moving the VA a step forward in this area. But there is far more that needs to be done.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. HINSON), from the First Congressional District.

Mrs. HINSON. Madam Speaker, today, I rise in support of H.R. 2441, the Sgt. Ketchum Rural Veterans Mental Health Act.

I want to start off by thanking my colleague, Congresswoman CINDY AXNE, for introducing this legislation and for her leadership. I was proud to join the gentlewoman and our entire Iowa delegation, as has already been mentioned, to introduce this very important bipartisan bill for our veterans.

Sergeant Ketchum from Davenport served our country honorably overseas in both Iraq and Afghanistan. But let's be real: Not every war wound is visible.

Many veterans struggle when they come home with serious mental health challenges. When Sergeant Ketchum returned home from his tours, he battled again; this time with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Sergeant Ketchum sought help at the Iowa City VA hospital but was turned away. Shortly after, he did take his own life.

No veteran should be denied the help and the care that they need after dedicating their lives to serving our country. No veteran should ever be turned away like Sergeant Ketchum was.

Unfortunately, veterans who live in rural areas face increased challenges and additional barriers to accessing the treatment that they need.

Our legislation, named in honor of Sergeant Ketchum, will improve access to mental health services for veterans in rural areas. Our veterans put their lives on the line every day to protect our freedoms, and we have a duty to ensure that they can receive high-quality treatment once they return home from service.

We have a duty to ensure that our veterans know they aren't alone and that we have their backs, regardless of where they live.

I am proud to work alongside my colleagues in Iowa to improve access to mental health services for veterans in rural areas and to help ensure that no veteran is denied the care that they deserve.

I urge all of our colleagues to support the Sgt. Ketchum Rural Veterans Mental Health Act. Vote ''yes'' in honor of Sergeant Ketchum and the thousands of veterans like him who need and deserve our support.

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

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. FEENSTRA).

Mr. FEENSTRA. Madam Speaker, our veterans deserve the best care and attention, including when it comes to treating unseen wounds. That is why I am honored to be part of this effort to expand mental health services to our veterans in rural areas.

The Sgt. Ketchum Rural Veterans' Mental Health Act is named in honor of Sergeant Brandon Ketchum, an Iowan and a Marine Corps veteran who served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

After serving overseas, he suffered from a number of physical and mental conditions. Tragically, Sergeant Ketchum took his own life after failing to receive the mental healthcare he needed from the VA.

It is clear, mental healthcare shortcomings for our veterans need to be addressed, and that is what this bill does.

I thank my colleague from Iowa, Congresswoman AXNE, for her work on this important bill. I also thank my colleagues, Congresswoman MILLER-MEEKS and Congresswoman HINSON, for their work as well.

God bless all those who have fought to protect our country. We owe them our help.

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

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

Madam Speaker, I just encourage everyone to support this piece of legislation. There should be no one that would vote against this.

Like all of the pieces of legislation that we have worked on this afternoon, Madam Speaker, I do want to thank the chairman and his staff for the job of working together. This is truly a case where this committee has done its bipartisan work the way it should.

I also want to thank our staff for the hard work that they have put in with each one of these bills, as well as each of the Members today who have presented these pieces of legislation.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I extend my thanks to Ranking Member BOST and the Republicans on the committee and all staff from both sides of the aisle for putting together this package of 10 bills in advance of Memorial Day. It is especially poignant to end today's package of bills with a bill named in memory of Sergeant Ketchum.

As we failed to reach Sergeant Ketchum in a timely and effective way in rural America, let's not forget that the VA's mental healthcare has improved greatly over the past several years. We need to make sure that quality of healthcare gets out into the rural areas.

We are charged as a Veterans' Affairs Committee to deal with our veterans and their healthcare needs. Part of the answer to serving our veterans is to make sure that we have robust providers, regardless of whether they serve veterans or the general population. We need to look at how we are going to do that in rural America, including our territories and insular areas.

I will use this moment on the floor to plug that cause with all of my colleagues who may be listening from their offices. We must, for the sake of all the folks that have suffered so long from this pandemic, look at how we are going to provide a robust provider network for mental healthcare.

As we head into the Memorial Day weekend, I am so gratified and pleased with the work we have done on a bipartisan basis to produce this package of bills and that we have preserved the spirit of the committee.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 2441, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2441.

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. 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.

COASTAL AND OCEAN ACIDIFICATION STRESSORS AND THREATS RESEARCH ACT OF 2021

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1447) to amend the Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act of 2009 to establish an Ocean Acidification Advisory Board, to expand and improve the research on Ocean Acidification and Coastal Acidification, to establish and maintain a data archive system for Ocean Acidification data and Coastal Acidification data, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1447

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 ''Coastal and Ocean Acidification Stressors and Threats Research Act of 2021'' or the ''COAST Research Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 12402(a) of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3701(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''development and coordination'' and inserting ''coordination and implementation'';

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''acidification on marine organisms'' and inserting ''acidification and coastal acidification on marine organisms''; and

(C) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''establish'' and all that follows through the semicolon and inserting ''maintain and advise an interagency research, monitoring, and public outreach program on ocean acidification and coastal acidification;'';

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ''establishment'' and inserting ''maintenance'';

(3) in paragraph (3), by inserting ''and coastal acidification'' after ''ocean acidification''; and

(4) in paragraph (4), by inserting ''and coastal acidification that take into account other environmental and anthropogenic stressors'' after ''ocean acidification''.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 12402 of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3701(a)) is amended by striking ''(a) PURPOSES.—''.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

Section 12403 of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3702) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''of the Earth's oceans'' and all that follows before the period at the end and inserting ''and changes in the water chemistry of the Earth's oceans, coastal estuaries, and waterways caused by carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and the breakdown of organic matter'';

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking ''Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology of the National Science and Technology Council'' and inserting ''National Science and Technology Council Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology'';

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) as paragraphs (2), (3), and (4), respectively;

(4) by inserting before paragraph (2), as so redesignated, the following new paragraph:

''(1) COASTAL ACIDIFICATION.—The term 'coastal acidification' means the combined decrease in pH and changes in the water chemistry of coastal oceans, estuaries, and other bodies of water from chemical inputs (including carbon dioxide from the atmosphere), freshwater inputs, and excess nutrient run-off from land and coastal atmospheric pollution that result in processes that release carbon dioxide, acidic nitrogen, and sulfur compounds as byproducts which end up in coastal waters.''; and

(5) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(5) STATE.—The term 'State' means each State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands of the United States, and any other territory or possession of the United States.''.

SEC. 4. INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.

Section 12404 of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3703) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking ''**SUBCOMMITTEE**'' and inserting ''**WORKING GROUP**'';

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology of the National Science and Technology Council shall coordinate Federal activities on ocean acidification and establish'' and insert ''Subcommittee shall establish and maintain'';

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''Wildlife Service,'' and inserting ''Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of State, the Department of Energy, the Department of the Navy, the National Park Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Smithsonian Institution,''; and

(C) in paragraph (3), in the heading, by striking ''CHAIRMAN'' and inserting ''CHAIR'';

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting '', including the efforts of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to facilitate such implementation'' after ''of the plan'';

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting ''and coastal acidification'' after ''ocean acidification''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting ''and coastal acidification'' after ''ocean acidification'';

(C) in paragraph (4), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(D) in paragraph (5)—

(i) by striking ''developed'' and inserting ''and coastal acidification developed''; and

(ii) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''and coastal acidification; and''; and

(E) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(6) ensure that each of the Federal agencies represented on the interagency working group—

''(A) participates in the Ocean Acidification Information Exchange established under paragraph (5); and

''(B) delivers data and information to support the data archive system established under section 12406(d).'';

(4) in subsection (c), in paragraph (2)—

(A) by inserting '', and to the Office of Management and Budget,'' after ''House of Representatives''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''the interagency research'' and inserting ''interagency strategic research'';

(5) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(6) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

''(c) ADVISORY BOARD.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Chair of the Subcommittee shall establish an Ocean Acidification Advisory Board.

''(2) DUTIES.—The Advisory Board shall—

''(A) not later than 180 days before the Subcommittee submits the most recent report under subsection (d)(2)—

''(i) review such report;

''(ii) submit an analysis of such report to the Subcommittee for consideration in the final report submitted under subsection (d)(2); and

''(iii) concurrently with the Subcommittee's final submission of the report under subsection (d)(2), the Advisory Board shall submit a copy of the analysis provided to the Subcommittee to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives;

''(B) not later than 180 days before the Subcommittee submits the most recent strategic research plan under subsection (d)(3) to Congress—

''(i) review such plan;

''(ii) submit an analysis of such plan and the implementation thereof to the Subcommittee for consideration in the final strategic research plan submitted under subsection (d)(3); and

''(iii) concurrently with the Subcommittee's final submission of the strategic research plan under subsection (d)(3), the Advisory Board shall submit a copy of the analysis provided to the Subcommittee to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives;

''(C) provide ongoing advice to the Subcommittee and the interagency working group on matters related to Federal activities on ocean acidification and coastal acidification;

''(D) advise the Subcommittee and the interagency working group on—

''(i) efforts to coordinate research and monitoring activities related to ocean acidification and coastal acidification; and

''(ii) the best practices for the standards developed for data archiving under section 12406(e);

''(E) publish in the Federal Register a charter;

''(F) provide the Library of Congress with—

''(i) the charter described in subparagraph (E);

''(ii) any schedules and minutes for meetings of the Advisory Board;

''(iii) any documents that are approved by the Advisory Board; and

''(iv) any reports and analysis prepared by the Advisory Board; and

''(G) establish a publicly accessible web page on the website of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, that contains the information described in clauses (i) through (iv) of subparagraph (F).

''(3) MEMBERSHIP.—The Advisory Board shall consist of 24 members as follows:

''(A) Two representatives of the shellfish and crab industry.

''(B) One representative of the finfish industry.

''(C) One representative of seafood processors.

''(D) Three representatives from academia, including both natural and social sciences.

''(E) One representative of recreational fishing.

''(F) One representative of a relevant nongovernmental organization.

''(G) Six representatives from relevant State, local, and Tribal governments.

''(H) One representative from the Alaska Ocean Acidification Network or a subsequent entity that represents the same geographical region and has a similar purpose.

''(I) One representative from the California Current Acidification Network or a subsequent entity that represents the same geographical region and has a similar purpose.

''(J) One representative from the Northeast Coastal Acidification Network or a subsequent entity that represents the same geographical region and has a similar purpose.

''(K) One representative from the Southeast Coastal Acidification Network or a subsequent entity that represents the same geographical region and has a similar purpose.

''(L) One representative from the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Acidification Network or a subsequent entity that represents the same geographical region and has a similar purpose.

''(M) One representative from the Mid-Atlantic Coastal Acidification Network or a subsequent entity that represents the same geographical region and has a similar purpose.

''(N) One representative from the Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System or a subsequent entity that represents the island territories and possessions of the United States in the Pacific Ocean, and the State of Hawaii and has a similar purpose.

''(O) One representative from the Caribbean Regional Association for Coastal Ocean Observing or a subsequent entity that represents Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands and has a similar purpose.

''(P) One representative from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Advisory Board without a vote.

''(4) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS.—The Chair of the Subcommittee shall—

''(A) appoint members to the Advisory Board (taking into account the geographical interests of each individual to be appointed as a member of the Advisory Board to ensure that an appropriate balance of geographical interests are represented by the members of the Advisory Board) who—

''(i) represent the interest group for which each seat is designated;

''(ii) demonstrate expertise on ocean acidification or coastal acidification and its scientific, economic, industry, cultural, and community impacts; and

''(iii) have a record of distinguished service with respect to ocean acidification or coastal acidification, and such impacts;

''(B) give consideration to nominations and recommendations from the members of the interagency working group and the public for such appointments; and

''(C) ensure that an appropriate balance of scientific, industry, and geographical interests are represented by the members of the Advisory Board.

''(5) TERM OF MEMBERSHIP.—Each member of the Advisory Board—

''(A) shall be appointed for a 5-year term; and

''(B) may be appointed to more than one term.

''(6) CHAIR.—The Chair of the Subcommittee shall appoint one member of the Advisory Board to serve as the Chair of the Advisory Board.

''(7) MEETINGS.—Not less than once each calendar year, the Advisory Board shall meet at such times and places as may be designated by the Chair of the Advisory Board, in consultation with the Chair of the Subcommittee and the Chair of the interagency working group.

''(8) BRIEFING.—The Chair of the Advisory Board shall brief the Subcommittee and the interagency working group on the progress of the Advisory Board as necessary or at the request of the Subcommittee.

''(9) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—Section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act shall not apply to the Advisory Board.''.

SEC. 5. STRATEGIC RESEARCH PLAN.

Section 12405 of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3704) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking ''acidification'' each place it appears and inserting ''acidification and coastal acidification'';

(B) in the first sentence—

(i) by inserting '', and not later than every 5 years thereafter'' after ''the date of enactment of this Act'';

(ii) by inserting ''address the socioeconomic impacts of ocean acidification and coastal acidification and to'' after ''mitigation strategies to''; and

(iii) by striking ''marine ecosystems'' each place it appears and inserting ''ecosystems''; and

(C) in the second sentence, by inserting ''and recommendations made by the Advisory Board in the review of the plan required under section 12404(c)(2)(B)(i)'' after ''subsection (d)'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''and social sciences'' after ''among the ocean sciences'';

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''impacts'' and inserting ''impacts, including trends of changes in ocean chemistry,'';

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking ''improve the ability to assess the'' and inserting ''assess the short-term and long-term''; and

(II) by striking ''; and'' at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(iii) by amending subparagraph (C) to read as follows:

''(C) provide information for the—

''(i) development of adaptation and mitigation strategies to address the socioeconomic impacts of ocean acidification and coastal acidification;

''(ii) conservation of marine organisms and ecosystems;

''(iii) assessment of the effectiveness of such adaptation and mitigation strategies; and''; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(D) improve research on—

''(i) ocean acidification and coastal acidification;

''(ii) the interactions between and effects of multiple combined stressors including changes in water chemistry, changes in sediment delivery, hypoxia, and harmful algal blooms, on ocean acidification and coastal acidification; and

''(iii) the effect of environmental stressors on marine resources and ecosystems;'';

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (F), by striking ''database development'' and inserting ''data management'';

(ii) in subparagraph (H) by striking ''and'' at the end; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

''(J) assessment of adaptation and mitigation strategies; and

''(K) education and outreach activities;'';

(D) in paragraph (4), by striking ''set forth'' and inserting ''ensure an appropriate balance of contribution in establishing'';

(E) in paragraph (5), by striking ''reports'' and inserting ''the best available peer-reviewed scientific reports'';

(F) in paragraph (6)—

(i) by inserting ''and coastal acidification'' after ''ocean acidification''; and

(ii) by striking ''of the United States'' and inserting ''within the United States'';

(G) in paragraph (7), by striking ''outline budget requirements'' and inserting ''estimate costs associated for full implementation of each element of the plan by fiscal year'';

(H) in paragraph (8)—

(i) by inserting ''and coastal acidification'' after ''ocean acidification'' each place it appears;

(ii) by striking ''its'' and inserting ''their''; and

(iii) by striking ''; and'' at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(I) in paragraph (9), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(J) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(11) describe monitoring needs necessary to support potentially affected industry members, coastal stakeholders, fishery management councils and commissions, non-Federal resource managers, and scientific experts on decision-making and adaptation related to ocean acidification and coastal acidification.'';

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(C), by striking ''surface'';

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting ''and coastal acidification'' after ''ocean acidification'' each place it appears;

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by striking ''input, and'' and inserting ''inputs,'';

(ii) by inserting '', marine food webs,'' after ''marine ecosystems''; and

(iii) by inserting '', and modeling that supports fisheries management'' after ''marine organisms'';

(D) in paragraph (5), by inserting ''and coastal acidification'' after ''ocean acidification''; and

(E) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(8) Research to understand related and cumulative stressors and other biogeochemical processes occurring in conjunction with ocean acidification and coastal acidification.''; and

(4) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

''(e) ADVISORY BOARD EVALUATION.—Not later than 180 days before a plan is submitted to Congress, the Subcommittee shall provide the Advisory Board established under section 12404(c) a copy of the plan for purposes of review under paragraph (2)(B)(i) of such section.

''(f) PUBLICATION AND PUBLIC COMMENT.—Not later than 90 days before the strategic research plan, or any revision thereof, is submitted to Congress, the Subcommittee shall publish the plan in the Federal Register and provide an opportunity for submission of public comments for a period of not less than 60 days.''.

SEC. 6. NOAA OCEAN ACIDIFICATION ACTIVITIES.

Section 12406 of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3705) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting ''coordination,'' after ''research, monitoring,'';

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by inserting ''including the Integrated Ocean Observing System and the ocean observing assets of other Federal, State, and Tribal agencies,'' after ''ocean observing assets,''; and

(II) by inserting ''and agency and department missions, prioritizing the location of monitoring instruments, assets, and projects to maximize the efficiency of resources and to optimize understanding of socioeconomic impacts and ecosystem health'' after ''research program'';

(ii) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) by striking ''adaptation'' and inserting ''adaptation and mitigation''; and

(II) by inserting ''and supporting socioeconomically vulnerable States, local governments, Tribes, communities, and industries through technical assistance and mitigation strategies'' after ''marine ecosystems'';

(iii) in subparagraph (E), by striking ''its impacts'' and inserting ''their respective impacts'';

(iv) in subparagraph (F), by striking ''monitoring and impacts research'' and inserting ''research, monitoring, and adaptation and mitigation strategies''; and

(v) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(G) research to improve understanding of the effect of—

''(i) other environmental stressors on ocean acidification and coastal acidification;

''(ii) multiple environmental stressors on living marine resources and coastal ecosystems; and

''(iii) adaptation and mitigation strategies to address the socioeconomic impacts of ocean acidification and coastal acidification.'';

(C) in paragraph (2), by striking ''critical research projects that explore'' and inserting ''critical research, education, and outreach projects that explore and communicate''; and

(D) in paragraphs (1) and (2), by striking ''acidification'' each place it appears and inserting ''acidification and coastal acidification''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsections:

''(c) RELATIONSHIP TO INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.—The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall serve as the lead Federal agency responsible for coordinating the Federal response to ocean acidification and coastal acidification, by—

''(1) leading the interagency working group in implementing the strategic research plan under section 12405;

''(2) coordinating monitoring and research efforts among Federal agencies in cooperation with State, local, and Tribal government and international partners;

''(3) maintaining an Ocean Acidification Information Exchange described under section 12404(b)(5) to allow for information to be electronically accessible, including information—

''(A) on ocean acidification developed through or used by the ocean acidification program described under section 12406(a); or

''(B) that would be useful to State governments, local governments, Tribal governments, resource managers, policymakers, researchers, and other stakeholders in mitigating or adapting to the impacts of ocean acidification and coastal acidification; and

''(4) establishing and maintaining the data archive system under subsection (d).

''(d) DATA ARCHIVE SYSTEM.—

''(1) MANAGEMENT.—The Secretary, in coordination with members of the interagency working group, shall provide for the long-term stewardship of, and access to, data relating to ocean acidification and coastal acidification by establishing and maintaining a data archive system that the National Center for Environmental Information uses to process, store, archive, provide access to, and incorporate to the extent possible, such data collected—

''(A) through relevant federally-funded research; and

''(B) by a Federal agency, State agency, local agency, Tribe, academic scientist, citizen scientist, or industry organization.

''(2) EXISTING GLOBAL OR NATIONAL DATA ASSETS.—In establishing and maintaining the data archive system under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall ensure that existing global or national data assets (including the data assets maintained by the National Centers for Environmental Information, the Integrated Ocean Observing System, and other existing data systems within Federal agencies) are incorporated to the greatest extent possible.

''(e) STANDARDS, PROTOCOLS, AND PROCEDURES.—With respect to the data described in subsection (d), the Secretary, in coordination with members of the interagency working group, shall establish and revise as necessary the standards, protocols, or procedures for—

''(1) processing, storing, archiving, and providing access to such data;

''(2) the interoperability and intercalibration of such data;

''(3) the collection of any metadata underlying such data; and

''(4) sharing such data with State, local, and Tribal government programs, potentially affected industry members, coastal stakeholders, fishery management councils and commissions, non-Federal resource managers, and academia.

''(f) DISSEMINATION OF OCEAN ACIDIFICATION DATA AND COASTAL ACIDIFICATION DATA.—The Secretary, in coordination with members of the interagency working group, shall disseminate the data described under subsection (d) to the greatest extent practicable by sharing such data on full and open access exchanges.

''(g) REQUIREMENT.—Recipients of grants from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration under this subtitle that collect data described under subsection (d) shall—

''(1) collect such data in accordance with the standards, protocols, or procedures established pursuant to subsection (e); and

''(2) submit such data to the data archive system under subsection (d) after publication, in accordance with any rules promulgated by the Secretary.''.

SEC. 7. NSF OCEAN ACIDIFICATION ACTIVITIES.

Section 12407 of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3706) is amended—

(1) by striking ''ocean acidification'' each place it appears and inserting ''ocean acidification and coastal acidification'';

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''its impacts'' and inserting ''their respective impacts'';

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking ''and its impacts'' and inserting ''and their respective impacts'';

(C) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(5) adaptation and mitigation strategies to address socioeconomic effects of ocean acidification and coastal acidification.''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(d) REQUIREMENT.—Recipients of grants from the National Science Foundation under this subtitle that collect data described under section 12406(d) shall—

''(1) collect data in accordance with the standards, protocols, or procedures established pursuant to section 12406(e); and

''(2) submit such data to the Director and the Secretary after publication, in accordance with any rules promulgated by the Director or the Secretary.''.

SEC. 8. NASA OCEAN ACIDIFICATION ACTIVITIES.

Section 12408 of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3707) is amended—

(1) by striking ''ocean acidification'' each place it appears and inserting ''ocean acidification and coastal acidification'';

(2) in subsection (a), by striking ''its impacts'' and inserting ''their respective impacts''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(d) REQUIREMENT.—Researchers from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration under this subtitle that collect data described under section 12406(d) shall—

''(1) collect such data in accordance with the standards, protocols, or procedures established pursuant to section 12406(e); and

''(2) submit such data to the Administrator and the Secretary, in accordance with any rules promulgated by the Administrator or the Secretary.''.

SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 12409 of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3708) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''subtitle—'' and all that follows through paragraph (4) and inserting the following: ''subtitle—

''(1) $30,500,000 for fiscal year 2022;

''(2) $35,000,000 for fiscal year 2023;

''(3) $40,000,000 for fiscal year 2024;

''(4) $45,000,000 for fiscal year 2025; and

''(5) $50,000,000 for fiscal year 2026.''; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking ''subtitle—'' and all that follows through paragraph (4) and inserting the following: ''subtitle $20,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2022 through 2026.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from

Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oregon.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1447, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise today in support of the Coastal and Ocean Acidification Stressors and Threats, or COAST, Research Act, my bipartisan bill to help coastal communities adapt to the climate crisis by expanding scientific research, monitoring, and adaptation of ocean and coastal acidification.

I want to thank all of the staff on both sides of the aisle, from the committee and my personal staff, especially Maxine Sugarman, for all their work on this bill.

Every person on this planet benefits from a healthy ocean. The ocean covers more than 70 percent of the planet's surface. It supplies much of the oxygen that we breathe and regulates our climate. It is linked to the water we drink, and it is home to more than half of all life on the planet. The power of its waves generates clean energy. The ocean drives our economy, feeds, employs, and transports us. But despite our intrinsic connection, for too long the ocean has taken the heat for us.

According to the Fourth National Climate Assessment, atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations are now higher than at any time in the last 3 million years. Approximately one-third of the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere dissolves into our ocean and estuaries, causing them to become more acidic.

Ocean and coastal acidification make it difficult for shellfish, coral, and other marine organisms to build their shells and skeletal structures. Some finfish, including endangered salmon in the Pacific Northwest, lose their sense of smell necessary for identifying prey, reproducing, and navigating their habitats. Our understanding of the long-term consequences of ocean acidification is still limited, but we do know that the changes in ocean chemistry are already affecting the fishers and shellfish farmers who depend on the ocean's resources to support themselves and their families and the Tribes that have treaty rights and deep cultural and historical connections to diminishing species.

The most effective strategy for mitigating ocean acidification is reducing anthropogenic sources of carbon dioxide pollution worldwide. I have joined with colleagues on the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis in releasing a bold, comprehensive, and science-based Climate Action Plan to reach net-zero emissions no later than mid-century and net-negative thereafter. But there are also actions that we can take immediately to improve conditions, lessen exposure to ocean acidification, and manage local pollution and conditions that can exacerbate acidification.

This bill, which I introduced with my fellow co-chair of the House Oceans Caucus, Representative YOUNG from Alaska, and with Representatives PINGREE and POSEY, would improve scientific research on ocean and coastal acidification in the context of other environmental stressors and direct Federal agencies to assess adaptation and mitigation strategies. Funding has lagged behind the needs of the scientific community for years, and this bill would provide a modest, but important, increase for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Science Foundation to scale up research efforts. Importantly, the bill also expands the definition of ocean acidification to include estuaries and recognize mechanisms that cause changes in coastal chemistry.

NOAA is already leading interdisciplinary efforts to expand our understanding of changing ocean conditions in its role as chair of the Interagency Working Group on Ocean Acidification. In fact, this year marks the 10th anniversary of the NOAA Ocean Acidification Program, and I hope my colleagues will join me in applauding their work to truly advance regionally coordinated scientific research.

A September 2015 Government Accountability Office report suggested that an independent national ocean acidification program could advance our understanding of changing ocean conditions. The COAST Research Act designates NOAA as the lead Federal agency responsible for implementing the Federal response to ocean and coastal acidification, further empowering the Ocean Acidification Program to scale up its efforts with its first reauthorization in more than a decade.

Additionally, the COAST Research Act increases our understanding of the socioeconomic effects of ocean and coastal acidification and, importantly, it engages stakeholders. The bill creates an advisory board of representatives of the shellfish and crab industry, finfish industry, seafood processors, recreational fishing, academia, nongovernmental organizations, State, local, and Tribal governments, and regional coastal acidification networks. The regionally balanced board will advise NOAA and the Interagency Working Group on coastal and ocean acidification research and monitoring activities. This collaborative process will help make sure that vulnerable and affected communities, industries, and coastal and ocean managers have the tools they need to adapt and mitigate the effects of coastal and ocean acidification.

For example, at Oregon State University, Dr. Burke Hales developed the ''Burke-o-Lator,'' a device the size of a piece of carry-on luggage, that can analyze when shellfish growers across the Pacific Northwest should grow larvae based on the ocean acidity and the effects on calcium carbonates needed for shell formation. Other research at Oregon State has demonstrated how growing particular seagrasses and kelps can help counteract ocean acidification. These examples help demonstrate what is possible when we invest in science and research to help coastal communities adapt to the climate crisis.

The COAST Research Act directs NOAA to maintain a system to process, store, archive, and provide access to data on ocean and coastal acidification from federally funded research, including existing global or national datasets, and research from State and local agencies, Tribes, academic scientists, citizen scientists, and industry organizations. These efforts will help provide for the long-term stewardship and standardization of ocean acidification data and better help communities adapt and mitigate the worst effects.

Madam Speaker, the health of our ocean reflects the health of our planet. Today, we have the opportunity to help it become more resilient by passing the bipartisan COAST Research Act.

I thank Chairwoman JOHNSON and Ranking Member LUCAS and my cosponsors for their leadership. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

I reference letters from Earthjustice, Ocean Conservancy, Wild Salmon Center, Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association, Integrated Ocean Observing System Association, Surfrider Foundation, Oregon Coordinating Council on Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia, Consortium for Ocean Leadership, Oregon State University, Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems, and Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, in support of the COAST Research Act.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD several of the above-referenced letters.

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY,
Corvallis, Oregon, 10 February 2021.

Re The Coastal and Ocean Acidification Stressors and Threats (COAST) Research Act.

Hon. SUZANNE BONAMICI,
House of Representatives.
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE BONAMICI: We write to offer Oregon State University's support for The Coastal and Ocean Acidification Stressors and Threats (COAST) Research Act.

As marine habitats face new and daunting pressures threatening their sustainability, the COAST Research Act identifies the growing need for strategic and robust investments in ocean acidification (OA) research, monitoring and stakeholder collaboration.

Oregon State University is committed to interdisciplinary approaches to address the national and global challenges facing our

oceans and coast communities. OSU has a deep history of global leadership in oceanography and engages in nationally ranked oceanographic monitoring programs and world-leading OA research. Further, the university recognizes that Oregon's estuaries and coastal regions are home to some of the world's most productive ecosystems and economically vital shellfish farms.

The university is encouraged that the COAST Research Act expands the definition of OA to include coastal and estuarine systems, and identifies OA as being affected by a combination of factors, including hypoxia. The university believes that by expanding federal definitions of OA and by increasing funding opportunities, researchers and managers will be able to best utilize resources to find solutions to address OA.

The university also is encouraged that this legislation recognizes the need for federal engagement to continue important investments to understand and address ocean and coastal acidification. Doing so will enhance the integration of OA research, monitoring and adaptation strategies across principal federal research agencies, including the National Science Foundation, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Oregon State University understands that effective and collaborative partnerships and communication are essential for our state and nation to find adaptive and mitigation solutions to address OA. For example, the proposal to establish an Ocean Acidification Advisory Board will be essential for facilitating the important work still to be done.

The world's ocean belongs to everyone, and ocean health is critical to our future. In the coming decades, it will be essential for the nation and its universities to work collaboratively to improve and sustain the health of our oceans. Doing so, we will assure human wellness, environmental health and economic prosperity for future generations.

In closing, Oregon State University believes that the COAST Research Act proposes important new strategic tools to expand understanding and address the problems facing our oceans and coastal communities.

Sincerely,

EDWARD FESER, Ph.D.,
Provost and Executive Vice President.

IREM TUMER, Ph.D., ASME Fellow,
Vice President for Research.

PACIFIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION,
Portland, OR, February 9, 2021.

Hon. SUZANNE BONAMICI,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE BONAMICI: On behalf of the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, I am writing in support of the Coastal and Ocean Acidification Stressors and Threats (COAST) Research Act.

The COAST Act would dedicate greater resources and focus on the issue of ocean acidification. The legislation increases Federal research, planning, interagency coordination, data collection, stakeholder input, and socioeconomic study into this growing and vexing problem impacting our marine fisheries and wildlife. The Commission appreciates the thoughtful and bipartisan approach you and Representatives Young, Pingree and Posey have taken in developing the bill.

The Commission's membership includes the State fisheries and wildlife agencies of five West Coast states, including Alaska, California, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. Our coastal members have seen the firsthand impact of ocean acidification with early research showing a detrimental effect on shell formation in our crab and shellfish species. Over time, these chemical changes to shell composition could be devastating to our valuable Dungeness crab fishery and inshore shellfish aquaculture operators. There is much more that needs to be learned about the effect of ocean acidification on these and other marine species so that appropriate public policy measures and solutions can be pursued at both the Federal and state levels.

Ocean acidification is one side effect of other changes in ocean temperatures and conditions that have been harmful along the West Coast. Regional temperature oscillation during the El Nino/La Nina cycles has increased dramatically in recent years. Average sea surface temperatures have increased by as much as 7 degrees in some years resulting to many unfortunate effects to fisheries and marine mammals, including harmful algal blooms leading to Dungeness crab season closures; low salmon returns due to reduced ocean survivability of juvenile fish; shifts in whale migration patterns causing greater entanglement in fishing gear and shipping vessel strikes; and sea lion stranding and die-offs from consumption of crab and shellfish poisoned by domoic acid.

Thank you for your leadership in reintroducing the COAST Act. The Commission stands ready to assist and serve as a resource for you and your staff as the bill moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

RANDY FISHER,
Executive Director.

PCSGA, PACIFIC COAST SHELLFISH GROWERS ASSOCIATION,
March 18, 2021.

Hon. SUZANNE BONAMICI,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE BONAMICI: On behalf of the members of Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association (PCSGA), I am submitting this letter of support for the Coastal and Ocean Acidification Stressors and Threats (COAST) Research Act of 2019. Shellfish growers were the first community to call attention to the problems associated with ocean acidification when, in 2007, they experienced severe oyster larvae mortality in two out of three major west coast shellfish hatcheries. Since then, PCSGA has engaged in several local, state, and federal efforts and initiatives to ensure a future for this historic industry.

Shellfish farming on the west coast began in the late 1800's, fueled the California Gold Rush and was the reason for the development of many coastal towns. Today, PCSGA, proudly represents 120 shellfish farms in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California and Hawaii which farm mussels, clams, oysters and geoduck. Our members not only produce sustainable, healthy, food, but also provide significant ecosystem services such aquatic habitat and water filtration, and support thousands of family-wage jobs within rural coastal communities.

For nearly a decade, the shellfish industry has benefited from NOAA's Ocean Acidification Program and the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS), both of which relate to the Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring (FOARAM) Act of 2009. These programs and the directives within FOARAM have influenced the way shellfish growers operate their farms among the uncertainty of changing ocean conditions. Historically, growers only consulting their tide charts. Now, growers rely upon a variety of real-time data and tools to understand the ocean changes and adapt methods and practices which allow them to continue farming in a productive and profitable manner. There much work ahead of us and much yet to learn. COAST Research Act provides an essential pathway forward.

We are excited by the intent of COAST Research Act, the opportunities it provides and that it's been included as part of the Climate Action Plan. We see how COAST will further investments in ocean and coastal acidification research and monitoring, assist shellfish community with much needed adaptation strategies and coordinate work with stakeholders. Simply put, COAST is a logical and necessary follow-up to FOARAM and allows us to continue asking questions and seek innovative approaches to mitigate the impacts related to ocean acidification.

Thank you very much for your leadership on this and for your commitment to ensuring the long-term health of our coastal and marine areas upon which shellfish growers depend.

Respectfully,

MARGARET A. PILARO,
Executive Director.

THE OREGON COORDINATING COUNCIL ON OCEAN ACIDIFICATION AND HYPOXIA,
February 12th, 2021.

Re Coastal and Ocean Acidification Stressors and Threats (COAST) Research Act.

Hon. SUZANNE BONAMICI,
Washington, DC.

As the Co-Chairs of the State legislatively mandated, Oregon Coordinating Council on Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia (or ''Oregon OAH Council''), we appreciate the opportunity to provide you with a letter of strong support for the Coastal and Ocean Acidification Stressors and Threats (COAST) Research Act. Addressing intensifying ocean acidification (OA) conditions here in Oregon, as well as across the United States, is critical to our Nation's understanding of larger impacts from CO_2 emissions.

Oregon is among the first places in the world to observe direct impacts of ocean acidification and hypoxia (OAH), due to our unique geographic and oceanographic context, putting our fragile marine ecosystem at risk. Our coastal economies rely on our vibrant marine ecosystem. Our nearshore waters are home to sport and commercial fisheries, all of the State's mariculture operations, and contain critical nursery grounds for economically important species including rockfish, oysters, salmon, pink shrimp, and Dungeness crab. Oregon is not alone in experiencing the impacts from OA or hypoxia. Through actions such as those in the COAST Research Act we must act together as Americans to develop solutions for our coastal communities, economies, and ecosystems to prepare for future conditions.

In the coming years, the Oregon OAH Council will continue to take a collaborative, science-based approach to developing recommendations to address OAH in our state and beyond. Through further investments and initiatives, Oregon and the United States will benefit from adaptation and mitigation measures and will model to the world how to develop actionable solutions for OA adaptation and mitigation.

Oregon has identified three urgently needed strategic actions, which directly align with objectives within the COAST Research Act.

(1) Monitoring of key oceanographic and biological indicators of impacts from OAH.

At the same time that OA has been impacting our coasts, oxygen-depletion is on the rise; Oregon and much of the West coast has seen several seasons in a row with extended periods of hypoxia in our coastal

waters. The Oregon OAH Council is encouraged that the COAST Research Act identifies the need to strengthen investments in OA research and monitoring in the context of other environmental stressors. Ocean acidification and hypoxia are compounding stressors for a wide range of marine animals, and as such must continue to be studied together. Through the COAST Research Acts reauthorization of funding of NOAA, NSF, and NASA, much needed resources will be made available to researchers across the United States to continue to expand our knowledge of OAH. The Oregon OAH Council also supports the initiative of the COAST Research Act to create data processing, storage, and archive facilities to provide for the long-term stewardship and standardization of data. By creating a central repository for OAH data it provides governments, scientists, and industry better access to the information need to inform their mitigation and adaption planning. Only by maximizing our current data and filling our knowledge gaps of OAH, can we as a Nation begin to be able to piece together for solutions for our coastal communities.

(2) Projects or programs that promote coastal economic and ecosystem resilience to OAH.

Fisheries and aquaculture are central to our history, are enjoyed by Americans across the nation year-round, and remain key to many of Oregon's coastal economies today. Yet, the future sustainability of these marine resources and communities' ability to rely on them, are uncertain in the face of significant ocean changes, including OAH, and uncertain in the face of our current state of preparation to adapt to those changes over time. This is why the Oregon OAH Council supports activities and initiatives that promote resilience to increased OAH conditions, for both human communities and ecosystems. The COAST Research Act also stresses the importance of increasing our understanding of the socioeconomic effects of OA by expanding federal research to assess adaptation and mitigation strategies. There will be costs of inaction relative to CO_2 mitigation and the United States has an obligation to relieve these costs wherever possible for our citizens.

(3) Tools and strategies to increase awareness of OAH science, impacts and solutions.

As the impacts of OA intensify, it is going to be vitally important for our Nation to identify and advance opportunities to raise awareness of and communicate OAH science, impacts, and mitigation solutions. This is why the Oregon OAH Council is encouraged by the fact that the COAST Research Act recognizes the need to address the effects of OA on estuaries and integrate research, monitoring, and adaptation strategies. By integrating OA causes and effects, it better demonstrates the complexity of this climate issue, and provides a clearer message to communities. The Oregon OAH Council also supports the COAST Research Act establishment of an Advisory Board to increase coordination among stakeholders, including members of industry, to work with State and Federal governments to improve coordination. Recognizing the importance of a broad membership, our Oregon OAH Council includes members from industry, academia and state government agencies. For the benefit of our marine ecosystem and the human communities that rely on a healthy marine ecosystem, the Nation's adaptation and mitigation approaches to OA should include successful communication of new science, monitoring, and adaptation strategies.

As Co-Chairs of the Oregon OAH Council, we appreciate the opportunity to provide you with a letter of strong support for the COAST Research Act. The strategic investment and coordination opportunities outlined in this act are meaningful and will make a difference in our understanding of OAH science, impacts, and solutions. Through passage of this Act and the subsequent investment in science, adaptation and communications, the United States will demonstrate meaningful action in fighting OA and the global challenges of climate change, and preparing our citizens and economies for the changes ahead.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

JOHN BARTH, PhD,
Co-Chair, Oregon OAH Council, Executive Director, Marine Studies Initiative, Oregon State University.

CAREN BRABY, PhD,
Co-Chair, Oregon OAH Council, Marine Resources Program Manager, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION OF NETWORKED OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEMS,
Seattle, WA, 14 May 2021.

Hon. SUZANNE BONAMICI,
House of Representatives,
Washington DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN BONAMICI: As the Director of the Northwest Association of Ocean Observing Systems (NANOOS), I write in support of the Coastal and Ocean Acidification Stressors and Threats (COAST) Research Act.

NANOOS provides access to near-real time observations, forecasts, and other tools that can be used to observe water properties in the Salish Sea and the coastal waters off Washington and Oregon. NANOOS can only serve our stakeholders via NOAA's Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS), which links together Federal agencies with our collective of local universities, government agencies, tribes, nonprofits, and industry organizations who collect quality oceanographic and meteorological data from moorings, buoys, and satellites from across the Pacific Northwest region. But our resources are limited and this COAST Research Act would help to highlight the payoff investments can make.

In the Pacific Northwest, we know that ocean acidification is an issue already, as witnessed by the difference that monitoring water chemistry has made to shellfish growers. We know that impacts from ocean acidification may affect shellfish harvesters, fishermen, resource managers, and tribal and other coastal communities. NANOOS' work with IOOS and NOAA's Ocean Acidification Program have been instrumental in aiding adaptation.

The COAST Research Act will enhance these and other efforts to understand, monitor, and manage the nation's ability to respond and adapt to ocean acidification. NANOOS will be better able to meet the needs of our stakeholders if this Act is passed.

My thanks for your leadership and insights.

Sincerely,

JAN NEWTON,
NANOOS Executive Director.

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, April 19, 2021.

Hon. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON,
Chairwoman, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN JOHNSON: In recognition of the goal of expediting consideration of H.R. 1447, the ''Coastal and Ocean Acidification Stressors and Threats Research Act of 2021,'' the Committee on Natural Resources agrees to waive formal consideration of the bill as to provisions that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Natural Resources.

The Committee on Natural Resources takes this action with the mutual understanding that, in doing so, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues within our jurisdiction. Our Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation.

Thank you for agreeing to include our exchange of letters in the *Congressional Record*. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with you as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

RAÚL M. GRIJALVA,
Chair,
House Natural Resources Committee.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY,
Washington, DC, April 16, 2021.

Chairman RAÚL M. GRIJALVA,
Committee on Natural Resources,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GRIJALVA: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 1447, the ''Coastal and Ocean Acidification Stressors and Threats Research Act of 2021,'' which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology on March 1, 2021.

I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this bill. I recognize that the bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Natural Resources. I acknowledge that your Committee will waive further consideration of H.R. 1447 and that this action is not a waiver of future jurisdictional claims by the Committee on Natural Resources over this subject matter.

I will make sure to include our exchange of letters in the *Congressional Record* and will support the appointment of the Committee on Natural Resources conferees during any House-Senate conference. Thank you for your cooperation on this legislation.

Sincerely,

EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON,
Chairwoman.

□ 1600

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1447, the COAST Research Act of 2021. This bipartisan legislation would reauthorize and modernize the Federal Government's ocean acidification research and monitoring programs.

Ocean acidification is the result of a gradual decrease in pH in the ocean chemistry. Even a small shift in pH can have a serious effect on marine ecosystems, including shellfish habitat, coral reefs, and fisheries habitat.

Congress recognized the need for a better understanding of the causes and effects of ocean acidification and passed the Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act in 2009. That legislation created a framework for science agencies such as NOAA and the National Science Foundation to dedicate resources to studying the phenomenon. As a result, we made significant advancements in understanding ocean acidification over the last decade.

H.R. 1447 reauthorizes the funding for NOAA and NSF efforts through the fiscal year 2026, which lapsed in fiscal year 2012. It also modernizes their activities by updating the strategic plan governing the Federal Government's research efforts and strengthening cooperation among scientific agencies.

Additionally, the COAST Research Act designates NOAA as the lead agency for coordinating the Federal response to ocean and coastal acidification. This is an important step to streamline and organize efforts across the government.

Finally, this bill ensures that the voices of stakeholders and industry from multiple regions are heard through a newly established advisory board. This input is critical to effectively integrate the many research, monitoring, and adaptation strategies for coastal acidification.

This bill is the result of years of work in building a consensus among stakeholders, including ocean conservation groups, sportsmen, and coastal communities about how best to address this problem moving forward.

Coastal communities and businesses will greatly benefit from this legislation and how better knowledge of ocean acidification improves our ability to respond to its effects.

I thank Ms. BONAMICI for introducing and leading this bill along with her House Oceans Caucus vice chair, Congressman DON YOUNG, along with the many bipartisan cosponsors.

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Maine (Ms. PINGREE), a cosponsor of the COAST Research Act.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chair and the ranking member, who have shown a true willingness to address the impact climate change has had on our oceans; and to Congresswoman BONAMICI and Congressman YOUNG for their leadership on ocean and climate issues.

I rise today in support of the gentlewoman's bill, H.R. 1447, the Coastal and Ocean Acidification Stressors and Threats Research Act, a bipartisan bill that would expand scientific research and monitoring to improve our understanding of ocean acidification.

Our oceans absorb enormous amounts of carbon dioxide each year. That process is critical for regulating the amount of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere, but this comes at a high cost for oceans and dependent marine life.

Coastal communities produce about 40 percent of our Nation's total jobs and 45 percent of our gross domestic product. Given those significant numbers, the financial implications will ripple across all American communities if this problem continues to intensify.

We are already experiencing these impacts in my home State of Maine. The Gulf of Maine is warming faster than 99 percent of the world's oceans, and it is particularly susceptible to the effects of ocean acidification.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, my State is renowned for its lobster and shellfish, so you can imagine we take this threat seriously. Bill Mook, an oyster farmer on Maine's Damariscotta River, has explained to me how he has adjusted his operations to mitigate for ocean acidification. Bill and so many growers are worried about how future oyster production will be affected when the problem outpaces the adaptations that can be made.

I support the COAST Research Act because it would strengthen investments in ocean acidification research and monitoring, increase our understanding of the socioeconomic effects of ocean acidification, and more.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1447. It is critical that we act to protect our oceans and our coastal communities so they are here for future generations.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), one of the most outstanding individuals in this body; the dean of the House Republican Conference; the dean of the United States House; but, most importantly, and fortunately for his constituents, the dean of the Alaska congressional delegation.

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend Mr. LUCAS for his kind compliments. It is the best I have heard all day.

I thank Ms. BONAMICI, the chair of this committee, for bringing this bill to the floor.

I am excited about it because the oceans and our waterways are important to our lives. More than anybody recognizes, water is the next big issue. Oceans do cover 76 percent of our globe. In doing so, if they get acidified, then we lose the oceans, not only what it provides to us, but livelihoods to many fishermen in my communities, which is very, very important.

I am, very frankly, very excited about this legislation. We have to do more than legislation, though, because the acidification of the ocean, what causes it, we have to address. Some say it is climate change. Let's do that. Let's look at why.

I have just been reading a very serious set of articles on e-fuels, which I was unaware were created by capturing CO_2 and making it into another fuel which is cleaner, especially for maritime fleets. I am a mariner, and that would be very, very important because they are one of the more pollutant factors we have, yet they transport world goods. So we have to address that.

As we pass this legislation, let's really go forth and make sure not only NOAA has the authority, but make sure they do the job. That is oversight. That is your job, Madam Chairman. That is what we have to do to make sure it is done and address the problem.

You talk about your lobster. It is good, but not quite as good as our salmon, but it is okay. We have to work on that to make sure that we have a continued sustainable yield that we will be working with.

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

Mr. Speaker, I again rise to support H.R. 1447, the COAST Research Act of 2021. It is necessary, bipartisan legislation with support from Members representing a diverse range of districts.

As I previously mentioned, significant progress toward our understanding the socioeconomic effects of ocean and coastal acidification has been made in the last decade. But to continue that progress, we need to update our priorities and our strategies.

That is what this bill does. That is what will keep our communities, our businesses, and our entire economy at the forefront of managing and mitigating the environmental challenges we face.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The basic chemistry of our ocean is changing at an unprecedented rate. We know that even if carbon dioxide emissions were halted today, many of the residual effects on our oceans will continue to occur over the course of the next few decades.

Without intervention, ocean acidification is projected to become more intense and increasingly common, especially on the Pacific Coast. We must support vulnerable communities, industries, coastal and ocean managers by strengthening research on how they can best prepare for and, when possible, adapt to ocean and coastal acidification.

By passing the bipartisan COAST Research Act, we are taking one important step forward in advancing ocean climate action.

I, again, thank Chairwoman JOHNSON; Ranking Member LUCAS; and my coleads on this bill, Representative YOUNG, PINGREE, and POSEY for their support.

I know Mr. YOUNG from Alaska talked about his salmon. We would compete with salmon in the Pacific Northwest. We also have the prize dungeness crab, and Ms. PINGREE has her lobsters. It is so critical for these industries that we pass this bill and advance ocean climate action.

I, once again, urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bipartisan bill.

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

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to join Congresswoman BONAMICI as an original cosponsor.

For those of us who live on the "coast," the coast is that unique place where our lives, our environment, and our economy participate in a special relationship with the ocean.

In my own State of Florida, we know that about 6 million people work in our coastal counties. They earn nearly $280 billion dollars in wages and produce close to $700 billion in gross domestic product.

Life on the coast is rich in rewards, but also uncertain and often perilous.

Those of us who live on the coast have known for a long time how important sustainability and resilience are for our coasts. We have weathered the storms of the past and we must do so in the future.

Science and research are our best hope for continuing to live in harmony with our coasts.

Research can prepare us for assaults on our coasts and help us defend our wildlife and biodiversity from threats like acidification.

We must take care of our precious coasts so that we can continue to enjoy the lifestyle and the economic well-being we cherish.

That is why I've joined Congresswoman SUZANNE BONAMICI in directing NOAA to pick up the role of leading research for coastal acidification.

I ask my colleagues to support the COAST Research Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1447, 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. ROSENDALE. 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.

NATIONAL ESTUARIES AND ACIDIFICATION RESEARCH ACT OF 2021

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2533) to provide for a study by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine examining the impact of ocean acidification and other stressors in estuarine environments.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2533

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 "National Estuaries and Acidification Research Act of 2021" or the "NEAR Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Ocean acidification impacts human health, natural resources, and the environmental, economic, and recreational uses of the coastline.

(2) The current understanding of ocean acidification impacts on estuarine ecosystems is inadequate to fully prepare and manage for changing environmental conditions in nearshore locations.

(3) While pH can be measured with high precision and accuracy in open ocean environments, more understanding of the carbonate system in estuarine ecosystems is needed for precise and accurate measurements and observations.

(4) The interaction of multiple stressors, including salinity, pH, temperature, sea level rise, and nutrient input, within estuarine ecosystems is inadequately understood for managing the health, economic, recreational, and environmental impacts driven by these interactions.

(5) A better understanding is needed of how anthropogenic influences in coastal environments affect estuarine ecosystems.

(6) More integration and coordination is needed among regional, national, and global environmental observations in estuarine environments, supporting prior investments in related topics such as nutrient loading, hypoxia, ocean acidification, and harmful algae bloom research and observational systems.

SEC. 3. STUDY EXAMINING THE IMPACT OF OCEAN ACIDIFICATION AND OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL STRESSORS ON ESTUARINE ENVIRONMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall make appropriate arrangements with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (referred to in this Act as the "National Academies") under which the National Academies shall conduct a study that—

(1) examines the existing science of ocean acidification in estuarine environments;

(2) examines the challenges to studying ocean acidification and ocean acidification's interactions with other environment stressors in estuarine environments;

(3) provides recommendations for improving future research with respect to ocean acidification in estuarine environments; and

(4) identifies pathways for applying science in management and mitigation decisions relating to ocean acidification in estuarine environments.

(b) CONTENTS OF STUDY.—The study described under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) the behavior of the carbonate system within estuarine environments;

(2) the interactions of the carbonate system with other biotic and abiotic characteristics of estuarine ecosystems;

(3) how environmental and anthropogenic changes or disturbances could affect abiotic and biotic processes within estuaries;

(4) how estuarine biotic and abiotic processes will be affected under predicted environmental changes;

(5) the current state of data collection, interpretation, storage, and retrieval and observational infrastructure of abiotic and biotic parameters in estuarine ecosystems;

(6) the gaps that exist in understanding the socio-economic and health impacts of ocean acidification in estuaries;

(7) future directions for scientific research; and

(8) pathways for applying science in management and mitigation decisions.

(c) REPORT.—In entering into an arrangement under subsection (a), the Secretary shall request that the National Academies transmit to Congress a report on the results of the study not later than 24 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $1,000,000.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oregon.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. 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 H.R. 2533, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Congressman POSEY's National Estuaries and Acidification Research Act. I am an original cosponsor of this bipartisan bill, which would direct the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to conduct a study that examines the science of ocean and coastal acidification in estuaries and provide recommendations to improve future research and management to inform mitigation decisions.

As co-chair of both the House Oceans Caucus and Congressional Estuary Caucus, I know that acidification is not only affecting the open ocean, estuaries and nearshore waters are also absorbing tremendous amounts of carbon pollution and becoming more acidic.

Our understanding of ocean acidification and its interactions with other environmental stressors, such as hypoxia, harmful algal blooms, and warming waters, is rapidly evolving, but is still limited in scope.

Ocean and coastal acidification are often present in the context of other coastal processes, like runoff, erosion, and upwelled water from the oceans, making it difficult to measure its individual effects on estuaries.

Our estuaries and nearshore waters are also experiencing the consequences of our inaction to address the climate crisis, and research has not kept pace with the needs of coastal communities. The NEAR Act will help address significant research gaps and the urgent need to improve our understanding of the ecological and socioeconomic effects of ocean and coastal acidification.

I thank Congressman POSEY for his leadership on this bipartisan bill and his efforts to preserve our Nation's estuaries. I also thank Chairwoman JOHNSON and Ranking Member LUCAS for making this bill a priority.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY,
Washington, DC, April 16, 2021.

Chairman RAÚL M. GRIJALVA,
Committee on Natural Resources, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GRIJALVA: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 2533, the ''National Estuaries and Acidification Research Act of 2021,'' which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology as lead committee and sequentially referred to the Committee on Natural Resources on April 14, 2021.

I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this bill. I recognize that the bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Natural Resources. I acknowledge that your Committee will waive further consideration of H.R. 2533 and that this action is not a waiver of future jurisdictional claims by the Committee on Natural Resources over this subject matter.

I will make sure to include our exchange of letters in the Congressional Record and will support the appointment of the Committee on Natural Resources conferees during any House-Senate conference. Thank you for your cooperation on this legislation.

Sincerely,

EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON,
Chairwoman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, April 20, 2021.

Hon. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON,
Chairwoman, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN JOHNSON: In recognition of the goal of expediting consideration of H.R. 2533, a bill to provide for a study by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine examining the impact of ocean acidification and other stressors in estuarine environments, the Committee on Natural Resources agrees to waive formal consideration of the bill as to provisions that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Natural Resources.

The Committee on Natural Resources takes this action with the mutual understanding that, in doing so, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues within our jurisdiction. Our Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation.

Thank you for agreeing to include our exchange of letters in the Congressional Record. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with you as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

RAÚL M. GRIJALVA,
Chair,
House Natural Resources Committee.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2533, the National Estuaries and Acidification Research Act of 2021, a bipartisan bill sponsored by Congressman BILL POSEY, my esteemed colleague on the Science Committee.

This legislation directs the Secretary of Commerce to coordinate a study with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to examine the effects of ocean acidification on estuary environments, and to submit that report to Congress within 2 years.

□ 1615

Specifically, this study will be led by the Ocean Studies Board of the National Academies and provide Congress a better understanding of the biological and economic impacts of ocean acidification on inland marine environments.

Estuaries are economically important water ecosystems that occur when inland rivers meet oceans. This mix of fresh and salt waters is a delicate balance of nature that possesses unique biological characteristics. To date, there have been few studies on the effects ocean acidification has on these ecosystems.

We can't manage and mitigate the effects of something we don't fully understand. That is why H.R. 2533 is still needed today to bridge our knowledge gaps by utilizing the best expertise and resources to gain a better understanding of this important issue.

While Oklahoma is a landlocked State without estuaries, I recognize the economic and environmental effects acidification has on all of our Nation's waterways and other natural treasures. The waters of Oklahoma's rivers, streams, and tributaries feed into larger systems and eventually make it to the ocean. At the end of the day, being a conservationist doesn't stop at geographic barriers. It is a nationwide effort.

Mr. Speaker, this important word-for-word bill passed the House last Congress with the same bipartisan support it has here today. Unfortunately, it didn't move further in the Senate. So, 1 year later, we still need to improve our knowledge of coastal acidification and estuaries.

I thank Mr. POSEY for leading this important legislation. I know his constituents and the Indian River Lagoon community appreciate his efforts to protect their surrounding environment. I also thank my Science Committee colleague across the aisle, Ms. BONAMICI, for leading the effort on the majority side.

Mr. Speaker, as the saying goes, knowledge is power. This simple bipartisan bill advances our knowledge and gives us the power to quantify the effects estuary communities face when faced with coastal acidification.

The National Academies are a tremendous resource. Their studies are thorough, informative, and world class. I look forward to seeing the final product directed by this bill.

By preserving our Nation's estuaries, we are saving businesses from closing, ecosystems from dying, and people from getting sick. I, again, thank Representative BILL POSEY and the entire Congressional Estuary Caucus for leading on this important topic.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, this is a commonsense bill to address the urgent need for research on ocean and coastal acidification in estuaries.

I appreciate the partnership and leadership from Chairwoman JOHNSON, Ranking Member LUCAS, and Congressman POSEY to protect the health of our oceans and estuaries.

Mr. Speaker, I once again urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bipartisan bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise in support of H.R. 2533, The National Estuaries and Acidification Research (NEAR) Act.

I want to thank Congresswoman SUZANNE BONAMICI and Congressman BRIAN MAST for working with me to advance this important legislation.

I also want to thank the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine for their valuable input.

The NEAR Act is a national proposal with a very special personal connection. People in my district—the 8th district of Florida—understand in a very deep way, the economic and environmental importance of the ocean and our estuary—the Indian River Lagoon.

This bill focuses on estuaries—those wondrous nurseries and homes for sea life.

Unfortunately, the Indian River Lagoon, and other valuable estuaries throughout the country, are being threatened by ocean acidification, along with other stressors.

Scientists tell us that when carbon dioxide is released into the atmosphere, about one third of that carbon dioxide is absorbed by seawater, creating carbonic acid.

Shellfish and other marine organisms don't do well in acidic waters. We know that.

We have over a decade of research on the impacts of acidification in the open ocean. Unfortunately, we don't have the same kind of knowledge about acidification in estuaries and waters near our shores.

We need to deepen our investment in research in our estuaries so we can protect and restore our estuaries and defend our environment and coastal economy.

The story of my district and the Indian River Lagoon plays out along our entire national coastline. More than half of the U.S. population lives in coastal areas.

Five years ago, Congresswoman BONAMICI and I cofounded the bipartisan Congressional Estuary Caucus to preserve and restore our estuaries. Coastal watershed counties provide an estimated 69 million U.S. jobs and contribute an estimated $7.9 trillion to the GDP annually.

The National Academy study authorized by the NEAR Act is a great step toward filling in the gaps in our knowledge of how acidification affects our estuaries—both environmentally and economically.

Mr. Speaker, when we take care of our environment, we take care of ourselves, and therefore, I ask my colleagues to join me in taking this important step toward understanding how ocean acidification affects our precious estuaries and support this bill today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2533.

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(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.

RURAL STEM EDUCATION RESEARCH ACT

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 210) to coordinate Federal research and development efforts focused on STEM education and workforce development in rural areas, including the development and application of new technologies to support and improve rural STEM education, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 210

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 ''Rural STEM Education Research Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The supply of STEM workers is not keeping pace with the rapidly evolving needs of the public and private sector, resulting in a deficit often referred to as a STEM skills shortage.

(2) According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the United States will need one million additional STEM professionals than it is on track to produce in the coming decade.

(3) Many STEM occupations offer higher wages, more opportunities for advancement, and a higher degree of job security than non-STEM jobs.

(4) The 60,000,000 individuals in the United States who live in rural settings are significantly under-represented in STEM.

(5) According to the National Center for Education Statistics, nine million students in the United States—nearly 20 percent of the total K–12 population—attend rural schools, and for reasons ranging from teacher quality to shortages of resources, these students often have fewer opportunities for high-quality STEM learning than their peers in the Nation's urban and suburban schools.

(6) Rural areas represent one of the most promising, yet underutilized, opportunities for STEM education to impact workforce development and regional innovation, including agriculture.

(7) The study of agriculture, food, and natural resources involves biology, engineering, physics, chemistry, math, geology, computer science, and other scientific fields.

(8) Employment in computer and information technology occupations is projected to grow 11 percent from 2019 to 2029. To help meet this demand, it is important rural students have the opportunity to acquire computing skills through exposure to computer science learning in grades Pre-K through 12 and in informal learning settings.

(9) More than 293,000,000 individuals in the United States use high-speed broadband to work, learn, access healthcare, and operate their businesses, while 19,000,000 individuals in the United States still lack access to high-speed broadband. Rural areas are hardest hit, with over 26 percent of individuals in rural areas in the United States lacking access to high-speed broadband compared to 1.7 percent of individuals in urban areas in the United States.

SEC. 3. NIST ENGAGEMENT WITH RURAL COMMUNITIES.

(a) MEP OUTREACH.—Section 25 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (6), by striking ''community colleges and area career and technical education schools'' and inserting the following: ''secondary schools (as defined in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801)), community colleges, and area career and technical education schools, including those in underserved and rural communities,''; and

(B) in paragraph (7)—

(i) by striking ''and local colleges'' and inserting the following: ''local high schools and local colleges, including those in underserved and rural communities,''; and

(ii) by inserting ''or other applied learning opportunities'' after ''apprenticeships''; and

(2) in subsection (d)(3) by striking '', community colleges, and area career and technical education schools,'' and inserting the following: ''and local high schools, community colleges, and area career and technical education schools, including those in underserved and rural communities,''.

(b) RURAL CONNECTIVITY PRIZE COMPETITION.—

(1) PRIZE COMPETITION.—Pursuant to section 24 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719), the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology (referred to in this subsection as the ''Secretary''), shall, subject to appropriations, carry out a program to award prizes competitively to stimulate research and development of creative technologies in order to deploy affordable and reliable broadband connectivity to underserved rural communities.

(2) PLAN FOR DEPLOYMENT IN RURAL COMMUNITIES.—Each proposal submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include a plan for deployment of the technology that is the subject of such proposal in an underserved rural community.

(3) PRIZE AMOUNT.—In carrying out the program under paragraph (1), the Secretary may award not more than a total of $5,000,000 to one or more winners of the prize competition.

(4) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which a prize is awarded under the prize competition, the Secretary shall submit to the relevant committees of Congress a report that describes the winning proposal of the prize competition.

(5) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the program under subsection (a), the Secretary may consult with the heads of relevant departments and agencies of the Federal Government.

SEC. 4. NITR-D BROADBAND WORKING GROUP.

Title I of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5511 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 103. BROADBAND RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall establish a broadband research and development working group to address national research challenges and opportunities for improving broadband access and adoption across the United States.

''(b) ACTIVITIES.—The working group shall identify and coordinate key research priorities for addressing broadband access and adoption, including—

''(1) promising research areas;

''(2) requirements for data collection and sharing;

''(3) opportunities for better alignment and coordination across Federal agencies and external stakeholders; and

''(4) input on the development of new Federal policies and programs to enhance data collection and research.

''(c) COORDINATION.—The working group shall coordinate, as appropriate, with the Rural Broadband Integration Working Group established under section 6214 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334) and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture of the Department of Agriculture.

''(d) REPORT.—The working group shall report to Congress on their activities as part of the annual report submitted under section 101(a)(2)(D).

''(e) SUNSET.—The authority to carry out this section shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of the Rural STEM Education Act.''.

SEC. 5. NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES EVALUATION.

(a) STUDY.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences under which the National Academy agrees to conduct an evaluation and assessment that—

(1) evaluates the quality and quantity of current Federal programming and research directed at examining STEM education for students in grades Pre-K through 12 and workforce development in rural areas;

(2) assesses the impact of the scarcity of broadband connectivity in rural communities has on STEM and technical literacy for students in grades Pre-K through 12 in rural areas;

(3) assesses the core research and data needed to understand the challenges rural areas are facing in providing quality STEM education and workforce development; and

(4) makes recommendations for action at the Federal, State, and local levels for improving STEM education for students in grades Pre-K through 12 and workforce development in rural areas.

(b) REPORT TO DIRECTOR.—The agreement entered into under subsection (a) shall require the National Academy of Sciences, not later than 24 months after the date of enactment of this Act, to submit to the Director a report on the study conducted under such subsection, including the National Academy's findings and recommendations.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Director to carry out this section $1,000,000 for fiscal year 2022.

SEC. 6. GAO REVIEW.

Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on the engagement of rural populations in Federal STEM programs and submit to Congress a report that includes—

(1) an assessment of how Federal STEM education programs are serving rural populations;

(2) a description of initiatives carried out by Federal agencies that are targeted at supporting STEM education in rural areas;

(3) an assessment of what is known about the impact and effectiveness of Federal investments in STEM education programs that are targeted to rural areas; and

(4) an assessment of challenges that state and Federal STEM education programs face in reaching rural population centers.

SEC. 7. CAPACITY BUILDING THROUGH EPSCOR.

Section 517(f)(2) of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 1862p–9(f)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''and'' at the end; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) to increase the capacity of rural communities to provide quality STEM education and STEM workforce development programming to students, and teachers; and''.

SEC. 8. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION RURAL STEM RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.

(a) PREPARING RURAL STEM EDUCATORS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall provide grants on a merit-reviewed, competitive basis to institutions of higher education or nonprofit organizations (or a consortium thereof) for research and development to advance innovative approaches to support and sustain high-quality STEM teaching in rural schools.

(2) USE OF FUNDS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Grants awarded under this section shall be used for the research and development activities referred to in paragraph (1), which may include—

(i) engaging rural educators of students in grades Pre-K through 12 in professional learning opportunities to enhance STEM knowledge, including computer science, and develop best practices;

(ii) supporting research on effective STEM teaching practices in rural settings, including the use of rubrics and mastery-based grading practices to assess student performance when employing the transdisciplinary teaching approach for STEM disciplines;

(iii) designing and developing pre-service and in-service training resources to assist such rural educators in adopting transdisciplinary teaching practices across STEM courses;

(iv) coordinating with local partners to adapt STEM teaching practices to leverage local natural and community assets in order to support in-place learning in rural areas;

(v) providing hands-on training and research opportunities for rural educators described in clause (i) at Federal Laboratories, institutions of higher education, or in industry;

(vi) developing training and best practices for educators who teach multiple grade levels within a STEM discipline;

(vii) designing and implementing professional development courses and experiences, including mentoring, for rural educators described in clause (i) that combine face-to-face and online experiences; and

(viii) any other activity the Director determines will accomplish the goals of this subsection.

(B) RURAL STEM COLLABORATIVE.—The Director may establish a pilot program of regional cohorts in rural areas that will provide peer support, mentoring, and hands-on research experiences for rural STEM educators of students in grades Pre-K through 12, in order to build an ecosystem of cooperation among educators, researchers, academia, and local industry.

(b) BROADENING PARTICIPATION OF RURAL STUDENTS IN STEM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall provide grants on a merit-reviewed, competitive basis to institutions of higher education or nonprofit organizations (or a consortium thereof) for—

(A) research and development of programming to identify the barriers rural students face in accessing high-quality STEM education; and

(B) development of innovative solutions to improve the participation and advancement of rural students in grades Pre-K through 12 in STEM studies.

(2) USE OF FUNDS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Grants awarded under this section shall be used for the research and development activities referred to in paragraph (1), which may include—

(i) developing partnerships with community colleges to offer advanced STEM course work, including computer science, to rural high school students;

(ii) supporting research on effective STEM practices in rural settings;

(iii) implementing a school-wide STEM approach;

(iv) improving the National Science Foundation's Advanced Technology Education program's coordination and engagement with rural communities;

(v) collaborating with existing community partners and networks, such as the cooperative research and extension services of the Department of Agriculture and youth serving organizations like 4–H, after school STEM programs, and summer STEM programs, to leverage community resources and develop place-based programming;

(vi) connecting rural school districts and institutions of higher education, to improve precollegiate STEM education and engagement;

(vii) supporting partnerships that offer hands-on inquiry-based science activities, including coding, and access to lab resources for students studying STEM in grades Pre-K through 12 in a rural area;

(viii) evaluating the role of broadband connectivity and its associated impact on the STEM and technology literacy of rural students;

(ix) building capacity to support extracurricular STEM programs in rural schools, including mentor-led engagement programs, STEM programs held during nonschool hours, STEM networks, makerspaces, coding activities, and competitions; and

(x) any other activity the Director determines will accomplish the goals of this subsection.

(c) APPLICATION.—An applicant seeking a grant under subsection (a) or (b) shall submit an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Director may require. The application may include the following:

(1) A description of the target population to be served by the research activity or activities for which such grant is sought.

(2) A description of the process for recruitment and selection of students, educators, or schools from rural areas to participate in such activity or activities.

(3) A description of how such activity or activities may inform efforts to promote the engagement and achievement of rural students in grades Pre-K through 12 in STEM studies.

(4) In the case of a proposal consisting of a partnership or partnerships with one or more rural schools and one or more researchers, a plan for establishing a sustained partnership that is jointly developed and managed, draws from the capacities of each partner, and is mutually beneficial.

(d) PARTNERSHIPS.—In awarding grants under subsection (a) or (b), the Director shall—

(1) encourage applicants which, for the purpose of the activity or activities funded through the grant, include or partner with a nonprofit organization or an institution of higher education (or a consortium thereof) that has extensive experience and expertise in increasing the participation of rural students in grades Pre-K through 12 in STEM;

(2) encourage applicants which, for the purpose of the activity or activities funded through the grant, include or partner with a consortium of rural schools or rural school districts; and

(3) encourage applications which, for the purpose of the activity or activities funded through the grant, include commitments from school principals and administrators to making reforms and activities proposed by the applicant a priority.

(e) EVALUATIONS.—All proposals for grants under subsections (a) and (b) shall include an evaluation plan that includes the use of outcome oriented measures to assess the impact and efficacy of the grant. Each recipient of a grant under this section shall include results from these evaluative activities in annual and final projects.

(f) ACCOUNTABILITY AND DISSEMINATION.—

(1) EVALUATION REQUIRED.—The Director shall evaluate the portfolio of grants awarded under subsections (a) and (b). Such evaluation shall—

(A) use a common set of benchmarks and tools to assess the results of research conducted under such grants and identify best practices; and

(B) to the extent practicable, integrate the findings of research resulting from the activity or activities funded through such grants with the findings of other research on rural student's pursuit of degrees or careers in STEM.

(2) REPORT ON EVALUATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the completion of the evaluation under paragraph (1), the Director shall submit to Congress and make widely available to the public a report that includes—

(A) the results of the evaluation; and

(B) any recommendations for administrative and legislative action that could optimize the effectiveness of the grants awarded under this section.

(g) REPORT BY COMMITTEE ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As part of the first report required by section 36(e) of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885c(e)) transmitted to Congress after the date of enactment of this Act, the Committee on Equal Opportunities in Science and Engineering shall include—

(A) a description of past and present policies and activities of the Foundation to encourage full participation of students in rural communities in science, mathematics, engineering, and computer science fields; and

(B) an assessment of trends in participation of rural students in grades Pre-K through 12 in Foundation activities, and an assessment of the policies and activities of the Foundation, along with proposals for new strategies or the broadening of existing successful strategies towards facilitating the goals of this Act.

(2) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 313 of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (Public Law 114–329) is amended by striking ''Section 204(e) of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 1988'' and inserting ''Section 36(e) of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act''.

(B) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall take effect as if included in the enactment of section 313 of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (Public Law 114–329).

(h) COORDINATION.—In carrying out this section, the Director shall, for purposes of enhancing program effectiveness and avoiding duplication of activities, consult, cooperate, and coordinate with the programs and policies of other relevant Federal agencies.

(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Director—

(1) $8,000,000 to carry out the activities under subsection (a) for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026; and

(2) $12,000,000 to carry out the activities under subsection (b) for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

SEC. 9. RESEARCHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ONLINE EDUCATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall, subject to appropriations, award competitive grants to institutions of higher education or nonprofit organizations (or a consortium thereof, which may include a private sector partner) to conduct research on online STEM education courses for rural communities.

(b) RESEARCH AREAS.—The research areas eligible for funding under this subsection shall include—

(1) evaluating the learning and achievement of rural students in grades Pre-K through 12 in STEM subjects;

(2) understanding how computer-based and online professional development courses and mentor experiences can be integrated to meet the needs of educators of rural students in grades Pre-K through 12;

(3) combining computer-based and online STEM education and training with apprenticeships, mentoring, or other applied learning arrangements;

(4) leveraging online programs to supplement STEM studies for rural students that need physical and academic accommodation; and

(5) any other activity the Director determines will accomplish the goals of this subsection.

(c) EVALUATIONS.—All proposals for grants under this section shall include an evaluation plan that includes the use of outcome oriented measures to assess the impact and efficacy of the grant. Each recipient of a grant under this section shall include results from these evaluative activities in annual and final projects.

(d) ACCOUNTABILITY AND DISSEMINATION.—

(1) EVALUATION REQUIRED.—The Director shall evaluate the portfolio of grants awarded under this section. Such evaluation shall—

(A) use a common set of benchmarks and tools to assess the results of research conducted under such grants and identify best practices; and

(B) to the extent practicable, integrate findings from activities carried out pursuant to research conducted under this section, with respect to the pursuit of careers and degrees in STEM, with those activities carried our pursuant to other research on serving rural students and communities.

(2) REPORT ON EVALUATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the completion of the evaluation under paragraph (1), the Director shall submit to Congress and make widely available to the public a report that includes—

(A) the results of the evaluation; and

(B) any recommendations for administrative and legislative action that could optimize the effectiveness of the grants awarded under this section.

(e) COORDINATION.—In carrying out this section, the Director shall, for purposes of enhancing program effectiveness and avoiding duplication of activities, consult, cooperate, and coordinate with the programs and policies of other relevant Federal agencies.

SEC. 10. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) DIRECTOR.—The term ''Director'' means the Director of the National Science Foundation established under section 2 of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1861).

(2) FEDERAL LABORATORY.—The term ''Federal laboratory'' has the meaning given such term in section 4 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3703).

(3) FOUNDATION.—The term ''Foundation'' means the National Science Foundation established under section 2 of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1861).

(4) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term ''institution of higher education'' has the meaning given such term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

(5) STEM.—The term ''STEM'' has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 6621 note).

(6) STEM EDUCATION.—The term ''STEM education'' has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the STEM Education Act of 2015 (42 U.S.C. 6621 note).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oregon.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. 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 H.R. 210, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 210, the Rural STEM Education Research Act. I thank Ranking Member LUCAS for introducing this important bill.

Every State in the country is filled with students who have an incredible curiosity for STEM and the potential to make important contributions in these fields. But too often, students are left behind and are unable to fulfill their vast potential simply because of where they live.

Students in rural areas have long faced obstacles to receiving a high-quality STEM education. Lack of broadband access, for example, has long been a barrier.

Schools in rural communities often struggle to access the equipment and facilities needed to provide students with hands-on STEM experiences. Research shows that hands-on experiences help inspire scientific curiosity and a love of STEM in students.

Teachers are trying their best, but they have limited resources and support. To make matters worse, the COVID–19 pandemic and the transition to remote learning have further exacerbated these inequalities.

Students and teachers in rural communities have worked hard to adapt, but they need help. We have an opportunity not just to recover from what was lost during the pandemic but to ensure a better STEM education future for rural students.

The Rural STEM Education Act provides for research and development to increase access to STEM education opportunities in rural schools and to provide teachers with the resources they need to teach more effectively.

The bill also directs NIST to develop a prize competition to advance research and development in support of expanded broadband access.

This bill further provides for assessments of Federal investments in rural STEM education to be conducted by the National Academies and the Government Accountability Office.

This bill is an important step toward improving STEM education in rural communities across America and will help build a 21st century STEM workforce that will help the U.S. remain a global leader in science and technology.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support H.R. 210, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 210, the Rural STEM Education Research Act, a bill that passed this House with resounding bipartisan support in the 116th Congress, and I hope it will do so again today.

I am pleased to be leading this important bill, and I thank Chairwoman JOHNSON for her support.

Now more than ever, America's prosperity and security depend on an effective and inclusive science, technology, engineering, math, and computer science workforce, or STEM.

Nationally, 80 percent of the fastest-growing occupations depend upon mastery of STEM skills, and the number of STEM jobs is growing three times faster than non-STEM jobs. Over the next decade, the STEM shortage is anticipated to reach 1 million positions, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

To succeed in this job market, our students need to be equipped with solid skills in science and engineering. Meeting this demand starts in the classroom.

Over 9 million students in the United States, nearly 20 percent of the total K–12 population, attend rural schools. In Oklahoma, that number is even higher; one-third of our students attend rural schools.

These students face a number of barriers to accessing high-quality STEM learning, including a shortage of trained science and math teachers, a lack of access to advanced STEM courses, and few local university and industry partners.

Since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, we have seen further proof that rural students are at a disadvantage, given the unreliability or nonexistent broadband access many struggle with while distance learning.

The Rural STEM Education Research Act supports research and development activities to improve our understanding of the challenges rural communities are facing, and it takes steps to address those challenges in providing and sustaining quality STEM education programs.

H.R. 210 helps develop better practices for accessing and using computer-based and online STEM education courses. It will help schools combine online STEM education with hands-on training and apprenticeships to give students both theoretical and practical understanding of math and science skills.

The bill will also take steps to address one of the key obstacles to rural STEM education, a lack of broadband access. Of the 21 million Americans who lack access to broadband, the majority live in rural areas. With the increase in online learning, we need to prioritize connectivity for all students.

This bill directs the National Institute of Standards and Technology to establish a prize competition to stimulate innovations in technologies to deploy broadband connectivity to underserved rural communities.

It also establishes a working group to set key research priorities for improving broadband access so rural communities can enjoy the same connectedness as the rest of the country.

This bill includes a number of provisions to help provide rural educators with the tools they need to be successful, both in the classroom and online. It supports opportunities for rural educators to enhance their own STEM education, such as training in computer science or research opportunities at Federal labs and universities. These experiences will provide rural educators with high-quality STEM skills they can take back to the classrooms and pass on to their students.

Lastly, the major focus of this bill is broadening the participation of rural students in STEM. One way we can do this is by emphasizing place-based learning, which gives students direct access to the STEM knowledge present in their communities and local environment.

Place-based learning connects students to the science that is right outside their doors, whether it is studying animal science with FFA, learning about local ecosystems out on the prairies and in forests, or developing the technological skills required to operate increasingly complex and computerized farm equipment. That direct experience engages students and helps them understand that STEM skills matter to everyone, not just scientists in a white lab coat.

Taken together, the measures in this bill will make great strides to improve rural STEM education. I believe rural areas represent one of the greatest, yet most underutilized, opportunities for talented students to enhance the United States' future STEM workforce.

I am pleased that this bill has been endorsed by a number of stakeholder groups: STEM Education Coalition, Afterschool Alliance, Battelle and STEM-X, National Science Teaching Association, American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, American Chemical Society, American Geophysical Union, Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, Association of American Universities, Microsoft, Girl Scouts of the USA, National FFA Organization, and Association of Public and Land-grant Universities.

I again thank Chairwoman JOHNSON and her staff for working with me on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage my colleagues to vote ''yes'' to better STEM education for America's rural students, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee and the Committee on Education and Labor, I want to thank Mr. LUCAS for mentioning not only broadband but also place-based learning. I represent several rural school districts, and I appreciate this legislation.

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

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MEIJER).

Mr. MEIJER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 210, the Rural STEM Education Research Act.

More than 9 million students in the U.S., nearly 20 percent of the K–12 population, attend rural schools. For reasons ranging from teacher quality to shortages of resources, these students often have fewer opportunities for high-quality STEM learning than their peers in urban and suburban schools.

Rural areas, including those in the Third District of Michigan, represent one of the greatest, yet underutilized, chances for STEM education to impact the workforce. It is especially important that we correct this in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic when we are facing serious research and development labor market shortages.

H.R. 210 would increase STEM education opportunities for rural communities, ensuring the option to learn is not dependent on your ZIP Code. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

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

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. FEENSTRA).

Mr. FEENSTRA. Mr. Speaker, in this era of scientific and technological innovation, it has never been more important to ensure our students have access to quality STEM education programs, especially in rural communities.

Implementing high-speed, reliable broadband goes hand in hand with this goal.

This is why I urge my colleagues to support the Rural STEM Education Research Act. Both STEM education and quality broadband access are critical to the future success and revitalization of rural America.

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I am hopeful that this legislation will break down barriers rural Iowans face in receiving STEM education that is both forward-thinking and long-lasting for our rural communities. This bill will also help us identify the technological and logistical challenges we still must overcome to provide broadband to every last acre of land.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma, Ranking Member LUCAS, for this outstanding bill and important piece of legislation.

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I, once again, thank Chairwoman JOHNSON for her support of this legislation. Whether you live in Dallas, Texas, or Cheyenne, Oklahoma, every student should have the opportunity to gain STEM skills and to compete for the jobs of the future.

The Rural STEM Education Research Act gives teachers better tools to teach science and math, leverages local resources to engage students in key subjects, and addresses the lack of broadband access in rural communities. This important legislation passed the House with strong bipartisan support last Congress. I hope it will do so again today.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill today, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I once again thank Ranking Member LUCAS for his work on this legislation. I thank Chairwoman JOHNSON for supporting it, and I urge its adoption.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 210, 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. ROSENDALE. 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.

SUPPORTING EARLY-CAREER RESEARCHERS ACT

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 144) to forestall the loss of research talent by establishing a temporary early career research fellowship program, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 144

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 ''Supporting Early-Career Researchers Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Nation's universities and industrial research labs are facing unprecedented budget pressure as part of the COVID–19 health crisis, resulting in considerably fewer openings for research and teaching positions.

(2) Emergency funding is needed to forestall the loss of research talent likely to occur if early-career researchers are forced to seek employment outside of research due to the sharp economic decline caused by the COVID–19 health crisis.

(3) The future of America's defense will rely on advanced technologies to maintain its military superiority over its rivals, including China. These technologies will require new levels of scientific and engineering aptitude and understanding. Early career researchers will play a critical role in the development of these technologies, and the loss of an entire generation of researchers due to the COVID–19 pandemic will be detrimental to the United States national security.

SEC. 3. EARLY-CAREER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National Science Foundation may establish a 2-year pilot program to award grants to highly qualified early-career investigators to carry out an independent research program at the qualified institution of higher education chosen by such investigator, to last for a period not greater than 2 years.

(b) SELECTION PROCESS.—The Director of the National Science Foundation shall select grantees under subsection (a) from among citizens, nationals, and lawfully admitted permanent resident aliens of the United States.

(c) OUTREACH.—The Director shall conduct program outreach to recruit fellowship applicants—

(1) from all regions of the country;

(2) from historically underrepresented populations in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; and

(3) who graduate from or intend to carry out research at a variety of types of institutions of higher education, including—

(A) Historically Black Colleges and Universities;

(B) Hispanic-Serving Institutions;

(C) Tribal Colleges and Universities; and

(D) institutions of higher education that are not among the top 50 institutions in annual Federal funding for research.

(d) SPECIAL CONSIDERATION.—The Director shall give special consideration to an application from an individual who graduated from or is intending to carry out research at an institution of the type listed in subsection (c)(3).

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the conclusion of the second year of the pilot program, the Director shall submit a report to Congress that includes—

(1) statistical summary data on fellowship awardees disaggregated by race, ethnicity, gender, age, years since completion of doctoral degree, and institution type;

(2) an assessment, drawing on feedback from the research community and other sources of information, of the effectiveness of the pilot program for mitigating the loss of research talent due to the pandemic; and

(3) if determined effective, a plan for permanent implementation of the pilot program.

(f) QUALIFIED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION DEFINED.—The term ''qualified institution of higher education'' has the meaning given the term in section 102 of the Higher Education of Act of 1965, except that such term does not include an institution described in subsection (a)(1)(C) of such section.

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Director of the National Science Foundation $250,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2022 to carry out the activities in this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oregon.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. 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 H.R. 144, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 144, the Supporting Early-Career Researchers Act. I commend Committee on Science, Space, and Technology Chairwoman JOHNSON and Ranking Member LUCAS for introducing this bill, which I am pleased to cosponsor.

The COVID–19 pandemic has affected all aspects of our lives, and the U.S. research enterprise has not been spared. As research labs and universities around the country took action to mitigate the spread of the virus in their labs and on their campuses, research productivity decreased dramatically. We still do not know the full financial consequences incurred by these institutions or their full costs in terms of lost science.

Compounding these declines in research productivity, women researchers and researchers from groups historically underrepresented in STEM have been particularly disadvantaged during the crisis because of childcare and other factors.

Facing unprecedented financial difficulties, many research universities instituted hiring freezes, and faculty job openings declined by nearly 70 percent. This limited job market has a greater effect on early-career researchers who may have their career derailed before it truly begins. Already, some early-career researchers are having to choose between applying their training and talent to an academic career and supporting their families.

Early-career researchers play a vital role in the U.S. research ecosystem. They are not only highly productive researchers, they also play a significant role in training the next generation of undergraduate and graduate STEM students. Their departure from research careers, if we do not stop it, will have a profound and long-lasting consequence on U.S. innovation and competitiveness in the 21st century.

Mr. Speaker, as increasing numbers of Americans receive COVID–19 vaccines and the research enterprise continues its recovery, we must make the retention of early-career researchers a priority. The Supporting Early-Career Researchers Act directs the National Science Foundation to establish a new $250 million post-doctoral fellowship program to support early-career researchers.

This program will help prevent a significant loss of STEM talent. More than 40 organizations have endorsed this legislation. I, again, thank Chairwoman JOHNSON and Ranking Member LUCAS for their continued deliberation on this important issue, and I look forward to working with my colleagues on getting this bill signed into law.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support H.R. 144, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 144, the Supporting Early-Career Researchers Act, the first bipartisan bill Chairwoman JOHNSON and I introduced in the 117th Congress.

Over the past year, COVID–19 has caused substantial disruptions across this country, including in the U.S. research enterprise. Most research and development work stopped or was dramatically limited to provide for safe social distancing, and it is estimated we lost between 20 and as much as 40 percent of our research output.

In addition to this loss of research, we are facing the loss of our researchers. Graduate students and post-docs are particularly vulnerable to research disruptions. With their research on pause, these young scientists are finding it difficult to complete their degree requirements. Those who have finished their degrees are having trouble finding work.

Much of academia has implemented hiring freezes, and it is estimated that faculty openings in the sciences have decreased by more than 70 percent compared to 2019. At the same time, the pace of innovation is accelerating globally, and with it, the competition for scientific and technical talent.

The Chinese Communist Party has repeatedly stated it is determined to overtake the U.S. in critical technologies like AI, quantum computing, and advanced manufacturing. These technologies will require new levels of scientific skills and understanding, and this new generation of scientists will play a critical role in how they are developed.

Now more than ever, the innovation capacity of the U.S. and our prosperity and security depend on an effective and an innovative STEM workforce to compete with our adversaries.

If we do not provide the resources to support these young researchers, we will be limiting our ability to support new and innovative discoveries for years to come. Unfortunately, of the nearly $6 trillion in COVID research spending that Congress has passed, only $600 million was allocated to helping the research industry recover.

That is only 1 percent for a sector of our economy that drives as much as 85 percent of the long-term growth. We have relied on American science and scientists to combat COVID and we are not giving them the funding they need to resume the work that has been stopped by the pandemic and keep our future innovators in the system. Our STEM pipeline and future competitors could be irreparably damaged if we don't act quickly.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I am so proud to cosponsor this legislation. It will establish a pilot program at the National Science Foundation to provide 2-year fellowships to young researchers whose career paths have been disrupted by the pandemic. The bill will support 3,200 fellowships over 4 years. These fellowships will allow talented young scientists and engineers to carry out independent research at an institution of higher education of their choosing.

This bill provides targeted and temporary relief to support early-career scientists, keeping them in the STEM pipeline while the research enterprise recovers. By supporting these young researchers, we are investing in America's research and technology leadership.

This legislation has been endorsed by over 30 organizations, and has nearly as many cosponsors. It was favorably reported out of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology on a bipartisan basis, and I strongly urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I, again, thank Chairwoman JOHNSON and her staff for working with me on this important legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MEIJER).

Mr. MEIJER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for the bill on the floor this evening that will make substantial improvements in American research and development during a time when it is so badly needed. The COVID–19 pandemic has created unprecedented disruptions to our research enterprise and Congress must respond before our research community is irreparably harmed.

H.R. 144, the Supporting Early-Career Researchers Act, will address this crisis by providing funding to enable researchers to stay on their chosen research career track. This will help prevent further loss of critical talent from the U.S. STEM workforce and strengthen our Nation as we compete with China to invest in the future.

Within my district in West Michigan and across the State are some of the top-tier universities and research institutions our world has to offer. This bill will play a vital role in helping to restart any research they had to delay or postpone during the pandemic.

The pandemic has created these challenges, and our research and development fields have felt them. We must make a serious effort to increase productivity across STEM disciplines in order to remain globally competitive.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support H.R. 144, and I encourage my colleagues to vote with me in support of this bill.

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

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, America's scientific progress depends on a large pool of talented STEM professionals. Our early-career researchers are a critical link in the chain of developing the next generation of scientists.

Unfortunately, in the STEM community, these young scientists have been disproportionately affected by COVID-related lab closures, reduced funding, and hiring freezes. We risk losing these valuable scientists if we do nothing.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join Chairwoman JOHNSON in championing the Supporting Early-Career Researchers Act to support this up-and-coming generation of scientists and preserve America's research and technological leadership.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I thank Chairwoman JOHNSON and her staff for working in a bipartisan and collaborative way on this legislation. I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support the bipartisan Supporting Early-Career Researchers Act.

I thank Mr. LUCAS and Chair JOHNSON, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 144, 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. ROSENDALE. 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.

STEM OPPORTUNITIES ACT

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 204) to direct the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy to carry out programs and activities to ensure that Federal science agencies and institutions of higher education receiving Federal research and development funding are fully engaging their entire talent pool, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 204

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS; FINDINGS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''STEM Opportunities Act''.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents; findings.
Sec. 2. Purposes.
Sec. 3. Federal science agency policies for caregivers.
Sec. 4. Collection and reporting of data on Federal research grants.
Sec. 5. Policies for review of Federal research grants.
Sec. 6. Collection of data on demographics of faculty.
Sec. 7. Cultural and institutional barriers to expanding the academic and Federal STEM workforce.
Sec. 8. Research and dissemination at the National Science Foundation.
Sec. 9. Research and related activities to expand STEM opportunities.
Sec. 10. Tribal Colleges and Universities Program.
Sec. 11. Report to Congress.
Sec. 12. Merit review.
Sec. 13. Determination of budgetary effects.
Sec. 14. Definitions.

(c) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

(1) Many reports over the past decade have found that it is critical to our Nation's economic leadership and global competitiveness that the United States educates and trains more scientists and engineers.

(2) Research shows that women and minorities who are interested in STEM careers are disproportionately lost at nearly every educational transition and at every career milestone.

(3) The National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics at the National Science Foundation collects, compiles, analyzes, and publishes data on the demographics of STEM degrees and STEM jobs in the United States.

(4) Women now earn nearly 37 percent of all STEM bachelor's degrees, but major variations persist among fields. In 2017, women earned only 20 percent of all bachelor's degrees awarded in engineering and 19 percent of bachelor's degrees awarded in computer sciences. Based on Bureau of Labor Statistics data, jobs in computing occupations are expected to account for nearly 60 percent of the projected annual growth of newly created STEM job openings from 2016 to 2026.

(5) In 2017, underrepresented minority groups comprised 39 percent of the college-age population of the United States, but only 18 percent of students who earned bachelor's degrees in STEM fields. The Higher Education Research Institute at the University of California, Los Angeles, found that, while freshmen from underrepresented minority groups express an interest in pursuing a STEM undergraduate degree at the same rate as all other freshmen, only 22.1 percent of Latino students, 18.4 percent of African-American students, and 18.8 percent of Native American students studying in STEM fields complete their degree within 5 years, compared to approximately 33 percent of White students and 42 percent of Asian students who complete their degree within 5 years.

(6) In some STEM fields, including the computer sciences, women persist at about the same rate through doctorate degrees. In other STEM fields, women persist through doctorate degrees at a lower rate. In mathematics, women earn just 26 percent of doctorate degrees compared with 42 percent of undergraduate degrees. Overall, women earned 38 percent of STEM doctorate degrees in 2016. The rate of minority students earning STEM doctorate degrees in physics is 9 percent, compared with 15 percent for bachelor's degree. Students from underrepresented minority groups accounted for only 11.5 percent of STEM doctorate degrees awarded in 2016.

(7) The representation of women in STEM drops significantly from the doctorate degree level to the faculty level. Overall, women hold only 26 percent of all tenured and tenure-track positions and 27 percent of full professor positions in STEM fields in our Nation's universities and 4-year colleges. Black and Hispanic faculty together hold about 6.8 percent of all tenured and tenure-track positions and 7.5 percent of full professor positions. Many of the numbers in the American Indian or Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander categories for different faculty ranks were too small for the National Science Foundation to report publicly without potentially compromising confidential information about the individuals being surveyed.

(8) The representation of women is especially low at our Nation's top research universities. Even in the biological sciences, in which women now earn more than 50 percent of the doctorates and passed the 25 percent level 37 years ago, women make up only 25 percent of the full professors at the approximately 100 most research-intensive universities in the United States. In the physical sciences and mathematics, women make up only 11 percent of full professors, in computer sciences only 10 percent, and across engineering fields only 7 percent. The data suggest that approximately 6 percent of all tenure-track STEM faculty members at the most research-intensive universities are from underrepresented minority groups, but in some fields the numbers are too small to report publicly.

(9) By 2050, underrepresented minorities will comprise 52 percent of the college-age population of the United States. If the percentage of female students and students from underrepresented minority groups earning bachelor's degrees in STEM fields does not significantly increase, the United States will face an acute shortfall in the overall number of students who earn degrees in STEM fields just as United States companies are increasingly seeking students with those skills. With this impending shortfall, the United States will almost certainly lose its competitive edge in the 21st century global economy.

(10) According to a 2014 Association for Women in Science survey of over 4,000 scientists across the globe, 70 percent of whom were men, STEM researchers face significant challenges in work-life integration. Researchers in the United States were among the most likely to experience a conflict between work and their personal life at least weekly. One-third of researchers surveyed said that ensuring good work-life integration has negatively impacted their careers, and, of researchers intending to leave their current job within the next year, 9 percent indicated it was because they were unable to balance work and life demands.

(11) Female students and students from underrepresented minority groups at institutions of higher education who see few others ''like themselves'' among faculty and student populations often do not experience the social integration that is necessary for success in all disciplines, including STEM.

(12) One in five children in the United States attend school in a rural community. The data shows that rural students are at a disadvantage with respect to STEM readiness. Among STEM-interested students, 17 percent of students in rural high schools and 18 percent of students in town-located high schools meet the ACT STEM Benchmark, compared with 33 percent of students in suburban high schools and 27 percent of students in urban high schools.

(13) A substantial body of evidence establishes that most people hold implicit biases. Decades of cognitive psychology research reveal that most people carry prejudices of which they are unaware but that nonetheless play a large role in evaluations of people and their work. Unintentional biases and outmoded institutional structures are hindering the access and advancement of women, minorities, and other groups historically underrepresented in STEM.

(14) Workshops held to educate faculty about unintentional biases have demonstrated success in raising awareness of such biases.

(15) In 2012, the Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (in this Act referred to as ''NASA'') completed a report that—

(A) is specifically designed to help NASA grant recipients identify why the dearth of women in STEM fields continues and to ensure that it is not due to discrimination; and

(B) provides guidance that is usable by all institutions of higher education receiving significant Federal research funding on how to conduct meaningful self-evaluations of campus culture and policies.

(16) The Federal Government provides 55 percent of research funding at institutions of higher education and, through its grant-making policies, has had significant influence on institution of higher education policies, including policies related to institutional culture and structure.

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are as follows:

(1) To ensure that Federal science agencies and institutions of higher education receiving Federal research and development funding are fully engaging the entire talent pool of the United States.

(2) To promote research on, and increase understanding of, the participation and trajectories of women, minorities, and other groups historically underrepresented in STEM studies and careers, including persons with disabilities, older learners, veterans, and rural, poor, and tribal populations, at institutions of higher education and Federal science agencies, including Federal laboratories.

(3) To raise awareness within Federal science agencies, including Federal laboratories, and institutions of higher education about cultural and institutional barriers limiting the recruitment, retention, promotion, and other indicators of participation and achievement of women, minorities, and other groups historically underrepresented in academic and Government STEM research careers at all levels.

(4) To identify, disseminate, and implement best practices at Federal science agencies, including Federal laboratories, and at institutions of higher education to remove or reduce cultural and institutional barriers limiting the recruitment, retention, and success of women, minorities, and other groups historically underrepresented in academic and Government STEM research careers.

(5) To provide grants to institutions of higher education to recruit, retain, and advance STEM faculty members from underrepresented minority groups and to implement or expand reforms in undergraduate STEM education in order to increase the number of students from underrepresented minority groups receiving degrees in these fields.

SEC. 3. FEDERAL SCIENCE AGENCY POLICIES FOR CAREGIVERS.

(a) OSTP GUIDANCE.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director, in consultation with relevant agencies, shall provide guidance to each Federal science agency to establish policies that—

(1) apply to all—

(A) research awards granted by such agency; and

(B) principal investigators of such research and their trainees, including postdoctoral researchers and graduate students, who have caregiving responsibilities, including care for a newborn or newly adopted child and care for an immediate family member who is sick or disabled; and

(2) provide—

(A) flexibility in timing for the initiation of approved research awards granted by such agency;

(B) no-cost extensions of such research awards;

(C) grant supplements, as appropriate, to research awards for research technicians or equivalent positions to sustain research activities conducted under such awards; and

(D) any other appropriate accommodations at the discretion of the director of each such agency.

(b) UNIFORMITY OF GUIDANCE.—In providing guidance under subsection (a), the Director shall encourage uniformity and consistency in the policies established pursuant to such guidance across all Federal science agencies.

(c) ESTABLISHMENT OF POLICIES.—Consistent with the guidance under subsection (a), Federal science agencies shall—

(1) maintain or develop and implement policies for individuals described in paragraph (1)(B) of such subsection; and

(2) broadly disseminate such policies to current and potential grantees.

(d) DATA ON USAGE.—Federal science agencies shall—

(1) collect data on the usage of the policies under subsection (c), by gender, at both institutions of higher education and Federal laboratories; and

(2) report such data on an annual basis to the Director in such form as required by the Director.

SEC. 4. COLLECTION AND REPORTING OF DATA ON FEDERAL RESEARCH GRANTS.

(a) COLLECTION OF DATA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each Federal science agency shall collect, as practicable, with respect to all applications for merit-reviewed research and development grants to institutions of higher education and Federal laboratories supported by that agency, the standardized record-level annual information on demographics, primary field, award type, institution type, review rating, budget request, funding outcome, and awarded budget.

(2) UNIFORMITY AND STANDARDIZATION.—The Director, in consultation with the Director of the National Science Foundation, shall establish a policy to ensure uniformity and standardization of the data collection required under paragraph (1).

(3) RECORD-LEVEL DATA.—

(A) REQUIREMENT.—Beginning not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, and on an annual basis thereafter, each Federal science agency shall submit to the Director of the National Science Foundation record-level data collected under paragraph (1) in the form required by such Director.

(B) PREVIOUS DATA.—As part of the first submission under subparagraph (A), each Federal science agency, to the extent practicable, shall also submit comparable record-level data for the 5 years preceding the date of such submission.

(b) REPORTING OF DATA.—The Director of the National Science Foundation shall publish statistical summary data, as practicable, collected under this section, disaggregated and cross-tabulated by race, ethnicity, gender, and years since completion of doctoral degree, including in conjunction with the National Science Foundation's report required by section 37 of the Science and Technology Equal Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885d; Public Law 96–516).

SEC. 5. POLICIES FOR REVIEW OF FEDERAL RESEARCH GRANTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Each Federal science agency shall implement the policy recommendations with respect to reducing the impact of implicit bias at Federal science agencies and grantee institutions as developed by the Office of Science and Technology Policy in the 2016 report entitled ''Reducing the Impact of Bias in the STEM Workforce'' and any subsequent updates.

(b) PILOT ACTIVITY.—In consultation with the National Science Foundation and consistent with policy recommendations referenced in subsection (a), each Federal science agency shall implement a 2-year pilot orientation activity for program officers and members of standing review committees to educate reviewers on research related to, and minimize the effects of, implicit bias in the review of extramural and intramural Federal research grants.

(c) ESTABLISHMENT OF POLICIES.—Drawing upon lessons learned from the pilot activity under subsection (b), each Federal science agency shall maintain or develop and implement evidence-based policies and practices to minimize the effects of implicit bias in the review of extramural and intramural Federal research grants.

(d) ASSESSMENT OF POLICIES.—Federal science agencies shall regularly assess, and amend as necessary, the policies and practices implemented pursuant to subsection (c) to ensure effective measures are in place to minimize the effects of implicit bias in the review of extramural and intramural Federal research grants.

SEC. 6. COLLECTION OF DATA ON DEMOGRAPHICS OF FACULTY.

(a) COLLECTION OF DATA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and at least every 5 years thereafter, the Director of the National Science Foundation shall carry out a survey to collect data from grantees on the demographics of STEM faculty, by broad fields of STEM, at different types of institutions of higher education.

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—To the extent practicable, the Director of the National Science Foundation shall consider, by gender, race, ethnicity, citizenship status, and years since completion of doctoral degree—

(A) the number and percentage of faculty;

(B) the number and percentage of faculty at each rank;

(C) the number and percentage of faculty who are in nontenure-track positions, including teaching and research;

(D) the number and percentage of faculty who are reviewed for promotion, including tenure, and the percentage of that number who are promoted, including being awarded tenure;

(E) faculty years in rank;

(F) the number and percentage of faculty to leave tenure-track positions;

(G) the number and percentage of faculty hired, by rank; and

(H) the number and percentage of faculty in leadership positions.

(b) EXISTING SURVEYS.—The Director of the National Science Foundation, may, in modifying or expanding existing Federal surveys of higher education (as necessary)—

(1) take into account the considerations under subsection (a)(2) by collaborating with statistical centers at other Federal agencies; or

(2) award a grant or contract to an institution of higher education or other nonprofit organization to take such considerations into account.

(c) REPORTING DATA.—The Director of the National Science Foundation shall publish statistical summary data collected under this section, including as part of the National Science Foundation's report required by section 37 of the Science and Technology Equal Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885d; Public Law 96–516).

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Director of the National Science Foundation $3,000,000 in each of fiscal years 2022 through 2024 to develop and carry out the initial survey required under subsection (a).

SEC. 7. CULTURAL AND INSTITUTIONAL BARRIERS TO EXPANDING THE ACADEMIC AND FEDERAL STEM WORKFORCE.

(a) BEST PRACTICES AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND FEDERAL LABORATORIES.—

(1) DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDANCE.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director, in consultation with the interagency working group on inclusion in STEM, shall develop written guidance for institutions of higher education and Federal laboratories on the best practices for—

(A) conducting periodic climate surveys of STEM departments and divisions, with a particular focus on identifying any cultural or institutional barriers to the recruitment, retention, or advancement of women, racial and ethnic minorities, and other groups historically underrepresented in STEM studies and careers; and

(B) providing educational opportunities, including workshops as described in subsection (b), for STEM faculty, research personnel, and administrators to learn about current research on implicit bias in recruitment, evaluation, and promotion of undergraduate and graduate students and research personnel.

(2) EXISTING GUIDANCE.—In developing the guidance under paragraph (1), the Director shall utilize guidance already developed by Federal science agencies.

(3) DISSEMINATION OF GUIDANCE.—Federal science agencies shall broadly disseminate the guidance developed under paragraph (1) to institutions of higher education that receive Federal research funding and Federal laboratories.

(4) ESTABLISHMENT OF POLICIES.—Consistent with the guidance developed under paragraph (1)—

(A) the Director of the National Science Foundation shall develop a policy that—

(i) applies to, at a minimum, doctoral degree granting institutions that receive Federal research funding; and

(ii) requires each such institution, not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, to report to the Director of the National Science Foundation on activities and policies developed and implemented based on the guidance developed under paragraph (1); and

(B) each Federal science agency with a Federal laboratory shall maintain or develop and implement practices and policies for the purposes described in paragraph (1) for such laboratory.

(b) WORKSHOPS TO ADDRESS CULTURAL BARRIERS TO EXPANDING THE ACADEMIC AND FEDERAL STEM WORKFORCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director, in consultation with the interagency working group on inclusion in STEM, shall recommend a uniform policy for Federal science agencies to carry out a program of workshops that educate STEM department chairs at institutions of higher education, senior managers at Federal laboratories, and other federally funded researchers about methods that minimize the effects of implicit bias in the career advancement, including hiring, tenure, promotion, and selection for any honor based in part on the recipient's research record, of academic and Federal STEM researchers.

(2) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—The Director shall, to the extent practicable, ensure that workshops supported under this subsection are coordinated across Federal science agencies and jointly supported as appropriate.

(3) MINIMIZING COSTS.—To the extent practicable, workshops shall be held in conjunction with national or regional STEM disciplinary meetings to minimize costs associated with participant travel.

(4) PRIORITY FIELDS FOR ACADEMIC PARTICIPANTS.—In considering the participation of STEM department chairs and other academic researchers, the Director shall prioritize workshops for the broad fields of STEM in which the national rate of representation of women among tenured or tenure-track faculty or nonfaculty researchers at doctorate-granting institutions of higher education is less than 25 percent, according to the most recent data available from the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics.

(5) ORGANIZATIONS ELIGIBLE TO CARRY OUT WORKSHOPS.—A Federal science agency may carry out the program of workshops under this subsection by making grants to organizations made eligible by the Federal science agency and any of the following organizations:

(A) Nonprofit scientific and professional societies and organizations that represent one or more STEM disciplines.

(B) Nonprofit organizations that have the primary mission of advancing the participation of women, minorities, or other groups historically underrepresented in STEM.

(6) CHARACTERISTICS OF WORKSHOPS.—The workshops shall have the following characteristics:

(A) Invitees to workshops shall include at least—

(i) the chairs of departments in the relevant STEM discipline or disciplines from doctoral degree granting institutions that receive Federal research funding; and

(ii) in the case of Federal laboratories, individuals with personnel management responsibilities comparable to those of an institution of higher education department chair.

(B) Activities at the workshops shall include research presentations and interactive discussions or other activities that increase the awareness of the existence of implicit bias in recruitment, hiring, tenure review, promotion, and other forms of formal recognition of individual achievement for faculty and other federally funded STEM researchers and shall provide strategies to overcome such bias.

(C) Research presentations and other workshop programs, as appropriate, shall include a discussion of the unique challenges faced by different underrepresented groups, including minority women, minority men, persons from rural and underserved areas, persons with disabilities, gender and sexual minority

individuals, and first generation graduates in research.

(D) Workshop programs shall include information on best practices for mentoring undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral women, minorities, and other students from groups historically underrepresented in STEM.

(7) DATA ON WORKSHOPS.—Any proposal for funding by an organization seeking to carry out a workshop under this subsection shall include a description of how such organization will—

(A) collect data on the rates of attendance by invitees in workshops, including information on the home institution and department of attendees, and the rank of faculty attendees;

(B) conduct attitudinal surveys on workshop attendees before and after the workshops; and

(C) collect follow-up data on any relevant institutional policy or practice changes reported by attendees not later than 1 year after attendance in such a workshop.

(8) REPORT TO NSF.—Organizations receiving funding to carry out workshops under this subsection shall report the data required in paragraph (7) to the Director of the National Science Foundation in such form as required by such Director.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Science Foundation shall submit a report to Congress that includes—

(1) a summary and analysis of the types and frequency of activities and policies developed and carried out under subsection (a) based on the reports submitted under paragraph (4) of such subsection; and

(2) a description and evaluation of the status and effectiveness of the program of workshops required under subsection (b), including a summary of any data reported under paragraph (8) of such subsection.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Director of the National Science Foundation $1,000,000 in each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026 to carry out this section.

SEC. 8. RESEARCH AND DISSEMINATION AT THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National Science Foundation shall award research grants and carry out dissemination activities consistent with the purposes of this Act, including—

(1) research grants to analyze the record-level data collected under section 4 and section 6, consistent with policies to ensure the privacy of individuals identifiable by such data;

(2) research grants to study best practices for work-life accommodation;

(3) research grants to study the impact of policies and practices that are implemented under this Act or that are otherwise consistent with the purposes of this Act;

(4) collaboration with other Federal science agencies and professional associations to exchange best practices, harmonize work-life accommodation policies and practices, and overcome common barriers to work-life accommodation; and

(5) collaboration with institutions of higher education in order to clarify and catalyze the adoption of a coherent and consistent set of work-life accommodation policies and practices.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Director of the National Science Foundation $5,000,000 in each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026 to carry out this section.

SEC. 9. RESEARCH AND RELATED ACTIVITIES TO EXPAND STEM OPPORTUNITIES.

(a) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION SUPPORT FOR INCREASING DIVERSITY AMONG STEM FACULTY AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—Section 305 of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (42 U.S.C. 1862s–5) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as subsections (g) and (h), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

''(e) SUPPORT FOR INCREASING DIVERSITY AMONG STEM FACULTY AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Foundation shall award grants to institutions of higher education (or consortia thereof) for the development and assessment of innovative reform efforts designed to increase the recruitment, retention, and advancement of individuals from underrepresented minority groups in academic STEM careers.

''(2) MERIT REVIEW; COMPETITION.—Grants shall be awarded under this subsection on a merit-reviewed, competitive basis.

''(3) USE OF FUNDS.—Activities supported by grants under this subsection may include—

''(A) institutional assessment activities, such as data analyses and policy review, in order to identify and address specific issues in the recruitment, retention, and advancement of faculty members from underrepresented minority groups;

''(B) implementation of institution-wide improvements in workload distribution, such that faculty members from underrepresented minority groups are not disadvantaged in the amount of time available to focus on research, publishing papers, and engaging in other activities required to achieve tenure status and run a productive research program;

''(C) development and implementation of training courses for administrators and search committee members to ensure that candidates from underrepresented minority groups are not subject to implicit biases in the search and hiring process;

''(D) development and hosting of intra- or inter-institutional workshops to propagate best practices in recruiting, retaining, and advancing faculty members from underrepresented minority groups;

''(E) professional development opportunities for faculty members from underrepresented minority groups;

''(F) activities aimed at making undergraduate STEM students from underrepresented minority groups aware of opportunities for academic careers in STEM fields;

''(G) activities to identify and engage exceptional graduate students and postdoctoral researchers from underrepresented minority groups at various stages of their studies and to encourage them to enter academic careers; and

''(H) other activities consistent with paragraph (1), as determined by the Director of the Foundation.

''(4) SELECTION PROCESS.—

''(A) APPLICATION.—An institution of higher education (or a consortium of such institutions) seeking funding under this subsection shall submit an application to the Director of the Foundation at such time, in such manner, and containing such information and assurances as such Director may require. The application shall include, at a minimum, a description of—

''(i) the reform effort that is being proposed for implementation by the institution of higher education;

''(ii) any available evidence of specific difficulties in the recruitment, retention, and advancement of faculty members from underrepresented minority groups in STEM academic careers within the institution of higher education submitting an application, and how the proposed reform effort would address such issues;

''(iii) how the institution of higher education submitting an application plans to sustain the proposed reform effort beyond the duration of the grant; and

''(iv) how the success and effectiveness of the proposed reform effort will be evaluated and assessed in order to contribute to the national knowledge base about models for catalyzing institutional change.

''(B) REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS.—In selecting grant recipients under this subsection, the Director of the Foundation shall consider, at a minimum—

''(i) the likelihood of success in undertaking the proposed reform effort at the institution of higher education submitting the application, including the extent to which the administrators of the institution are committed to making the proposed reform effort a priority;

''(ii) the degree to which the proposed reform effort will contribute to change in institutional culture and policy such that greater value is placed on the recruitment, retention, and advancement of faculty members from underrepresented minority groups;

''(iii) the likelihood that the institution of higher education will sustain or expand the proposed reform effort beyond the period of the grant; and

''(iv) the degree to which evaluation and assessment plans are included in the design of the proposed reform effort.

''(C) GRANT DISTRIBUTION.—The Director of the Foundation shall ensure, to the extent practicable, that grants awarded under this section are made to a variety of types of institutions of higher education.

''(5) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection $8,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.''.

(b) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION SUPPORT FOR BROADENING PARTICIPATION IN UNDERGRADUATE STEM EDUCATION.—Section 305 of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (42 U.S.C. 1862s–5), as amended by subsection (b), is further amended by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

''(f) SUPPORT FOR BROADENING PARTICIPATION IN UNDERGRADUATE STEM EDUCATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Foundation shall award grants to institutions of higher education (or a consortium of such institutions) to implement or expand research-based reforms in undergraduate STEM education for the purpose of recruiting and retaining students from minority groups who are underrepresented in STEM fields.

''(2) MERIT REVIEW; COMPETITION.—Grants shall be awarded under this subsection on a merit-reviewed, competitive basis.

''(3) USE OF FUNDS.—Activities supported by grants under this subsection may include—

''(A) implementation or expansion of innovative, research-based approaches to broaden participation of underrepresented minority groups in STEM fields;

''(B) implementation or expansion of bridge, cohort, tutoring, or mentoring programs, including those involving community colleges and technical schools, designed to enhance the recruitment and retention of students from underrepresented minority groups in STEM fields;

''(C) implementation or expansion of outreach programs linking institutions of higher education and K–12 school systems in order to heighten awareness among pre-college students from underrepresented minority groups of opportunities in college-level STEM fields and STEM careers;

''(D) implementation or expansion of faculty development programs focused on improving retention of undergraduate STEM students from underrepresented minority groups;

''(E) implementation or expansion of mechanisms designed to recognize and reward faculty members who demonstrate a commitment to increasing the participation of students from underrepresented minority groups in STEM fields;

''(F) expansion of successful reforms aimed at increasing the number of STEM students from underrepresented minority groups beyond a single course or group of courses to achieve reform within an entire academic unit, or expansion of successful reform efforts beyond a single academic unit or field to other STEM academic units or fields within an institution of higher education;

''(G) expansion of opportunities for students from underrepresented minority groups to conduct STEM research in industry, at Federal labs, and at international research institutions or research sites;

''(H) provision of stipends for students from underrepresented minority groups participating in research;

''(I) development of research collaborations between research-intensive universities and primarily undergraduate minority-serving institutions;

''(J) support for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows from underrepresented minority groups to participate in instructional or assessment activities at primarily undergraduate institutions, including primarily undergraduate minority-serving institutions and 2-year institutions of higher education; and

''(K) other activities consistent with paragraph (1), as determined by the Director of the Foundation.

''(4) SELECTION PROCESS.—

''(A) APPLICATION.—An institution of higher education (or a consortia thereof) seeking a grant under this subsection shall submit an application to the Director of the Foundation at such time, in such manner, and containing such information and assurances as such Director may require. The application shall include, at a minimum—

''(i) a description of the proposed reform effort;

''(ii) a description of the research findings that will serve as the basis for the proposed reform effort or, in the case of applications that propose an expansion of a previously implemented reform, a description of the previously implemented reform effort, including data about the recruitment, retention, and academic achievement of students from underrepresented minority groups;

''(iii) evidence of an institutional commitment to, and support for, the proposed reform effort, including a long-term commitment to implement successful strategies from the current reform beyond the academic unit or units included in the grant proposal;

''(iv) a description of existing or planned institutional policies and practices regarding faculty hiring, promotion, tenure, and teaching assignment that reward faculty contributions to improving the education of students from underrepresented minority groups in STEM; and

''(v) how the success and effectiveness of the proposed reform effort will be evaluated and assessed in order to contribute to the national knowledge base about models for catalyzing institutional change.

''(B) REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS.—In selecting grant recipients under this subsection, the Director of the Foundation shall consider, at a minimum—

''(i) the likelihood of success of the proposed reform effort at the institution submitting the application, including the extent to which the faculty, staff, and administrators of the institution are committed to making the proposed institutional reform a priority of the participating academic unit or units;

''(ii) the degree to which the proposed reform effort will contribute to change in institutional culture and policy such that greater value is placed on faculty engagement in the retention of students from underrepresented minority groups;

''(iii) the likelihood that the institution will sustain or expand the proposed reform effort beyond the period of the grant; and

''(iv) the degree to which evaluation and assessment plans are included in the design of the proposed reform effort.

''(C) GRANT DISTRIBUTION.—The Director of the Foundation shall ensure, to the extent practicable, that grants awarded under this subsection are made to a variety of types of institutions of higher education, including 2-year and minority-serving institutions of higher education.

''(5) EDUCATION RESEARCH.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—All grants made under this subsection shall include an education research component that will support the design and implementation of a system for data collection and evaluation of proposed reform efforts in order to build the knowledge base on promising models for increasing recruitment and retention of students from underrepresented minority groups in STEM education at the undergraduate level across a diverse set of institutions.

''(B) DISSEMINATION.—The Director of the Foundation shall coordinate with relevant Federal agencies in disseminating the results of the research under this paragraph to ensure that best practices in broadening participation in STEM education at the undergraduate level are made readily available to all institutions of higher education, other Federal agencies that support STEM programs, non-Federal funders of STEM education, and the general public.

''(6) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection $15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.''.

SEC. 10. TRIBAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES PROGRAM.

(a) GRANTS TO BROADEN TRIBAL COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN COMPUTER SCIENCE.—Section 525 of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 1862p–13) is amended by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

''(d) GRANTS TO BROADEN TRIBAL COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN COMPUTER SCIENCE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director, as part of the program authorized under this section, shall award grants on a competitive, merit-reviewed basis to eligible entities to increase the participation of tribal populations in computer science and computational thinking education programs to enable students to develop skills and competencies in coding, problem-solving, critical thinking, creativity and collaboration.

''(2) PURPOSE.—Grants awarded under this subsection shall support—

''(A) research and development needed to bring computer science and computational thinking courses and degrees to tribal colleges and universities;

''(B) research and development of instructional materials needed to integrate computer science and computational thinking into programs that are culturally relevant to students attending tribal colleges and universities;

''(C) research, development and evaluation of distance education for computer science and computational thinking courses and degree programs for students attending tribal colleges and universities; and

''(D) other activities consistent with the activities described in paragraphs (1) through (4) of subsection (b), as determined by the Director.

''(3) PARTNERSHIPS.—A tribal college or university seeking a grant under this subsection, or a consortia thereof, may partner with an institution of higher education or nonprofit organization with demonstrated expertise in academic program development.

''(4) COORDINATION.—In carrying out this subsection, the Director shall consult and cooperate with the programs and policies of other relevant Federal agencies to avoid duplication with and enhance the effectiveness of the program under this subsection.

''(5) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Director of the Foundation $2,000,000 in each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026 to carry out this subsection.''.

(b) EVALUATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Science Foundation shall evaluate the grant program authorized under section 525 of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 1862p–13), as amended.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In conducting the evaluation under paragraph (1), the Director of the National Science Foundation shall, as practicable—

(A) use a common set of benchmarks and assessment tools to identify best practices and materials developed or demonstrated by the research conducted pursuant to grants programs under section 525 of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 1862p–13);

(B) include an assessment of the effectiveness of such grant programs in expanding access to high quality STEM education, research, and outreach at tribal colleges and universities, as applicable;

(C) assess the number of students who participated in such grant programs; and

(D) assess the percentage of students participating in such grant programs who successfully complete their education programs.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the evaluation under paragraph (1) is completed, the Director of the National Science Foundation shall submit to Congress and make available to the public, a report on the results of the evaluation, including any recommendations for legislative action that could optimize the effectiveness of the grant program authorized under section 525 of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010, as amended by subsection (a).

SEC. 11. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall submit a report to Congress that includes—

(1) a description and evaluation of the status and usage of policies implemented pursuant to section 3 at all Federal science agencies, including any recommendations for revising or expanding such policies;

(2) with respect to efforts to minimize the effects of implicit bias in the review of extramural and intramural Federal research grants under section 5—

(A) what steps all Federal science agencies have taken to implement policies and practices to minimize such effects;

(B) a description of any significant updates to the policies for review of Federal research grants required under such section; and

(C) any evidence of the impact of such policies on the review or awarding of Federal research grants; and

(3) a description and evaluation of the status of institution of higher education and

Federal laboratory policies and practices required under section 7(a), including any recommendations for revising or expanding such policies.

SEC. 12. MERIT REVIEW.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed as altering any intellectual or broader impacts criteria at Federal science agencies for evaluating grant applications.

SEC. 13. 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 Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

SEC. 14. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) DIRECTOR.—The term ''Director'' means the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

(2) FEDERAL LABORATORY.—The term ''Federal laboratory'' has the meaning given such term in section 4 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3703).

(3) FEDERAL SCIENCE AGENCY.—The term ''Federal science agency'' means any Federal agency with an annual extramural research expenditure of over $100,000,000.

(4) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term ''institution of higher education'' has the meaning given such term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

(5) INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON INCLUSION IN STEM.—The term ''interagency working group on inclusion in STEM'' means the interagency working group established by section 308 of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (42 U.S.C. 6626).

(6) STEM.—The term ''STEM'' means science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, including computer science.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oregon.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. 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 H.R. 204, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank Committee on Science, Space, and Technology Chairwoman JOHNSON and Ranking Member LUCAS for introducing this bill, which I am also proud to cosponsor.

I thank all of the Members on both sides of the aisle who have cosponsored the bill, the 25 organizations that have endorsed it, and the many more organizations and individuals who contributed to it.

□ 1645

The COVID–19 pandemic has shown us all the importance of a robust U.S. research enterprise. Not only has this been essential during the pandemic, it will continue to be crucial to maintaining U.S. global leadership in science and technology.

Unfortunately, this position of global leadership is eroding. To maintain our leadership position and to lead the world in the development of technologies that may dramatically reshape our lives, the U.S. needs a talented STEM workforce that is fully representative of our population.

We have a lot of work to do on that front. Women and people of color remain severely underrepresented in STEM. As we have learned from numerous studies, this underrepresentation results from numerous cultural and institutional barriers, as well as a lack of access to resources and adequate support. It is not because of a lack of talent or interest in STEM. We have made progress on increasing the diversity of the STEM fields in recent years, but it is nowhere near enough.

We must act now to address these inequities and begin building a more diverse STEM workforce for the 21st century.

The STEM Opportunities Act requires comprehensive data collection by Federal agencies so we can better understand the challenge we are facing. It also requires the development of consistent Federal policies for recipients of Federal research awards who have caregiving responsibilities, an issue the pandemic has brought into sharper focus.

The bill requires OSTP to develop consistent guidelines and best practices for grant reviewers and program officers, as well as universities and Federal laboratories. These guidelines and best practices will assist in reducing the effects of implicit bias and identifying barriers limiting the recruitment, retention, and advancement of women and minorities in STEM.

The bill also authorizes the National Science Foundation to expand research aimed at improving the recruitment, retention, and advancement of women and minorities in STEM. NSF is also directed to award grants through the existing Tribal Colleges and Universities Program to support computer science education.

We cannot leave anybody behind in the STEM fields, and H.R. 204 will help. We give better decisions when we have people from all backgrounds around the table.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure this important bill is signed into law. I strongly urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 204, the STEM Opportunities Act of 2021. As a co-sponsor of this legislation with Chairwoman JOHNSON, I am pleased the House is taking it up for consideration today.

H.R. 204 continues the Science Committee's long history of bipartisan support for STEM education. The United States is in a race to remain the world's leader in science and technology. The only way we will win is by utilizing America's most valuable resource: Our people.

That means developing a diverse STEM-capable workforce at every education level and from every background.

The U.S. invests over $1 billion a year in Federal STEM education programs. But we have not made enough progress in growing a STEM-capable workforce. We need to address that. That is why one of the key provisions of H.R. 204 is a requirement for more comprehensive data collection and analysis on the students, researchers, and faculty receiving Federal science grants.

This data will help us identify and reduce the barriers that prevent underrepresented groups from entering and advancing in STEM. It will also help us measure the success of Federal STEM programs to better direct our investments.

The bill also includes a provision directing the NSF to support computer science education through the existing Tribal Colleges and Universities Program. Access to computer science resources and developing computer skills is critical in today's economy.

The STEM employment in the United States continues to grow faster than any other job category. Employers in all sectors, including agriculture, energy, healthcare, and defense are desperate for workers with STEM skills.

In order to meet this demand, we must develop talent across all possible groups. Our bill takes important steps to ensure that we are fully engaging America's entire talent pool and maintaining our global leadership in science and technology.

H.R. 204 overwhelmingly passed the House last Congress, and I look forward to getting the bill across the finish line this year.

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, a few years ago, I held an innovation roundtable in northwest Oregon, and I remember clearly one very successful tech entrepreneur answered the question: What is the best thing we can do for innovation?

He said: We need to diversify the STEM workforce because people from different backgrounds and different experiences bring different perspectives and help identify problems that others may not.

This bill will help in that effort.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank Chairwoman JOHNSON and her staff for working in a bipartisan fashion on this legislation and for incorporating our feedback and ideas. I look

forward to continuing to work with her to advance STEM education efforts—this Congress—that will support, encourage, and develop the next generation of STEM workers.

Maintaining our global leadership in science and technology is critical to our economic and national security. We will not be able to lead without a STEM-capable workforce for the 21st century.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 204, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I, once again, urge adoption of the bipartisan STEM Opportunities Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 204, 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. ROSENDALE. 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.

MSI STEM ACHIEVEMENT ACT

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2027) to direct Federal science agencies and the Office of Science and Technology Policy to undertake activities to improve the quality of undergraduate STEM education and enhance the research capacity at the Nation's HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2027

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 ''MSI STEM Achievement Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Evidence suggests that the supply of STEM workers is not keeping pace with the rapidly evolving needs of the public and private sector, resulting in a deficit often referred to as a STEM skills shortage.

(2) According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the United States will need one million additional STEM professionals than it is on track to produce in the coming decade.

(3) STEM occupations offer higher wages, more opportunities for advancement, and a higher degree of job security than non-STEM occupations.

(4) The composition of the STEM workforce does not reflect the current or projected diversity of the Nation, with Hispanics, African Americans, and other racial and ethnic minorities, significantly underrepresented in the STEM workforce compared to their presence in the workforce more generally.

(5) A stronger national commitment to increasing the diversity of the STEM workforce is needed to help address the STEM skills shortage.

(6) According to a 2019 National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine report entitled ''Minority Serving Institutions: America's Underutilized Resource for Strengthening the STEM Workforce'', 2- and 4-year minority serving institutions enroll nearly 30 percent of all undergraduate students—a percentage that is expected to grow in the coming years—in the United States higher education system and play a critical role in providing important pathways to STEM-related education, training, and careers for students of color.

(7) HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs are highly successful at educating underrepresented minority students in STEM fields and can serve as best practice models for other colleges and universities to further expand participation of underrepresented minorities in the STEM workforce.

(8) Increased investment in STEM infrastructure at HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs has the potential to increase these institutions' ability to educate even more students in the STEM disciplines.

(9) With the demand for STEM skills exceeding the supply of STEM graduates, success of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs in educating and training science and engineering leaders is increasingly important for United States economic growth and competitiveness.

SEC. 3. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REVIEW.

Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall report to Congress—

(1) an inventory of competitive funding programs and initiatives carried out by Federal science agencies that are targeted to HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs or partnerships with HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs;

(2) an assessment of Federal science agency outreach activities to increase the participation and competitiveness of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs in the funding programs and initiatives identified in paragraph (1); and

(3) recommendations of the Comptroller General to increase the participation of and the rate of success of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs in competitive funding programs offered by Federal science agencies.

SEC. 4. RESEARCH AND CAPACITY BUILDING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National Science Foundation shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to institutions of higher education or nonprofit organizations (or consortia thereof) to—

(1) conduct research described in subsection (b) with respect to HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs;

(2) conduct activities described in subsection (c) to build the capacity of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs to graduate students who are competitive in attaining and advancing in the STEM workforce;

(3) build the research capacity and competitiveness of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs in STEM disciplines; and

(4) identify and broadly disseminate effective models for programs and practices at HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs that promote the education and workforce preparation of minority students pursuing STEM studies and careers in which such students are underrepresented.

(b) RESEARCH.—Research described in this subsection is research on the contribution of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs to the education and training of underrepresented minority students in STEM fields and to the meeting of national STEM workforce needs, including—

(1) the diversity with respect to local context, cultural differences, and institutional structure among HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs and any associated impact on education and research endeavors;

(2) effective practices at HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs and associated outcomes on student recruitment, retention, and advancement in STEM fields, including the ability for students to compete for fellowships, employment, and advancement in the workforce;

(3) contributions made by HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs to local, regional, and national workforces;

(4) the unique challenges and opportunities for HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs in attaining the resources needed for integrating effective practices in STEM education, including providing research experiences for underrepresented minority students;

(5) the access of students at HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs to STEM infrastructure and any associated outcomes for STEM competency;

(6) models of STEM curriculum, learning, and teaching successful at HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs for increasing participation, retention, and success of underrepresented minority students; and

(7) successful or promising partnerships between HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs and other institutions of higher education, private sector and non-profit organizations, Federal laboratories, and international research institutions.

(c) CAPACITY BUILDING.—Activities described in this subsection include the design, development, implementation, expansion, and assessment of—

(1) metrics of success to best capture the achievements of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs and students of such institutions to account for institutional context and missions, faculty investment, student populations, student needs, and institutional resource constraints;

(2) enhancements to undergraduate STEM curriculum at HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs to increase the participation, retention, degree completion, and success of underrepresented students;

(3) professional development programs to increase the numbers and the high-quality preparation of STEM faculty at HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs, including programs to encourage STEM doctoral students to teach at HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs; and

(4) mechanisms for institutions of higher education that are not HBCUs, TCUs, or MSIs to partner with HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs on STEM education, including the facilitation of student transfer, mentoring programs for students and junior faculty, joint research projects, and student access to graduate education.

(d) RESEARCH EXPERIENCES.—Grants under this section may fund the development or expansion of opportunities for the exchange of students and faculty to conduct research, including through partnerships with institutions of higher education that are not HBCUs, TCUs, or MSIs, private sector and non-profit organizations, Federal laboratories, and international research institutions.

(e) PARTNERSHIPS.—In awarding grants under this section, the Director of the National Science Foundation shall—

(1) encourage HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs and consortia thereof and partnerships with one or more HBCU, TCU, or MSI, to submit proposals;

(2) require proposals submitted in partnership with one or more HBCU, TCU, or MSI include a plan for establishing a sustained partnership that is jointly developed and managed, draws from the capacities of each institution, and is mutually beneficial; and

(3) encourage proposals submitted in partnership with the private sector, non-profit organizations, Federal laboratories, and

international research institutions, as appropriate.

(f) MSI CENTERS OF INNOVATION.—Grants under this section may fund the establishment of no more than five MSI Centers of Innovation to leverage successes of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs in STEM education and research training of underrepresented minority students as models for other institutions, including both HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs and institutions of higher education that are not HBCUs, TCUs, or MSIs. Such centers will be located on campuses of selected institutions of higher education and serve as incubators to allow institutions of higher education to experiment, pilot, evaluate, and scale up promising practices.

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Director of the National Science Foundation $170,000,000 for fiscal year 2022, $175,000,000 for fiscal year 2023, $180,000,000 for fiscal year 2024, $185,000,000 for fiscal year 2025, and $190,000,000 fiscal year 2026 to carry out this section.

SEC. 5. AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In consultation with outside stakeholders and the heads of the Federal science agencies, the Director shall develop a uniform set of policy guidelines for Federal science agencies to carry out a sustained program of outreach activities to increase clarity, transparency, and accountability for Federal science agency investments in STEM education and research activities at HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs.

(b) OUTREACH ACTIVITIES.—In developing policy guidelines under subsection (a) the Director shall include guidelines that require each Federal science agency—

(1) to designate a liaison for HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs responsible for—

(A) enhancing direct communication with HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs to increase the Federal science agency's understanding of the capacity and needs of such institutions and to raise awareness of available Federal funding opportunities at such institutions;

(B) coordinating programs, activities, and initiatives while accounting for the capacity and needs of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs;

(C) tracking Federal science agency investments in and engagement with HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs; and

(D) reporting progress toward increasing participation of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs in grant programs;

(2) to publish annual forecasts of funding opportunities and proposal deadlines, including for grants, contracts, subcontracts, and cooperative agreements;

(3) to conduct on-site reviews of research facilities at HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs, as practicable, and make recommendations regarding strategies for becoming more competitive in research;

(4) to hold geographically accessible or virtual workshops on research priorities of the Federal science agency and on how to write competitive grant proposals;

(5) to ensure opportunities for HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs to directly communicate with Federal science agency officials responsible for managing competitive grant programs in order to receive feedback on research ideas and proposals, including guidance on the Federal science agency's peer review process;

(6) to foster mutually beneficial public-private collaboration among Federal science agencies, industry, Federal laboratories, academia, and nonprofit organizations to—

(A) identify alternative sources of funding for STEM education and research at HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs;

(B) provide access to high-quality, relevant research experiences for students and faculty of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs;

(C) expand the professional networks of students and faculty of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs;

(D) broaden STEM educational opportunities for students and faculty of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs; and

(E) support the transition of students of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs into the STEM workforce; and

(7) to publish an annual report that provides an account of Federal science agency investments in HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs, including data on the level of participation of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs as prime recipients/contractors or subrecipients/subcontractors.

(c) STRATEGIC PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director, in collaboration with the head of each Federal science agency, shall submit to Congress a report containing a strategic plan for each Federal science agency to increase the capacity of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs to compete effectively for grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements and to encourage HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs to participate in Federal programs.

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing a strategic plan under paragraph (1), the Director and each head of each Federal science agency shall consider—

(A) issuing new or expanding existing funding opportunities targeted to HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs;

(B) modifying existing research and development program solicitations to incentivize effective partnerships with HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs;

(C) offering planning grants for HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs to develop or equip grant offices with the requisite depth of knowledge to submit competitive grant proposals and manage awarded grants;

(D) offering additional training programs and individualized and timely guidance to grant officers faculty and postdoctoral researchers at HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs to ensure they understand the requirements for an effective grant proposal; and

(E) other approaches for making current competitive funding models more accessible for under-resourced HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs.

(d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 5 years thereafter, the Director shall report to Congress on the implementation by Federal science agencies of the policy guidelines developed under this section.

SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) DIRECTOR.—The term ''Director'' means the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

(2) FEDERAL LABORATORY.—The term ''Federal laboratory'' has the meaning given such term in section 4 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3703).

(3) FEDERAL SCIENCE AGENCY.—The term ''Federal science agency'' means any Federal agency with an annual extramural research expenditure of over $100,000,000.

(4) HBCU.—The term ''HBCU'' has the meaning given the term ''part B institution'' in section 322 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061).

(5) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term ''institution of higher education'' has the meaning given such term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

(6) MINORITY SERVING INSTITUTION.—The term ''minority serving institution'' or ''MSI'' means Hispanic-Serving Institutions as defined in section 502 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1101a); Alaska Native Serving Institutions and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions as defined in section 317 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059d); and Predominantly Black Institutions, Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions, and Native American-Serving Nontribal Institutions as defined in section 371 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(c)).

(7) STEM.—The term ''STEM'' has the meaning given the term in the STEM Education Act of 2015 (42 U.S.C. 1861 et seq.).

(8) TCU.—The term ''TCU'' has the meaning given the term ''Tribal College or University'' in section 316 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oregon.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BONAMICI. 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.R. 2027, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2027, the MSI STEM Achievement Act.

The COVID–19 pandemic has highlighted how important scientists and engineers are to helping us respond to crises and move toward a brighter future.

Whether it is a deadly pandemic or the climate crisis, we need all of our Nation's talent to help us understand the challenges and contribute to solutions. We also need all of our Nation's talent to fill the high-skilled jobs of the future.

Our Nation's demographics are changing, and we are not keeping up in diversifying our STEM workforce. Hispanics represent 18 percent of the U.S. population, but only 9 percent of the bachelor's degrees in mathematics and physics. And for Black students, STEM degree attainment has either stagnated or declined since 1996.

The United States can rightly celebrate our great research universities and the STEM talent they cultivate in their laboratories. But these institutions represent a small fraction of the hundreds of institutions across the Nation that graduate students with STEM degrees, and an even smaller fraction in terms of the number of Black and Hispanic students.

In 2018, the Academies released a report highlighting the outsized contributions made by minority-serving institutions, or MSIs. These institutions have a remarkable record of success in recruiting, retaining, and graduating underrepresented minority students in STEM. For example, HBCUs graduate 25 percent of all African-

American graduates with STEM degrees. Unfortunately, MSIs have relatively insufficient resources and infrastructure.

The MSI STEM Achievement Act would make sure that education and research opportunities are more accessible to STEM students at MSIs. The legislation would require more transparency and accountability in Federal science agency support for MSIs. The legislation directs the National Science Foundation to support research on effective practices at MSIs for recruiting and retaining minority students in STEM, and offer strategies to build on and scale best practices.

It further directs NSF to support research and STEM education capacity building at MSIs. The legislation also directs OSTP to develop a strategic plan for increasing MSI participation and success in competitive Federal research funding opportunities.

Supporting our country's minority-serving institutions through targeted investments and outreach is essential to building our STEM workforce for the future.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2027, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to co-sponsor this legislation led by Chairwoman JOHNSON and Research and Technology Ranking Member MICHAEL WALTZ, which continues the Science Committee's bipartisan work to support, encourage, and develop the next generation of America's Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Computer Science workforce.

Minority-serving institutions, such as historically Black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, and Tribal colleges and universities have a long record of success in recruiting, retaining, and graduating underrepresented students in the STEM fields.

In my own district, I have seen the unique value of minority-serving institutions. For more than 100 years, Langston University, a historically Black college and land-grant institution, has educated students of all backgrounds. They have influenced people's lives beyond the classroom in service to the community in both rural and urban Oklahoma. This legislation will help schools like Langston prepare their students to fill the STEM jobs of the 21st century.

Since 1990, employment in STEM occupations has grown by nearly 80 percent. Over the next decade, with demand continuing to grow and U.S. universities expecting to produce less than one-third of the STEM graduates needed, the STEM shortage is anticipated to reach 1 million professionals. At the same time, minorities are severely underrepresented in STEM fields, only accounting for 11 percent of the STEM workforce.

To meet this growing demand, talent from all groups is essential. This bill we are considering today takes up this call to action by providing for increased transparency, accountability, and accessibility of Federal STEM education and research funding.

Without a diverse talent pool of Americans with strong STEM knowledge and skills prepared for the jobs of the future, the U.S. will not be able to maintain the innovation that supports key sectors of the economy, including agriculture, energy, healthcare, and defense.

Mr. Speaker, I, again, thank Chairwoman JOHNSON and Ranking Member WALTZ for their leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

□ 1700

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WALTZ), the ranking member on the Research and Technology Subcommittee, and one of our great activists on this subject matter.

Mr. WALTZ. Mr. Speaker, since 1904, Bethune-Cookman University, a historically Black college, has contributed to a rich, diverse history in my district in Florida. Four thousand students proudly call this university home. In Florida's Sixth Congressional District, we are proud of all of Bethune-Cookman's accomplishments, especially in the STEM fields. I personally look forward to seeing the statue of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune represent the great State of Florida in Statuary Hall very soon.

Mr. Speaker, minorities make up 30 percent of the United States population, but nationwide we are seeing a gap in minority representation in STEM fields. Believe it or not, minorities account for only 11 percent of the STEM workforce, and that 11 percent comes after years of slow improvement and diversity inclusion, but does not factor in how the COVID pandemic has disproportionately affected women and underrepresented minorities in STEM. There is fear that this limited progress may be undone by the COVID–19 crisis.

Simultaneously, the demand for STEM skills is at an all-time high. Over the next decade, the STEM shortage is anticipated to reach 1 million professionals. So we have a math problem.

If we want to maintain America's edge over the Chinese Communist Party and over our adversaries, then we need to make sure our workforce reflects our country's diversity and that the numbers for that workforce are there. We must commit to increasing participation in the STEM enterprise and supporting individuals and institutions disproportionately impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

Minority-serving institutions like Bethune-Cookman University play a critical role in bringing members of underrepresented groups into STEM training and careers. By partnering with MSIs, the bill we are considering today would help increase the capacity for minority students in STEM curricula and encourage partnerships with industry and Federal laboratories.

While the Chinese Communist Party is trying to leapfrog America in STEM, this bill will enhance our domestic workforce to compete. If America wants to lead militarily, economically, and globally, then we must lead in STEM.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss to not mention the importance of women as well in STEM. As I have said countless times since I have been elected, and will continue to say, from my experience as a Green Beret around the globe, where women thrive in business, in civil society, and in politics, the fact is that extremism does not thrive. So for that reason, amongst others, diversity in STEM is a national security issue.

In Volusia County, in my district, just north of Cape Canaveral, Florida, and the Kennedy Space Center, we are seeing countless businesses participate in workforce programs like the Space Coast Consortium Apprenticeship Program. This program and others are making huge strides to advance STEM curriculum and workforce development.

As the Republican lead on the MSI STEM Achievement Act, I want to thank Chairwoman JOHNSON, as well as Ranking Member LUCAS, for working with me to improve participation in STEM at MSIs. For America's continued predominance in science and technology, I urge my colleagues to support this important bill and for its passage.

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

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, the United States is in a race to remain the world leader in science and technology. The only way we will win this is by utilizing America's most valuable resource: Our people.

That means developing a diverse STEM-capable workforce at every education level and from every background. Creating opportunities for students to not only develop STEM knowledge, but to also have hands-on experience is essential.

Research shows that students—especially those from underrepresented minority backgrounds—are more likely to graduate from science and engineering programs if they have opportunities to engage in STEM course content with peers, participate in undergraduate research, and join science clubs and organizations.

This bill will support such STEM education and training activities in MSIs, providing these students with the skills necessary to compete and

flourish in the 21st century. These investments will help grow our workforce, improve our economy, and protect our country.

I, again, would like to thank Chairwoman JOHNSON and Ranking Member WALTZ for their leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I urge all of my colleagues to support the bipartisan MSI STEM Achievement Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2027.

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(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.

COMBATING SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN SCIENCE ACT

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2695) to provide for research to better understand the causes and consequences of sexual harassment affecting individuals in the scientific, technical, engineering, and mathematics workforce and to examine policies to reduce the prevalence and negative impact of such harassment, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2695

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Combating Sexual Harassment in Science Act''.

(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. Research grants.
Sec. 5. Data collection.
Sec. 6. Responsible conduct guide.
Sec. 7. Interagency working group.
Sec. 8. National academies assessment.
Sec. 9. Authorization of appropriations.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) According to the report issued by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine in 2018 entitled ''Sexual Harassment of Women: Climate, Culture, and Consequences in Academic Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine''—

(A) sexual harassment is pervasive in institutions of higher education;

(B) the most common type of sexual harassment is gender harassment, which includes verbal and nonverbal behaviors that convey insulting, hostile, and degrading attitudes about members of one gender;

(C) 58 percent of individuals in the academic workplace experience sexual harassment, the second highest rate when compared to the military, the private sector, and Federal, State, and local government;

(D) women who are members of racial or ethnic minority groups are more likely to experience sexual harassment and to feel unsafe at work than White women, White men, or men who are members of such groups;

(E) the training for each individual who has a doctor of philosophy in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields is estimated to cost approximately $500,000; and

(F) attrition of an individual so trained results in a loss of talent and money.

(2) Sexual harassment undermines career advancement for women.

(3) According to a 2017 University of Illinois study, among astronomers and planetary scientists, 18 percent of women who are members of racial or ethnic minority groups and 12 percent of White women skipped professional events because they did not feel safe attending.

(4) Many women report leaving employment at institutions of higher education due to sexual harassment.

(5) Research shows the majority of individuals do not formally report experiences of sexual harassment due to a justified fear of retaliation or other negative professional or personal consequences.

(6) Reporting procedures with respect to such harassment are inconsistent among Federal science agencies and have varying degrees of accessibility.

(7) There is not adequate communication among Federal science agencies and between such agencies and grantees regarding reports of sexual harassment, which has resulted in harassers receiving Federal funding after moving to a different institution.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ACADEMIES.—The term ''Academies'' means the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

(2) DIRECTOR.—The term ''Director'' means the Director of the National Science Foundation.

(3) FEDERAL SCIENCE AGENCY.—The term ''Federal science agency'' means any Federal agency with an annual extramural research expenditure of over $100,000,000.

(4) FINDING OR DETERMINATION.—The term ''finding or determination'' means the final disposition of a matter involving a violation of organizational policies and processes, to include the exhaustion of permissible appeals, or a conviction of a sexual offense in a criminal court of law.

(5) GENDER HARASSMENT.—The term ''gender harassment'' means verbal and nonverbal behaviors that convey hostility, objectification, exclusion, or second-class status about one's gender, gender identity, gender presentation, sexual orientation, or pregnancy status.

(6) GRANTEE.—The term ''grantee'' means the legal entity to which a grant is awarded and that is accountable to the Federal Government for the use of the funds provided.

(7) GRANT PERSONNEL.—The term ''grant personnel'' means principal investigators, co-principal investigators, postdoctoral researchers and other employees supported by a grant award, cooperative agreement, or contract under Federal law.

(8) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term ''institution of higher education'' has the meaning given such term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

(9) SEXUAL HARASSMENT.—The term ''sexual harassment'' means conduct that encompasses—

(A) unwelcome sexual advances;

(B) unwanted physical contact that is sexual in nature, including assault;

(C) unwanted sexual attention, including sexual comments and propositions for sexual activity;

(D) conditioning professional or educational benefits on sexual activity; and

(E) retaliation for rejecting unwanted sexual attention.

(10) STEM.—The term ''STEM'' means science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, including computer science.

SEC. 4. RESEARCH GRANTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall establish a program to award grants, on a competitive basis, to institutions of higher education or nonprofit organizations (or consortia of such institutions or organizations)—

(1) to expand research efforts to better understand the factors contributing to, and consequences of, sexual harassment and gender harassment affecting individuals in the STEM workforce, including students and trainees; and

(2) to examine interventions to reduce the incidence and negative consequences of such harassment.

(b) USE OF FUNDS.—Activities funded by a grant under this section may include—

(1) research on the sexual harassment and gender harassment experiences of individuals in underrepresented or vulnerable groups, including racial and ethnic minority groups, disabled individuals, foreign nationals, sexual- and gender-minority individuals, and others;

(2) development and assessment of policies, procedures, trainings, and interventions, with respect to sexual harassment and gender harassment, conflict management, and ways to foster respectful and inclusive climates;

(3) research on approaches for remediating the negative impacts and outcomes of such harassment on individuals experiencing such harassment;

(4) support for institutions of higher education to develop, adapt, and assess the impact of innovative, evidence-based strategies, policies, and approaches to policy implementation to prevent and address sexual harassment and gender harassment;

(5) research on alternatives to the hierarchical and dependent relationships, including but not limited to the mentor-mentee relationship, in academia that have been shown to create higher levels of risk for sexual harassment and gender harassment; and

(6) establishing a center for the ongoing compilation, management, and analysis of campus climate survey data.

SEC. 5. DATA COLLECTION.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall convene a working group composed of representatives of Federal statistical agencies—

(1) to develop questions on sexual harassment and gender harassment in STEM departments to gather national data on the prevalence, nature, and implications of sexual harassment and gender harassment in institutions of higher education; and

(2) to include such questions as appropriate, with sufficient protections of the privacy of respondents, in relevant surveys conducted by the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics and other relevant entities.

SEC. 6. RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT GUIDE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall enter into an agreement with

the Academies to update the report entitled ''On Being a Scientist: A Guide to Responsible Conduct in Research'' issued by the Academies. The report, as so updated, shall include—

(1) updated professional standards of conduct in research;

(2) standards of treatment individuals can expect to receive under such updated standards of conduct;

(3) evidence-based practices for fostering a climate intolerant of sexual harassment and gender harassment;

(4) methods, including bystander intervention, for identifying and addressing incidents of sexual harassment and gender harassment; and

(5) professional standards for mentorship and teaching with an emphasis on preventing sexual harassment and gender harassment.

(b) RECOMMENDATIONS.—In updating the report under subsection (a), the Academies shall take into account recommendations made in the report issued by the Academies in 2018 entitled ''Sexual Harassment of Women: Climate, Culture, and Consequences in Academic Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine'' and other relevant studies and evidence.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the effective date of the contract under subsection (a), the Academies, as part of such agreement, shall submit to the Director and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate the report referred to in such subsection, as updated pursuant to such subsection.

SEC. 7. INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, acting through the National Science and Technology Council, shall establish an interagency working group for the purpose of coordinating Federal science agency efforts to reduce the prevalence of sexual harassment and gender harassment involving grant personnel. The working group shall be chaired by the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (or the Director's designee) and shall include a representative from each Federal science agency with annual extramural research expenditures totaling over $1,000,000,000, a representative from the Department of Education, and a representative from the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

(b) RESPONSIBILITIES OF WORKING GROUP.—The interagency working group established under subsection (a) shall coordinate Federal science agency efforts to implement the policy guidelines developed under subsection (c)(2).

(c) RESPONSIBILITIES OF OSTP.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall—

(1) not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate an inventory of policies, procedures, and resources dedicated to preventing and responding to reports of sexual harassment and gender harassment at Federal agencies that provide legal definitions to which institutions of higher education must comply; and

(2) not later than 6 months after the date on which the inventory is submitted under paragraph (1)—

(A) in consultation with outside stakeholders and Federal science agencies, develop a uniform set of policy guidelines for Federal science agencies; and

(B) submit a report to the committees referred to in paragraph (1) containing such guidelines;

(3) encourage and monitor efforts of Federal science agencies to develop or maintain and implement policies based on the guidelines developed under paragraph (2), including the extent to which Federal science agency policies depart from the uniform policy guidelines;

(4) not later than 1 year after the date on which the inventory under paragraph (1) is submitted, and every 5 years thereafter, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall report to Congress on the implementation by Federal science agencies of the policy guidelines developed under paragraph (2); and

(5) update such policy guidelines as needed.

(d) REQUIREMENTS.—In developing policy guidelines under subsection (c)(2), the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall include guidelines that require—

(1) grantees to submit to the Federal science agency or agencies from which the grantees receive funding reports relating to—

(A) administrative action, related to an allegation against grant personnel of any sexual harassment or gender harassment, as set forth in organizational policies or codes of conduct, statutes, regulations, or executive orders, that affects the ability of grant personnel or their trainees to carry out the activities of the grant; and

(B) findings or determinations against grant personnel of sexual harassment or gender harassment, as set forth in organizational policies or codes of conduct, statutes, regulations, or executive orders, including any findings or determinations related to reports submitted under subparagraph (A) and any disciplinary action that was taken;

(2) the sharing, updating, and archiving of reports of sexual harassment and gender harassment from grantees submitted under paragraph (1)(B) with relevant Federal science agencies on a quarterly basis; and

(3) to the extent practicable, ensure consistency among Federal agencies with regards to the policies and procedures for receiving reports submitted pursuant to paragraph (1), which may include the designation of a single agency to field reports so submitted.

(e) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing policy guidelines under subsection (c)(2), the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall consider guidelines that require or incentivize—

(1) grantees to periodically assess their organizational climate, which may include the use of climate surveys, focus groups, or exit interviews;

(2) grantees to publish on a publicly available internet website the results of assessments conducted pursuant to paragraph (1), disaggregated by gender and, if possible, race, ethnicity, disability status, and sexual orientation;

(3) grantees to make public on an annual basis the number of reports of sexual harassment and gender harassment at each such institution;

(4) grantees to regularly assess and improve policies, procedures, and interventions to reduce the prevalence of sexual harassment and gender harassment;

(5) each grantee to demonstrate in its proposal for a grant award, cooperative agreement, or contract that a code of conduct is in place for maintaining a healthy and welcoming workplace for grant personnel and their trainees;

(6) the diffusion of the hierarchical and dependent relationships between grant personnel and their trainees;

(7) each grantee and Federal science agency to have in place mechanisms for the re-integration of individuals who have experienced sexual harassment and gender harassment; and

(8) grantees to work to create a climate intolerant of sexual harassment and gender harassment.

(f) FEDERAL SCIENCE AGENCY IMPLEMENTATION.—Each Federal science agency shall—

(1) develop or maintain and implement policies with respect to sexual harassment and gender harassment that are consistent with policy guidelines under subsection (c)(2) and that protect the privacy of all parties involved in any report and investigation of sexual harassment and gender harassment, except to the extent necessary to carry out an investigation; and

(2) broadly disseminate such policies to current and potential recipients of research grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts awarded by such agency.

(g) FERPA.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall ensure that such guidelines and requirements are consistent with the requirements of section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g) (commonly referred to as the ''Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974'').

(h) SUNSET.—The interagency working group established under subsection (a) shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 8. NATIONAL ACADEMIES ASSESSMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall enter into an agreement with the Academies to undertake a study of the influence of sexual harassment and gender harassment in institutions of higher education on the career advancement of individuals in the STEM workforce. The study shall assess—

(1) the state of research on sexual harassment and gender harassment in such workforce;

(2) whether research demonstrates a change in the prevalence of sexual harassment and gender harassment in such workforce;

(3) the progress made with respect to implementing recommendations promulgated in the Academies consensus study report entitled ''Sexual Harassment of Women: Climate, Culture, and Consequences in Academic Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine''; and

(4) where to focus future efforts with respect to decreasing sexual harassment and gender harassment in such institutions.

SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Director to carry out this Act, $17,500,000.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oregon.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. 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 H.R. 2695, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2695, the Combating Sexual

Harassment in Science Act, which I am pleased to cosponsor.

In 2017, the Me Too movement sparked a national reckoning with the pervasiveness of sexual harassment. The academic workplace has not been spared. One study found that 58 percent of faculty and staff at universities have experienced sexual harassment.

Sexual harassment is detrimental to individuals, often impeding career advancement and leading some to leave academia entirely. Sexual harassment also has significant consequences on the entire scientific enterprise, depriving our most critical STEM fields of skilled researchers, particularly from groups already underrepresented in STEM.

In 2018, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine released a report examining the contributing factors to sexual harassment in academia and the effects on women in science, technology, and medicine. The Combating Sexual Harassment in Science Act includes key recommendations from the Academies' report and takes further steps to combat sexual harassment in STEM.

The National Science Foundation and other agencies have already taken significant steps to address the scourge of sexual harassment in STEM. Unfortunately, not all agencies have taken this issue as seriously, and the patchwork of policies and approaches causes confusion and increases administrative burden on grantees. This legislation helps make sure that we have consistent, governmentwide policies.

H.R. 2695 requires a coordinated approach to address sexual harassment at grant-receiving institutions and across our Federal agencies, including by requiring OSTP to issue uniform policy guidance for sexual harassment reporting at Federal science agencies.

The bill also authorizes NSF research on the contributing factors to STEM workplace harassment.

Finally, the bill would require an important follow-up study by the National Academies.

The Combating Sexual Harassment in Science Act was developed following extensive consultation with experts on sexual harassment and key stakeholders, including universities. At present, 24 organizations have endorsed this bill, representing a wide spectrum of scientific disciplines, student groups, and professions.

I want to thank Chairwoman JOHNSON and Ranking Member LUCAS for introducing this important bill. I also want to thank all of the cosponsors of this bipartisan effort. I urge everyone here to help us take action toward eliminating sexual harassment in the sciences.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2695, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2695, the Combating Sexual Harassment in Science Act.

I am proud to say that this bill has a foundation of years of investigation, analysis, and recommendations to the Science, Space, and Technology Committee. Curbing sexual misconduct in science is a priority that Chairwoman JOHNSON and I share.

Engaging more women in STEM studies and careers is essential to American competitiveness. Women make up over half the workforce, but account for less than 25 percent of America's STEM workforce. Unfortunately, too many women have been driven out of STEM careers due to a culture of harassment and abuse.

H.R. 2695 takes the first steps to address this problem. The bill directs NSF to expand research efforts to better understand the causes and consequences of sexual harassment affecting individuals in the scientific, technical, engineering, and mathematical workforces.

Additionally, it directs NSF to examine policies to reduce the prevalence and negative impact of such harassment.

The bill also supports the adoption of uniform guidance across the Federal science agencies to combat sexual harassment involving grant personnel.

There is an established legal process in place within higher education and in the workforce for handling claims of sexual harassment. I cannot stress this enough: this bill does not alter that process.

What this bill does do is create a uniform policy requiring universities and research institutions to report to Federal science agencies when an administrative action is taken that impacts the ability of a researcher to carry out a grant.

Pervasive sexual harassment in the scientific community discourages women from critical work and good-paying jobs and hurts American competitiveness. It is unacceptable for taxpayer dollars to fund researchers who are guilty of harassing students or colleagues.

I want to thank the stakeholders, especially the university community, for working with committee staff to improve this legislation. I believe the revised bill strikes the right balance between protecting due process and privacy, while also making sure that Federal science agencies can act if a Federal research grant or the personnel supporting that grant is impacted.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, H.R. 2695 takes the first steps towards addressing sexual harassment in STEM fields, which is driving women out of STEM careers and damaging U.S. competitiveness.

While some progress has been made since the Science, Space, and Technology Committee first started investigating the issue almost 4 years ago, there is still much more work to be done. This legislation sends a strong message to the scientific community that misconduct will not be tolerated, and it sends a message to women who are in STEM studies and careers that we support them.

This bill passed the House last Congress, and I look forward to working with our colleagues in the Senate and stakeholders to advance this legislation into law this year.

I again want to thank Chairwoman JOHNSON and her staff for working in a bipartisan and collaborative way on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I, once again, urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this important and bipartisan legislation, the Combating Sexual Harassment in Science Act.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2695.

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(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.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 13 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MALINOWSKI) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

VA TRANSPARENCY & TRUST ACT OF 2021

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2911) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a plan for obligating and expending Coronavirus pandemic funding made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 411, nays 4, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 144]

YEAS—411

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Allred
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Auchincloss
Axne
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice (OK)
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NC)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Boebert
Bonamici
Bost
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Brady
Brooks
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Bush
Bustos
Calvert
Cammack
Carbajal
Carl
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Case
Castor (FL)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Clyde
Cohen
Cole
Comer
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
Davids (KS)
Davidson
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donalds
Doyle, Michael F.
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Eshoo
Espaillat
Estes
Evans
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
García (IL)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Gohmert
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez, Vicente
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harder (CA)
Harris
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hayes
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
Jacobs (CA)
Jacobs (NY)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kahele
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Keller
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Kustoff
LaHood
Lamb
Lamborn
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Lesko
Letlow
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Lowenthal
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luria
Lynch
Mace
Malinowski
Malliotakis
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Mann
Manning
Massie
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meijer
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (NC)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Newman
Norcross
Norman
Nunes
O'Halleran
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Owens
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Pfluger
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Ross
Rouzer
Roy
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Spanberger
Spartz
Speier
Stanton
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stevens
Stewart
Strickland
Swalwell
Takano
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Womack
Young
Zeldin

NAYS—4

Boyle, Brendan F.
Casten
Escobar
Garcia (TX)

NOT VOTING—14

Butterfield
Cárdenas
Castro (TX)
Golden
Himes
Jackson Lee
Kinzinger
LaMalfa
Palazzo
Sires
Suozzi
Webster (FL)
Wittman
Yarmuth

□ 1901

Ms. ESCOBAR changed her vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I regrettably missed the vote on rollcall No. 144. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 144.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, earlier today, I was unavoidably detained in my congressional district and was not present for Roll Call Vote 144. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: On Roll Call 144, I would have voted aye.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Allred (Wexton)
Beatty (Kelly (IL))
Buchanan (Dunn)
Carter (TX) (Calvert)
Crenshaw (Pfluger)
DesJarlais (Fleischmann)
Dingell (Kuster)
Fallon (Nehls)
Garbarino (Joyce (OH))
Gomez (García (IL))
Green (TX) (Perlmutter)
Grijalva (García (IL))
Horsford (Jeffries)
Keating (Clark (MA))
Kind (Connolly)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Letlow (Cammack)
Levin (MI) (Raskin)
Lieu (Beyer)
Lowenthal (Beyer)
Maloney, Carolyn B. (Jeffries)
McEachin (Wexton)
McHenry (Banks)
Meng (Clark (MA))
Napolitano (Correa)
Ocasio-Cortez (Bush)
Payne (Pallone)
Rice (NY) (Peters)
Ruppersberger (Raskin)
Rush (Underwood)
Sewell (DelBene)
Slotkin (Axne)
Stevens (Axne)
Tlaib (García (IL))
Waters (Barragán)
Wilson (SC) (Timmons)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SERGEANT AT ARMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. STRICKLAND) laid before the House the following communication from the Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE SERGEANT AT ARMS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 14, 2021.

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, following consultation with the Office of Attending Physician, I write to provide you further notification that the public health emergency due to the novel coronavirus SARS–CoV–2 remains in effect.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. WALKER,
Sergeant at Arms.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the extension, pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 8, and effective May 20, 2021, of the ''covered period'' designated on January 4, 2021.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO BOARD OF VISITORS TO THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD ACADEMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 14 U.S.C. 1903(b), and the order of the House of January 4, 2021, of the following Members on the part of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Coast Guard Academy:

Mr. COURTNEY, Connecticut
Ms. BARRAGÁN, California
Mr. RUTHERFORD, Florida
Mrs. MCCLAIN, Michigan

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 17, 2021.

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II

of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 17, 2021, at 5:35 p.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 593.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk.

SUPPORTING ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO DEFEND ITSELF

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for Israel's right to defend itself against rocket attacks from Hamas and other terrorist groups in Gaza.

These attacks against Israel must be condemned. I applaud President Biden for actively engaging across the region to help bring about peace through diplomacy. Further conflict will certainly claim the lives of Israeli and Palestinian civilians, including children, and that is unacceptable.

As a Latina and a Catholic, it is my sincere prayer that Jerusalem will be a city of peace for all faiths, all nationalities, and all backgrounds. This lasting peace will only be possible if everyone, Palestinians and Israelis alike, have the opportunity for freedom and security promised by a two-state solution.

Those who plan for peace will have joy. Let it be so.

MARKING TAX DAY

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

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, 35 years ago, I fulfilled my American Dream to own a business when I opened a small deli. I was only 20 years old.

As a former small business owner, I understand how tough things can be, even in the good times. Running a small business taught me two important lessons: first, you are the first to work, last to leave, and the last to be paid; second, your margins are tight, and high taxes too often make it impossible for Main Street to beat the odds.

These lessons, which inspired me to enter public service, come to mind as we mark tax day. We should be on track for an incredible comeback. From jobs to vaccines, President Biden inherited an economy that was moving in the right direction because of Operation Warp Speed and the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which created the best economy in more than a generation.

But the policies of the current administration have squandered all that progress. Bidenomics has made a mess of the economy, transforming what should have been a strong comeback into a serious crisis in less than 6 months.

First, Democrats jammed through $1.9 trillion of the so-called rescue plan that continued to give taxpayer-funded handouts to people to stay home and do nothing.

When he signed this spending package into law in March, President Biden promised America that help was on the way. But for business owners across the country, help wasn't on the way; ''help wanted'' signs were.

Describing his struggle to hire employees, Rod Harl, the CEO of Alene Candles, told his local paper last week: ''We have had more than 100 positions open since the start of the year, and just recently, we increased sign-on bonuses to $1,200 for hourly positions, in part because we were competing with an entity that can print its own money—the Federal Government—and its $300 extra per week additional unemployment benefit.''

Sadly, this isn't unique just to Mr. Harl. It is the same story I hear from businesses nationwide.

In a matter of months, we went from the highest job openings on record in March, 8.1 million—remember, that is the same month that President Biden signed his bill, that he thought help was on the way—to the biggest jobs report miss in more than two decades. Unemployment actually increased, despite the record number of openings.

For a brief moment during the pandemic, it made sense to encourage people to stay home, but now in May 2021, it defies logic. We should not tax the people who are working to continue to pay people who choose not to.

Another concern I hear from businesses and workers is rising inflation. Consumer prices in April saw their largest increase in a single month since 1981, soaring by more than 1 percent. Inflation taxes every single American and especially affects those with the least income.

But remember what President Biden promised, that he wouldn't raise taxes on families making less than $400,000. By causing inflation to rise, President Biden has broken that pledge, and we are less than 5 months into this administration.

Madam Speaker, any economics class would tell you that the worst thing to do is exactly what Bidenomics has done to this country. He inherited one of the strongest economies, a GDP growing, and he actually did the opposite. He paid people to stay home. He put more money into the economy from government, which only drives up inflation. We have not seen something like this since Jimmy Carter took this country into stagnation.

Now, Americans are paying more at supermarkets, hardware stores, and gas stations, and it has only been 5 months. In fact, we have a serious gas shortage in a nation that was recently energy independent.

Could you imagine, Madam Speaker, becoming President of the United States and having a country that is energy independent, that is actually sending natural gas to other nations, to waking up to no gas in the gas lines in America—not because Congress passed a bill but because the President signed an executive order?

Madam Speaker, I remember wanting to see my grandmother one day. It was back during the Jimmy Carter years, and my father told me no. I asked why we couldn't drive to see grandma, and it was because our license plate ended in an even number, not an odd. That is the only other time that you can compare what is happening in America today.

□ 1915

17,000 gas stations nationwide were completely emptied out. The average price of gasoline remains above $3. This is the highest gasoline has been since the last time Biden was in office. In California, the average was $4.12. In Virginia, prices were as high as nearly $7 a gallon.

It didn't have to be this way. He didn't have to attack the hardworking Americans in the energy industry. His own Secretary of Energy said pipelines were good, even though he ended the Keystone XL pipeline and went after the ability for Americans to even drill on Federal land.

So now, Russia is sending gasoline to America? Does that make any sense, to make our enemies stronger, while Russia builds up thousands of troops along the border of Ukraine or enters into negotiations with Iran, who supplies missiles to shoot at our allies?

Instead of priming the pump, Bidenomics has emptied the tank. From inflation to gas lines, the American economy today looks more like it did in 1979 than in 2019, when wages were rising, businesses were growing, and unemployment was at record lows.

None of this is an accident, you see, Madam Speaker. It is a direct result of bad Federal policies that have distorted incentives and prices.

Yet President Biden, Speaker PELOSI, and other Democrats still want to tax and spend more. Even the most liberal economists tell you that is wrong, which very seldom happens. They decided to propose another $5.2 trillion in new spending, as if there is a bottomless cash pit for politicians to draw on.

They also decided to propose the largest tax increase in American history, including making the corporate tax rate the highest in the world; higher than France; higher than Venezuela, a socialist country; and higher than Communist China.

Madam Speaker, why would the Democrats and Speaker PELOSI want to give China a benefit over America? I don't understand why we wouldn't look after American workers first.

These proposals reflect a fundamental difference between Republicans and these new socialist Democrats. Republicans believe that there is dignity and value in hard work and risk-taking. Democrats believe that progress comes by forcing people to be dependent on their government. That is not

progress, to force somebody to be dependent on government.

They want to control the decisions you make: when you can work, when you can drive, whether you should wear a mask. It doesn't matter what the science or the CDC says. If Speaker PELOSI has the power, she will enforce it on you.

They want to control what you can read on the internet and what you can teach your children. But look at history. I don't see a single country where Democrat socialist ideas worked before. They have all been failures.

My greatest fear is the direction you are sending America. In 5 months, America goes from energy independence to having gasoline stations without gas; from an economy where you have done nothing but grow back, to creating inflation we haven't seen in decades; to empowering our enemies, who only harm our allies. You have more help wanted signs in America—8 million—and you missed the jobs report, the worst we have seen in decades, by the action taken on this floor.

The hard part about it, Madam Speaker, is we warned you. We told you what would happen. We told you you were going to create inflation. We told you you were going to kill American jobs. You are going to reward people not to work. I have never been a believer in participation trophies. They don't work. They don't help. Certainly, those small businesses that have struggled to survive, you are crushing them.

Every indication, every number shows it. To sit here on the floor and say you will not raise their taxes, you are doing it right now. You are hurting the most vulnerable. Gas prices are higher. The bread, the lumber to even build the house, you are pricing them out.

The recent surge of bad economic news, in what should be a robust recovery, is a warning sign that your ideas are not working now. The last time inflation was this high, Joe Biden was Vice President. The last time gas prices were this high, Joe Biden was Vice President. We found the common denominator: President Biden's bad policies. Unfortunately, instead of learning from history, President Biden and Democrats are choosing to repeat it.

That was one of the low points in America, when inflation was high, interest rates were there, and the rest of the world questioned whether America was what they used to be. We proved what policies could matter: incentive to work, letting people keep more of what they earned; making America energy independent.

What is so amazing to me, when President Biden was elected, he had Operation Warp Speed, he got a vaccine, and he was vaccinated before he was even sworn in. He had millions of doses of the vaccine being produced. He had an economy rising, coming out of the COVID pandemic. He had more help wanted signs. If he literally did nothing, America would be stronger. But he took the wrong actions, led by the socialist Democrats of this floor, Madam Speaker. Now America is hurting.

The only thing I ask: study history, listen to those who are creating jobs, take the incentive away where government is everything, and unshackle what holds us back. Let Americans have the freedom they deserve and desire. Prove that the next century will be ours once again.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

REPEAL THE STATE AND LOCAL TAX SALT CAP

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

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, I rise on tax day. Teachers, cops, single moms, seniors, veterans, middle-class Americans—I am here to speak for all of them today, to be their voice in the fight against a tax provision that punishes States like New Jersey for investing in its residents.

In States like mine, our State taxes go toward paying for top-tier public schools, investing in infrastructure and open spaces, and supporting a prevailing wage for our unions. That is why people move here. That is why families stay for generations.

But without the ability to deduct State and local taxes, calling New Jersey home is becoming less and less viable for our middle-class residents.

Seniors are rethinking retiring in New Jersey; married couples are rethinking starting a family in New Jersey; young people are rethinking moving back to New Jersey after college.

The bottom line is, you don't have to be a millionaire to be impacted by the SALT cap, and New Jersey families are getting taxed twice.

The time is now to bring relief to everyday middle-class New Jersey residents who are getting crushed by this cap.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SUTTIE ECONOMY

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

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of Roanoke native and World War II Navy veteran Suttie Economy, who passed away earlier this month at the age of 95.

While Economy was proud of his service and the time he spent on the USS *English* in the South Pacific, he never forgot his fellow veterans who didn't make it home. Economy made it his life's mission to honor soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines who gave their lives for the cause of American freedom.

Known for his efforts to maintain the Roanoke War Memorial, driving around town in his red, white, and blue Yugo, and handing out Juicy Fruit gum, Economy made an impression whenever he went.

In 2008, he said one of his proudest moments was having marble flower vases added to the Star City's war memorial after years of lobbying, urging folks to: ''Never forget those veterans.''

His daughter said his work was never about him, but rather, it was always about the veterans who served and gave their lives.

With traffic stopped, a police officer standing at attention, and members of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association serving as pallbearers, Economy was laid to rest with the respect he deserved.

Fair winds and following seas, Suttie.

STANDING FOR ISRAEL

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

Ms. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to declare my community's unshakable support for the State of Israel.

Israel has been under constant fire for over a week by Hamas, which is a terrorist organization supported by Iran. Over 3,100 rockets have been fired, 10 Israelis have been killed, and millions more would be at risk if not for the Iron Dome missile defense system protecting its citizens.

Make no mistake, Hamas is not interested in peace. Their goal is to destroy the Jewish State of Israel.

Hamas uses children as human shields and pays the terrorists' families for life.

Hamas launches the attacks but tries to paint Israel as the aggressor. At the same time, cynics or opportunists are taking advantage of this violent wave of terrorism to peddle anti-Semitic hate.

I am proud to stand for Israel, the only democratic country in the Middle East and its right to defend itself.

ISRAEL IS AMERICA'S STRONGEST ALLY

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

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to stand with the people of Israel and their right to defend themselves against the Iranian-funded terrorist groups, Hamas and Hezbollah.

Last week, these terrorists began firing missiles into Israel and killing Israeli citizens. Since these unjustified attacks started, we have seen Members of Congress and the media rush to declare a moral equivalence between Israel and its attackers.

Let me be very clear: There is no moral equivalence between the State of Israel and terrorists who shield themselves with children, target civilian

centers for missile attacks, and openly desire to destroy the Jewish people.

Israel is a sovereign, democratic Nation and is entitled to defend itself. The indiscriminate violence against Israeli citizens must end. Time and time again, Israel has proven itself to be America's strongest ally, and we must have Israel's back in their time of need. I urge my fellow Members of Congress and the Biden administration to stand firm with Israel against those who seek its destruction.

□ 1930

REMEMBERING GORDON SAUSSY VARNEDOE

(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 with a heavy heart to remember and honor Gordon Saussy Varnedoe, who passed away on April 24 at the age of 82.

Gordon was born in Savannah, Georgia, and was a proud graduate of the University of Georgia. Returning to Savannah, he became the director of the Waterfront Association; and a fundraiser for Armstrong State College, the Alzheimer's Association, and the Savannah Jazz Association.

Gordon's accomplishments as an athlete and contributor to Savannah's sports community earned him an induction to the Greater Savannah Athletic Hall of Fame as the first recipient of the M.A. Spellman Special Award.

Gordon's remarkable athletic accomplishments and contributions span multiple sports and decades. He walked on to the University of Georgia's football team as a fullback, founded the Savannah College of Art and Design rugby team, and the Savannah Scottish games.

Madam Speaker, two months before he died, I got a postcard from ''Batman.'' It said: ''You have been getting some heat recently. Just so you know, I love you and always will.''

I love you, too, Batman. We are going to miss you.

A CARBON TAX IS A BAD IDEA

(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 tonight to speak about the proposal for yet another idea for a carbon tax.

This will just drive inflation, which is already a significant problem for Americans, for fuel, for running their small businesses, for taking their kids to school, for just doing the things they do, maybe even going on a vacation.

Costs will go up if we have to tax energy more and more and more for doing business, for buying groceries, for every aspect of our lives, yet another tax heaped upon the people.

There are already proposals around here to raise taxes on fuel or maybe every mile you travel in your automobile. We have seen this in California already. I have watched what a carbon tax has done. It becomes a slush fund for government to spend to use on whatever it is they want to do, such as boondoggles like the high-speed rail in California, which is already triple over its original budget concept.

So why do we want to heap more and more on the backs of families, of small businesses, of a country whose economy is trying to recover by hitting them once again with one more bad idea of a carbon tax when, by the way, carbon dioxide is 0.04 percent of our atmosphere?

A lot of hype is being made out of this. No, the science is not settled by a long stretch, certainly by what human needs are compared to what human cause is.

THE TRAGEDY OF THE TULSA GREENWOOD MASSACRE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

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 am honored to share today's Special Order hour on Black Wall Street on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus, which is chaired by our great leader, Congressmember JOYCE BEATTY.

I want to extend my condolences to Congressmember Beatty and her family for the loss of her husband.

On May 30, 1921, a single scream in an elevator became the spark that ignited a powder keg of racial terror that set on fire Black Wall Street. A young Black man enters an elevator, and an elevator operator, a young White woman, screams, giving the impression that she had been assaulted.

A local newspaper, the Tulsa Tribune, accuses the young Black man of raping the young White woman. The headline of the article was an incitement to racial violence: ''Nab the Negro Who Attacked the Girl in the Elevator.''

As a result of the incitement, a White lynch mob descended on Black Wall Street and set on fire the wealthiest Black community in the United States, reducing it to ashes. The ashes of Black Wall Street are a metaphor for the failure of Reconstruction.

In the immediate aftermath of the Civil War, there were newly emancipated African Americans who set out to build a better life for themselves and their family, only to be held back by racial terror and violence that ultimately came to be codified in the form of Jim Crow.

We, as the CBC, are not only here to recite the facts of the Tulsa Race Massacre, but we are also here to reflect on the deeper meaning. The massacre in Tulsa tells a larger story about false accusation as an incitement to violence. It tells a larger story about the failure of Reconstruction and the rise of Jim Crow. It tells a larger story about domestic terrorism and white supremacist extremism as a form of domestic terror. It tells a larger story about the systematic denial and destruction of Black wealth. And, finally, it tells a larger story about the legacy of discrimination and the need for restitution.

It is worth noting that here in the United States Congress there is no greater champion of reparations than the chair of the Special Order hour, Congressmember JACKSON LEE.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, first, let me thank the gentleman from New York for organizing this very important Special Order and for his tremendous leadership on so many issues on behalf of his district, the Congressional Black Caucus, and on behalf of all Americans.

Let me first send my deepest condolences to Chairwoman JOYCE BEATTY and her family on the loss of her beloved husband, Otto Beatty, Jr., a devoted partner, beloved father, grandfather, and community leader. Our hearts are broken this evening as we think about Congresswoman BEATTY and her family, and just know we are praying for her and her community and her family.

This is a Special Order tonight that I want to thank again Congressman RITCHIE TORRES and the Congressional Black Caucus for organizing this to mark 100 years since the horrific tragedy of the Tulsa Greenwood massacre.

In one of the worst acts of racist violence in United States history, a White mob ransacked a prosperous African-American neighborhood in Tulsa, Oklahoma. From May 31 to June 1, 1921, an estimated 300 Black men, women, and children were murdered. The mob destroyed 35 square blocks of Greenwood and burned down over 1,000 Black-owned businesses, churches, and homes.

During a time when lynching African Americans was commonplace, the alleged—mind you, alleged—assault of a White woman by a Black man was enough to incite a massacre of unimaginable proportions. A thriving Black community became the target of animosity and racial hatred by its neighbors.

Now, a grand jury placed the blame for the massacre entirely on the Black

community. No White person was ever held accountable for these crimes. This is an example, mind you, of the horrors and the experience of living as a Black person in America then and now.

In 1997, the Oklahoma Legislature established a commission to study the Tulsa race riots of 1921. It was charged with the responsibility of developing an historical record of the massacre through identifying witnesses and gathering testimony and records. The commission not only corrected the record, but also recommended reparations for the survivors and their descendants. To date, they have not received any—mind you, any—direct compensation.

Up until recently, the silence in Tulsa, in Oklahoma, and in the United States about this massacre was an intentional effort to whitewash our Nation's racialized past. But we must remember these stories. We must tell the truth about our past.

I introduced H. Con. Res. 19 to establish a National Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation Commission to usher in this moment of truth to begin to examine and lift up to the public as the historical record of the history and legacy of slavery and how it is manifested today in systemic racism as it relates to African Americans.

But telling the truth is not enough. We must pass H.R. 40, sponsored by Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE. And I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 40, which is the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans to address and repair the material harm done by instances like the Tulsa Greenwood massacre.

I am pleased to say that my home State of California is leading the Nation in this effort, being the first State to pass a law to establish a task force to study and develop reparation proposals.

Black Tulsans have still not recovered from the impact of the Tulsa Greenwood massacre. Decades of discrimination following the massacre prevented the community from rebuilding their economic vitality. Black Tulsans are still over two times more likely to be unemployed than their White counterparts, and their communities are the least likely to attract businesses and large employers. Policies like redlining and local ordinances have prevented growth.

The legacy of the massacre continues to impact Black Tulsans today. We cannot forget and we cannot let the Nation forget about the Tulsa Greenwood massacre.

H.R. 40 is a bill that we need to move forward to begin to repair the damage of the historical facts of the legacy of enslaved Africans brought to this country, who, quite frankly, in spite of our progress, still have not achieved liberty and justice for all.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I thank Congressman TORRES for anchoring this very important Special Order hour today.

I also want to extend my deepest condolences to the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus and my friend, the Honorable JOYCE BEATTY, who lost her dear husband a few days ago. He passed away. He was a fine public servant and a fine civil rights champion, and he will be missed. We are there in prayer and in spirit with our dear sister.

It has been said that sunlight is the best disinfectant, yet the terrible atrocity that took place in Tulsa, Oklahoma, 100 years ago, on May 31 and June 1 of 1921, has lived in the shadows for far too long. It is time that the truth be told. We must know our past or we are bound to repeat it.

In 1921, the Black community in Tulsa, Oklahoma, was prospering, despite a racist system designed to marginalize and exclude it and its residents from the fruits of those citizens' labor. It was a community known as Greenwood, and it was also known as the Black Wall Street.

It was a thriving community. There were restaurants, grocery stores, hotels, theaters, banks, insurance companies, all owned by Black people. This community was self-sufficient. It was prospering, despite the fact that segregation was the norm and the lynching of Black men was as common as the white hoods of the KKK.

The simple fact is this: The Black community was succeeding in Tulsa, so White people burned it down. White supremacy and Jim Crow were the sparks that lit the fire. The massacre occurred over a 24-hour period, from May 30 to June 1 of 1921. And it all began like so many other racially motivated events: A false allegation against a Black man.

In response, a White mob of thousands shot, beat, and murdered Black residents, and they did it with impunity.

□ 1945

They looted Black homes and businesses and set fires in their wake, this White mob. They were aided and abetted by the National Guard and also deputized killers, looters, and arsonists.

Twenty-four hours after the violence began, 35 city blocks lay in ruins. Not a single dwelling or business or building was left standing.

Within months of the Greenwood massacre, the KKK's Tulsa chapter became one of the Nation's largest, because what better recruiting tool than plundering and killing Blacks with impunity?

No person has ever been held accountable on the State, local, or Federal level, in the criminal courts, or in the civil courts for the atrocities committed against the Black community and the Black people of Greenwood in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

And here we are today, 100 years later, still challenged by state-sanctioned violence against Black people. Some things have changed, but some things remain the same.

The events of January 6, when Confederate flags flew inside and out of the Capitol, and where a hangman's noose was draped over a functional gallows constructed on the Capitol Grounds to intimidate and terrorize, that proves that not much has changed.

And I stand here today to tell you that we have had enough. It is time to fix America and rid racism from its soil. We must fix our country, and that starts with examining our past and looking at how we can heal together as a Nation, and, yes, reparation. Justice delayed is justice denied, and Black Americans in this country have been denied justice for far too long. Enough is enough.

At this time, I would like to read from the Tulsa Historical Society and Museum website. It is at TulsaHistory.org. I want to read the following information that it publishes, which comes from the 2001 Tulsa Race Riot Commission report.

''On the morning of May 30, 1921, a young Black man named Dick Rowland riding in the elevator at the Drexel Building at Third and Main with a White woman named Sarah Page. The details of what followed vary from person to person. Accounts of an incident circulated among the city's White community during the day and became more exaggerated with each telling.

''Tulsa police arrested Rowland the following day and began an investigation. An inflammatory report in the May 31 edition of the Tulsa Tribune spurred a confrontation between Black and White armed mobs around the courthouse where the sheriff and his men had barricaded the top floor to protect Rowland. Shots were fired, and the outnumbered African Americans began retreating to the Greenwood district.

''In the early morning hours of June 1, 1921, Greenwood was looted and burned by White rioters,'' as they are called. ''Governor Robertson declared martial law, and National Guard troops arrived in Tulsa. Guardsmen assisted firemen in putting out fires, took African Americans out of the hands of vigilantes and imprisoned,'' locked them up, ''all Black Tulsans not already interned. Over 6,000 people were held at the convention hall and the fairgrounds, some for as long as 8 days.

''Twenty-four hours after the violence erupted, it ceased. In the wake of the violence, 35 city blocks laid in charred ruins, more than 800 people were treated for injuries, and contemporary reports of deaths began at 36. Historians now believe as many as 300 people may have died.

''In order to understand the Tulsa Race Massacre, it is important to understand the complexities of the times. Dick Rowland, Sarah Page, and an unknown gunman were the sparks that ignited a long-smoldering fire. Jim Crow, jealousy, white supremacy, and land lust all played roles in leading up to the destruction and loss of life on May 31 and June 1, 1921. . . .

''Black Tulsans had every reason to believe that Dick Rowland would be lynched after his arrest. His charges were later dismissed and highly suspect from the start. They had cause to believe that his personal safety, like the defense of themselves and their community, depended on them alone. As hostile groups gathered and their confrontation worsened, municipal and county authorities failed to take actions to calm or contain the situation.

''At the eruption of violence, civil officials selected many men, all of them White and some of them participants in that violence, and made those men their agents as deputies. In that capacity, deputies did not stem the violence but added to it, often through overt acts that were themselves illegal. Public officials provided firearms and ammunition to individuals, again, all of them White. Units of the Oklahoma National Guard participated in the mass arrests of all or nearly all of Greenwood's residents.

''They removed them to other parts of the city and detained them in holding centers. Entering the Greenwood district, people stole, damaged, or destroyed personal property left behind in homes and businesses. People, some of them agents of government, also deliberately burned or otherwise destroyed homes credibly estimated to have numbered 1,256, along with virtually every other structure—including churches, schools, businesses, even a hospital and library—in the Greenwood district. Despite duties to preserve order and to protect property, no government at any level offered adequate resistance, if any at all, to what amounted to the destruction of the Greenwood neighborhood. Although the exact total can never be determined, credible evidence makes it probable that many people, likely numbering between 100 to 300, were killed during the massacre.''

I am reading to you from the report of the Tulsa commission that was set up by the city of Tulsa to report on the events that happened in Greenwood 100 years ago.

''Not one of these criminal acts was then or ever has been prosecuted or punished by government at any level: municipal, county, State, or Federal. Even after the restoration of order, it was official policy to release a Black detainee only upon the application of a White person, and then only if that White person agreed to accept responsibility for that detainee's subsequent behavior. As private citizens, many Whites in Tulsa and neighboring communities did extend invaluable assistance to the massacre's victims,'' to their credit.

''Despite being numerically at a disadvantage, Black Tulsans fought valiantly to protect their homes, their businesses, and their community. But in the end, the city's African-American population was simply outnumbered by the White invaders. In the end, the restoration of Greenwood after its systematic destruction was left to the victims of that destruction. While Tulsa officials turned away some offers of outside aid, a number of individual White Tulsans provided assistance to the city's now virtually homeless Black population. . . .

''In recent years, there has been ongoing discussion about what to call the event that happened in 1921. Historically, it has been called the Tulsa Race Riot. Some say it was given that name at the time for insurance purposes. Designating it a riot prevented insurance companies from having to pay benefits to the people of Greenwood whose homes and businesses were destroyed.''

Now, this is not me talking. I am still reading from that report.

''It also was common at the time for any large-scale clash between different racial or ethnic groups to be categorized a race riot.

''What do you think?'' the report asks.

''Definition of 'riot': a tumultuous disturbance of the public peace by three or more persons assembled together and acting with common intent.

''Definition of 'massacre': the act or an instance of killing a number of usually helpless or unresisting human beings under circumstances of atrocity or cruelty.''

So, that is why I personally refer to it as the Tulsa Greenwood massacre, as opposed to a race riot.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. JOHNSON for his deep insight and kind words earlier.

Some background on Tulsa, Oklahoma: The district of Greenwood in its time was famously described by Booker T. Washington as ''Black Wall Street.'' It was so named because it was the most vibrant and affluent African-American community in the United States. It was an oasis of opportunity in a desert of du jour discrimination.

For many African Americans in search of a better life, it was a promised land amid the broken promise of Reconstruction. It was home to 10,000 residents. There were 30 vibrant restaurants, 45 vibrant grocers and meat markets. There was a 54-room hotel. There was a theater and a hospital.

Black Wall Street was a self-contained, self-sufficient community of Black wealth, a community of Black entrepreneurship and Black ownership.

And Black Wall Street, at the hands of racial terrorism, at the hands of racial violence, the wealthiest Black community in the United States became a scene of mass murder, looting, and arson. It became a scene of death, destruction, and displacement. Nothing was spared in the Tulsa Race Massacre.

Churches, schools, and hospitals were burned down. Twelve thousand homes were burned down. Thirty-five blocks burned down. The Tulsa burning had a death toll of 300 and a displacement toll of 10,000. Ten thousand people lost their homes, their businesses, and their livelihoods. And 6,000 of those people were relegated to internment camps.

Then, after the internment camps, Black professionals, Black business owners who lost everything, were forced to live in tents and shacks. It was the worst act of racial terrorism and one of the worst acts of domestic terrorism in the history of the United States.

□ 2000

Now, I see a parallel between the Tulsa Race Massacre and January 6. The insurrection against the United States Congress on January 6 was not simply an attack on a physical structure, it was an expression of racial rage and resentment against multiracial democracy. And the same is true of the Tulsa Race Massacre.

We have to recognize that the domestic terrorism that we saw unfold on January 6 did not happen in a vacuum. It has a history, and that history includes the KKK; it includes Jim Crow, and, yes, it includes the Tulsa Race Massacre. And it is a scandal in America that most Americans have never heard of the Tulsa Race Massacre.

Madam Speaker, as Congressman JOHNSON noted earlier, it has been referred to as a race riot, which is an attempt to whitewash the white supremacist, domestic terrorism at the heart of the massacre. And so we are here to tell the truth about the Tulsa Greenwood Massacre because we see a proper revision of history away from whitewashing as part of our national reckoning with race in America.

It is worth noting that in 2021, Black homeownership is at historic lows. The rate of Black homeownership is lower today than it was before the Fair Housing Act in the 1960s. The gap between Black and White homeownership has never been greater. According to the Federal Reserve, White households on average have eight times more wealth than Black households. And part of the reason is the Tulsa massacre, and the systemic racism that it represents.

There is a racial income gap between White households and Black households, but there is an even greater wealth gap. And the wealth gap is not an accident, it is a product of public policy. It is a consequence of systemic racism.

During the post-war era, we saw Black Americans systematically excluded from programs providing homeownership and higher education, which are the pillars of wealth-building. And if you have no home to own, then you have no home equity to build. And if you have no home equity to build, then you have no wealth to pass down from one generation to the next.

And so, instead of realizing the dream of intergenerational wealth, too many Black Americans were condemned by public policy, condemned by systemic racism to the nightmare of intergenerational poverty. The Tulsa Race Massacre should be understood as a microcosm of what white supremacy has done to Black people and Black property, to Black business and Black

community. And the ghosts of Jim Crow, the ghosts of the Tulsa and Greenwood massacre hunts us till this day.

I represent a neighborhood named Arthur Avenue in the Bronx, and many of the businesses on Arthur Avenue have been owned by the same family for more than 100 years, but those businesses—all of them are white.

And I thought to myself, what if Black Wall Street had been left alone, had been left to survive and thrive. It may very well be the case that some of those businesses would have endured until 2021. We could have had businesses owned by Black families for more than a century had it not been for the racial terrorism that took hold in 1921. And we know that when it comes to business, longevity is often the basis for resilience. Established businesses which tend to be wealthier and whiter had greater resilience in the face of COVID–19; whereas, newer businesses, which tend to be Black and Brown, were too fragile to survive the cataclysm of COVID–19.

In the first two months of the outbreak, 44 percent of Black businesses were wiped out, which raises the question, what if Black Wall Street were left to thrive, and what if we could have had businesses that would have endured for more than a century and could have had the resilience, the longevity, to overcome even a cataclysmic event like COVID–19.

Madam Speaker, I want to provide some more historic background, on May 31–June 1, 1921, a White mob attacked America's Black Wall Street, the Greenwood district of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and what is known as the Tulsa-Greenwood Race Massacre. The White mob of thousands of people shot and murdered Black residents, looted their homes and businesses, and burned more than 1,000 homes, churches, schools, and businesses. Not only did local authorities and law enforcement fail to maintain civil order and protect Tulsa's Black residents, some government agents aided the White mob in carrying out the massacre.

Many of the residents who fled the massacre were detained in internment camps immediately following the massacre. And local officials later made, and ultimately failed, an attempt to block the ability of the Black community to rebuild the Greenwood commercial district by enacting a restrictive building ordinance.

Less than a month after the massacre, a grand jury placed the blame entirely on the Black community and indicted 85 people—mostly African-Americans—with massacre-related offenses. No White person was ever held individually accountable for crimes committed during the massacre, and the vast majority of survivors and their descendants were never directly compensated for these harms.

So not only did a White lynch mob set the most vibrant, Black community on fire, but then the United States proceeded to whitewash the history of the Tulsa massacre, claiming that it was a race riot rather than the act of domestic terrorism that it was and should always be seen as. No White person was held to account, and no Black person was made whole.

Despite the acute challenges of racism in the late 19th and early 20th century, Black residents have been able to create thriving community in the Greenwood District of Tulsa, Oklahoma. However, this community was literally burned to the ground in one of the worst incidents of racial violence in American history. And to this day, no one has been truly held responsible. And it is worth noting, even though Greenwood has rebuilt itself, Greenwood does have among the highest rates of poverty and unemployment in the city of Tulsa, which demonstrates the legacy of systemic racism, how hard it can be to overcome that legacy.

The Tulsa Massacre resulted in property damage valued anywhere from $25 million to $100 million when adjusted in today's dollars. As the descendants of the white mob that looted Tulsa businesses have had the opportunity to benefit from the wealth of their ancestors, many Black survivors of the Tulsa Massacre and their descendants have not been able to recoup the wealth that had been lost or destroyed during the massacre.

Despite the Oklahoma Commission to study the race massacre of 1921 stating, ''Reparations to the historic Greenwood community in real and tangible form would be good public policy and do much to repair the emotional and physical scars of this terrible incident in our shared past.'' Despite that finding, neither the State of Oklahoma nor the city of Tulsa has provided direct compensation to survivors or their descendants.

Discrimination against Black Tulsans did not end following the massacre. Over the local decades, local ordinances to prevent rebuilding, redlining, urban renewal, and slum clearance, gentrification, highway construction, tearing apart communities.

I will offer a note of personal reflection. I represent the South Bronx, which has been ravaged by a racist highway known as the Cross Bronx Expressway. It was built by Robert Moses and largely funded by Federal dollars. And the Cross Bronx Expressway has left behind decades of displacement and environmental degradation.

There are children who are born in the Bronx who live near the Cross Bronx Expressway, who breathe in pollutants every day that cause respiratory disease and cardiovascular disease. And we saw those diseases become lethal during COVID–19.

As a son of the Bronx, I was often in three places. I was at home, I was at school, and I was in the emergency room, because I was repeatedly hospitalized for asthma. And the asthma epidemic in the Bronx, again, is not an accident. It is a consequence of the Cross Bronx Expressway, which is both literally and metaphorically a structure of racism. The South Bronx has a childhood asthma hospitalization rate that is double to three times the national average.

So like the South Bronx, the neighborhood of Greenwood has its own racist highway. And one of the most exciting features of the American Jobs Plan is a proposed $20 billion fund that would rebuild neighborhoods that have been divided and devastated by the structural racism of highways. And I hope neighborhoods like Greenwood and the South Bronx will benefit from our national reckoning with race.

The impact of the massacre and the ongoing systemic discrimination is clear when you compare North Tulsa, where many Black residents of Tulsa now live, to other areas. North Tulsan residents are significantly poorer than residents in other parts of the city. There are fewer businesses and large-scale employers in North Tulsa than in other cities.

According to a 2018 city study, North Tulsa had the fewest jobs of any region of Tulsa. The unemployment rate is 2.37 percent times higher for Black Tulsans than for White Tulsans. The lowest life expectancy in Tulsa occurs in the poorest regions with the greatest concentration of Black residents.

The United States has a responsibility to both acknowledge the harm caused by the Tulsa Massacre and to enact legal remedies and policy proposals to compensate survivors and their descendants. And as many of you know, there is no greater champion of making the victims of systemic racism whole, no greater champion of reparations than the chair of our Special Order hour, Congress Member JACKSON LEE.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York from illustrating, elaborating on, detailing, and bringing to the 21st century the horrors of the Tulsa race riots, calling it what it is and not being fearful of acknowledging the riotist and violent impact of the Tulsa race riots.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to now continue the discussion on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus and my cochair of the Special Order hour, the Honorable Congressman TORRES of New York.

Let me, first of all, thank our chair, Chairwoman BEATTY, for matching her members with this process of ensuring that the history, the unbiased history of a people in all of our variations is told truthfully.

□ 2015

We, too, are Americans. The Tulsan residents of that time were Americans as well.

I am reminded of the early stages of my education. When Congressman

TORRES' history was the Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria, I could almost repeat that in my sleep, the three ships that came with Christopher Columbus. He was the founder of America—over and over again.

I'm not sure during the period of our early childhood and those of recent vintage learned anything of Native American history, Korean-American history, Japanese-American, Chinese-American, African-American, slavery. I don't know if our children in periods of the 20th century and now in the 21st century knew there was more history.

I do know that the past President wanted the Smithsonian, the African-American culture, to stop teaching about African history. I know that there was a challenge to the U.S. Department of Education by Minority Leader MCCONNELL, to stop teaching the 1619 Project. It baffles me because I believe that, if a country or a people know its history, we will not be doomed to repeat the past.

When I say ''a people,'' America is represented by many people. If we knew each other's history, if we understood each other's history, could we not—even if not those who are already past understanding, but could our children grow up with empathy and understanding?

That is why we are here on the floor of the House. We are not here to castigate and to throw untruthful hits. We are here to tell the truth.

Madam Speaker, tears come to my eyes as a series—and I only get to look at television late in the night, after all the day's work is done, and there is a series called ''The Underground Railroad.'' You cannot look at that without shaking in your boots, shaking in the chair you are sitting in, tears coming to your eyes.

That is the empathy that America can understand for all the journeys that so many of us have taken. We have taken it, and we are here in this place. The greatest experiment that the world watches.

Can they make it?

They were watching it from Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, 1863, and then General Granger in 1865.

They watched us through the 1800s. We failed. Reconstruction did not work. Even with all the Governors and Congress people that had been elected are freed slaves. That ugly head of racism, white supremacy, lynching, the tearing asunder of Black communities, the still tearing apart of families, the lynching of men and women who went off to the grocery store—when I say that, the local store, whatever it was down the road—and never came back.

In 1921—boy, I am just so proud of this picture—this is bustling Tulsa, Oklahoma. This is the example of the excitement. I am reading where it says the McGowan Variety Store. There are some McGowans in Houston. They might be related. These are the prancing people with their cowboy hats on. It looks as if students, just like we would see in our neighborhoods today or in our high schools today, dancers, they had a full holistic community. There is some cars on the street.

Can you imagine 1921?

Oh, I wish I could just take a trip back, just stand on the sidewalk, and just look with pride of history I did not know. I never imagined there were cities like Tulsa, Oklahoma, as I was growing up as a child. I never imagined we had anything, we were worth anything, except for what my mother and father and grandparents poured into me.

My big mother, which was my great-grandmother, owned property obviously destroyed by the highways and freeways that came in and took it away in St. Petersburg, Florida. I just thought that was our way of life. Just like I thought riding in the back of a train going south to visit her, sitting by my lonely with a bag of fried chicken—that is right, I am not embarrassed—to carry me through to visit my grandmother in St. Petersburg, Florida. Thank God, I got there safely. I was just about 8 or 9 or 10, and I was sitting in the colored car, and I wasn't supposed to move except for necessary purposes.

I didn't know—I didn't know I could come here and see this. And our children don't know it. That is why we are on the floor today. We are on the floor today because we have to begin to embrace each other's story.

So I am very delighted that I am leading on H. Res. 398, embraced by the Congressional Black Caucus. This will be on the floor of the House this coming Wednesday. And my counterpart in the United States Senate is a very dear friend, Senator ELIZABETH WARREN, who believes in this resolution, that is the recognizing of the forthcoming centennial, the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre. And it doesn't say ''riot.'' It says ''massacre.'' It was a massacre.

I Thank the House leadership. I thank them for their understanding the value and importance of this as we lead into June and begin to move on H.R. 40, the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals. It is nothing harmful. There is nothing that will undermine anyone. It is to accept what happened.

So I am so grateful we have almost 100 cosponsors, and maybe more to come into the next 24 hours, for a story that was never told.

Oh, yes, as a little Black girl, I could tell you about Columbus, tell you about Abraham Lincoln, tell you about George Washington. And most of them today in the 21st century, they are not hearing about the wide diversity of our history, Madam Speaker—yours and mine and the many people that are on this side of the aisle or that side of the aisle.

So let me just recount very briefly again. A century ago, White rioters, local law enforcement, and self-appointed vigilantes claim to be acting reasonably and in self-defense against what they feared was an upcoming Black uprising.

Same as January 6, where there are people who had the audacity to say it looked like tourists on any normal day, when we were laying flat on the floor in this building while banging and screams and guns drawn on this side of that door. We didn't know whether we would live. And a lifesaving shot for that person who did not know what was happening, attempting to save lives. Sadly, someone lost their life.

Members in near panic—rightly so—leaving these Chambers and walking down and seeing AK–47s in the hands of individuals laying flat on the ground, that our brave officers had under their watch.

Yes, rioters. But in Greenwood, I want this picture to be embedded in your DNA, because you will see economic prosperity, self-sufficiency. Yes, it was known as the Black Wall Street. They viewed, however, black males as fearsome, physical threats to their personal safety, and the rivals of White women. I don't know what happened in an elevator, allegedly. The story, you know, it is always a mystery, but some claim of some insult that occurred.

And all of a sudden the word went out enraging leaders of the White community, fine citizens, probably in some church over the weekend. When I say in their church in that time, because they were always using the Bible wrongly and incorrectly. And I will say that because I believe in a merciful redemptive Jesus, as a Christian. There are many other faiths, Torah and Koran and others.

But I know in the redemptive faith of Christianity, we believe in redemption. We don't go out because we know that we have had one to sacrifice for us on the cross so that we might be redeemed. We sing that song in our community, ''Let the Redeemed Say So.'' But apparently they didn't have that memory.

100,000 Black people lived in that area, sold luxury items. Twenty-one restaurants, 30 grocery stores, a hospital, savings and loan, a post office, three hotels, jewelry and clothing, two movie theaters, a library, pool halls, bus and cab service, a nationally recognized school system. A nationally recognized school system, when all of us are fighting for our children to be educated.

Today, I left Houston. And guess what? We have a new resident of Texas: Curtis Jackson, known as 50 Cent.

We were standing together because he was producing with Mayor Turner and Al Kashani and the School Superintendent Grenita Lathan, and all elected officials to announce an entrepreneurial program.

Can you imagine, to be able to build up our children?

They had two Black newspapers, six private planes. And I want to say it again, a recognized school system.

On May 31 of that year, 35 city blocks went up in flames and 300 persons were

murdered and, to my knowledge, buried in an unmarked grave; 800 were injured and 9,000 were left homeless.

Yes, one cannot ignore this history, but it has been ignored, it has been snuffed out, it has been put under.

I never knew about it until people like Dr. Crutcher, from this great city, and various leaders that have brought to our attention even more. But over the years, obviously, in my study of reparations, I have seen the insults that have happened when no one bothered to respond.

Brutality that we are now trying to correct by acknowledging in H. Res. 398, and I hope my colleagues will come to the floor of the House to be able to address it.

Let me show you what that massacre generated, and you will understand.

Madam Speaker, how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman has 7 minutes remaining.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, you saw the bustling town. You saw the bustling town. This is a charred Negro who suffered in the Tulsa riots.

Yes, I am like Emmett Till's mother, Let the world see it. This is what happened to an innocent Black person.

By the way, the dead included children. Tulsa Historical Society. This is America. And this is a story that we failed to tell. This is what happened.

We have more stories to tell. We believe that a picture is worth a thousands words. We can never, never overcome that burned, charred body.

I showed you what Tulsa looked like, the Black Wall Street, and the burned-out ruins of Greenwood. Tulsa, Oklahoma library—they even got it in the library. I don't know how many people have seen it. It is a wasteland, a literal wasteland. Smoke is coming up. People's homes are gone. Wealth is gone. People were never to be presented with any relief. None. I don't even think they got a thank-you—not even a thank-you.

So our resolution condemns violence and destruction perpetrated against the African-American community of Greenwood. Our resolution has a rejection and active opposition to the false ideology of white supremacy and condemnation of all groups. Our resolution believes in promoting tolerance and unity, and taking action to ensure governmental policies and action to promote tolerance and unity.

Our resolution is calling for all Americans to celebrate the ethnic, racial, and religious diversity that has made the United States great. Our resolution encourages all persons of the United States to reflect upon the history of the United States as an imperfect but committed journey to establish a more perfect union. Our resolution is recognized as a commitment of Congress to acknowledge and learn from the history of racism and racial violence in the United States.

Our resolution lays the groundwork for moving to H.R. 40, the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals, because we can see it in real life.

□ 2030

So this is part of the Tulsa that never got acknowledged.

Madam Speaker, let me show you additional fires so you can see the buildings going up in smoke. We are not making it up. All of these buildings—brick buildings—were burned to the ground.

Can you imagine someone who survived the post-traumatic stress, the horrors of their life, the willingness not to live anymore, and the giving up of hope?

People wonder, oh, those lazy Negroes and colored people who worked for over 250 years in bondage.

Finally, I am going to put the picture of the slaves, the individuals. So this is the story we tell tonight. We don't even tell it with a sense of vengeance. We tell it with a sense of dignity, respect, and honor. The courage of those people, and the genius of those people—they weren't even freed slaves for 100 years and look what they created.

There is a story on CNN: ''My great-grandmother survived the 1921 Tulsa massacre. We are not heeding her history.'' For what was once the wealthiest Black neighborhood in America became charred ash in a matter of hours. But we have not come to a conclusion to end this kind of White supremacy and racism.

Madam Speaker, I include this in the RECORD.

[From CNN, May 14, 2021]

OPINION: MY GREAT-GRANDMOTHER SURVIVED THE 1921 TULSA MASSACRE. WE'RE NOT HEEDING HER HISTORY

A century ago, my Black brothers and sisters were decimated by one of the worst occurrences of racial violence in our nation's history. On May 31 and June 1, 1921, White gangs flooded into the thriving Greenwood neighborhood and murdered up to 300 Black men, women and children. According to the Tulsa Historical Society, 1,500 Black homes were burned, along with over 600 businesses, and places of worship, healing, learning and gathering.

My great-grandmother, Rebecca Brown Crutcher—a woman who was the picture of Black excellence—lived and worked in the Greenwood community. But in 1921, she fled in fear of her life as White Tulsans burned her neighborhood to the ground.

What was once the wealthiest Black neighborhood in America became charred ash in a matter of hours. 10,000 Black residents were left homeless—and an entire generation of Black Tulsans were robbed of their wealth and prosperity they had built. To this day, not one person has ever been held accountable and not a single cent of reparations has been paid to the survivors or the victims' descendants.

Without this necessary reckoning with the past, we're already repeating it. As Oklahoma and many around the world are preparing to mark the centennial of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre, last month, Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt signed a law criminalizing peaceful protesters and giving immunity to drivers who ''unintentionally'' kill or injure protesters. This law is, according to the count kept by the International Center for Not-For-Profit Law, just one of 81 anti-protest bills introduced in 34 states during the 2021 legislative session alone—most of them framed as a response to last summer's Black Lives Matter protests. But instead of tackling the root causes of these nationwide protests against police brutality, racism and anti-Blackness, many lawmakers are attempting to intimidate, malign and criminalize peaceful protesters.

Laws like this one will undoubtedly have painful and long-lasting consequences in Oklahoma and the rest of the nation. Black, brown and Indigenous people will surely be locked up, ripped apart from their families, and may lose their jobs for exercising their First Amendment right to peacefully assemble in a protest. They will surely receive harsher punishments for protesting police brutality and racial injustice than, for instance, White protesters demonstrating for gun rights or for their desire to control a woman's body.

This isn't the only bill introduced in Oklahoma this session that's followed the Tulsa Race Massacre's sinister legacy of suppression and erasure of Black Oklahomans. Half a dozen bills have already been introduced to restrict absentee voting and require identification to vote, echoing the growing trend of voting restrictions around the country. Historically in our state as elsewhere, these tactics have been used to disenfranchise Black and brown, poor and older communities and people with disabilities, with the precedent being set in one state and spreading like wildfire to the rest of the country.

On May 7, Governor Stitt signed HB 1775 into law, which will prohibit Oklahoma schools from teaching critical race theory—or in other words important lessons about systemic racism and diversity. The measure is meant to essentially stifle important discussions about, among other things, the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre, the Trail of Tears and the Osage murders in classrooms and beyond. Erasing our history, yet again, will have devastating consequences. And Oklahoma isn't alone—bills banning or restricting the teaching of critical race theory have been drafted in Iowa, Louisiana, Missouri, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, and West Virginia and already passed in Utah, Arkansas, Idaho and Tennessee.

Bills like HB 1775 attempt to obscure the fact that heinous instances of racial violence, from slavery to Jim Crow laws to the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre, are not blemishes on our history but consequences of discriminatory systems that continue to harm Black people today.

Such laws are designed to prevent a full and honest accounting of how systemic racism works. The bill says it will prohibit the teaching that ''an individual, by virtue of his or her race or sex, bears responsibility for actions committed in the past by other members of the same race or sex,'' thereby upholding White supremacy and helping absolve the city of Tulsa and the state of the moral obligation of paying reparations to the survivors and descendants of the Tulsa Race Massacre. HB 1775 also flies in the face of reality—as if the wealth and security stripped from Black Tulsans a century ago doesn't have a direct relationship to the widening gaps in home ownership, education, life expectancy and arrest rates today.

Each of us should learn the hard lessons of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre and the continued harm shouldered by the survivors, the descendants and the neighborhood of Greenwood. We should learn that race, racism and discrimination have very real, concrete effects on our history, our culture, our politics and our current lives. But we can't learn the truth or grow from it if it's hidden from us—and that's precisely what HB 1775 attempts

to do. In so doing, this measure continues the harm of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre, because a century later, Stitt and our elected officials are still trying to bury the lessons that our ancestors would want us to carry forward.

As a descendant of a Tulsa Race Massacre survivor, it's painful to see Oklahoma's governor refuse to learn from our history and acknowledge its continuing impact today. Instead, he's chosen to saddle our teachers and educators with even more baggage, and potentially penalize them for doing what's right.

My hope is that our teachers will look this evil in the eye and refuse to give in or back down. I hope they will continue teaching the truth about topics like the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre—including that it was borne from White supremacy, a mortal threat to our democracy that remains with us today. Our students deserve the unbridled truth, not a polished facade that makes us feel good about ourselves.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I include the KJRH article in the RECORD.

[From KJRH]

GOV. STITT RESPONDS TO LETTER FROM TULSA RACE MASSACRE COMMISSION

TULSA, OK, May 14, 2021.—Gov. Kevin Stitt has officially been removed from the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial Commission.

This comes after Stitt signed a bill limiting race and gender curriculums in Oklahoma schools earlier in May. House Bill 1775 prohibits state public schools, colleges, and universities from incorporating certain messages about sex and race into any course instruction.

This also comes on the 100th anniversary of the 1921 Tulsa race massacre, where a white mob attacked Black residents and businesses in the Greenwood District of Tulsa, also known as Black Wall Street.

The governor's office released the following statement Friday afternoon:

''Governor Stitt's role as a member of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial Commission has been purely ceremonial and he had not been invited to attend a meeting until this week. It is disappointing to see an organization of such importance spend so much effort to sow division based on falsehoods and political rhetoric two weeks before the centennial and a month before the commission is scheduled to sunset. The governor and first lady will continue to support the revitalization of the Greenwood District, honest conversations about racial reconciliation and pathways of hope in Oklahoma.''

The commission sent 2 News the following statement:

''The 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial Commissioners met Tuesday and agreed through consensus to part ways with Governor Stitt. No elected officials, nor representatives of elected officials, were involved in this decision. While the Commission is disheartened to part ways with Governor Stitt, we are thankful for the things accomplished together. The Commission remains focused on lifting up the story of Black Wall Street and commemorating the Centennial. With just weeks before the Centennial of one of the worst Race massacres in the history of the U.S., Commissioners stand united in focusing time, energy and efforts on descendants, survivors, education, economic development and progress this year and beyond. We hope to see many of you in person or virtually at some of our events that we hope will drive change for years to come.''

The commission previously issued Stitt a letter after he did not join a special meeting Monday night to discuss the signing of HB 1775 into law.

Phil Armstrong, the project director of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial Commission, said HB 1775 ''chills the ability of educators to teach students, of any age, and will only serve to intimidate educators who seek to reveal and process our hidden history. You know that. We delivered this message to you before you signed the measure. We were joined by educators, school boards, universities, faith, and community leaders, all of whom vigorously objected to HB 1775. You seemingly disregarded and dismissed this chorus of voices aligned against HB 1775.''

The governor responded by saying, in part, ''it is disappointing that some commission members feel that a common-sense law preventing students from being taught that one race or sex is superior to another is contrary to the mission of reconciliation and restoration.''

C.J. Webber-Neal, president of the Greenwood Arts & Cultural Society, INC., also called for the governor's resignation as a commission member. In a statement, Webber-Neal said he was satisfied with having Stitt removed from the commission.

''The Greenwood Arts & Cultural Society, INC. is very pleased that the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial Commission has with one concise voice taken action to remove Kevin Stitt, Governor of Oklahoma, from it body.

Based upon the stated mission of this body, we stand in solidarity with their action regarding Governor Stitt's role as a member of this Commission, based upon his signing of HB 1775 into law. The truth of the horrific story of 1921's Race Massacre (as well as other history of the experiences of minorities in America) must be taught honestly and unequivocally, so that future generations will learn of the demons of our past so we as a society will not be doomed to repeat this evil act.

At this time, we also encourage this body to add in the Governor's place survivors and descendants of the massacre, so that representation of this painful period in our history can be reflected thru the experiences of those who were directly impacted by this tragic event.

Furthermore, we encourage any available monetary relief be given by this organization to the three survivors of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre. This should be done as both a sign of reconciliation and the rising of the eternal spirit of Greenwood. This we believe is long overdue.''

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I include a detailed account of the Tulsa Race Massacre in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

DETAILED ACCOUNT OF TULSA RACE MASSACRE OF 1921

ACCOUNT BASED ON FACTS AND DOCUMENTS REPORTED IN ''FINAL REPORT OF THE OKLAHOMA COMMISSSION TO STUDY THE TULSA RACE RIOT OF 1921''

Starting late on the evening on May 31 and continuing into the day of June 1, 1921, a White mob attacked the Greenwood district of Tulsa, Oklahoma, razing it to the ground. The attackers looted and intentionally burned an estimated 1,256 homes in Greenwood—known as America's ''Black Wall Street''—along with nearly all the district's churches, schools, and businesses.

The number of persons killed in the riot may never be known, but a 2001 report by African Americans during this era lived under the ever-present threat of mass racial violence—which often took the form of White mobs invading Black communities. It was also during this period that thousands of African Americans accused of crimes against White people—but particularly Black men accused of sexual assaulting White women—were summarily executed by White lynch mobs. Local authorities at the time often condoned or even participated in these extrajudicial killings or otherwise did little to nothing to stop them.

Yet despite this national atmosphere, Tulsa's Greenwood district thrived. Black workers were mostly shut out of the booming oil industry driving Tulsa's meteoric turn-of-the-century growth, so many working-class residents had to find work doing menial or domestic labor. Greenwood's vibrant economy instead was driven mainly by residents' entrepreneurial skills previously developed in the many all-Black towns that dotted the Oklahoma landscape. The range of Black-owned businesses located in Greenwood included grand hotels, restaurants, theaters, pharmacies, diners, barbershops, and small mom-and-pop shops. Greenwood was also home to hundreds of professionals, including doctors, lawyers, and real estate agents. Many residents lived under conditions typical of the working-class in that era and subsisted without running water or electricity. The district's more prosperous residents lived in modern houses befitting their middle and upper-class economic status. Simply put, by the time of the Massacre, the residents of Greenwood had created a thriving, and, in many ways economically self-sufficient, Black enclave.

No African American had been lynched in Tulsa at the time of the Massacre. The threat of racially motivated violence, however, cast an everpresent shadow over the Greenwood district. Incidents of lynching occurring across the country were heavily reported in the local Black press. Editorials in local Black-owned newspapers in Tulsa published the year or so leading up to the Massacre decried instances of ''mob law'' and prominent Greenwood residents advocated for armed African Americans to protect Black prisoners from White lynch mobs. Most saliently, the lynching of a White man in Tulsa and of a young African American man in Oklahoma City within the same week in the year proceeding the Massacre convinced many Black Tulsans that local authorities could not be counted on to protect a Black person accused of a serious crime against a White person.

Notably—but unsurprisingly in segregated Tulsa—none of these Black viewpoints on lynching were reflected in the local White press, and likely few, if any White Tulsans regularly read Black-owned newspapers. Instead, the White-owned press focused at that time on crime and allegations of local corruption. An oil boomtown at the beginning of the Prohibition Era, Tulsa's crime rate in the early 1920's appeared to residents to be increasing. In particular, the city had gained a seedy reputation for illegal liquor and prostitution.

For the most part during the period leading up to the Massacre, White-owned papers had not blamed African Americans for the apparent rise in crime, and crimes in Greenwood did not receive a disproportionate amount of coverage. But only 10 days prior to the Massacre, a story focused White Tulsans' attention on the then-racially inflammatory subject of relations between Black men and White women. On May 21, 1921, a local story regarding a police investigation into the city's prostitution quoted a former local judge blaming the problem on the hotels and ''Negro pimps,'' and recounted the testimony of a local clergyman that led a group of White men undercover who claimed that African American porters routinely offered them the services of White

prostitutes, and to have witnessed carousing between Black men and White women at a roadhouse just outside the city limits.

To be clear, as this contemporary newspaper story implies, the racism and prejudices of many White Tulsans tainted their perceptions of the Black community and the later events that set off the Massacre. Despite the fact that racial segregation laws were gaining ground statewide in Oklahoma, many White Tulsans appeared to fear that the color line was blurring and grew angry at instances where Black Tulsans challenged or ignored segregationist laws and practices. Further contributing to some White Tulsans' racial grievances was resentment of Greenwood's most prosperous residents, a feeling that appears to have been exacerbated by a drop in oil prices and subsequent oil field layoffs that preceded the Massacre. In a deeply segregated city where Black residents could not work, live near, or socialize with their fellow residents as equals, many White Tulsans filled the vacuum created by the lack of racial equality and understanding with racism and prejudice.

This local newspaper story, and another on a breakout at the jail printed a few days later (though containing no racial overtones) appeared to provide White Tulsans fed up with crime—and inflamed by racial prejudice—a convenient racial scapegoat for their frustrations, and contributed to longstanding local conditions that had turned Tulsa into a powder keg waiting for a spark to ignite.

The night of May 31, 1921, the spark was struck as Black Tulsans' fear of a lynching appeared on the cusp of realization. That day police took into custody nineteen-year-old Dick Rowland, a Black man accused of sexually assaulting Sarah Page, a seventeen-year-old White elevator operator. After word of the allegations spread through Tulsa's newspapers. One White-owned Tulsa paper ran an article entitled ''Nab Negro for Attacking Girl in Elevator'' and a number of eyewitnesses recall seeing a newspaper editorial entitled ''To Lynch Negro—that evening a large White crowd began to gather around the courthouse jail where Rowland was being held. At the same time, several groups of Black Tulsans—many of whom were World War I veterans—resolved to protect the Black prisoner threatened by the mob.

As the mob jeered the handful of deputy sheriffs guarding the courthouse, a group of 25 Black Tulsans approached the beleaguered officers to offer their assistance. The local authorities quickly declined their offer, but the sight of armed Black men insistent on protecting Rowland from ''mob law'' proved too much for the thousand-strong White crowd. As the Black Tulsans returned to Greenwood assured of Rowland's safety for the moment, some members of the White crowd left to obtain firearms from their homes.

The Massacre began after a second group of around 75 armed Black Tulsans returned to the courthouse later that evening following reports that the White mob continued to grow even larger (later estimated at 2,000 individuals) and more agitated. They again offered their assistance to local authorities guarding Rowland and were again rebuffed. This time, however, as they departed, elements of the White crowd accosted a Black World War I veteran with a racial slur and a demand for his weapon. When the veteran refused, a scuffle broke out over the gun and shots were fired.

While these shots could have been unintentional, members of the White mob—and possibly some members of law enforcement present at the courthouse—immediately opened fire on all the Black men present. The Black Tulsans returned fire. While the initial shooting at the courthouse lasted only a few seconds, several street battles erupted among groups of Black and White Tulsans. The Black Tulsans—significantly outnumbered by the mob and fighting now for their own lives—engaged in a fighting retreated, exchanging gunfire with their White pursuers as they sought to return to the relative safety of the Greenwood district.

In the immediate aftermath of the events at the courthouse, some Whites began making brief armed forays into Greenwood by car or committing indiscriminate acts of looting, murder, and mayhem. Around 1:00 a.m. on June 1 there began the first reports of fires being set. When the fire brigade answered the call, armed Whites prevented them from putting out the fires. By 4:00 a.m. more than two dozen Black-owned businesses had been destroyed by flames. The worst destruction, however, had yet to come.

As many of these events were occurring simultaneous and across a relative wide area of the city, confusion reigned as the night of May 31 became the early morning hours of June 1, 1921. Some Black residents resolved to defend their homes and businesses, taking up armed positions to defend Greenwood. Skirmishes broke out between armed Blacks and Whites at various points in the district in the early overnight hours. Other Black residents, rightly fearing the worst had yet to occur, began to leave the city—many escaped but some were killed.

Still other Black residents thought the worst had already happened; that as far as they knew Dick Rowland had not been lynched, and—with the most intense skirmishing having abated by 2:00 a.m. according to one Black eyewitness—some of Greenwood's defenders even concluded that they had successfully fended off the attackers.

Whites engaged in the attack also committed numerous other atrocities. According to one Black eyewitness, White looters murdered a Black elderly disabled man who, despite having expressed a willingness to do so, could not comply with their order to leave his home. According to one White eyewitness, prominent Black surgeon Dr. A.C. Jackson was gunned down on his front lawn with his hands up after attempting to comply with the White rioters. Another Black eyewitness recounted how he and 30 or 40 other men who had surrendered to the rioters were lined up and forced to run with hands over their heads to an interment center located at Convention Hall, all while some of their White captors shot at their heels with guns. A group of White men even ran a car into the group, knocking over two or three of their number. In another horrifying display of brutality, a Black disabled homeless man was tied by his leg to a car and dragged by ''white thugs'' through the streets of the downtown business district where he panhandled.

Many Black residents—including women with children or elderly family members in tow—were shot at in the streets as they attempted to flee. Despite the ferocity of the attackers, many Black residents continued their armed resistance. Eventually, however, these defenders were overwhelmed by the sheer force of numbers and firepower of the White invaders.

Of course, not all Tulsans shared the racism of the White rioters. There are several accounts of Whites hiding Black Tulsans fleeing the violence at farms or homes outside the city or standing up to White rioters who threatened them for sheltering Black acquaintances at their workplace. According to one account, a recent young Mexican immigrant named Maria Morales Gutierrez saved two Black children from being strafed by an airplane. She then later refused White rioters' demands to hand the children over to them. She and the children survived.

The assault and destruction of Greenwood lasted roughly until midday June 1, 1921, when martial law was declared. Around 9:00 a.m., a National Guard unit based in Oklahoma City—which was entirely White—finally arrived by train after having been requested hours earlier by local authorities. By the time these ''State Troops''—as both Blacks and Whites later referred to them to differentiate them from the local ''Home Guard'' unit discussed further below—arrived in Tulsa, the violence had been occurring for nearly 11 hours. Many Blacks and Whites were dead, and while some looting continued, the Greenwood district was mostly in fiery ruin. Most of the city's Black residents had either fled or had been interned against their will at several locations, including at the Convention Hall, a fairground, and a baseball park.

Local authorities later claimed that this was for the protection of Black lives, but without a doubt they were also motivated by lingering fear of a supposed ''Negro uprising.''

A number of these ''Special Deputies''—identified by ribbons and other ''badges of office'' supplied to them—were witnessed engaging in arson, likely engaged in other acts of violence and mayhem during the Massacre and aided in rounding up Black residents for internment.

Immediately following the shooting near the courthouse, Whites had begun breaking into sporting good stores, pawnshops, and hardware stores to steal firearms with which to arm themselves—some later claiming that they were ''borrowing'' the weapons.

One business owner—whose sporting goods store was literally across the street from police headquarters—later testified that a police officer helped distribute the guns that were taken from his store.

The local guard unit also worked with the Tulsa Police Department to round up, disarm, and take into custody Black residents, with guardsmen offering the promise that if they came peacefully their homes and businesses would be protected.

This action, however, effectively left Black lives and property defenseless to a White Mob aided by local police officers and their ''Special Deputies'', leading to further destruction of property and helping contribute to the near total internment of the Black population in the days immediately following the riot.

In the eyes of the grand jury, a group of armed Black residents standing up for equal rights understandably provoked the White crowd, and therefore, the entire Black community in Greenwood essentially deserved what happened. Adding to this injustice, the grand jury indicted 85 people—the majority of whom were African Americans—with Massacre-related offenses.

While most of these charges were ultimately dismissed or not pursued no Whites were ever sent to prison for any of the murders or arson committed on May 31 and June 1, 1921.

Due to their decades-long efforts, the story of the Massacre slowly resurfaced in the national consciousness, leading to greater demands for the justice long denied to aging survivors and their next of kin.

At the state and local level, in 1997 the Oklahoma State Legislature created the Oklahoma Commission to Study the Race Riot of 1921. In 2001, the commission issued a final report and recommendations. In a letter to officials for the State of Oklahoma

and the City of Tulsa accompanying the report, the commission noted that in February 2000, the commission had already declared:

that reparations to the historic Greenwood community in real and tangible form would be good public policy and do much to repair the emotional and physical scars of this terrible incident in our shared past. We listed several recommended courses of action including direct payments to riot survivors and descendants; a scholarship fund available to students affected by the riot; establishment of an economic development enterprise zone in the historic Greenwood district; a memorial for the riot victims.

The commission reiterated its support for reparations and emphasized that these recommendations were a starting point and not exhaustive. Twenty years later, however, neither the State of Oklahoma nor the City of Tulsa has provided direct compensation to survivors and their descendants.

In recent years, the City of Tulsa has made some token gestures to acknowledge the Massacre. In 2010, the City of Tulsa dedicated the John Hope Franklin Reconciliation Park to commemorate the Massacre's victims. In 2018, the City of Tulsa finally announced that it would reexamine the potential mass graves noted in the 2001 commission report. In October 2020, archeologists discovered a mass grave at Oaklawn Cemetery, one of the possible mass grave sites identified in the 2001 report, and the City plans to exhume the bodies for further identification in June 2021. While the City of Tulsa has, in effect, capitalized on its public campaign to acknowledge the Massacre, pointedly, it appears to have made no plan to use the resources generated to directly compensate survivors and their descendants nor address the racial and economic disparities that can be traced back to the Massacre. In May 2020, Human Rights Watch issued a report recommending several actions to be taken at the federal, state, and local level to address the Massacre, including providing compensation directly to survivors and their descendants, and reparations to the Black community in Tulsa for racial discrimination exacerbated by the Massacre. According to the report, Greenwood had begun to thrive again by the 1940s. Yet rather than preserve what it once allowed to be destroyed, the State of Oklahoma and the City of Tulsa took several subsequent actions that disproportionately burdened Black residents—including the building of several highways through Greenwood starting in the 1960s and through the 1970s—that ultimately led to Greenwood's long term decline.

These actions also forced the majority of residents to move out of historic Greenwood into North Tulsa, which to this day is significantly poorer compared to other areas of the city.

Additionally, survivors and their descendants have filed legal claims against the City of Tulsa and the State of Oklahoma seeking compensation for Massacre-related harms. Unfortunately, time and distance from the events have in the past worked to thwart these claims. In 2004, the Tenth Circuit, upholding the lower court's decision to grant the State and City's motion for summary judgment, held that the plaintiffs' claims were barred by the applicable statute of limitations, and that no equitable tolling to the statute of limitations period applied. The Supreme Court denied the plaintiff's petition for writ of certiorari in 2005. Despite these adverse legal rulings, a lawsuit for Massacre-related claims was filed in state court last year alleging that the Massacre is an ongoing injustice to the residents of Greenwood because contemporary racial and economic disparities existing in Tulsa can be traced back to the attack.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Then I want to salute those who will be honoring 100 years in the next couple of weeks. I want to very quickly say that remember what I said, I knew the history of Christopher Columbus. I didn't know the history of my Native American brothers. I didn't know the history of my own self, slavery. I know Big Mother, which is what we called her. She owned land, and then I knew it disappeared. I knew I rode in the back of a train to visit her as a little girl.

Guess what, Madam Speaker?

Governor Kevin Stitt of Oklahoma was on the commission on the Tulsa race massacre, but he signed the bill limiting race and gender curriculums in Oklahoma schools earlier in May.

Madam Speaker, can you believe it?

It was House bill 1775. As well, he goes on to not stand for what this commission is all about: truth.

So tonight we come to the floor. Remember what I said: I am not in any way throwing darts or stones at anyone. I am here to raise up the dignity of this man, this person, this body, burned because he was Black, prosperous, and ready to serve America.

No one can tell me how many in that 1921 massacre had been in World War I, had worn the uniform and come home and made a new life.

How many can tell us out of those who would have lived, would have been ready to go serve in World War II and then on, and their progeny continue to build this wonderful economic engine?

Today those who remain are three living descendants of those who were there. They tell me as I will go to Tulsa, there is one door left.

It is a crying shame. So I lift this story up, and I let you know, Madam Speaker, that the Congressional Black Caucus, yes, the conscience of this Nation, has a vital purpose to be able to tell the story. Someone I hope is listening. Someone I hope is listening. Someone I hope heard Brother Torres. I hope they heard HANK JOHNSON and BARBARA LEE. I hope they have heard all of us. Because if we do not know our history, we are doomed to repeat it. We must take the reins, lift up the dignity, honor these courageous saints, and we must fight on.

Pass this resolution on the centennial. Pass H.R. 40 to establish a commission to study reparations. Pass the American Jobs Plan, pass the American Rescue Plan, and lift all boats. For as we do so, God will be the witness for what we have done and the journey we have made.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have been here today. I am honored to be part of the Congressional Black Caucus. I am honored to be part of this House of Representatives. I am honored to be an American, and I will not have my history denied or my children failing to know that history. That is why we are here today. Let us march on until victory is won.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus, I rise to anchor this most important Special Order remembering one of the darkest moments in American history, the Tulsa-Greenwood Race Massacre, that occurred in the African American Greenwood community of Tulsa, Oklahoma, on May 31–June 1, 1921.

I am pleased to be joined by Congressman TORRES of New York, who will co-anchor this Special Order and my several members of the Congressional Black Caucus, which under the leadership of our Chair, Congresswoman BEATTY of Ohio, was unified and determined that the reign of racial terror, carried out under color of law, that was visited on the black citizens of Greenwood not be forgotten and that the injuries they suffered be redressed.

Madam Speaker, earlier this year, I introduced a resolution (H. Res. 215 later modified as H. Res. 398), joined by 84 cosponsors, recognizing the centennial of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre.

As the great southern writer William Faulkner reminded us: "The past is never dead. It's not even past."

Madam Speaker, as I and other Members will elucidate this evening, the hatreds, prejudices, resentments, and white supremacy that Black Americans witnessed and suffered in Greenwood a century ago are not dead; they are not even past.

A century ago, White rioters, local law enforcement, and self-appointed vigilantes claimed to be acting reasonably and in self-defense against what they feared was an upcoming Black uprising.

They resented the economic prosperity and self-sufficiency of the Greenwood community, which was known nationally as "Black Wall Street."

They viewed Black males as fearsome physical threats to their personal safety and as rivals to white women.

These baseless, irrational concerns are not a relic of the past, they are with us today and are what resulted in the deaths of George Floyd, Tamir Rice, Deonte Wright, Stephon Clark, Amidou Diallo, and hundreds of others too numerous to list.

In 1921, Tulsa, Oklahoma's Greenwood District, known as "Black Wall Street," was one of the most documented prosperous African American communities in the United States.

The Greenwood community with a population of over 100,000 Black people had stores that sold luxury items, 21 restaurants, 30 grocery stores, a hospital, a savings and loan bank, a post office, three hotels, jewelry and clothing stores, two movie theaters, a library, pool halls, a bus and cab service, a nationally recognized school system, six private airplanes, and two black newspapers.

On May 31st of that year, the 35 city blocks of Greenwood went up in flames, at least 300 Black persons were murdered and more than 800 were injured; it is estimated that not less than 9,000 were left homeless and destitute.

These rioters reenacted the brutality of the mob from a hundred years ago in the hallowed halls of the Citadel of Democracy.

It should not be overlooked that the source of their irrational anger, hatred, and violent reaction was that Black Americans voted in overwhelming numbers in Atlanta, Philadelphia, Milwaukee, and Detroit to oust the most negative, divisive, racially hostile, and incompetent president's history, the 45th President,

who presided over the deaths of more than 500,000 Americans, disproportionately Black and Brown.

The legacy of white mob violence inflicted upon the Black community of Greenwood has scarred the descendants of the victims of this American pogrom.

Madam Speaker, the events of January 6th have given us insight into what the people of Greenwood, Oklahoma, faced when they were attacked by a similar murderous mob.

H.R. 398 is a reminder to the nation of the ultimate cruelty inflicted upon a people for dare believing that the promise of America was attainable by them and their achievements would be respected and protected by law.

But it does more than that, it puts the House of Representatives on record that the United States can achieve a more perfect union:

1. by condemning the violence and destruction perpetrated against the African-American community of Greenwood, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the scene of the then-largest single instance of domestic terror against American citizens;

2. through the rejection and active opposition to the false ideology of White supremacy and condemnation of all groups and organizations that ascribe to this false system of belief and seek to perpetuate their views through violence and unlawful conduct;

3. by promoting tolerance and unity and taking actions to ensure that governmental policies and actions do not foster division, disharmony, or intolerance;

4. by calling upon all Americans to celebrate the ethnic, racial, and religious diversity that has made the United States the leader of the community of nations and the beacon of hope and inspiration to oppressed persons everywhere;

5. encouraging all persons in the United States to reflect upon the history of the United States as an imperfect but committed journey to establish a more perfect union and to cherish and exercise the rights, privileges, and responsibilities guaranteed by the Constitution; and

6. recognizing the commitment of Congress to acknowledge and learn from the history of racism and racial violence in the United States, including the Tulsa Race Massacre, to reverse the legacy of White supremacy and fight for racial justice.

Madam Speaker, I will now briefly recount the horrific events cited in H. Res. 398 that were experienced by the law-abiding Black community of Greenwood on those terrible days.

In 1921, White supremacy and racist violence were common throughout the United States and went largely unchecked by the justice system.

In Tulsa, Oklahoma, reports of an alleged and disputed incident on the morning of May 30, 1921, between two teenagers, a Black man and a White woman, caused the White community of Tulsa, including the Tulsa Tribune, to call for a lynching amidst a climate of White racial hostility and White resentment over Black economic success.

On May 31, 1921, a mob of armed White men descended upon Tulsa's Greenwood District and launched what is now known as the "Tulsa Race Massacre."

Tulsa municipal and county authorities failed to take actions to calm or contain the violence, and civil and law enforcement officials deputized many White men who were participants in the violence as their agents, directly contributing to the violence through overt and often illegal acts.

Over a period of 24 hours, the White mob's violence led to the death of an estimated 300 Black residents, as well as over 800 reports of injuries.

The White mob looted, damaged, burned, or otherwise destroyed approximately 40 square blocks of the Greenwood district, including an estimated 1,256 homes of Black residents, as well as virtually every other structure, including churches, schools, businesses, a hospital, and a library, leaving nearly 9,000 Black residents of the Greenwood community homeless and effectively wiping out tens of millions of dollars in Black prosperity and wealth.

In the wake of the Tulsa Race Massacre, the Governor of Oklahoma declared martial law, and units of the Oklahoma National Guard participated in the mass arrests of all or nearly all of Greenwood's surviving residents, removing them from Greenwood to other parts of Tulsa and unlawfully detaining them in holding centers.

Oklahoma local and state governments dismissed claims arising from the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre for decades, and the event was effectively erased from collective memory and history until, in 1997, the Oklahoma State Legislature finally created a commission to study the event.

On February 28, 2001, the commission issued a report that detailed, for the first time, the extent of the Massacre and decades-long efforts to suppress its recollection.

None of the law enforcement officials nor any of the hundreds of other White mob members who participated in the violence were ever prosecuted or held accountable for the hundreds of lives lost and tens of millions of dollars of Black wealth destroyed, despite the Tulsa Race Massacre Commission confirming their roles in the Massacre, nor was any compensation ever provided to the Massacre's victims or their descendants.

Government and city officials not only abdicated their responsibility to rebuild and repair the Greenwood community in the wake of the violence, but actively blocked efforts to do so, contributing to continued racial disparities in Tulsa akin to those that Black people still face today across the United States.

Madam Speaker, the pattern of violence against Black people in the United States, often at the hands of law enforcement, shows that the fight to end State-sanctioned violence against Black people continues.

As the American Historical Association stated, "What happened in Tulsa was extreme, but not unusual. It is part of our nation's heritage. We must acknowledge that heritage, learn from it, and do whatever each of us can do to ensure that it is just that—heritage, rather than a continuing practice."

Madam Speaker, I will include in the RECORD a more detailed account of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre that is based on the "Final Report of the Oklahoma Commission to Study The Tulsa Race Riot of 1921," issued February 28, 2001.

Madam Speaker, I also ask the House to observe a moment of silence in memory of the victims and survivors of the Tulsa Race Massacre, and their descendants to carry the terrible memories of that horrific day and still grieve over the loss of so many loved ones and of faith in the American system of justice.

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

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, the Tulsa-Greenwood Massacre was a mass killing targeting Black Americans in one of the prosperous Black communities in the country. As we approach its 100th anniversary, we must reflect on the events and beliefs that led to those fateful days in late May of 1921, its place in our nation's history, and its lasting impacts on the Black community.

Founded and built by former slaves, freed by the ratification of the 13th amendment, the Greenwood District was a true testament to the American Dream. The district was defined by its entrepreneurial spirit and success and offered newly-freed men and women the chance to make a name for themselves and their families.

But their success was being followed closely by those who wished otherwise—those who were looking for any opportunity to materialize their resent. And in the face of baseless allegations of a crime committed by a Black man, that hatred resulted in what is now known as the Tulsa Race Massacre. The massacre resulted in the deaths of over 300 Black men, women, and children and left around 9,000 more without homes or a source of income—not to mention the immeasurable impact left on generations of Black Americans.

As Members of Congress, we stand here in the Capitol of the United States, itself built by slaves who are largely forgotten, with a unique opportunity to take action. That is why I am proud to be a cosponsor of Congresswoman JACKSON LEE and Senator WARREN's resolution to recognize the forthcoming centennial of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre and condemning past and present efforts to downplay its significance. It is critical that Congress take this step not only to honor the lives and legacies of those lost but also to encourage education about the massacre and the role white supremacy played in its inception.

Madam Speaker, today we recommit ourselves to fight the ever-present racism and unjust violence against Black Americans. We do so on the shoulders of those that came, fought, and suffered before us in the hope that one day the American Dream is accessible to all—regardless of race.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in my congressional district due to COVID responsibilities, and I was not present for rollcall vote 144.

I ask the RECORD to reflect that had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall 144, the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2911, VA Transparency and Trust Act of 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Thereupon (at 8 o'clock and 35 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the

House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, May 18, 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. 204, the STEM Opportunities 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. 711, the West Los Angeles VA Campus Improvement Act of 2021, 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. 2167, the GI Bill National Emergency Extended Deadline Act of 2021, 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, the attached estimate of the costs of H.R. 2878, the Native VetSuccess at Tribal Colleges and Universities Pilot Program Act, as amended, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

ESTIMATE OF PAY-AS-YOU-GO EFFECTS FOR H.R. 2878

	By fiscal year, in millions of dollars—												
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2021–2026	2021–2031
Statutory-Pay-As-You-Go Impact	150	45	15	−45	0	0	0	0	0	0	−170	167	−1

Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC–1140. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2020-1107; Project Identifier 2019-SW-049-AD; Amendment 39-21444; AD 2021-05-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 7, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1141. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2020-1132; Project Identifier MCAI-2020-01386-R; Amendment 39-21452; AD 2021-05-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 7, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1142. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH (Type Certificate Previously Held by Eurocopter Deutschland GmbH) Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2015-4497; Project Identifier 2016-SW-011-AD; Amendment 39-21450; AD 2021-05-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 7, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1143. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Leonardo S.p.a. Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2020-1139; Product Identifier 2018-SW-056-AD; Amendment 39-21447; AD 2021-05-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 7, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1144. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2020-0974; Project Identifier MCAI-2020-00273-R; Amendment 39-21392; AD 2021-02-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 7, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1145. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2020-1018; Project Identifier MCAI-2020-01383-R; Amendment 39-21391; AD 2021-02-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 7, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1146. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2020-0967; Product Identifier 2018-SW-013-AD; Amendment 39-21394; AD 2021-02-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 7, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1147. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Leonardo S.p.a. Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2021-0025; Project Identifier MCAI-2020-01248-R; Amendment 39-21422; AD 2021-04-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 7, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1148. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Safran Helicopter Engines, S.A. (Type Certificate Previously Held by Turbomeca, S.A.) Turboshaft Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2020-1118; Project Identifier MCAI-2020-00516-E; Amendment 39-21451; AD 2021-05-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 7, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1149. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2020-0847; Product Identifier 2018-SW-087-AD; Amendment 39-21434; AD 2021-04-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 7, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1150. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2021-0096; Project Identifier MCAI-2021-00040-R; Amendment 39-21440; AD 2021-04-18] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 7, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1151. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2020-0673; Product Identifier 2020-NM-076-AD; Amendment 39-21395; AD 2021-02-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 7, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1152. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of

Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2020-0791; Project Identifier AD-2020-00676-R; Amendment 39-21438; AD 2021-04-16] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 7, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1153. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bell Textron Inc. (Type Certificate Previously Held by Bell Helicopter Textron Inc.) Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2020-0270; Product Identifier 2019-SW-018-AD; Amendment 39-21441; AD 2021-04-19] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 7, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1154. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2021-0095; Project Identifier MCAI-2020-01658-R; Amendment 39-21439; AD 2021-04-17] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 7, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1155. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney Division Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2021-0136; Project Identifier AD-2021-00188-E; Amendment 39-21470; AD 2021-05-51] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 7, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1156. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Farmington, NM [Docket No.: FAA-2020-1014; Airspace Docket No.: 20-ASW-7] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received May 7, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1157. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E airspace; Leoti, KS [Docket No.: FAA-2020-1072; Airspace Docket No.: 20-ACE-23] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received May 7, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1158. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Deletion of VOR Federal Airways V-346 and V-400 in the Vicinity of Beauce, Canada [Docket No.: FAA-2020-0992; Airspace Docket No.: 20-ANE-3] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received May 7, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1159. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment and Cancellation of VOR Federal Airways V-49 and V-541 in the Vicinity of Decatur, AL [Docket No.: FAA-2020-0941; Airspace Docket No.: 20-ASO-24] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received May 7, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1160. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace and Revocation of Class E Airspace; Muskegon, MI [Docket No.: FAA-2020-0871; Airspace Docket No.: 20-AGL-32] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received May 7, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1161. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment, Establishment, and Revocation of Multiple Air Traffic Service (ATS) Routes in the Vicinity of Henderson, WV [Docket No.: FAA-2020-0923; Airspace Docket No.: 20-AEA-18] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received May 7, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1162. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Calais, ME [Docket No.: FAA-2020-0935; Airspace Docket No.: 20-ANE-4] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received May 7, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1163. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31358; Amdt. No.: 3946] received May 7, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1164. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31357; Amdt. No.: 3945] received May 7, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1165. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31356; Amdt. No.: 3944] received May 7, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1166. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31355; Amdt. No.: 3943] received May 7, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1167. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Palmdale, CA [Docket No.: FAA-2020-0942; Airspace Docket No.: 20-AWP-12] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received May 7, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1168. A letter from the Managment and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of VOR Federal Airways V-12, V-74, and V-516 in the Vicinity of Anthony, KS [Docket No.: FAA-2020-0003; Airspace Docket No.: 19-ACE-11] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received May 7, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1169. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Safran Helicopter Engines, S.A. (Type Certificate Previously Held by Turbomeca, S.A.), Turboshaft Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2021-0132; Project Identifier MCAI-2020-00947-E; Amendment 39-21466; AD 2021-05-22] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 7, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1170. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2021-0319; Project Identifier AD-2021-00443-T; Amendment 39-21521; AD 2021-09-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 12, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1171. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2021-0345; Project Identifier MCAI-2021-00479-T; Amendment 39-21537; AD 2021-10-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 12, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1172. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2020-1182; Product Identifier 2018-SW-036-AD; Amendment 39-21518; AD 2021-09-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 12, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1173. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Canada Limited Partnership (Type Certificate Previously Held by C Series Aircraft Limited Partnership (CSALP); Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2021-0313; Project Identifier MCAI-2021-00348-T; Amendment 39-21516; AD 2021-09-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 12, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1174. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2021-0300; Project Identifier MCAI-2020-01077-R; Amendment 39-21511; AD 2021-08-17] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 12, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1175. A letter from the Management Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-

2020-1165; Project Identifier 2019-SW-027-AD; Amendment 39-21499; AD 2021-08-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 12, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1176. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2020-0851; Product Identifier 2020-NM-081-AD; Amendment 39-21507; AD 2021-08-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 12, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1177. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2020-0845; Product Identifier 2020-NM-102-AD; Amendment 39-21514; AD 2021-09-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 12, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1178. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; PZL Swidnik S.A. Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2021-0299; Project Identifier MCAI-2020-00253-R; Amendment 39-21510; AD 2021-08-16] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 12, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1179. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31367; Amdt. No.: 3954] received May 12, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1180. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31366; Amdt. No.: 3953] received May 12, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1181. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment and Revocation of Class E Airspace; North Dakota, ND [Docket No.: FAA-2021-0035; Airspace Docket No.: 21-AGL-11] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received May 12, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1182. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2021-0317; Project Identifier MCAI-2021-00175-R; Amendment 39-21520; AD 2021-09-07] (RIN: 2021-AA64) received May 12, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1183. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Austro Engine GmbH Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2021-0311; Project Identifier MCAI-2021-00244-E; Amendment 39-21517; AD 2021-09-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 12, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

[Filed May 14, 2021]

Mr. TAKANO: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 2167. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for extensions of the time limitations for use of entitlement under Department of Veterans Affairs educational assistance programs by reason of school closures due to emergency and other situations, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 117–34). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. TAKANO: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 2788. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate the cap on full-time employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs who provide equal employment opportunity counseling (Rept. 117–35). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. TAKANO: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 2704. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the equal employment opportunity functions of Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes (Rept. 117–36). Referred to the Committee of the Whole Housed on the state of the Union.

Ms. SCANLON: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 403. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1629) to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to limitations on exclusive approval or licensure of orphan drugs, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 275) condemning the horrific shootings in Atlanta, Georgia, on March 16, 2021, and reaffirming the House of Representative's commitment to combating hate, bigotry, and violence against the Asian-American and Pacific Islander community; and for other purposes (Rept. 117–37). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS (for herself, Mr. VAN DREW, and Mr. GIMENEZ):

H.R. 3263. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish in the Department of Homeland Security a medical countermeasures program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. KATKO (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi):

H.R. 3264. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require research and development to identify and evaluate the extent to which critical domain risks within the United States supply chain pose a substantial threat to homeland security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. BARR (for himself, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. CLINE, and Mr. MEUSER):

H.R. 3265. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to apply current income tax bracket breakpoints to capital gains brackets; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina (for himself, Mr. ARRINGTON, Ms. HERRELL, Mr. PERRY, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. CAWTHORN, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. ROY, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, and Mr. MANN):

H.R. 3266. A bill to amend subtitle A of title II of division A of the CARES Act to require confirmation of employment status for long-term unemployed individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. PALLONE):

H.R. 3267. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to publish a maximum contaminant level goal and promulgate a national primary drinking water regulation for total per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BRADY (for himself, Mr. REED, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. SMUCKER, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. FERGUSON, Mrs. STEEL, Mr. NUNES, Mr. HERN, Mr. ESTES, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, and Mr. MCCARTHY):

H.R. 3268. A bill to prevent fraud in COVID unemployment programs, recover fraudulently paid benefits, provide relief for taxpayers and victims of unemployment fraud, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BUCHANAN (for himself and Mr. PAPPAS):

H.R. 3269. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to list fentanyl-related substances as schedule I controlled substances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BURCHETT:

H.R. 3270. A bill to reform the process by which Federal agencies analyze and formulate new regulations and guidance documents, to clarify the nature of judicial review of agency interpretations, to ensure complete analysis of potential impacts on small entities of rules, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. JONES, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. TONKO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. MENG, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. COHEN, Ms. STRICKLAND, and Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin):

H.R. 3271. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop and

implement a national strategic action plan and program to assist health professionals and systems in preparing for and responding to the public health effects of climate change, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. COSTA (for himself and Mr. VALADAO):

H.R. 3272. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend biodiesel and renewable diesel incentives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

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

H.R. 3273. A bill to provide for the tax treatment of forked convertible virtual currency; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FOSTER (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

H.R. 3274. A bill to establish the National Fab Lab Network, a nonprofit organization consisting of a national network of local digital fabrication facilities providing universal access to advanced manufacturing tools for workforce development, STEM education, developing inventions, creating businesses, producing personalized products, mitigating risks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. HERRELL (for herself, Mr. STEUBE, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. LATURNER, and Mr. OWENS):

H.R. 3275. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to suspend the tax on gasoline other than aviation gasoline; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HUIZENGA:

H.R. 3276. A bill to amend the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to repeal certain disclosure requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI (for himself, Mr. LIEU, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. ESHOO, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. AXNE, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. JONES, Mr. NADLER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. COHEN, Mr. COOPER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. POCAN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. SUOZZI, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. KILMER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. SIRES, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CORREA, Mr. YARMUTH, and Ms. JACOBS of California):

H.R. 3277. A bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to increase protections for animals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. LAHOOD (for himself and Ms. DELBENE):

H.R. 3278. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to apply the mailbox rule to certain payments made through the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LAWSON of Florida (for himself, Ms. ADAMS, and Mrs. DEMINGS):

H.R. 3279. A bill to provide physical standards and reform the inspection process for housing assisted under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. LIEU:

H.R. 3280. A bill to prohibit entities from requiring individuals to submit to arbitration for disputes arising from a security breach, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MCHENRY (for himself, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. PENCE, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. BUDD, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. PERRY, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. PALMER, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. POSEY, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. BURGESS, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. COOPER, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CAWTHORN, Ms. BOURDEAUX, Mr. SCHRADER, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mrs. LESKO, Mrs. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. PANETTA, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. KELLER, Mr. STAUBER, and Mr. CUELLAR):

H.R. 3281. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to provide an exemption from certain antitampering provisions for certain actions for modifying a motor vehicle that is not legal for operation on a street or highway and is to be used solely for competition, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself and Mrs. RODGERS of Washington):

H.R. 3282. A bill to reauthorize funding for drinking water programs under the Safe Drinking Water Act and America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MEIJER (for himself, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. GOLDEN, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. UPTON, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. COLE, Ms. JACOBS of California, Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. LIEU, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. STEUBE, and Mr. SMITH of Washington):

H.R. 3283. A bill to repeal the joint resolution entitled ''A joint resolution to promote peace and stability in the Middle East''; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. OBERNOLTE (for himself and Mr. LUCAS):

H.R. 3284. A bill to provide for fundamental research programs in advanced scientific computing at the Department of Energy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. POCAN (for himself, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. TAYLOR, and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 3285. A bill to amend gendered terms in Federal law relating to the President and the President's spouse; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 3286. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to require drinking water distribution systems to be flushed under certain circumstances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. PORTER, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H.R. 3287. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, and title 39, United States Code, to provide the United States Postal Service the authority to mail alcoholic beverages, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Ms. LEE of California):

H.R. 3288. A bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to treat certain tax return preparers as voter registration agencies under such Act for purposes of distributing voter registration application forms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida (for herself, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BOURDEAUX, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. COHEN, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. ROSS, Mr. TAKANO, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 3289. A bill to re-establish an advisory committee to provide independent advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Transportation regarding comprehensive, interdisciplinary issues related to transportation from a variety of stakeholders in transportation planning, design, research, policy, and advocacy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. SCALISE (for himself and Mr. MCKINLEY):

H. Con. Res. 34. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that a carbon tax would be detrimental to the United States economy; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. DINGELL (for herself, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. COHEN, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Ms. DEAN, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. LAMALFA, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. VELA, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. LAMB, Mr. RUSH, Mr. LONG, and Mr. WALTZ):

H. Res. 404. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the 17th day in May as ''DIPG Awareness Day'' to raise awareness and encourage research into cures for diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG) and pediatric cancers in general; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Ms. TITUS, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. SIRES, Ms.

DEAN, Mr. KHANNA, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. MCEACHIN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. POCAN, Mr. KILMER, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. JACOBS of California, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. TONKO, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. PAPPAS, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. TRONE, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas):

H. Res. 405. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LIEU (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Mr. RUSH, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. CARSON, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. DEAN, Mr. CICILLINE, Mrs. DEMINGS, and Mr. RASKIN):

H. Res. 406. A resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives with respect to the enforcement of committee subpoenas to executive branch officials, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. LYNCH (for himself and Mr. RASKIN):

H. Res. 407. A resolution expressing support for the designation of September 2021 as ''National Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month''; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SIRES (for himself, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. TRONE, Mr. SOTO, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. PFLUGER, and Mr. ESPAILLAT):

H. Res. 408. A resolution urging the Government of El Salvador to respect the country's democratic institutions; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS:

H.R. 3263.

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

U.S. Constitution, Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. KATKO:

H.R. 3264.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. BARR:

H.R. 3265.

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. BISHOP of North Carolina:

H.R. 3266.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 3267.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution under the General Welfare Clause.

By Mr. BRADY:

H.R. 3268.

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

United States Constitution Article I Section 8

By Mr. BUCHANAN:

H.R. 3269.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. BURCHETT:

H.R. 3270.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 3271.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (relating to the power of Congress to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.)

By Mr. COSTA:

H.R. 3272.

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

The constitutional authority under which this bill rests is the power of Congress to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 14 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. EMMER:

H.R. 3273.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 3274.

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 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. HERRELL:

H.R. 3275.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HUIZENGA:

H.R. 3276.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI:

H.R. 3277.

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

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

By Mr. LAHOOD:

H.R. 3278.

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

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

By Mr. LAWSON of Florida:

H.R. 3279.

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

''Article 1, Section 8: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof''

By Mr. LIEU:

H.R. 3280.

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

Article I Section VIII

By Mr. MCHENRY:

H.R. 3281.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: ''To regulate Commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian Tribes.'' Because the federal government has extended Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 beyond its intended boundaries, it follows that efforts to rein in excessive federal government encroachment in this area can be justified by Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. MCKINLEY:

H.R. 3282.

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

Section 8—Powers of Congress. To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. MEIJER:

H.R. 3283.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 11 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. OBERNOLTE:

H.R. 3284.

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

U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:

''The Congress shall have Power . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.''

By Mr. POCAN:

H.R. 3285.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 3286.

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

Article I, section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution, to provide for the general welfare and make all laws necessary and proper to carry out the powers of Congress.

By Ms. SPEIER:

H.R. 3287.

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 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN:

H.R. 3288.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:

H.R. 3289.

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

Article 1, Section 8

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 19: Mr. COMER and Mrs. STEEL.
H.R. 24: Mrs. CAMMACK.
H.R. 38: Mr. FITZGERALD.
H.R. 95: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.
H.R. 204: Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. FOSTER, and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.
H.R. 210: Mr. MCKINLEY, Mrs. HAYES, Mrs. KIM of California, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 240: Mr. TAYLOR.
H.R. 261: Ms. SALAZAR, Ms. LETLOW, and Mr. ROSE.
H.R. 288: Mr. HERN and Mr. PFLUGER.
H.R. 304: Mr. KATKO.
H.R. 345: Mr. CASE.
H.R. 421: Mr. POCAN and Mr. SIRES.
H.R. 508: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 512: Mr. KAHELE.
H.R. 516: Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 550: Mr. MCKINLEY.
H.R. 564: Mr. KHANNA.
H.R. 695: Mrs. KIM of California and Mr. SIMPSON.
H.R. 707: Mr. FEENSTRA.
H.R. 797: Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 825: Mr. LEVIN of Michigan and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 890: Mr. HARRIS, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. PETERS, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. CRAIG, and Mr. KEATING.
H.R. 921: Mr. YARMUTH.
H.R. 922: Mr. KEATING.
H.R. 928: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
H.R. 959: Mr. KIM of New Jersey.
H.R. 962: Mr. MCKINLEY and Mr. BARR.
H.R. 1062: Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas.
H.R. 1115: Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. KIND, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Mr. BERA.
H.R. 1145: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.
H.R. 1182: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 1200: Ms. NEWMAN and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 1283: Mr. BACON, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. BOST, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and Mr. HORSFORD.
H.R. 1291: Mr. BOST.
H.R. 1321: Mr. CRIST, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, and Mrs. MURPHY of Florida.
H.R. 1344: Ms. ROSS and Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 1346: Mr. CARTER of Georgia and Mr. CLINE.
H.R. 1361: Mr. LOWENTHAL and Ms. SHERRILL.
H.R. 1366: Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 1381: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky and Mr. NEWHOUSE.
H.R. 1394: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.
H.R. 1437: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 1438: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H.R. 1510: Mrs. LEE of Nevada.
H.R. 1551: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 1568: Mr. STEIL.
H.R. 1627: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
H.R. 1655: Mr. JONES.
H.R. 1670: Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. PETERS, Ms. CRAIG, and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
H.R. 1693: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1711: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.
H.R. 1729: Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. ALLEN.
H.R. 1730: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 1735: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. COURTNEY, and Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 1783: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 1800: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 1819: Mr. RYAN.
H.R. 1905: Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 1931: Mr. MOORE of Utah.
H.R. 1945: Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. NEWMAN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, and Mr. KATKO.
H.R. 1956: Ms. STEFANIK.
H.R. 1957: Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 1972: Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida.
H.R. 1978: Mr. MCKINLEY.
H.R. 1986: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 2011: Mr. SIRES, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. KUSTER, and Mr. CASE.
H.R. 2012: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 2021: Ms. PRESSLEY and Mr. PANETTA.
H.R. 2027: Mr. LUCAS, Mr. BOWMAN, Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. FOSTER, and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.
H.R. 2035: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Ms. DEAN.
H.R. 2079: Mr. MCKINLEY.
H.R. 2082: Mr. CROW.
H.R. 2096: Mr. SARBANES.
H.R. 2119: Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 2120: Ms. NEWMAN.
H.R. 2125: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 2127: Mrs. BUSTOS.
H.R. 2168: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.
H.R. 2187: Mr. EMMER.
H.R. 2192: Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. VELA, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. OMAR, and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 2198: Ms. DELBENE, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. LYNCH, and Ms. STEVENS.
H.R. 2234: Mr. SARBANES and Mr. KIM of New Jersey.
H.R. 2237: Mr. EVANS.
H.R. 2238: Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, and Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 2295: Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 2339: Mrs. BUSTOS, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. NORMAN, and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 2349: Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina.
H.R. 2372: Mr. KATKO and Mrs. LAWRENCE.
H.R. 2394: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois and Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 2396: Mr. SOTO, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. NEWMAN, Ms. BARRAGÁN, and Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 2418: Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 2441: Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Mr. DAVIDSON.
H.R. 2486: Mr. LONG.
H.R. 2494: Mr. CROW.
H.R. 2533: Ms. ROSS.
H.R. 2590: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
H.R. 2607: Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 2637: Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 2642: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. KINZINGER, and Mr. LAHOOD.
H.R. 2646: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mrs. KIM of California, and Mrs. MCCLAIN.
H.R. 2648: Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 2655: Mr. GREEN of Texas and Mr. TAYLOR.
H.R. 2682: Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 2695: Mr. BOWMAN and Mr. FOSTER.
H.R. 2704: Mr. TAYLOR.
H.R. 2718: Mr. DUNN, Mr. ROSE, and Ms. LETLOW.
H.R. 2729: Mr. COMER, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. KELLY of Mississippi.
H.R. 2773: Mr. COLE, Ms. CRAIG, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, and Mr. O'HALLERAN.
H.R. 2780: Mr. MCEACHIN.
H.R. 2790: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 2795: Mr. KATKO.
H.R. 2811: Mrs. STEEL and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 2840: Mr. WELCH, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. PAPPAS, and Mr. KIND.
H.R. 2850: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 2872: Mr. HUFFMAN and Mr. PANETTA.
H.R. 2886: Ms. DELAURO.
H.R. 2901: Mr. O'HALLERAN.
H.R. 2911: Mr. CROW.
H.R. 2928: Mr. BURGESS.
H.R. 2959: Mr. TAYLOR.
H.R. 2967: Mrs. KIM of California and Mr. SABLAN.
H.R. 2968: Mr. SIRES.
H.R. 2969: Mr. PHILLIPS and Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 3013: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
H.R. 3078: Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. BURGESS.
H.R. 3079: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. MCCAUL, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
H.R. 3098: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 3101: Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma and Mr. BANKS.
H.R. 3104: Mr. TIMMONS.
H.R. 3119: Mr. BURGESS.
H.R. 3125: Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. RYAN, and Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.
H.R. 3134: Mr. BANKS, Ms. TENNEY, and Mr. JORDAN.
H.R. 3137: Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 3139: Mr. KHANNA and Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.
H.R. 3157: Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 3165: Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Ms. WATERS.
H.R. 3173: Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. POCAN, Mr. GUEST, and Mr. PERRY.
H.R. 3179: Ms. TENNEY and Mr. JORDAN.
H.R. 3185: Mrs. STEEL and Mrs. FISCHBACH.
H.R. 3217: Mr. STEUBE.
H.R. 3235: Ms. HERRELL and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H.R. 3240: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. NEWHOUSE, and Mr. STEWART.
H.R. 3243: Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 3247: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 3256: Mrs. GREENE of Georgia.
H.J. Res. 11: Mr. HARRIS, Mr. SIMPSON, and Mr. WALBERG.
H. Con. Res. 7: Mr. DONALDS.
H. Res. 114: Mr. SESSIONS.
H. Res. 174: Ms. DELBENE.
H. Res. 279: Mr. COHEN.
H. Res. 386: Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. CROW, and Mr. POSEY.
H. Res. 387: Mr. CHABOT.
H. Res. 388: Mr. CLINE.
H. Res. 394: Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana.
H. Res. 396: Mr. NORMAN and Mr. STAUBER.
H. Res. 397: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H. Res. 398: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. BUSH, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. COSTA, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. MENG, Ms. ROSS, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H. Res. 401: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H. Res. 402: Mr. KHANNA, Mr. WALTZ, Ms. TITUS, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. JACOBS of California, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. ROSS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. MENG, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. RUSH, Ms. BOURDEAUX, Mr. SUOZZI, and Ms. WILD.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. PALLONE

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Energy and Commerce in H.R. 1629 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited

tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. YARMUTH

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on the Budget in H.R. 1629 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. YARMUTH

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on the Budget in H.R. 3237 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 167 WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MAY 17, 2021 No. 85

Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

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

PRAYER

Let us pray.

Loving God, keep us far from the paths of evil. Remind us that You have no desire to rain on our parade. Instead, You want for us all to experience a rich and satisfying life. Give our lawmakers wisdom to avoid the traps that cause them to deviate from Your plan for their lives.

Lord, keep them from setting an ambush for themselves. May they instead listen to Your counsel and walk securely, protected by Your loving and prevailing providence. Provide them with a passion to choose reverence for You and obedience to Your commands so that You can use them as peacemakers for our Nation and world.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore 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.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Illinois.

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

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 PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. DUCKWORTH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

SENATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, the Senate will consider three important measures this week. Senators will vote on whether to repeal a Trump-era rule that made it harder for victims of discrimination in the workplace to pursue justice. It is another example of the sheer malice, the nastiness of the Trump administration. It actively sought to make it harder—harder—for workers to win employment discrimination claims. The Senate should reverse the Trump-era rule this week.

Second, the Senate will also vote on whether to discharge the nomination of Ms. Kristen Clarke from the Judiciary Committee. Ms. Clarke would be the first Black woman ever to serve as the Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division. She is immensely qualified, and I look forward to putting her nomination on the floor after the Senate takes action this week.

But first, throughout the week—this is the third thing, very important as well—the Senate will debate a very important piece of legislation. This evening, the Senate will vote on whether to take up the Endless Frontier Act on the Senate floor, a once-in-a-generation investment in American science and American technology.

Last week, the Senate Commerce Committee voted on an overwhelmingly bipartisan basis, 24 to 4, to advance the bill. The Endless Frontier Act will form the core of what will be a comprehensive bill to boost America's ability to compete, innovate, and win the technologies of the 21st century.

Over the course of the next week or two, the Senate will debate and amend the legislation. I look forward to having another open and bipartisan amendment process, just as we did on the Asian hate crimes bill and the bipartisan water infrastructure bill. There is no reason—no reason—the Senate can't finish our work on this important legislation by the end of the month.

Members on both sides of the aisle know that decades of Federal underinvestment in science and technology have imperiled America's global economic leadership. When we invest in science, it inevitably produces millions of good-paying jobs.

So this comprehensive bill will boost funding for basic scientific research, tech development, and manufacturing. It will strengthen our alliances and partnerships abroad. It will fortify weak spots in our economy, like semiconductors, and will ensure that we hold the Chinese Communist Party accountable for its predatory economic practices. It is a forward-looking, comprehensive plan to preserve America's competitive edge.

The benefits will be manifold. When we invest in scientific research, the effect is diffusive. It helps our universities, our laboratories, and our businesses. And, again, it creates new, good-paying jobs—millions of them—millions of them. So if you are looking for the future and our people want to have a brighter future and want to be assured that their children will have better paying jobs than they have, this is an answer—one of the most important answers we can come up with.

An American workforce will help bring American inventions to the global market, and the way we have been No. 1 in the economy for the last century will continue on into this one. So I am excited about this legislation.

Holding the Chinese Communist Party accountable for its years of rapacious economic policies and theft of American ingenuity will help create a level playing field that American workers have lacked for decades.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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Investing in scientific research also hardens our national security. We can either have a world where the Chinese Communist Party determines the rules of the road for 5G, AI, and quantum computing or we can make sure the United States gets there first—few things that should bring this Chamber together faster than securing another century of American leadership than this.

I am proud to have worked with my colleagues Senator YOUNG, Chairwoman CANTWELL, Ranking Member WICKER, and others to get this bill to the floor of the Senate. And I greatly look forward to working with all of my colleagues during these next few weeks on amending, broadening, and passing this legislation before the month is out.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, one final matter. Tomorrow, President Biden will visit an electric manufacturing facility in Michigan, where a major American auto company is set to unveil its new electric—electric—pickup truck.

Tomorrow's announcement is a significant breakthrough. Because it is one of the bestselling cars in America, the success of an electric pickup could hasten our Nation's transition to a cleaner, brighter, and stronger transportation future.

And personally, I am very happy to see the Biden administration put a spotlight on zero-emission vehicles. This is an issue I have been working on for a very long time, and something I am passionate about. No matter how you look at the data, there is no way that America can meet our targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions without looking at how we drive. Transportation accounts for nearly one-third of America's carbon outlook. And while the transition to electric vehicles is already underway, it is progressing too slowly.

That is why almost 2 years ago I developed and introduced an ambitious new proposal to rapidly phase out gas-powered vehicles and replace them with clean cars. All told, the object of the plan—called Clean Cars for America—is that by 2040, all vehicles on the road should be clean. I am delighted that President Biden has put this proposal in his build back America infrastructure plan.

Through a mixture of credits and investments, it would make electric vehicles affordable for all Americans, provide incentives to trade in older gas vehicles, build the necessary charging infrastructure, and, very importantly, create tens of thousands of good-paying union jobs in automaking, construction, and battery manufacturing.

What distinguishes this proposal is its ability to unite the environmental movement, the labor movement, and the large automakers.

Isn't that a great thing? We used to have the environmental proposals and work and union proposals conflict—no more because we are taking each other's needs into account. This bill has already earned the support of the Sierra Club, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the League of Conservation Voters, the UAW, and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and car manufacturers like Ford and General Motors are supportive as well.

So you have the whole span. Something like this should pass with a lot of votes, I hope. And I was very proud to see President Biden put my Clean Cars for America proposal at the heart of his American jobs plan.

In recent weeks, the virtue of such a plan has been made apparent to millions of drivers and not just for climate-saving reasons. The gasoline shortages along the eastern seaboard, though temporary, revealed, once again, that electric vehicles can be more reliable. For EVs, the price and availability of fuel does not depend on the ebb and flow of fossil fuel discovery, the volatility of international markets, or panics, like the one we just saw.

On every front—on jobs, American economic leadership, protecting the planet—transitioning to a clean car future provides benefits. In the 20th century, America led the way in auto manufacturing. If we fall behind on electric cars, we will no longer lead the way. But this legislation has us staying No. 1 and producing lots of good-paying jobs—hallelujah.

So as the President prepares to go to Michigan for this important announcement, we should also be talking about making a larger scale, ambitious effort to speed our country's transition to zero-emission vehicles. Clean Cars for America is the way to do it.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

ISRAEL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, yesterday was the deadliest day yet in the continued fighting between the terrorist forces attacking Israel and Israel's measured, precise, and defensive response.

Hamas unleashed another round of rocket barrages, intentionally targeting civilian areas all across Israel. Israel intensified its campaign to, among other specific military objectives, destroy the terrorist group's underground networks of weapons storage and command and control.

Last week, Hamas's rocket attacks took the life of a 5-year-old Israeli boy. And because Hamas, in stark violation of the laws of war, intentionally co-locates its terrorist facilities in civilian buildings in neighborhoods, Israeli strikes have regrettably led to civilian casualties in Gaza.

No one is glad to see the fighting, but we are already seeing some push the false narrative that this conflict is a tragic dispute between two legitimate combatants where both sides share blame that is roughly equal—what nonsense. This yields calls for blanket cease-fires and people wagging their fingers at both sides. This camp apparently includes some of our own Senate colleagues.

To say that ''both sides'' need to de-escalate downplays the responsibility the terrorists have for initiating the conflict in the first place and suggests Israelis are not entitled to defend themselves against ongoing rocket barrages. I completely reject this obscene moral equivalence.

Now, the second false narrative is the view on the increasingly vocal far left that Israel is, to quote one far-left Member of the House, an ''apartheid state.'' Another says Israel has perpetrated ''an act of terrorism.''

Look, this is not a conflict between Israel and the Palestinian people. Hamas has sought to hijack recent tensions to advance its own narrow, violent objectives. In that sense, it is a conflict between Israel and a terrorist rump state in Gaza that uses its civilian population as human shields and exploits their suffering for political gain. These terrorists set up shop in apartment buildings and under press offices. They direct rocket attacks from the cover of schools and markets. In the past, when their operatives have been killed, they passed them off to the international community as civilian victims of Israel.

Few countries in history spend as much effort to avoid civilian casualties during war as Israel and the United States. We hold our militaries to the highest standard. Our Israeli friends take pain to defend themselves in ways that are responsible and spare the very civilians Hamas is willing to sacrifice for its propaganda. Israel invests heavily in precision munitions. They spend precious time after attacks confirming target identification. And listen to this: They even provide advance warning to civilians in Gaza before specific buildings are targeted, even when doing so means the terrorists may also evacuate.

It is all well and good for President Biden to speak with the President of the Palestinian Authority, but he holds little sway in Gaza. And twice he has rejected generous offers from different Israeli Governments aimed at establishing an enduring peace.

But if the so-called international community wants to actually make a

difference—really make a difference—they can impose real costs on those who fund the terror weapons of Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

We know where their return address is. It is over in Tehran.

I have been proud to stand with Israel for years, and I am proud to stand with Israel today. The United States needs to stand foursquare behind our ally. President Biden must remain strong against the growing voices within his own party that create false equivalence between terrorist aggressors and a responsible state defending itself.

Israel deserves an opportunity to restore deterrence and to impose costs on terrorists the international community has been unwilling or unable to impose. There is a saying that has been around for quite a while: If Hamas laid down its weapons tomorrow, there would be no more fighting; if Israel laid down their weapons, there would be no more Israel.

So let's leave no doubt where America stands.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. MCCONNELL. On an entirely different matter, when the 117th Congress and President Biden were sworn in back in January, our Nation had already turned the corner in our battle with the coronavirus. New cases and deaths had already peaked and actually started to plummet. The vaccines, made available in record time thanks to Operation Warp Speed, had already started to roll out nationwide at a rate which the Biden administration inherited and sustained until April. The five bipartisan COVID packages that Congress passed in 2020 had the American economy packed with dry powder and primed for an epic comeback.

Economists across the spectrum agreed. One of President Obama's CEA chairmen said: ''We have no historic parallel with anything like this level of excess saving.'' Larry Summers, another top Obama adviser and President Clinton's Treasury Secretary before that, said the bipartisan December package was already enough to elevate a measure of household income to ''abnormally high levels, unheard of during an economic downturn.'' We were already adding back jobs.

But instead of tailoring another bill to build on this momentum, they pushed ahead with the $2 trillion partisan plan that the far left wanted. Republicans predicted it would hurt our recovery if Washington kept taxing working people so the government could pay others a bonus to stay home. I stood here in February and quoted an expert who said:

> In an expanding economy that is putting the virus behind it, paying people more in unemployment than they could receive from working is an act of substantial economic self-harm. It would keep workers on the sidelines, stop the unemployment rate from falling as rapidly as it otherwise would, and slow the overhaul recovery.

Well, we all knew what would happen, but Democrats insisted on continuing to pay people more not to work.

In April, as the President's policies took effect, we only added 266,000 jobs. That is nearly 800,000 under estimates, just as jobs openings soared to more than 8 million, the biggest number ever recorded. We are literally taxing the American workers who are back on the job for the sake of slowing down our economic recovery.

Instead of an agenda to reopen America, Democrats muscled through policies that would actually prolong parts of this crisis. And, of course, that is what happened. A record number of small businesses say they have open jobs they cannot fill.

Governors across America are having to take matters into their own hands and turn off these extra-generous benefits. In States like Arizona, Georgia, Montana, Ohio, and West Virginia, we have Governors having to clean up this mess, which at least one of their own Senators actually voted for.

The policies that we needed in March of 2020 are not the policies we need in May of 2021. That has been obvious to Republicans, to economists, and to the American people.

The sooner that my Democratic friends here in Washington can catch up, the better.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

ENDLESS FRONTIER ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 1260, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

> Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 58, S. 1260, a bill to establish a new Directorate for Technology and Innovation in the National Science Foundation, to establish a regional technology hub program, to require a strategy and report on economic security, science, research, innovation, manufacturing, and job creation, to establish a critical supply chain resiliency program, and for other purposes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

ISRAEL

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, just 4 short months ago, hopes were running high in the Middle East. ISIS was wiped off the map, the Iranian regime and its terrorist proxies were in retreat, and Israel was forging historic peace deals with its neighbors. All along the way, the United States was instrumental in this progress.

But in just a few months, the Biden administration has dashed those hopes with its policy of weakness and appeasement. The forces of terror are again on the march. Pillars of smoke and fire are rising from Tel Aviv and the holy city of Jerusalem. The assault on Israel by terrorist groups like Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad is the latest and most concrete evidence yet that the Middle East is spiraling toward chaos.

But instead of standing firm with Israel, the Biden administration's policy of endless accommodation is fanning the flames of conflict. The President should show strength. Instead, he is broadcasting indecision and weakness. Our greatest ally in the Middle East is under attack. Yet the Democratic Party refuses to say: We stand with Israel. The night sky over the Jewish State blazes with the starbursts of intercepted rockets, and the Biden administration only offers muted calls for restraint.

Where are the righteous denunciations of the terrorists responsible for these repeated, premeditated, and unprovoked attacks? Where are the statements of solidarity with Israel? Please. From this administration and from this Democratic Party, we can't even get the President's spokeswoman to say that the United States would help resupply munitions for Iron Dome, Israel's lifesaving missile defense system.

So this afternoon, let me provide a little clarity that the President and his party appear incapable or unwilling to articulate. The fault for the death and destruction in the streets of Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Gaza, and the West Bank lies not with the Israeli Government, much less with the Israeli people. The belligerents in this conflict aren't morally equivalent, the way it is often presented in supposedly enlightened circles. Put simply, there are good guys, and there are bad guys. Israel seeks peace. Terror groups seek death and destruction. Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad are not legitimate state actors. They don't speak for the Palestinian people and don't truly care about them.

These groups are terrorist organizations run by evil men who commit evil acts in pursuit of the evil dreams of an evil ideology. They purposely fire waves of unguided rockets at civilian targets, while they protect themselves from reprisal using babies, hospitals, schools, and dupes in the media as shields—what cowards, attacking innocent civilians while they hide behind women.

Of course, Hamas and the Islamic Jihad don't act alone. The Palestinian Authority supports, encourages, and funds terrorism in the form of so-called martyr payments—pensions paid to terrorists who attack Jews. The PA perpetuates cycles of violence by refusing to acknowledge the existence of Israel, teaching anti-Semitism in its schools and leaving its people to wallow in poverty as wards of the international community.

And we all know who funds and arms Palestinian terrorist organizations, the world's foremost supporter of terrorism, the Islamic Republic of Iran. For decades, Iran's theocrats have staged demonstrations where their fanatical supporters scream: ''Death to America'' and ''Death to Israel.'' The assault on Israel today shows that those chants are not idle threats.

Iran's ayatollahs are deadly serious about wiping the Jewish State off the map. That is why Iran arms Palestinian terrorists with some of its most lethal weapons. Hamas's arsenal of 10,000 rockets might as well have ''Made in Iran'' stamped on the side.

Those are the villains of this conflict, but let's not forget the heroes. Standing courageously against this organized onslaught is the State of Israel, our closest ally in the region. Over the past week, terrorists have fired approximately 3,000 missiles and rockets into Israel. In response, Israel has defended itself with technological miracles like Iron Dome. It has carried out precision airstrikes against military targets, and, as always, Israel has gone to extraordinary lengths to minimize civilian casualties, despite the terrorists' best efforts to maximize and then publicize any carnage.

While Hamas and the Islamic Jihad fire indiscriminately from Palestinian schools, office buildings, and apartments, Israel responds by hitting those launch sites, but only after—only after—they warn civilians, allowing them to evacuate first. Regrettably, these warnings also allow terrorists to escape, but Israel bears that cost because it values innocent life, unlike its terrorist enemies.

You may have heard of one recent example. Last week, Israel carried out an airstrike against a building used by Hamas intelligence personnel, a building that also housed the Associated Press. An hour before the airstrike, the Israeli military called the AP and other civilians in that complex and warned them to depart. This precaution, once again, allowed Hamas terrorists to escape but also allowed reporters and other civilians to vacate the premises before the airstrike occurred. As a result, no civilians died, and Hamas lost a terrorist haven.

Now, in any other country and with any other military—except America's, I have to add—one would hear praise for that military's restraint and commitment to the laws of order. But because this military is the IDF and the country is Israel and the people are the Jews, they are widely condemned around the world and on the left in America.

If you cut through the hysterics and the hyperbole, you can see the truth clearly: One side seeks to maximize carnage and the other seeks to minimize civilian casualties.

Besides, I must observe, why is the Associated Press sharing a building with Hamas? Surely, these intrepid reporters knew who their neighbors were. Did they knowingly allow themselves to be used as human shields by a U.S.-designated terrorist organization? Did AP pull its punches and decline to report for years on Hamas's misdeeds?

I submit that the AP has some uncomfortable questions to answer. Yet the AP and its fellow journalists are in high dudgeon about Israel's wholly appropriate airstrike. Leave it to whiny reporters to make themselves the story and the victim when terrorists are shooting missiles at innocent civilians.

In any event, the moral standing of the competing forces in this conflict is simple and clear. Our greatest ally and the only democracy in the region against an Islamist theocracy and its terrorist partners—most Americans know which side they are on. I speak for them when I say that we stand with Israel.

Unfortunately, too many elected Democrats have taken a different stand. Members of the so-called ''Squad'' in the House of Representatives have called Israel an apartheid state and accused it of war crimes. Remember, these aren't obscure backbenchers. Many Democrats herald these Representatives as the future of their party.

Meanwhile, 27 Democratic Senators have called for an immediate cease-fire to the conflict. Even the Democratic floor leader, who has long styled himself as Israel's great defender, has joined this moral equivalence, calling for immediate cease-fire.

Hear me clearly. The handwringing calls for a cease-fire are tantamount to Hamas propaganda. Both sides are not the same in this conflict, no matter what the Democrats naively imply. If Hamas puts down its weapons, there would be peace. If Israel puts down its weapons, there would be no Israel.

Thankfully, Israel's leadership is resolute, united, and committed to victory. The United States should respond to this terrorist onslaught with equal resolve. That means we should give Israel the time, space, and resources to destroy Hamas's war machine and protect its own people. We should also ensure that Israel has the military hardware to weather this crisis. Hamas may have as many as 10,000 missiles, rockets, and mortars in reserve. Meanwhile, Hezbollah lurks to the north with many times that arsenal. We should, therefore, endeavor to ensure that Israel has more interceptors for Iron Dome than Hamas has rockets to kill Israelis. Moreover, we ought to cut off aid to the Palestinian Authority until we can be absolutely sure that not a dime of taxpayer money is being used to buy and build rockets or pay pensions for murderous terrorists.

And, finally, the Biden administration ought to immediately end its misguided flirtation with the theocrats in Iran by recalling its chief negotiator and appeaser, Rob Malley, from negotiations in Vienna. If the Biden administration reenters the failed Iran nuclear agreement and grants sanctions relief to the regime in Tehran, in very short order that appeasement payoff will be converted into rockets aimed at Israel, as well as at American troops throughout the region.

While Israel is under attack, we have heard plenty of talk and mealy-mouthed statements from politicians. But in this moment of crisis, Israel needs more than words. Israel needs and deserves our full support to defend itself and its people and to achieve a just and lasting peace.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

CHINA

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, I spoke recently about how the President's ''skinny'' budget is disappointing, dangerous, and a disservice to our men and women in uniform. China actively seeks to outpace the U.S. military, and in some cases, they are succeeding. This isn't a 5- or 10-year problem; the threat is right now, today.

Unfortunately, the military is not the only area facing active challenges by China. Today, I am going to discuss a few at-risk areas that are critical to the stability of our Nation.

It is no secret that the Chinese Communist Party, or CCP, wants to replace the United States as the world's top power. The American people need to be aware of how the Chinese Communist Party is coming after us, not just with missiles and military might but with plans to subdue the American spirit.

The repressive CCP uses economic espionage to advance its agenda to weaken our arsenal of democracy. A significant part of what has made the United States a global powerhouse is the strength and resilience of our private sector companies. Whether it is in the technology, healthcare, or energy sector, American innovation is unrivaled. It is what has made us the greatest economy in the history of the world.

China's leaders know this, but rather than go head-to-head in honest competition, they have settled for stealing our intellectual property. Chinese businesses, at the instruction of their government, lure American companies in. They offer cheap labor. They promise

an ''exchange of ideas,'' but they really want to steal our valuable intellectual property.

As President Trump's Director of National Intelligence, John Ratcliffe, said, China's strategy is to ''rob, replicate and replace.'' China robs American companies of their intellectual property, they replicate our technology, and then China replaces U.S. firms in the global marketplace.

This theft isn't exclusive to just one industry. They will go after whatever they can to get their hands on it—wind turbines, airplane designs, underwater drones, chemicals, or artificial intelligence technology. According to the Department of Justice, between 2011 and 2018, more than 90 percent of the Department's foreign economic espionage cases involved China.

By stealing this critical knowledge, the Chinese have given themselves a leg up on other nations. They are using it to expand their military and economic power. Their goal is to surpass the U.S. economy and gain monopoly control over every major industry. We cannot allow that to succeed.

Even more alarming is what China is doing from within our own universities. The American people may not be familiar with Confucius Institutes, but they should be. Confucius Institutes currently operate at 55 American colleges and universities. While they claim to harmlessly promote Chinese language and culture, they actually serve as a beachhead for the Chinese Government within America's research institutions. Often, just the presence of a Confucius Institute on campus will enable Chinese officials to stifle any criticism of the Chinese Government at that university. The institutes also allow the Chinese Government to harvest valuable data from research being conducted at our country's world-class institutions. Who knows what else they could be up to.

I was very proud to cosponsor Senator BLACKBURN's Transparency for Confucius Institutes Act, which would provide needed transparency to these dangerous organizations. I was also glad to see Alabama A&M, a public land-grant and historically Black university, make the decision to close their Confucius Institute just last month.

Congress has made clear that American institutions of higher education that host Confucius Institutes could lose their Federal funding.

I hope any remaining colleges and universities with these CCP satellite organizations follow Alabama A&M's leadership.

The United States and the entire Western World have given China valuable concessions for decades. We gave China a seat at the table thinking they would change, but they have played their hand ruthlessly. The hope was that by facilitating economic growth through open markets and giving them leadership roles in the international institutions, China's Communist regime would finally embrace democracy, human rights, and free market values. It is past time we recognize that despite all its good intentions, this strategy has failed and miserably.

The Chinese Communist Party has continually spied on its citizens, violently suppressed dissent, and systematically persecuted religious and ethnic minorities to the point of genocide.

President Trump stood up to China. He was the first U.S. President to do so in decades. And he made great strides, but he didn't have enough time in office to finish the job. I sincerely hope President Biden will continue to build on the Trump administration's momentum in pushing back against China's aggressive rise.

The United States must address the challenges posed by China. I have shared a lot of concerns today, but I am not one to offer criticism without a commonsense solution. Here is one commonsense step Congress can take immediately.

The TSP, or Thrift Savings Plan, is the 401(k)-style investment plan that over 6 million Federal and government employees, both military and civilian, use for their retirement plan. The plan manages more than $700 billion in assets.

Back in 2017, the Board that governs the TSP decided to invest billions in companies with direct ties to the Chinese Communist Party. They wanted to send government employee dollars—the retirement savings of our military and civilian public servants—to Chinese companies, including mine and everybody's here in Congress. These companies are tied to a government that openly committed genocide against its own people. Well, with me, that dog doesn't hunt.

Thankfully, President Trump put a stop to that plan before it was implemented, but now with President Biden in the White House, the Board could decide to push through this decision. We need congressional action to make President Trump's decision with the thrift savings plan permanent. I bet if you ask the folks who work in these buildings or who served the United States overseas if they want their retirement savings going to Chinese companies, you would hear a loud no.

I will be offering a solution on this tomorrow to protect our national security and safeguard the retirements of those who have served our country with honor and distinction.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. DUCKWORTH). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

ISRAEL

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, over the past week, the Palestinian terrorist organization Hamas has launched more than 3,000 rockets at civilian targets in Israel. Violent mobs have taken over the streets of Jerusalem, and even seasoned veterans of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict have expressed shock at the intensity of the violence.

This isn't normal. This isn't the Middle East version of the Resistance. This is terrorism. Still, pro-Hamas activists have flooded the media with Instagram-friendly content condemning Israel for defending itself and questioning the legitimacy of Israel's very existence, which is an argument that in any other context would bring all hell down on the person foolish enough to say it out loud.

The level of denial and misinformation about what is happening in Israel and why it is happening is appalling. Nearly every single member of the United Nations Security Council embarrassed themselves this weekend by embracing a generic draft statement condemning the violence but refusing to acknowledge the hundreds of Hamas rockets that started it.

The U.N. has a shameful history of ignoring threats and violence against Israel, but rarely in recent memory has the Security Council so blatantly regurgitated anti-Israel propaganda while Israeli civilians cower in fear under persistent rocket fire.

Thankfully, the U.S. mission blocked the statement's release, but I think it is important—important—to inject a little reality into the ongoing discussion.

First, we must acknowledge that Israel has the absolute right to defend itself, no matter the state of their relations with the Palestinian Authority. There is a world of difference between a state-sponsored terrorist attack on a civilian population and action taken to stop that attack. We have a responsibility to counter the dangerous argument that because Hamas currently lacks the weapons capability to win this battle, Israel must stand by and allow terrorists to slaughter civilians.

Second, I would encourage all of my colleagues to join me in making it clear that the United States is and will remain Israel's closest friend and ally. We will continue to assist with the development and production of advanced missile defense systems like the Iron Dome. We will not step away from that obligation simply because celebrity influencers would rather witness a slaughter than a proportionate response to mass terror.

Last, it is important to acknowledge that this violence is a symptom of a much more serious disease. Hamas terrorists may be the ones launching rockets at civilians, but it is Iran, the world's leading state sponsor of terror, that is paying for it. That is right, Madam President—it is Iran, the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism, that is footing the bill for these attacks. When we provide assistance and support to Israel, we are not just

protecting an ally; we are containing the destructive influence of our most belligerent adversary in the Middle East.

This month, the Biden administration traveled to Vienna to negotiate sanctions relief with Iranian officials. Since then, President Biden has also spoken to Prime Minister Netanyahu and reaffirmed Israel's right to defend itself from these attacks.

However, I would take this opportunity to remind my Democratic colleagues that the United States designated Hamas as a terrorist organization more than 20 years ago. That is right. For the past two decades, we have recognized Hamas as a terrorist organization. As a rule, we do not provide them assistance of any kind. They are a terrorist organization. But by opening the door to sanctions relief for Iran, we cannot help but enrich a regime that will not stop until it destroys Israel. That is their goal. We know it because they have told us that is their goal. We must not provide sanctions relief to Iran or give quarter to any regime that allies itself with this evil.

It is my hope that all Americans will take some time this week to just unplug and think about this and reflect and then pray—pray that reason and wisdom will prevail as we seek an end to this outbreak of violence and the defeat of this terrorist group that wants to destroy the nation of Israel.

TENNESSEE

Madam President, this weekend, we had a positive development in the status of the I–40 bridge that connects West Memphis, AR, and Memphis, TN. Just as a reminder, last week, inspectors discovered a crack in one of the steel beams supporting the bridge. The crossing was immediately closed to all vehicle and barge traffic. On Friday morning, the Coast Guard reopened the stretch of Mississippi River that runs under the bridge, but the bridge itself remains closed indefinitely.

Now, a lot of armchair experts have decided to sound off with the argument that this closure won't affect local economies, but with all due respect, those making this argument really should spend a little bit more time out in the real world. This part of Middle America that we are talking about is an incredibly important part of our Nation's domestic supply chain. We have a 15-mile stretch along the Mississippi River, and that houses 68 waterfronted facilities. Thirty-seven of those facilities are terminal facilities moving products such as petroleum, tar, asphalt, cement, steel, coal, salt, fertilizers, rock and gravel, and grains.

Shipping companies and cross-country trucking companies depend on the I–40 crossing, and so do the local grocery stores, industrial facilities, restaurants, retail outlets that purchase the cargo, and, of course, our Nation's farmers.

Commercial trucking constitutes 25 percent of all traffic that crosses the I–40 bridge. The river traffic that flows beneath the bridge is just as important. When the Coast Guard reopened that stretch of the Mississippi, they had to juggle 60 vessels hauling more than 1,000 barges. Yes. We had a little traffic jam in the Mississippi River.

It is amazing to me how quickly a problem like this does turn into a bottleneck. Tennessee and Arkansas transportation officials are still working out a timeline for repairs, but as of now, the trucking industry is preparing for a downward spiral.

According to the Arkansas Trucking Association, this could cost operators and their customers more than $2 million a day, which is an amount that the industry actually cannot absorb. This means that the delay could end up costing consumers an additional $2 million a day. And depending on what they are buying, they could also see empty shelves due to a supply chain interruption.

Meanwhile, the Biden administration is putting all their energy and focus into checking items off of a decades-old wish list of social programs. They put forward an infrastructure package worth more than $2 trillion that wastes about two-thirds of this total pricetag on projects that have nothing to do with infrastructure, nothing to do with making sure that major bridges and thoroughfares are safe and open or expanding broadband access or making sure that parents in rural Tennessee can get their kids to school without worrying that a rainstorm will flood the road on the way to town. This is making the American people feel so incredibly unsettled and very frustrated, and Tennesseans are pretty nervous about the future.

If I could give the President one piece of advice, it would be this: If you want to waste time peddling Green New Deal policies or expanding social safety nets, admit it—just admit it. Call it what it is. Don't call it infrastructure and then turn around and throw pocket change at actual infrastructure problems that need to be addressed right now. That mislabeling makes it look like you are trying to pull a fast one over the American people, and it makes the American people believe that you really don't care. And that is a dangerous message to send in the middle of a traumatic pandemic recovery, especially considering that prices are already on the rise. We see it in utilities. We see it at the gas pump. We see it in the packaged snacks we purchase for the children's Sunday school class. Even basics in the produce section at the grocery store are beginning to get out of reach. It is affecting basic nutrition.

This is the Biden surcharge. We are paying a premium just to live from the moment our feet hit the floor in the morning to the time we brush our teeth and get into bed at night. The barebones cost of living is going up thanks to these reckless spending priorities.

My Democratic colleagues need to understand that a government subsidy cannot save a family from that kind of hit to their monthly budget, affecting everything from the moment their feet hit the floor in the morning to the time they brush their teeth and go to bed in the evening.

The Biden administration is creating a perfect storm of income insecurity, shortages, and the uneasiness that comes when Americans see more month at the end of their money than money at the end of the month.

They know how to manage their budget, and they know what they have to do when prices creep up 25 cents, $1 or $2 at a time. Their instinct isn't to reach out to the Federal Government for help; their instinct and their action is to cut back on the extras and to prepare for harder times ahead.

The only way to avoid this even now is to make prudent, targeted investments in economic recovery, supply chain security, cyber security, and, yes, actual real infrastructure projects.

The American people cannot afford all the extras that are on the Democratic Party's wish list. Their income can't keep up with the inflation that is hitting their pocketbook every single day of the week. And they really are concerned with what will happen when those trend lines cross and inflation heads north every single day.

I would, again, ask my Democratic colleagues to step back from the money printer and recognize the effect all this spending is having on American families.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I further ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call with respect to the cloture motion for the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 58, S. 1260, be waived.

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

Mr. MURPHY. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to finish my remarks prior to the upcoming vote.

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

ISRAEL

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I come to the floor this afternoon to talk about two issues of vital importance to the United States and the world.

First, I want to say a few words about the current violence paralyzing Israel and the Palestinian territories, but then I want to spend the bulk of my remarks on the future of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East.

First, here in America, our hearts are breaking for Israelis and Palestinians.

The images are just bone-chilling—rockets and interceptors streaking across the night sky, parents huddled with their children as air raid sirens ring out, tragic images of innocent Israeli and Palestinian civilians, including children, injured or killed in the blasts.

For many Americans who are turning on the news this week, it might appear that the events of the last few days erupted almost overnight. While tensions are now reaching a fevered and deadly pitch, this cataclysm has been long in the making and no party, including the United States of America, has completely clean hands.

Zero-sum politics have driven both the decision making of the Netanyahu government and Palestinian leadership, to the extent that there is such a thing as Palestinian leadership. Those decisions have led us to this crisis.

Over and over, Prime Minister Netanyahu has pushed Israeli settlements further into territory historically considered reserved for a future Palestinian State. The Israeli Government, increasingly reliant on right-wing, zero-sum political constituencies for its survival, also stepped up campaigns to remove Palestinians from areas in East Jerusalem as a means to undermine the Palestinian claim to that section of the ancient city as the capital of a future state.

The spark that lit the match of the existing conflagration was the Israeli effort to remove Palestinian families from their homes in the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah and replace them with Israeli settlers.

In February, the Israeli court ordered Palestinian families in that neighborhood to vacate their homes by May 2 or they would be forcibly removed. Protests began, spread to other cities in Israel with large Arab populations, while the Palestinian families awaited a final ruling from the Israeli Supreme Court.

As these protests spread and grew in size, Israeli police adopted some tactics that we have seen on display here in the United States—an overly securitized approach that only escalated rather than defused the tension. Those crackdowns led to more protests and more clashes and a cycle that continued and continued.

Then Israeli security forces stormed Islam's third holiest site in Jerusalem during Ramadan prayers. Now, the Israelis contend that they were responding to a rock thrown from Palestinians inside. The Palestinians argue it was the other way around. But whatever happened, at the end of that night, more than 330 Palestinians and 22 Israelis had been injured.

The story of the Palestinians' conduct over the last decade is just as important in understanding the roots of the existing crisis. Fatah, the main political party representing Palestinians, has failed the people it represents. Ripe with internal conflict and corruption, Fatah lost its mandate to govern Gaza in 2006, when Hamas, an internationally recognized terrorist organization, beat Fatah in parliamentary elections there that year.

Hamas refuses to recognize the right of Israel to exist and advocates for the armed rebellion of Palestinians against Israel. Fatah, under pressure from Hamas to take more extreme positions, spent most of the last decade refusing any and all chance to negotiate with the Israelis, preferring to sit on the sidelines and nurture grievances. They were unable to deliver any real economic benefit to the people under their charge in the West Bank, and the resulting desperation of Palestinians fed this grievance culture even more.

In response to those events I mentioned at Al Aqsa, Hamas and its allies in Gaza started firing rockets into southern and central Israel. Since that day, thousands of rockets have landed inside Israel. These rocket attacks were then responded to by an Israeli Government that has begun its own assault inside Gaza, and as we sit here today, hundreds of Palestinians inside Gaza, including children, have been killed. Although there have not been as many casualties in Israel because of the defense-security relationship with the United States, Israelis have been killed as well.

The Israelis were wrong to pursue settlements and evictions as a deliberate means to undermine a future Palestinian state. These policies might have helped hold together Netanyahu's political coalition, but they helped to feed a sense of hopelessness amongst Palestinians and their future.

The Palestinian leadership was wrong to perpetuate an anti-Israeli, anti-Semitic narrative as a foundation of their hold on power. They were wrong to choose grievance over diplomacy.

But the United States, over the last 4 years, played a role too. President Trump rejected America's historic role as a broker for peace and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians. He chose a side unconditionally, and his alliance with Netanyahu and his rejection of a Palestinian state drove the two parties further apart and turned the temperature up. Trump pursued a path to intentionally create division rather than healing. Those 4 years of America's absence from its traditional post of mediator is also a big reason we are here today.

There is going to be time to talk about the big picture—to talk about what went wrong and how American policy needs to change toward Israel and the West Bank and Gaza—but right now, our focus needs to be laser-like on deescalation, on a cease-fire. Hamas must stop its rocket attacks. They are war crimes. They are indiscriminate. They do nothing to help the Palestinians in East Jerusalem or anywhere else. Israel needs to stand down its military campaign as well. They have to take off the table a ground invasion of Gaza. Israel possesses a disproportionate military power. That is why, during the 2014 invasion of Gaza, 2,000 Palestinians died compared with fewer than 100 Israelis. But when children die in Gaza, it does nothing to secure Israel. In fact, it does the opposite. It just provides further fuel to this furnace of grievances.

So I am glad that the administration is sending Deputy Assistant Secretary Amr to the region, that he is there. It is critical that we also get a formal U.S. Ambassador to Israel in place as quickly as possible. But the United States needs to be pressing for a cease-fire. The United States can't afford to simply allow for this escalation to continue. That is not in Israel's best interest, and that is not in America's best interest. My hope is, in the conversations that are happening today between the Biden administration and the Netanyahu government, that they are talking about the terms to bring this violence to an end.

Now, as to the second topic, I recently spent 5 days in the Middle East last week. I came back just before this recent spate of violence began in Gaza and Israel. During the 5 days I was in the Middle East, I crossed paths with a bunch of Biden officials who were making stops throughout the region, and I can report that, in setting aside the conflict in Israel—something that is pretty hard to do right now—there is some real positive news to bring back from the Gulf.

The 4-year-long rift between Qatar and its Gulf neighbors is healing. There is now a new diplomatic energy behind cease-fire talks in Yemen, and the Saudis and the Iranians are in direct talks for the first time in years. All of this—I was repeatedly told by leaders in the Middle East—is happening because President Biden has made clear that deescalation is going to be rewarded and supported by the United States—a stark departure from the Trump administration.

Now, this is good news, but the bad news quickly follows, and it is this: If the United States does not reenter the Iran nuclear agreement, all of this nascent progress is going to be at risk.

Joe Biden ran on a promise to reenter the Iran nuclear agreement. He made this commitment because he knew that this agreement was critical to American security. With Iran's nuclear program curtailed and inspectors allowed to comb every inch of the country to look for signs of a secret enrichment program, the world could breathe a sigh of relief in knowing that, for all of Iran's other malevolent behaviors and policies, at least we knew that they were not developing a nuclear weapon.

The achievement of the deal also brought together a set of really unlikely bedfellows—the United States and Europe but also Russia and China. On Iran policy, with this coalition of regular adversaries, it was intact at the end of the Obama administration. It was ready to be picked up by President Trump to confront Iran's ballistic

missile program or their support for regional proxy forces like Hezbollah, but Trump went in a different direction. Instead of building on the Iran deal, he decided to put to test the theory of its opponents. That theory is this: that if the United States imposed unilateral, crippling sanctions on Iran, leaders in Tehran would limp to the negotiating table, cowed and willing to put all of the issues—nuclear enrichment, missiles, human rights, proxy support—up for discussion. That is what Obama's critics said he should have done, and those critics cheered when Trump took their advice.

What happened, of course, was a policy cataclysm. Trump imposed the sanctions, and our partners, instead of following America's lead, effectively took the Iranian side, even helping Iran work around our sanctions. Making matters worse, when Trump sent word to the Iranians of our 12 demands, they refused to talk. Instead, they did the opposite. They ratcheted up their bad behavior. They sent more support to the Houthis in Yemen. They restarted dormant parts of their nuclear program, reducing their breakout time to a weapon from just over a year to just under 3 months, and they resumed attacks on American forces in the region, both directly and through proxies.

Here is a pretty simple way to take a look at the success of the maximum pressure campaign. One element of the Iran nuclear deal was a commitment by Iran to reduce their enriched uranium stockpile. You can see, in the years leading up to the deal, there is a dramatic escalation in the amount of enriched uranium the Iranians are holding. Then immediately upon the deal's being reached, it plummets. Yet here is the bad news: As soon as the maximum pressure campaign is unveiled by President Trump, those numbers start to creep back up again.

One chart explains to you the effect of Trump's maximum pressure campaign. It was a spectacular failure and definitive proof that the alternative approach, cheered by the Iran deal's opponents—keep the sanctions in place until Iran totally capitulates—was a fantasy. Instead, the situation has empowered the more hardline wing of an already hardline regime who is prepared to perpetually operate a resistance economy and blame the United States for the nation's suffering.

Yet now those same critics of the nuclear agreement are back, and incredibly, despite the writing inked on the wall during the past 4 years, their argument hasn't changed a bit. Just keep doing what Trump did, and this time it will work, they say. They suggest that getting back into the nuclear deal, as Biden pledged during the campaign, isn't enough. They want a new deal that includes a resolution to all of Iran's bad acts, but unless we are prepared to invade Iran and demand unconditional surrender—news flash: We are not—then that comprehensive, soup-to-nuts deal is a neoconservative fantasy. It doesn't exist in real life.

In real life, the achievable result is a restart of the nuclear agreement. The good news is that this result in 2021 might have an even greater peace dividend than when it was executed the first time in 2015.

This brings me back to my trip to the region. I heard this story, while I was there, of how quickly talks on healing the Gulf Cooperation Council rift matured as soon as Biden won the election. Countries that were at one another's throats throughout the Trump administration were suddenly coming to terms with one another. While conflict and bullying and score-settling—Trump's calling cards—were rewarded during his term, countries quickly realized that diplomacy and deescalation would most quickly win favor with President Biden.

In Oman, I heard how the Saudis were suddenly much more willing to make additional concessions in Yemen and how the Houthis were now more likely to trust the United States as an interlocutor. In Jordan, the King talked to us about how an Iraqi Government was now more welcoming than ever of help from places other than Iran, and he spoke of Jordan's new overtures to a Baghdad Government in its looking for a more diverse set of allies. And everyone in the region, at every stop, buzzed about these talks, these dialogues, between the Saudis and the Iranians. Reports suggest that these two countries wanted to talk during the Trump administration but were discouraged from doing so.

This momentum toward peace is encouraging, but it is so fragile, and one major setback, one major, unexpected diplomatic hiccup, could turn all of this progress around. I worry that this hiccup could be the failure of America and Iran to get back into the nuclear agreement. If the talks fail and the Biden administration is forced to implement Trump's Iran policy for the next 4 years, complete with these unilateral crippling sanctions, it is easy to see how all of this progress in the Gulf could disintegrate. The so-called Iranian moderates would head back to Tehran with no deal and be defeated in the upcoming national elections. A harder line government, much less prone to diplomacy, would choose to scuttle peace talks in Yemen, end the outreach to the Saudis, and work like mad to make sure that their proxies in Iraq take power in the upcoming parliamentary elections. This could convince the Saudis to double down militarily in Yemen and open up new fissures in the Gulf.

Listen, maybe I am wrong. Maybe this is an overly apocalyptic vision of what would occur if the nuclear negotiations go south, but I fear that it is more accurate than fantastical that the stakes might be that high, which brings me, finally, to our negotiations in Vienna. If the consequences of success are so promising and if the ramifications of failure are so dire, then what has to happen to guarantee a good outcome? And I will end here.

First, the structure of the talks is deeply problematic, and that is the Iranians' fault. They are insisting on this shuttle diplomacy when we should be talking directly to them.

Second, countries in Iran's neighborhood that were hostile or neutral to the talks in 2015 suddenly have their eyes wide open to the benefits of getting back into the deal, so we should make sure that our partners in the Middle East who have the ear of the Iranian Government or the Supreme Leader are applying the appropriate pressure and letting Iran know that their relationships in the region are at risk if Iran fails to get back into the deal.

On our side of the ledger, we need to be willing to be creative. Now, of course, any restart of the nuclear agreement is going to require the United States to drop the sanctions Trump applied to Iran's economy—that had the same impact as the Obama-era nuclear sanctions.

Yet here is the point I want to make: What about the other sanctions that Trump layered on top of the economic sanctions? For example, it should be expected that the Iranians would want us to lift Trump's designation of its primary military force, the IRGC, as a terrorist organization. This wasn't strictly a nuclear sanction, but it was certainly a key part of Trump's maximum pressure campaign, and it was specifically designed to try to bring Iran back to the negotiating table on a nuclear program.

In evaluating the wisdom of peeling back these noneconomic sanctions, it is important to remember that they were all completely feckless. These sanctions had no impact. In fact, their only impact was to worsen Iran's behavior, so lifting them would have no practical negative impact.

Just as importantly, lifting this particular designation, the one example I am posing to you today, is a rather technical exercise under the U.S. statute, and it actually doesn't prevent us from sanctioning the truly bad actors in the Iranian military. For example, our sanctions on some of their most brutal interrogators—the IRGC's interrogators—would all stay in place even if we lifted that blanket IRGC designation.

This is just one example of a Trump-era sanction whose erasure would have little to no practical impact. There are many more, but I use this example to show how weighing the equities, the benefits, of getting into the deal are going to be far greater than the imaginary benefits of keeping many of Trump's noneconomic sanctions.

Now, let me be clear. If the sanctions like this are removed, opponents of the deal are going to cry bloody murder in that they are going to accuse Biden of giving more than Obama gave, but this is the exact trap that Trump was trying to set for his successor. He applied

sanctions on Iran in connection with the pullout of the nuclear deal, but he called them nonnuclear sanctions, hoping the next President would be caught in this sticky web. President Biden shouldn't be bound by Trump's tortured sanctions logic.

But, just as importantly, let me assure you that no matter the particulars or the details of the agreement to restart the nuclear deal, the deal critics are going to oppose it, no matter what. They opposed it in 2015. They are going to oppose it again.

What we should really be worried about is Trump's Iran policy becoming, by accident, permanent, and this is what is likely to occur if the Vienna talks fail. Iran will continue to speed up its nuclear research program, the maximum pressure will continue, and a chill will be delivered to the deescalation momentum in the region.

But on the other hand, reentering the deal, while effectively already priced into a Biden electoral victory, will be seen as a diplomatic victory, at a perfect time to score a win for diplomacy, and the Middle East countries who have found new affection for a U.S.-Iran agreement will exhale.

Now, I am not naive. I understand the Middle East has still dozens of intractable crises, and the events of the last few days in Israel and Gaza are a reminder of the grave challenges that are still there. But the overall mood of deescalation in and around the Gulf is real, and it is much better than the old incentive structure for escalation.

So I see these roots of positive change slowly, quietly growing, and, right now, the best way for the United States to nurture those grass shoots is to restart the Iran nuclear agreement.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 58, S. 1260, a bill to establish a new Directorate for Technology and Innovation in the National Science Foundation, to establish a regional technology hub program, to require a strategy and report on economic security, science, research, innovation, manufacturing, and job creation, to establish a critical supply chain resiliency program, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Maria Cantwell, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tina Smith, Jeanne Shaheen, John Hickenlooper, Michael F. Bennet, Patty Murray, Tammy Baldwin, Raphael G. Warnock, Christopher Murphy, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Jacky Rosen, Ben Ray Luján, Richard J. Durbin, Tim Kaine, Jeff Merkley, Gary C. Peters, Catherine Cortez Masto.

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 motion to proceed to S. 1260, a bill to establish a new Directorate for Technology and Innovation in the National Science Foundation, to establish a regional technology hub program, to require a strategy and report on economic security, science, research, innovation, manufacturing, and job creation, to establish a critical supply chain resiliency program, and for other purposes, 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 Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 86, nays 11, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 192 Leg.]

YEAS—86

Baldwin	Graham	Padilla
Bennet	Grassley	Peters
Blackburn	Hagerty	Portman
Blumenthal	Hassan	Reed
Blunt	Hawley	Romney
Booker	Heinrich	Rosen
Boozman	Hickenlooper	Rounds
Braun	Hirono	Rubio
Brown	Hoeven	Sanders
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Cantwell	Inhofe	Schatz
Capito	Kaine	Schumer
Cardin	Kelly	Scott (SC)
Carper	Kennedy	Shaheen
Casey	King	Sinema
Cassidy	Lankford	Smith
Collins	Leahy	Stabenow
Coons	Luján	Sullivan
Cornyn	Manchin	Tester
Cortez Masto	Markey	Thune
Cramer	Marshall	Tillis
Cruz	McConnell	Van Hollen
Daines	Menendez	Warner
Duckworth	Merkley	Warnock
Durbin	Moran	Warren
Ernst	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murphy	Wyden
Fischer	Murray	Young
Gillibrand	Ossoff	

NAYS—11

Barrasso	Lee	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Lummis	Shelby
Crapo	Paul	Tuberville
Johnson	Risch	

NOT VOTING—3

Klobuchar	Toomey	Wicker

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). On this vote, the yeas are 86, the nays are 11.

Three-fifths of Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Rhode Island.

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

EL SALVADOR

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I want to call attention to recent events in El Salvador which have caused international concern, including in the U.S. Congress.

I was a Senator in the 1980s, when social injustices and authoritarian regimes in El Salvador led to a brutal civil war that lasted 12 years. I traveled there during that period when the United States was supporting the Salvador Armed Forces, despite their history of corruption and collusion with death squads that carried out political assassinations with impunity.

Finally, in 1992, after tens of thousands of lives lost and atrocities including the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero and six Jesuit priests and their housekeeper and her daughter by the Salvadoran Army, the two sides signed the Peace Accords that ended the war. Those Accords failed to solve the country's historical problems, and the leaders of the Arena and FMLN parties failed to put implementation of the Accords above their own corrupt, political ambitions, for which they ultimately lost the support of the Salvadoran people. But the Accords did establish the foundation for democracy, including a clear separation of powers with checks and balances as well as a limited constitutional role for the armed forces and the newly formed civilian police to avoid ever again being used for political purposes or repression.

I mention this history and the price in human suffering that was paid for the chance to build a peaceful, democratic society in El Salvador, at a time when key elements of the Peace Accords are under assault from within the government itself and President Nayib Bukele.

In February 2020, in a show of force designed to intimidate the Salvadoran Congress, which at that time his party did not control, President Bukele, accompanied by heavily armed soldiers, occupied the legislative chamber to demand passage of a law to pay for new equipment. Fifteen months later, after winning a supermajority in the Congress, he turned his attention to the judicial branch.

Under the Peace Accords, the Office of the Attorney General, formerly an appendage of the Executive that was used for repression and persecution of political opponents, became an independent institution, acting as a fourth branch of government and appointed by a majority of Congress to a 3-year term. Since the Congress is also elected for 3-year terms, every Congress gets to appoint an Attorney General. The President has no say in the matter.

The Attorney General can be removed by a majority of Congress for just cause and in accordance with due process. Attorney General Raul Melara's term was to end on January 6, 2022, just 7 months from now, and the newly elected Congress could have selected someone to replace him after

that date. However, on May 1, President Bukele's supermajority in Congress summarily removed Mr. Melara without cause and appointed a political loyalist as Melara's replacement, contrary to the requirements of the Constitution and raising serious doubts about the continued independence of the office.

It is notable that prior to his dismissal, the ousted Attorney General, with U.S. support, was investigating a number of cases of corruption against top government officials, including a multibillion-dollar money laundering case. Then last week, in what can only be interpreted as a flagrant attempt to shield themselves from accountability, the Congress passed a law to provide retroactive immunity to all government officials implicated in corruption involving spending linked to the COVID–19 pandemic. Also last week, the Assistant Attorney General in charge of the anti-corruption unit suddenly resigned, for reasons that have not been explained, and was also replaced by a Bukele loyalist.

Those actions were just the beginning. El Salvador's Supreme Court has 15 justices elected for 9-year terms and distributed among different chambers. Every 3 years, Congress can appoint 5 justices from a list of 30 candidates submitted by the National Council of the Judiciary. The President has no say in the matter.

Justices can be assigned to and transferred from any chamber, except justices in the Constitutional Chamber who are appointed by the Congress strictly for that chamber and cannot be transferred. The chief justice of the Supreme Court is also selected by Congress from among the five members of the Constitutional Chamber.

The newly elected Congress would have elected five justices from different chambers of the Supreme Court in June from the already submitted list of candidates. However, on May 1, the Congress removed all five justices from the Constitutional Chamber and their substitutes, without cause or due process, arguing that their rulings were biased and contrary to the government's policies. Out of those justices only one would have completed his term in June. The other four from the Constitutional Chamber were serving terms until 2029. Apparently, the role of the judiciary as a separate branch of government that serves as an independent check on Executive power in a democracy is unacceptable to President Bukele and his congressional allies.

The Congress appointed new justices but not from a list of candidates submitted by the National Council of the Judiciary. So not only was the sudden removal of justices unconstitutional; so was the appointment of new justices.

The Constitutional Chamber had played an essential, historical role as a check on the Executive's abuse of authority, which is plainly why its justices were targeted for removal. The chamber often rebuked the Executive for overreaching in its actions, including the Bukele-ordered military occupation of the Congress in February 2020. Thus, by removing the Attorney General and the Supreme Court justices, the Congress gave President Bukele control of all branches of government, creating a situation in which corruption can flourish with impunity.

I have recounted these events because they have created a crisis that could have profound consequences for El Salvador, and for U.S.-Salvadoran relations. My concern is not only what it means for democracy in that country but what it could also mean for its economy and the livelihoods of its people. The stifling of democracy ultimately deprives already desperate people—suffering from the COVID pandemic, two hurricanes in 2020, and gang violence—of any hope their lives will get better, and this desperation is a major driver of migration to the U.S. border.

The United States has always been El Salvador's largest trading partner and its largest donor. CAFTA—the Central America Free Trade Agreement—established not only trade preferences but labor, health, and environmental standards. The results have been significant.

Forty-five percent of El Salvador's exports go to the United States under CAFTA, which amounts to $2.6 billion a year.

Thirty-five percent of its imports come from the United States, totaling $3.5 billion a year.

There are nearly 3 million Salvadorans living in the United States, of whom 200,000 have temporary protected status. Collectively, they send $6 billion each year in remittances to their relatives in El Salvador, which amounts to 25 percent of the country's GDP.

On top of that, the United States has provided El Salvador with more than $700 million in aid through USAID, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, and other agencies in the last 5 years alone. Much of the progress made with those funds is now at risk of being washed away.

The largest exporters in El Salvador are U.S. corporations, which are also the largest employers in El Salvador.

President Bukele knows that his dictatorial actions are a direct challenge to the United States and to the Biden administration's emphasis on democracy, human rights, and combating corruption in the region. Faced with criticism from the White House and the U.S. Congress, he may point to China as an alternative to the United States, as if a knight in shining armor from Beijing can gallop in and solve El Salvador's problems.

But the people of El Salvador have no connection with China, and they are not about to cast aside their longstanding relationship with the United States. Trade with China has always been one-way and characterized by dumping practices that have destroyed local industries in El Salvador. There are no major exports from El Salvador to China except occasional shipments of coffee and sugar. Chinese infrastructure projects do nothing to help unemployed Salvadorians, when China sends the steel, concrete, and even the Chinese workers to build them.

The Salvadoran private sector knows that China isn't the answer. They know the country cannot prosper without democratic institutions and the rule of law.

El Salvador is a sovereign country, and President Bukele was democratically elected. He makes his own decisions. But the choices he and his allies in the Salvadoran Congress make, that are eviscerating El Salvador's democratic civilian institutions and empowering the armed forces, have consequences for U.S.-Salvadoran relations. They have consequences for our aid programs and for our support for financing for El Salvador from the IMF, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the World Bank and for our trade relations, and for visas.

This isn't about national sovereignty and foreign interference, as President Bukele has falsely suggested. His actions directly affect the United States, U.S. companies, our commercial relations, and the welfare of millions of Salvadorans in the United States, as well as the Salvadoran population.

I join others here and in El Salvador in urging President Bukele and the Salvadoran Congress to reconsider their unconstitutional actions and to restore the separation of powers and the rule of law. Don't destroy the Peace Accords' greatest achievement. End the attacks on the rule of law, respect the tenure of other justices and the Human Rights Procurator, and appoint justices to the Constitutional Chamber and an Attorney General following the established procedures and ensuring that they are people with the necessary professional qualifications, integrity, and independence.

TRIBUTE TO BRIAN RIENDEAU

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, throughout a year full of new and difficult challenges, the greater Louisville region has been fortunate to have my friend Brian Riendeau helping lead the response. As the executive director of Dare to Care food bank, Brian has been instrumental in delivering tens of millions of quality and nutritious meals each year around this community. His vision and talent support families when they need it most, and we owe him a major debt of gratitude. This summer, Brian will bring to a close his 12 years of remarkable leadership at Dare to Care. I would like to take a moment today to recognize his accomplishments and thank him for his vast contributions to Kentucky.

This last year wasn't the first time I've watched Brian deliver for Kentucky. Before we worked together in

his current role, I had the privilege of having Brian on my Senate staff. For 5 years, he was an important adviser on legislation and Kentucky-focused priorities. While I was sorry to see him leave my office, I was pleased to know he was headed to the Bluegrass. He spent more than a decade in corporate leadership at one of Louisville's biggest employers before dedicating himself full-time to combating food insecurity.

In 2009, Brian joined Dare to Care with a plan. He wanted to expand the food bank's physical footprint and its reach. Founded in Louisville more than 50 years ago to address a troubling rise of malnutrition, Dare to Care partners with nearly 300 local organizations to promote healthy and active lifestyles across the community. Brian grew the staff to 60-strong and developed a strategy to further invest in Louisville and the surrounding region. In the last few years, he completed a $7 million-plus capital campaign to build a new community kitchen to serve even more Kentuckians.

I had the opportunity to see Brian's operation firsthand last July. In the first months of the pandemic, demand for Dare to Care's help jumped around 35 percent. Brian and his team overcame supply-chain disruptions, implemented social distancing and other medical precautions, and continued serving those in need. In fact, once Brian's team stocked its shelves, Dare to Care was even able to help other food banks in Kentucky fill their own. Brian's forward-thinking and commitment to service helped countless Kentucky families during the hardest days of this pandemic. I am so grateful to him and his team for working around the clock to feed Kentucky.

Dare to Care is well-positioned to continue fulfilling its mission for years to come, and Brian's outstanding leadership helped get it there. Whatever comes next for Brian and his wife Judy, I know I speak for his many admirers in wishing him all the best. I would like to express my personal gratitude for his years of dedication to Kentucky, and I encourage my Senate colleagues to join me in congratulating Brian for his many successes.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM ''BILL'' ALLEN, JR.

• Mr. COONS. Mr. President, today it is my pleasure to honor William ''Bill'' Allen, Jr., local business leader, community activist, author, and friend, for his tremendous contributions to Delaware and the growth and success of our communities.

If you have ever met Bill Allen, you will know he has a wonderful smile that will grab your attention when you walk in the room and will get you smiling as well. Bill is also serious about continuing to make important strides in inspiring and bettering our State. Throughout his extensive career in the collections solutions industry, Bill was often the first or most senior African American in his organizations. Bill consistently reached new levels and set important precedents, led change, and inspired young African Americans. The knowledge and experience Bill gained throughout his career in the collections solutions industry led him to start his own company, ALW Sourcing LLC, a collections and customer contact solutions business that he leads with a wealth of knowledge, entrepreneurship, and industry experience.

In 2000, Bill and his wife, Dr. Kim Allen, founded A Friend of the Family, Inc., AFOF, a Delaware-based incubator for alternative learning programs. AFOF provides students with learning differences and behavioral challenges the tools and lessons necessary to overcome personal, environmental, and socioeconomic challenges. Under their leadership, the organization strengthens and empowers our community. The success of AFOF led Bill to be featured in Business Week, the Baltimore Business Journal, and JET Magazine.

He and Dr. Allen also teamed up to coauthor a book, ''It Flows Through Us,'' which describes how working hard and giving back can generate success and happiness. When writing the book, Bill focused on making it accessible to all people so that it could be used in the minority- and women-owned business enterprise revolution. He also participates in this revolution through the multiple seminars he conducts yearly to increase individuals' understanding of business, diversity, leadership, motivation, and success. Bill's knowledge initiatives empower and inspire people to make positive changes that will improve lives across communities.

Bill served as the board chair of the African American Empowerment Fund, AAEFD, at Delaware Community Foundation and as a board member for the nonprofit charity Friends of Hockessin Colored School #107, FOHCS. During his time as chair, he led the fund to provide $100,000 to the Hockessin Colored School #107, a historic school that played a role in a groundbreaking court case that became part of the landmark Supreme Court decision, Brown v. Board of Education. A student at the school was a plaintiff in the 1952 Delaware Court of Chancery case Belton (Bulah) v. Gebhart, which was appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court jointly with Brown v. Board. Thanks to the funding that Bill helped secure, the historic school is now being transformed into a center for diversity training, inclusion, and social equity. Its legacy will continue and its purpose has been reignited.

In my remarks at the reintroduction ceremony for this school, I stated that in order to change our future, we must confront our past. It is my firm belief that Mr. Allen's commitments to our community and the revitalization of the Hockessin Colored School have played an important role in this mission and the growth and inclusivity of our State.

In both business and community involvement, all of Bill's accomplishments led to his induction into the Delaware Business Leaders Hall of Fame in 2020 as one of the first African-American inductees. This honor was awarded to him by the Leadership Council of Junior Achievement of Delaware, which recognized his influence as a business role model to the students whom the organization serves. I believe that this is a fitting testament to the great work Bill has done for our State.

Mr. President, Bill has made invaluable contributions to Delawareans. He has used his knowledge and experience to invest in a wide array of communities and inspire hundreds of citizens. He is well respected for such contributions and this recognition is well deserved.

Bill Allen, on behalf of all you have supported and inspired throughout your career, please accept our sincere gratitude. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to the Delaware community and for your dedication to your work that has brought about change, set important firsts, and inspired others. Thank you.•

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:08 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1065. An act to eliminate discrimination and promote women's health and economic security by ensuring reasonable workplace accommodations for workers whose ability to perform the functions of a job are limited by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition.

H.R. 2547. An act to expand and enhance consumer, student, servicemember, and small business protections with respect to debt collection practices, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2877. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop best practices for the establishment and use of behavioral intervention teams at schools, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1065. An act to eliminate discrimination and promote women's health and economic security by ensuring reasonable workplace accommodations for workers whose ability to perform the functions of a job are limited by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 2547. An act to expand and enhance consumer, student, servicemember, and small business protections with respect to debt collection practices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 2877. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop best practices for the establishment and use of behavioral intervention teams at schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. REED, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 1652. A bill to ensure high-income earners pay a fair share of Federal taxes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SHELBY:

S. 1653. A bill to repeal the current Internal Revenue Code and replace it with a flat tax, thereby guaranteeing economic growth and fairness for all Americans; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRAMER:

S. 1654. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include certain over-the-counter dietary supplement products as qualified medical expenses; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TILLIS:

S. 1655. A bill to prohibit States from regulating certain commercial motor vehicle service contracts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 1656. A bill to provide a taxpayer bill of rights for small businesses; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 1657. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to the People's Republic of China in relation to activities in the South China Sea and the East China Sea, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CASEY, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 1658. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to expand access to breastfeeding accommodations in the workplace, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions .

By Ms. LUMMIS (for herself and Mr. KELLY):

S. 1659. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to carry out a highway cost allocation study, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 1660. A bill to expand access to health care services for immigrants by removing legal and policy barriers to health insurance coverage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 1661. A bill to establish the National Fab Lab Network, a nonprofit organization consisting of a national network of local digital fabrication facilities providing universal access to advanced manufacturing tools for workforce development, STEM education, developing inventions, creating businesses, producing personalized products, mitigating risks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. LUJÁN (for himself and Mr. ROMNEY):

S. 1662. A bill to increase funding for the Reagan-Udall Foundation for the Food and Drug Administration and for the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. 1663. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, and title 39, United States Code, to provide the United States Postal Service the authority to mail alcoholic beverages, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. Res. 217. A resolution designating the week of May 16 through May 22, 2021, as ''National Public Works Week'' ; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. KAINE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. ERNST, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. BLUNT, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. COONS, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 218. A resolution recognizing National Foster Care Month as an opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges of children in the foster care system, and encouraging Congress to implement policies to improve the lives of children in the foster care system; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 96

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 96, a bill to provide for the long-term improvement of public school facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 127

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 127, a bill to support library infrastructure.

S. 437

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) were added as cosponsors of S. 437, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to concede exposure to airborne hazards and toxins from burn pits under certain circumstances, and for other purposes.

S. 657

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 657, a bill to modify the presumption of service connection for veterans who were exposed to herbicide agents while serving in the Armed Forces in Thailand during the Vietnam era, and for other purposes.

S. 828

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) were added as cosponsors of S. 828, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of marriage and family therapist services and mental health counselor services under part B of the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 878

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 878, a bill to increase public safety by punishing and deterring firearms trafficking.

S. 921

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 921, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to further protect officers and employees of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 927

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 927, a bill to improve the provision of health care and other benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs for veterans who were exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes.

S. 949

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 949, a bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to foster efficient markets and increase competition and transparency among packers that purchase livestock from producers.

S. 1125

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1125, a bill to recommend that the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation test the effect of a dementia care management model, and for other purposes.

S. 1169

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1169, a bill to address issues involving the People's Republic of China.

S. 1255

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1255, a bill to require the Minority Business Development Agency

of the Department of Commerce to promote and administer programs in the public and private sectors to assist the development of minority business enterprises, to ensure that such Agency has the necessary supporting resources, particularly during economic downturns, and for other purposes.

S. 1325

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1325, a bill to ensure that women seeking an abortion are informed of the medical risks associated with the abortion procedure and the major developmental characteristics of the unborn child, before giving their informed consent to receive an abortion.

S. 1378

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1378, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to allow for the retirement of certain animals used in Federal research, and for other purposes.

S. 1446

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1446, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a plan for obligating and expending Coronavirus pandemic funding made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 1482

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1482, a bill to increase Government accountability for administrative actions by reinvigorating administrative Pay-As-You-Go.

S. 1511

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1511, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 with respect to payments to certain public safety officers who have become permanently and totally disabled as a result of personal injuries sustain in the line of duty, and for other purposes.

S. 1555

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1555, a bill to shorten the extension, and the amount, of Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation in order to get Americans back to work.

S. 1558

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1558, a bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to ensure that all firearms are traceable, and for other purposes.

S. 1599

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1599, a bill to protect law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 9

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 9, a concurrent resolution supporting the Local Radio Freedom Act.

S. RES. 188

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 188, a resolution expressing appreciation and recognition for the Trump Administration for the creation of Operation Warp Speed and the historic development of a COVID–19 vaccine.

S. RES. 207

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 207, a resolution designating the week beginning November 8, 2021, as ''National Pregnancy Center Week'' to recognize the vital role that community-supported pregnancy centers play in saving lives and serving women and men faced with difficult pregnancy decisions.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 217—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF MAY 16 THROUGH MAY 22, 2021, AS ''NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK''

Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 217

Whereas public works infrastructure, facilities, and services are of vital importance to the health, safety, and well-being of the people of the United States;

Whereas public works infrastructure, facilities, and services could not be provided without the dedicated efforts of public works professionals, including engineers and administrators, who represent State and local governments throughout the United States;

Whereas public works professionals design, build, operate, and maintain the transportation systems, water infrastructure, sewage and refuse disposal systems, public buildings, sanitation and waste management systems, and other structures and facilities that are vital to the people and communities of the United States;

Whereas public works professionals have played, and will continue to play, a key role in helping the United States recover from the COVID–19 pandemic; and

Whereas understanding the role that public infrastructure plays in protecting the environment, improving public health and safety, contributing to economic vitality, and enhancing the quality of life of every community of the United States is in the interest of the people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of May 16 through May 22, 2021, as ''National Public Works Week'';

(2) recognizes and celebrates the important contributions that public works professionals make every day to improve—

(A) the public infrastructure of the United States; and

(B) the communities that public works professionals serve; and

(3) urges individuals and communities throughout the United States to join with representatives of the Federal Government and the American Public Works Association in activities and ceremonies that are designed—

(A) to pay tribute to the public works professionals of the United States; and

(B) to recognize the substantial contributions that public works professionals make to the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 218—RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE CHALLENGES OF CHILDREN IN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM, AND ENCOURAGING CONGRESS TO IMPLEMENT POLICIES TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF CHILDREN IN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. KAINE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. ERNST, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. BLUNT, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. COONS, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 218

Whereas National Foster Care Month was established more than 30 years ago—

(1) to bring foster care issues to the forefront of the national focus;

(2) to highlight the importance of permanency for every child; and

(3) to recognize the essential role that foster parents, social workers, and advocates have in the lives of children in foster care throughout the United States;

Whereas all children deserve a safe, loving, and permanent home;

Whereas the primary goal of the foster care system is to ensure the safety and well-being of children while working to provide a safe, loving, and permanent home for each child;

Whereas there are approximately 424,000 children living in foster care;

Whereas there were approximately 251,000 youth that entered the foster care system in 2019, while more than 122,000 youth were awaiting adoption at the end of 2019;

Whereas more than 86,000 children entered foster care in 2019 due to parental drug abuse;

Whereas children of color are more likely to stay in the foster care system for longer periods of time and are less likely to be reunited with their biological families;

Whereas foster parents—

(1) are the front-line caregivers for children who cannot safely remain with their biological parents;

(2) provide physical care, emotional support, and education advocacy; and

(3) are the largest single source of families providing permanent homes for children leaving foster care to adoption;

Whereas, compared to children in foster care who are placed with nonrelatives, children in foster care who are placed with relatives have more stability, including fewer changes in placements, have more positive perceptions of their placements, are more likely to be placed with their siblings, and demonstrate fewer behavioral problems;

Whereas some relative caregivers receive less financial assistance and fewer support services than do foster caregivers;

Whereas an increased emphasis on prevention and reunification services is necessary to reduce the number of children that enter or re-enter the foster care system;

Whereas the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID–19) pandemic has created additional challenges for youth and families in the child welfare system, including delays in permanency, economic hardship, and disruptions in education;

Whereas over 20,000 youth ''aged out'' of foster care in 2019 without a legal permanent connection to an adult or family;

Whereas children who age out of foster care lack the security or support of a biological or adoptive family and frequently struggle to secure affordable housing, obtain health insurance, pursue higher education, and acquire adequate employment;

Whereas foster care is intended to be a temporary placement, but children remain in the foster care system for an average of 19 months;

Whereas, according to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, 35 percent of children in foster care experience more than 2 placements while in foster care, which often leads to disruption of routines and the need to change schools and move away from siblings, extended families, and familiar surroundings;

Whereas youth in foster care are much more likely to face educational instability, with 1 study showing that 75 percent of foster youth experienced an unscheduled school change during a school year, compared to 21 percent of youth not in foster care;

Whereas children entering foster care often confront the widespread misperception that children in foster care are disruptive, unruly, and dangerous, even though placement in foster care is based on the actions of a parent or guardian, not the child;

Whereas 30 percent of children in foster care are taking at least 1 anti-psychotic medication, and 34 percent of those children are not receiving adequate treatment planning or medication monitoring;

Whereas, according to a 2018 study, due to heavy caseloads and limited resources, the average annual turnover rate for child welfare workers is between 14 percent and 22 percent;

Whereas States, localities, and communities should be encouraged to invest resources in preventative and reunification services and postpermanency programs to ensure that more children in foster care are provided with safe, loving, and permanent placements;

Whereas, in 2018, Congress passed the Family First Prevention Services Act (Public Law 115–123; 132 Stat. 232), which provided new investments in prevention and family reunification services to help more families stay together and ensure that more children are in safe, loving, and permanent homes;

Whereas Federal legislation over the 3 decades preceding the date of adoption of this resolution, including the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980 (Public Law 96–272; 94 Stat. 500), the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (Public Law 105–89; 111 Stat. 2115), the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–351; 122 Stat. 3949), the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act (Public Law 112–34; 125 Stat. 369), and the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (Public Law 113–183; 128 Stat. 1919), provided new investments and services to improve the outcomes of children in the foster care system;

Whereas May 2021 is an appropriate month to designate as National Foster Care Month to provide an opportunity to acknowledge the accomplishments of the child welfare workforce, foster parents, the advocacy community, and mentors for their dedication and accomplishments and the positive impact they have on the lives of children; and

Whereas much remains to be done to ensure that all children have a safe, loving, nurturing, and permanent family, regardless of age or special needs: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of May 2021 as National Foster Care Month;

(2) recognizes National Foster Care Month as an opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges that children face in the foster care system;

(3) encourages Congress to implement policies to improve the lives of children in the foster care system;

(4) acknowledges the unique needs of children in the foster care system;

(5) recognizes foster youth throughout the United States for their ongoing tenacity, courage, and resilience while facing life challenges;

(6) acknowledges the exceptional alumni of the foster care system who serve as advocates and role models for youth who remain in foster care;

(7) honors the commitment and dedication of the individuals who work tirelessly to provide assistance and services to children in the foster care system;

(8) supports the designation of May 31, 2021, as National Foster Parent Appreciation Day;

(9) recognizes National Foster Parent Appreciation Day as an opportunity—

(A) to recognize the efforts of foster parents to provide safe and loving care for children in need; and

(B) to raise awareness about the increasing need for foster parents to serve in their communities; and

(10) reaffirms the need to continue working to improve the outcomes of all children in the foster care system through parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) and other programs designed—

(A) to support vulnerable families;

(B) to invest in prevention and reunification services;

(C) to promote adoption in cases where reunification is not in the best interests of the child;

(D) to adequately serve children brought into the foster care system; and

(E) to facilitate the successful transition into adulthood for children that ''age out'' of the foster care system.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1493. Mr. LEAHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1260, to establish a new Directorate for Technology and Innovation in the National Science Foundation, to establish a regional technology hub program, to require a strategy and report on economic security, science, research, innovation, manufacturing, and job creation, to establish a critical supply chain resiliency program, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1494. Mr. SASSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1260, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1495. Mr. WYDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1260, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1496. Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for Mr. LEE) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 117, expressing support for the full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, or the Belfast Agreement, and subsequent agreements and arrangements for implementation to support peace on the island of Ireland.

SA 1497. Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for Mr. LEE) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 117, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1493. Mr. LEAHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1260, to establish a new Directorate for Technology and Innovation in the National Science Foundation, to establish a regional technology hub program, to require a strategy and report on economic security, science, research, innovation, manufacturing, and job creation, to establish a critical supply chain resiliency program, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 3250 and insert the following:

SEC. 3250. ADDRESSING CHINA'S SOVEREIGN LENDING PRACTICES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) since 2005, the Government of the People's Republic of China has expanded sovereign lending to governments in Latin America and the Caribbean, including governments with a history of corruption and mismanagement, with loans that are repaid or collateralized with natural resources or commodities;

(2) several countries in Latin American and the Caribbean that have received a significant amount of sovereign lending from the Government of the People's Republic of China face challenges in repaying such loans;

(3) the Government of the People's Republic of China's predatory economic practices and sovereign lending practices in Latin America and the Caribbean negatively influence United States national interests in the Western Hemisphere;

(4) the Inter-American Development Bank, the premier multilateral development bank dedicated to the Western Hemisphere, can play a significant role supporting the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in achieving sustainable and serviceable debt structures; and

(5) a tenth general capital increase for the Inter-American Development Bank could enhance the Bank's ability to help the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean achieve sustainable and serviceable debt structures.

(b) SUPPORT FOR A GENERAL CAPITAL INCREASE.—The President should consider supporting a tenth general capital increase for the Inter-American Development Bank if countries holding a majority of the shares in the Bank publicly endorse such a capital increase.

(c) ADDRESSING CHINA'S SOVEREIGN LENDING IN THE AMERICAS.—The Secretary of the Treasury and the United States Executive Director to the Inter-American Development Bank shall use the voice and vote of the United States—

(1) to advance efforts by the Bank to help countries restructure debt resulting from sovereign lending by the Government of the People's Republic of China in order to achieve sustainable and serviceable debt structures; and

(2) to establish appropriate safeguards and transparency and conditionality measures to protect debt-vulnerable member countries of the Inter-American Development Bank that borrow from the Bank for the purposes of restructuring Chinese bilateral debt held by such countries and preventing such countries from incurring subsequent Chinese bilateral debt.

SA 1494. Mr. SASSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1260, to establish a new Directorate for Technology and Innovation in the National Science Foundation, to establish a regional technology hub program, to require a strategy and report on economic security, science, research, innovation, manufacturing, and job creation, to establish a critical supply chain resiliency program, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE DEFENSE ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, there is authorized to be appropriated for the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency $7,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2021.

SA 1497. Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for Mr. LEE) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 117, expressing support for the full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, or the Belfast Agreement, and subsequent agreements and arrangements for implementation to support peace on the island of Ireland; as follows:

Beginning in the ninth whereas clause of the preamble, strike the ''and'' at the end and all that follows through ''Northern Ireland'' in the tenth whereas clause of the preamble, and insert the following:

Whereas the United States Congress stands steadfastly committed to supporting the peaceful resolution of any and all political challenges in Northern Ireland; and

Whereas the United States has a Special Relationship with the United Kingdom, including partnership on trade and economic issues.

SA 1495. Mr. WYDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1260, to establish a new Directorate for Technology and Innovation in the National Science Foundation, to establish a regional technology hub program, to require a strategy and report on economic security, science, research, innovation, manufacturing, and job creation, to establish a critical supply chain resiliency program, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title II of division E, add the following:

SEC. 5214. REQUIREMENT TO CONTROL THE EXPORT OF CERTAIN PERSONAL DATA OF UNITED STATES NATIONALS AND INDIVIDUALS IN THE UNITED STATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part I of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4811 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 1758 the following:

"SEC. 1758A. REQUIREMENT TO CONTROL THE EXPORT OF CERTAIN PERSONAL DATA OF UNITED STATES NATIONALS AND INDIVIDUALS IN THE UNITED STATES.

''(a) IDENTIFICATION OF CATEGORIES OF PERSONAL DATA.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall establish and, in coordination with the Secretary and the heads of the appropriate Federal agencies, lead a regular, ongoing interagency process to identify categories of personal data of covered individuals that could—

''(A) be exploited by foreign governments; and

''(B) if exported in a quantity that exceeds the threshold established under paragraph (3), harm the national security of the United States.

''(2) LIST REQUIRED.—The interagency process established under paragraph (1)—

''(A) shall identify an initial list of categories of personal data under paragraph (1) not later than one year after the date of the enactment of the Protecting Americans' Data From Foreign Surveillance Act of 2021; and

''(B) may, as appropriate thereafter, add categories to, remove categories from, or modify categories on, that list.

''(3) ESTABLISHMENT OF THRESHOLD.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of the Protecting Americans' Data From Foreign Surveillance Act of 2021, the interagency process established under paragraph (1) shall establish a threshold for the quantity of personal data of covered individuals the export, reexport, or in-country transfer (in the aggregate) of which by one person to or in a restricted country could harm the national security of the United States.

''(B) PARAMETERS.—The threshold established under subparagraph (A) shall be the export, reexport, or in-country transfer (in the aggregate) by one person to or in a restricted country during a calendar year of the personal data of not less than 10,000 covered individuals and not more than 1,000,000 covered individuals.

''(C) CATEGORY THRESHOLDS.—The interagency process may establish a threshold under subparagraph (A) for each category of personal data identified under paragraph (1).

''(D) TREATMENT OF ENTITIES UNDER COMMON OWNERSHIP AS ONE ENTITY.—For purposes of determining whether a threshold established under subparagraph (A) has been met—

''(i) personal data shall be considered to be exported, reexported, or in-country transferred by one person if the personal data is exported, reexported, or in-country transferred by entities under common ownership or control; and

''(ii) the parent entity of such entities shall be liable for export, reexport, or in-country transfer in violation of this section.

''(E) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing a threshold under subparagraph (A), the interagency process shall seek to balance the need to protect personal data from exploitation by foreign governments against the likelihood of—

''(i) impacting legitimate business activities and other activities that do not harm the national security of the United States; or

''(ii) chilling speech protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

''(4) DETERMINATION OF PERIOD FOR PROTECTION.—The interagency process established under paragraph (1) shall determine, for each category of personal data identified under that paragraph, the period of time for which encryption technology described in subsection (b)(4)(C) is required to be able to protect that category of data from decryption to prevent the exploitation of the data by a foreign government from harming the national security of the United States.

''(5) PROCESS.—The interagency process established under paragraph (1) shall—

''(A) be informed by multiple sources of information, including—

''(i) publicly available information;

''(ii) classified information, including relevant information provided by the Director of National Intelligence;

''(iii) information relating to reviews and investigations of transactions by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States under section 721 of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4565);

''(iv) the categories of sensitive personal data described in paragraphs (1)(ii) and (2) of section 800.241(a) of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the Protecting Americans' Data From Foreign Surveillance Act of 2021, and any categories of sensitive personal data added to such section after such date of enactment;

''(v) information provided by the advisory committee established pursuant to paragraph (7); and

''(vi) the recommendations (which the President shall request) of—

''(I) privacy experts identified by the National Academy of Sciences; and

''(II) experts on the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States identified by the American Bar Association; and

''(B) take into account the significant quantity of personal data of covered individuals that has already been stolen or acquired by foreign governments, the harm to United States national security caused by the theft of that personal data, and the potential for further harm to United States national security if that personal data were combined with additional sources of personal data.

''(6) NOTICE AND COMMENT PERIOD.—The President shall provide for a public notice and comment period after the publication in the Federal Register of a proposed rule, and before the publication of a final rule—

''(A) identifying the initial list of categories of personal data under subparagraph (A) of paragraph (2);

''(B) adding categories to, removing categories from, or modifying categories on, that list under subparagraph (B) of that paragraph;

''(C) establishing the threshold under paragraph (3); or

''(D) setting forth the period of time for which encryption technology described in subsection (b)(4)(C) is required under paragraph (4) to be able to protect such a category of data from decryption.

''(7) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish an advisory committee to advise the Secretary with respect to privacy and sensitive personal data.

''(B) APPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—Subsections (a)(1), (a)(3), and (b) of section 10 and sections 11, 13, and 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the advisory committee established pursuant to subparagraph (A).

''(8) TREATMENT OF ANONYMIZED PERSONAL DATA.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The interagency process established under paragraph (1) may not treat anonymized personal data differently than identifiable personal data if the individuals to which the anonymized personal data relates could reasonably be identified using other sources of data.

''(B) GUIDANCE.—The Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology shall issue guidance to the public with respect to methods for anonymizing data and how to determine if individuals to which the anonymized personal data relates can be reasonably identified using other sources of data.

''(b) COMMERCE CONTROLS.—

''(1) CONTROLS REQUIRED.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Beginning 18 months after the date of the enactment of the Protecting Americans' Data From Foreign Surveillance Act of 2021, the Secretary shall impose appropriate controls under the Export Administration Regulations on the export or reexport to, or in-country transfer in, all countries (other than countries on the list required by paragraph (2)(D)) of covered personal data to in a quantity that exceeds the applicable threshold established under subsection (a)(3), including through interim controls (such as by informing a person that a license is required for export), as appropriate, or by publishing additional regulations.

''(2) LEVELS OF CONTROL.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (C) or (D), the Secretary shall—

''(i) require a license or other authorization for the export, reexport, or in-country transfer of covered personal data in a quantity that exceeds the applicable threshold established under subsection (a)(3);

''(ii) determine whether that export, reexport, or in-country transfer is likely to harm the national security of the United States—

''(I) after consideration of the matters described in subparagraph (B); and

''(II) in coordination with the heads of the appropriate Federal agencies; and

''(iii) if the Secretary determines under clause (ii) that the export, reexport, or in-country transfer is likely to harm the national security of the United States, deny the application for the license or other authorization for the export, reexport, or in-country transfer.

''(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining under clause (ii) of subparagraph (A) whether an export, reexport, or in-country transfer of covered personal data described in clause (i) of that subparagraph is likely to harm the national security of the United States, the Secretary, in coordination with the heads of the appropriate Federal agencies, shall take into account—

''(i) the adequacy and enforcement of data protection, surveillance, and export control laws in the foreign country to which the covered personal data would be exported or reexported, or in which the covered personal data would be transferred, in order to determine whether such laws, and the enforcement of such laws, are sufficient to—

''(I) protect the covered personal data from accidental loss, theft, and unauthorized or unlawful processing;

''(II) ensure that the covered personal data is not exploited for intelligence purposes by foreign governments to the detriment of the national security of the United States; and

''(III) prevent the reexport of the covered personal data to a third country for which a license would be required for such data to be exported directly from the United States;

''(ii) the circumstances under which the government of the foreign country can compel, coerce, or pay a person in or national of that country to disclose the covered personal data; and

''(iii) whether that government has conducted hostile foreign intelligence operations, including information operations, against the United States.

''(C) LICENSE REQUIREMENT AND PRESUMPTION OF DENIAL FOR CERTAIN COUNTRIES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

''(I) require a license or other authorization for the export or reexport to, or in-country transfer in, a country on the list required by clause (ii) of covered personal data in a quantity that exceeds the threshold established under subsection (a)(3); and

''(II) deny an application for such a license or other authorization unless the person seeking the license or authorization demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Secretary that the export, reexport, or in-country transfer will not harm the national security of the United States.

''(ii) LIST REQUIRED.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of the Protecting Americans' Data From Foreign Surveillance Act of 2021, the Secretary shall, in consultation with the heads of the appropriate Federal agencies and based on the considerations described in subparagraph (B), establish a list of each country with respect to which the Secretary determines that the export or reexport to, or in-country transfer in, the country of covered personal data in a quantity that exceeds the applicable threshold established under subsection (a)(3) will be likely to harm the national security of the United States.

''(II) MODIFICATIONS TO LIST.—The Secretary, in consultation with the heads of the appropriate Federal agencies—

''(aa) may add a country to or remove a country from the list required by subclause (I) at any time; and

''(bb) shall review that list not less frequently than every 5 years.

''(D) NO LICENSE REQUIREMENT FOR CERTAIN COUNTRIES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not require a license or other authorization for the export or reexport to, or in-country transfer in, a country on the list required by clause (ii) of covered personal data, without regard to the applicable threshold established under subsection (a)(3).

''(ii) LIST REQUIRED.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of the Protecting Americans' Data From Foreign Surveillance Act of 2021, the Secretary shall, in consultation with the heads of the appropriate Federal agencies and based on the considerations described in subparagraph (B) and subject to clause (iii), establish a list of each country with respect to which the Secretary determines that the export or reexport to, or in-country transfer in, the country of covered personal data (without regard to any threshold established under subsection (a)(3)) will not harm the national security of the United States.

''(II) MODIFICATIONS TO LIST.—The Secretary, in consultation with the heads of the appropriate Federal agencies—

''(aa) may add a country to or remove a country from the list required by subclause (I) at any time; and

''(bb) shall review that list not less frequently than every 5 years.

''(iii) CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—The list required by clause (ii) and any updates to that list adding or removing countries shall take effect, for purposes of clause (i), on the date that is 180 days after the Secretary submits to the appropriate congressional committees a proposal for the list or update unless there is enacted into law, before that date, a joint resolution of disapproval pursuant to subclause (II).

''(II) JOINT RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL.—

''(aa) JOINT RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL DEFINED.—In this clause, the term 'joint resolution of disapproval' means a joint resolution the matter after the resolving clause of which is as follows: 'That Congress does not approve of the proposal of the Secretary with respect to the list required by section 1758A(b)(2)(D)(ii) submitted to Congress on _____.', with the blank space being filled with the appropriate date.

''(bb) PROCEDURES.—The procedures set forth in paragraphs (4)(C), (5), (6), and (7) of section 2523(d) of title 18, United States Code, apply with respect to a joint resolution of disapproval under this clause to the same extent and in the same manner as such procedures apply to a joint resolution of disapproval under such section 2523(d), except that paragraph (6) of such section shall be applied and administered by substituting 'the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs' for 'the Committee on the Judiciary' each place it appears.

''(III) RULES OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE.—This clause is enacted by Congress—

''(aa) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate and the House of Representatives, respectively, and as such is deemed a part of the rules of each House, respectively, and supersedes other rules only to the extent that it is inconsistent with such rules; and

''(bb) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change the rules (so far as relating to the procedure of that House) at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of that House.

''(3) REVIEW OF LICENSE APPLICATIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish—

''(i) an interagency process, in which the appropriate Federal agencies participate, to conduct review of applications for a license or other authorization for the export or reexport to, or in-country transfer in, a restricted country of covered personal data in a quantity that exceeds the applicable threshold established under subsection (a)(3); and

''(ii) procedures for conducting the review of such applications.

''(B) DISCLOSURES RELATING TO COLLABORATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.—In the case of an application for a license or other authorization for an export, reexport, or in-country transfer described in subparagraph (A)(i) submitted by or on behalf of a joint venture, joint development agreement, or similar collaborative arrangement, the Secretary may require the applicant to identify, in addition to any foreign person participating in the arrangement, any foreign person with significant ownership interest in a foreign person participating in the arrangement.

''(4) EXCEPTIONS.—The Secretary shall not impose under paragraph (1) a requirement for a license or other authorization with respect to the export, reexport, or in-country transfer of covered personal data pursuant to any of the following transactions:

''(A) The export, reexport, or in-country transfer by an individual of the individual's own personal data.

''(B) The export, reexport, or in-country transfer of the personal data of one or more individuals by a person performing a service for those individuals if the export, reexport, or in-country transfer of the personal data is strictly necessary (as defined by the Secretary in regulations) to perform that service.

''(C) The export, reexport, or in-country transfer of personal data that is encrypted if—

''(i) the encryption key or other information necessary to decrypt the data is not exported, reexported, or transferred; and

''(ii) the encryption technology used to protect the data against decryption is certified by the National Institute of Standards and Technology as capable of protecting data for the period of time determined under subsection (a)(4) to be sufficient to prevent the exploitation of the data by a foreign government from harming the national security of the United States.

''(D) The export, reexport, or in-country transfer of personal data that is ordered by an appropriate court of the United States.

''(c) REQUIREMENTS FOR IDENTIFICATION OF CATEGORIES AND DETERMINATION OF APPROPRIATE CONTROLS.—In identifying categories of personal data under subsection (a)(1) and imposing appropriate controls under subsection (b), the interagency process established under subsection (a)(1) or the Secretary, as appropriate—

''(1) may not regulate or restrict the publication or sharing of—

''(A) personal data that is a matter of public record, such as a court record or other government record that is generally available to the public, including information about an individual made public by that individual or by the news media;

''(B) information about a matter of public interest; or

''(C) consistent with the goal of protecting the national security of the United States, any other information the publication of which is protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States; and

''(2) shall consult with the appropriate congressional committees.

''(d) PENALTIES.—

''(1) LIABLE PERSONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to any person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of section 1760, an officer or employee of an organization has committed an unlawful act subject to penalties under that section if the officer or employee knew or should have known that another employee of the organization who reports, directly or indirectly, to the officer or employee was directed to export, reexport, or in-country transfer covered personal data in violation of this section.

''(B) EXCEPTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS.—

''(i) INTERMEDIARIES NOT LIABLE.—An intermediate consignee (as defined in section 772.1 of the Export Administration Regulations (or any successor regulation)) or other intermediary is not liable for the export, reexport, or in-country transfer of covered personal data in violation of this section when acting as an intermediate consignee or other intermediary for another person.

''(ii) SPECIAL RULE FOR CERTAIN APPLICATIONS.—In a case in which an application installed on an electronic device transmits or causes the transmission of covered personal data without the knowledge of the owner or user of the device who installed the application, the developer of the application, and not the owner or user of the device, is liable for any violation of this section.

''(2) CRIMINAL PENALTIES.—In determining an appropriate term of imprisonment under section 1760(b)(2) for a violation of this section, the court shall consider—

''(A) how many covered individuals had their covered personal data exported, reexported, or in-country transferred in violation of this section; and

''(B) any harm that resulted from the violation.

''(3) PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—An individual may bring a civil action in an appropriate district court of the United States if, as a result of an export, reexport, or in-country transfer of covered personal data in violation of this section, the individual is—

''(i) physically harmed; or

''(ii) detained or imprisoned in a foreign country.

''(B) RELIEF.—A court may award a prevailing plaintiff in a civil action under subparagraph (A) appropriate relief, including actual damages, punitive damages, or attorney's fees.

''(e) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than annually, the Secretary, in coordination with the heads of the appropriate Federal agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the results of actions taken pursuant to this section.

''(2) INCLUSIONS.—Each report required by paragraph (1) shall include a description of the determinations made under subsection (b)(2)(A)(ii) during the preceding year.

''(3) FORM.—Each report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

''(f) DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN LICENSE INFORMATION.—Not less frequently than every 90 days, the Secretary shall publish on a publicly accessible website of the Department of Commerce, including in a machine-readable format, the following information, with respect to each application for a license for the export or reexport to, or in-country transfer in, a restricted country of covered personal data in a quantity that exceeds the applicable threshold established under subsection (a)(3):

''(1) The name of the applicant.

''(2) The date of the application.

''(3) The name of the foreign party to which the applicant sought to export, reexport, or transfer the data.

''(4) The categories of covered personal data the applicant sought to export, reexport, or transfer.

''(5) The number of covered individuals whose information the applicant sought to export, reexport, or transfer.

''(6) Whether the application was approved or denied.

''(g) NEWS MEDIA PROTECTIONS.—A person that is engaged in journalism is not subject to restrictions imposed under this section to the extent that those restrictions directly infringe on the journalism practices of that person.

''(h) CITIZENSHIP DETERMINATIONS BY ENTITIES PROVIDING SERVICES TO END-USERS NOT REQUIRED.—This section does not require a person that provides products or services to an individual to determine the citizenship or immigration status of the individual, but once the person becomes aware that the individual is a covered individual, the person shall treat covered personal data of that individual as is required by this section.

''(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary and to the head of each agency participating in the interagency process established under subsection (a) such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section, including to hire additional employees with expertise in privacy.

''(j) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term 'appropriate congressional committees' means—

''(A) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Finance, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

''(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on Ways and Means, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

''(2) APPROPRIATE FEDERAL AGENCIES.—The term 'appropriate Federal agencies' means the following:

''(A) The Department of Defense.

''(B) The Department of State.

''(C) The Department of Justice.

''(D) The Department of the Treasury.

''(E) The Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

''(F) The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

''(G) The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

''(H) The Federal Trade Commission.

''(I) The Federal Communications Commission.

''(J) The Department of Health and Human Services.

''(K) Such other Federal agencies as the President or the Secretary considers appropriate.

''(3) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—The term 'covered individual', with respect to personal data, means an individual who, at the time the data is acquired—

''(A) is located in the United States; or

''(B) is—

''(i) located outside the United States or whose location cannot be determined; and

''(ii) a citizen of the United States or a noncitizen lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

''(4) COVERED PERSONAL DATA.—The term 'covered personal data' means the categories of personal data of covered individuals identified pursuant to the interagency process under subsection (a).

''(5) EXPORT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'export', with respect to covered personal data, includes—

''(i) subject to subparagraph (D), the shipment or transmission of the data out of the United States, including the sending or taking of the data out of the United States, in any manner, if the shipment or transmission is intentional, without regard to whether the shipment or transmission was intended to go out of the United States; or

''(ii) the release or transfer of the data to any noncitizen (other than a noncitizen described in subparagraph (C)), if the release or transfer is intentional, without regard to whether the release or transfer was intended to be to a noncitizen.

''(B) EXCEPTIONS.—The term 'export' does not include—

''(i) the publication of covered personal data on the internet in a manner that makes the data accessible to any member of the general public; or

''(ii) any activity protected by the speech or debate clause of the Constitution of the United States.

''(C) NONCITIZENS DESCRIBED.—A noncitizen described in this subparagraph is a noncitizen—

''(i) who is lawfully admitted for permanent residence;

''(ii) to whom the Secretary of Homeland Security has issued an employment authorization document (Form I–766);

''(iii) who has been granted deferred action pursuant to the memorandum of the Department of Homeland Security entitled 'Exercising Prosecutorial Discretion with Respect to Individuals Who Came to the United States as Children' issued on June 15, 2012; or

''(iv) who is present in the United States pursuant to a valid, unexpired E–3, H–1B, H–1B1, H–1B2, J–1, L–1, O–1A, or TN–1 visa.

''(D) UNINTENTIONAL TRANSMISSIONS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—On and after the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of the Protecting Americans' Data From Foreign Surveillance Act of 2021, and

except as provided in clause (iii), the term 'export' includes the transmission of data through a restricted country, without regard to whether the person originating the transmission had knowledge of or control over the path of the transmission.

''(ii) EXCEPTIONS.—Clause (i) does not apply with respect to a transmission of data through a restricted country if—

''(I) the data is encrypted as described in subsection (b)(4)(C); or

''(II) the person that originated the transmission received a representation from the party delivering the data for the person stating that the data will not transit through a restricted country.

''(iii) FALSE REPRESENTATIONS.—If a party delivering covered personal data as described in clause (ii)(II) transmits the data through a restricted country despite making the representation described in clause (ii)(II), that party shall be liable for violating this section.

''(6) LAWFULLY ADMITTED FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE; NATIONAL.—The terms 'lawfully admitted for permanent residence' and 'national' have the meanings given those terms in section 101(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)).

''(7) NONCITIZEN.—The term 'noncitizen' means an individual who is not a citizen or national of the United States.

''(8) RESTRICTED COUNTRY.—The term 'restricted country' means a country for which a license or other authorization is required under subsection (b) for the export or reexport to, or in-country transfer in, that country of covered personal data in a quantity that exceeds the applicable threshold established under subsection (a)(3).''.

(b) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—Section 1752 of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4811) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) to restrict the export of personal data of United States citizens and other covered individuals (as defined in section 1758A(e)) in a quantity and a manner that could harm the national security of the United States.''; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end the following:

''(H) To prevent the exploitation of personal data of United States citizens and other covered individuals (as defined in section 1758A(e)) in a quantity and a manner that could harm the national security of the United States.''.

(c) OTHER AMENDMENTS TO EXPORT CONTROL REFORM ACT OF 2018.—The Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4801 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 1742(13)(A) (50 U.S.C. 4801(13)(A)), in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting ''(except section 1758A)'' after ''part I''; and

(2) in section 1754(b) (50 U.S.C. 4813(b)), by inserting ''(other than section 1758A)'' after ''this part''.

SA 1496. Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for Mr. LEE) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 117, expressing support for the full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, or the Belfast Agreement, and subsequent agreements and arrangements for implementation to support peace on the island of Ireland; as follows:

On page 8, strike lines 19 through 25 and insert the following:

(9) greatly values the close relationships the United States shares with both the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland; and

(10) will take into account, as relevant, conditions requiring that obligations under the Good Friday Agreement be met as the United States seeks to negotiate a mutually advantageous and comprehensive trade agreement between the United States and the United Kingdom.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I have a request for one committee to meet during today's session of the Senate. It has the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, May 17, 2021, at 6 p.m., to conduct a closed hearing.

TIMELY REAUTHORIZATION OF NECESSARY STEM-CELL PROGRAMS LENDS ACCESS TO NEEDED THERAPIES ACT OF 2021

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 941 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 941) to reauthorize the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act of 2005, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read for a third time.

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

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 941) was passed.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT, OR THE BELFAST AGREEMENT, AND SUBSEQUENT AGREEMENTS AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION TO SUPPORT PEACE ON THE ISLAND OF IRELAND

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 20, S. Res. 117.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 117) expressing support for the full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, or the Belfast Agreement, and subsequent agreements and arrangements for implementation to support peace on the island of Ireland.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations with an amendment to strike all after the resolving clause and insert the part printed in italic, and with an amendment to strike the preamble and insert the part printed in italic, as follows:

Whereas, on April 10, 1998, the Government of Ireland and the Government of the United Kingdom signed the Good Friday Agreement, also known as the ''Belfast Agreement'';

Whereas the goals of the Good Friday Agreement were to bring a new era of devolved government and democracy to Northern Ireland, end violence, and ensure peace for the people of the island of Ireland;

Whereas the successful negotiation of the Good Friday Agreement stands as a historic and groundbreaking success that has proven critical to the decades of relative peace that have followed;

Whereas the return to power sharing in 2020 after the collapse of power-sharing institutions in 2017 creates new opportunities for strengthening peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland;

Whereas the agreement between the United Kingdom and the European Union on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union, and the protocol to that agreement on Northern Ireland preserving an open border on the island of Ireland (in this preamble referred to as the ''Northern Ireland Protocol''), are intended to protect the peace forged under the Good Friday Agreement;

Whereas, despite the historic progress of the Good Friday Agreement and subsequent agreements, including the Stormont House Agreement agreed to in December 2014, important issues remain unresolved in Northern Ireland, including the passage of a Bill of Rights, securing justice for all victims of violence, including violence by state and non-state actors, and reducing sectarian divisions and promoting reconciliation;

Whereas section 6 of the Good Friday Agreement (''Rights, Safeguards and Equality of Opportunity'') recognizes ''the importance of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to linguistic diversity'' as part of ''the cultural wealth of the island of Ireland'' and declares the Government of the United Kingdom will seek ways to encourage the use of and education in the Irish language and provide opportunities for Irish language arts;

Whereas the reintroduction of barriers, checkpoints, or personnel on the island of Ireland, also known as a ''hard border'', including through the invocation of Article 16 of the

Northern Ireland Protocol, would threaten the successes of the Good Friday Agreement;

Whereas the United States Congress played a prominent role in support of negotiations of the Good Friday Agreement and has taken a leading role in promoting peace on the island of Ireland more broadly; and

Whereas Congress greatly values the close relationships the United States shares with both the United Kingdom and Ireland and stands steadfastly committed to supporting the peaceful resolution of any and all political challenges in Northern Ireland: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

That the Senate—

(1) urges the United Kingdom and the European Union to support peace on the island of Ireland and the principles, objectives, and commitments of the Good Friday Agreement, also known as the ''Belfast Agreement'';

(2) expresses support for the full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement and subsequent agreements, including the Stormont House Agreement agreed to in December 2014, as well as the protocol on Northern Ireland to the agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union (in this resolution referred to as the ''Northern Ireland Protocol'');

(3) congratulates all parties in Northern Ireland for the return in January 2020 to a power-sharing agreement;

(4) urges all parties in Northern Ireland to work collectively to ensure the implementation of all commitments of the Good Friday Agreement and subsequent agreements so that all of the institutions of the Good Friday Agreement can operate successfully and sustainably and that ongoing political challenges can be overcome;

(5) calls for continuing attention and action to resolve the injustices of past violence, including violence by state and non-state actors;

(6) supports the passage of a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland and the right of all the people on the island of Ireland to self-determine their future as provided for in the Good Friday Agreement;

(7) encourages renewed attention to educational and cultural efforts that will ensure the rich language, literature, and arts of Northern Ireland endure and are not diminished;

(8) expresses support for the Northern Ireland Protocol and its full implementation, which ensures through international agreement that no ''hard border'' will be reintroduced on the island of Ireland; and

(9) will insist that any new or amended trade agreements and other bilateral agreements between the Government of the United States and the Government of the United Kingdom take into account, as relevant, conditions requiring that obligations under the Good Friday Agreement be met.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I further ask that the Lee amendment to the committee-reported amendment to the resolution be considered and agreed to; the committee-reported amendment, as amended, be agreed to; the resolution, as amended, be agreed to; that the Lee amendment to the committee-reported amendment to the preamble be agreed to; the committee-reported amendment, as amended, be agreed to; that the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The amendment (No. 1496) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the resolution)

On page 8, strike lines 19 through 25 and insert the following:

(9) greatly values the close relationships the United States shares with both the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland; and

(10) will take into account, as relevant, conditions requiring that obligations under the Good Friday Agreement be met as the United States seeks to negotiate a mutually advantageous and comprehensive trade agreement between the United States and the United Kingdom.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 117), as amended, was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 1497) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the preamble)

Beginning in the ninth whereas clause of the preamble, strike the ''and'' at the end and all that follows through ''Northern Ireland'' in the tenth whereas clause of the preamble, and insert the following:

Whereas the United States Congress stands steadfastly committed to supporting the peaceful resolution of any and all political challenges in Northern Ireland; and

Whereas the United States has a Special Relationship with the United Kingdom, including partnership on trade and economic issues

The committee-reported amendment to the preamble in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. RES. 117

Whereas, on April 10, 1998, the Government of Ireland and the Government of the United Kingdom signed the Good Friday Agreement, also known as the ''Belfast Agreement'';

Whereas the goals of the Good Friday Agreement were to bring a new era of devolved government and democracy to Northern Ireland, end violence, and ensure peace for the people of the island of Ireland;

Whereas the successful negotiation of the Good Friday Agreement stands as a historic and groundbreaking success that has proven critical to the decades of relative peace that have followed;

Whereas the return to power sharing in 2020 after the collapse of power-sharing institutions in 2017 creates new opportunities for strengthening peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland;

Whereas the agreement between the United Kingdom and the European Union on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union, and the protocol to that agreement on Northern Ireland preserving an open border on the island of Ireland (in this preamble referred to as the ''Northern Ireland Protocol''), are intended to protect the peace forged under the Good Friday Agreement;

Whereas, despite the historic progress of the Good Friday Agreement and subsequent agreements, including the Stormont House Agreement agreed to in December 2014, important issues remain unresolved in Northern Ireland, including the passage of a Bill of Rights, securing justice for all victims of violence, including violence by state and non-state actors, and reducing sectarian divisions and promoting reconciliation;

Whereas section 6 of the Good Friday Agreement (''Rights, Safeguards and Equality of Opportunity'') recognizes ''the importance of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to linguistic diversity'' as part of ''the cultural wealth of the island of Ireland'' and declares the Government of the United Kingdom will seek ways to encourage the use of and education in the Irish language and provide opportunities for Irish language arts;

Whereas the reintroduction of barriers, checkpoints, or personnel on the island of Ireland, also known as a ''hard border'', including through the invocation of Article 16 of the Northern Ireland Protocol, would threaten the successes of the Good Friday Agreement;

Whereas the United States Congress played a prominent role in support of negotiations of the Good Friday Agreement and has taken a leading role in promoting peace on the island of Ireland more broadly;

Whereas the United States Congress stands steadfastly committed to supporting the peaceful resolution of any and all political challenges in Northern Ireland; and

Whereas the United States has a Special Relationship with the United Kingdom, including partnership on trade and economic issues: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) urges the United Kingdom and the European Union to support peace on the island of Ireland and the principles, objectives, and commitments of the Good Friday Agreement, also known as the ''Belfast Agreement'';

(2) expresses support for the full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement and subsequent agreements, including the Stormont House Agreement agreed to in December 2014, as well as the protocol on Northern Ireland to the agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union (in this resolution referred to as the ''Northern Ireland Protocol'');

(3) congratulates all parties in Northern Ireland for the return in January 2020 to a power-sharing agreement;

(4) urges all parties in Northern Ireland to work collectively to ensure the implementation of all commitments of the Good Friday Agreement and subsequent agreements so that all of the institutions of the Good Friday Agreement can operate successfully and sustainably and that ongoing political challenges can be overcome;

(5) calls for continuing attention and action to resolve the injustices of past violence, including violence by state and non-state actors;

(6) supports the passage of a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland and the right of all the people on the island of Ireland to self-determine their future as provided for in the Good Friday Agreement;

(7) encourages renewed attention to educational and cultural efforts that will ensure the rich language, literature, and arts of Northern Ireland endure and are not diminished;

(8) expresses support for the Northern Ireland Protocol and its full implementation, which ensures through international agreement that no ''hard border'' will be reintroduced on the island of Ireland; and

(9) greatly values the close relationships the United States shares with both the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland; and

(10) will take into account, as relevant, conditions requiring that obligations under the Good Friday Agreement be met as the United States seeks to negotiate a mutually advantageous and comprehensive trade agreement between the United States and the United Kingdom.

NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 217, submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 217) designating the week of May 16 through May 22, 2021, as ''National Public Works Week''.

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

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 217) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE CHALLENGES OF CHILDREN IN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 218, submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 218) recognizing National Foster Care Month as an opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges of children in the foster care system, and encouraging Congress to implement policies to improve the lives of children in the foster care system.

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 218) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2021

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, May 18; 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; further that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 58, S. 1260, postcloture; further that all time during recess, adjournment, and morning business count postcloture on the motion to proceed; and finally that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. 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 6:27 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, May 18, 2021, at 10 a.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

EXTENDING WIFIA LOAN TERMS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2021

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, recently I introduced a necessary amendment to the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 (WIFIA). This provision was included in my "WIFIA Improvement Act of 2020" (H.R. 8217) from last Congress. I thank my colleague Congressman NEWHOUSE (R–WA) for his support as the original cosponsor this year.

Our bipartisan bill would allow local communities seeking to build water infrastructure projects to secure federally guaranteed financing under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WIFIA loan program with a 55-year repayment schedule rather than the current 35-year loan term. This change would unlock low-interest WIFIA financing for projects with longer lifecycles like the off-stream Sites Reservoir Project in my Congressional district and similar water storage projects.

For fiscal year 2021, Congress made more than $11.5 billion in federal WIFIA loans available. By making WIFIA loan terms more workable for projects with longer lifecycles, at no risk to the taxpayer, this bill will allow California and other western states to modernize water infrastructure and better meet future water supply needs.

Madam Speaker, I urge all members to cosponsor this bipartisan bill to unlock the federal financing necessary to construct the water infrastructure of the future. I plan to make this bipartisan bill a major priority in my work as a member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, including in any WIFIA reauthorization. The current Congressional authorization for the WIFIA program expires at the end of fiscal year 2021.

HONORING MR. ROBERT KANE

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2021

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding work of Mr. Robert Kane.

Robert was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and currently resides in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. He is the proud father to two sons, John Regan and Sanders Burke. Along with his two daughters in law, he has been blessed with four beautiful grandchildren Anne Pierson, Waring, Kate, and Grace.

Robert graduated from Louisiana State University in 1969 with a bachelor's degree in Political Science. Following his graduation in 1974, he obtained his real estate license in the State of Mississippi. Robert began his career in real estate in the hopes that, one day, he could open his own real estate business. As the owner of the Robert Kane Management Company and part-owner of Greater Gulfport Properties, Incorporated, I believe he has succeeded.

Not only is Robert an astute business owner, he is also known for his tireless public service. In fact, in 2017, the Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission found it only fitting to dedicate their new 8,000 square foot administrative building in honor of his 23 years of leadership as President of the Commission.

For decades, Robert has volunteered with multiple civic, business, and social organizations. He is a lifelong member of the Hancock County Republican Executive Committee and for the past twenty years, produced one of the best barbeque fundraisers in Hancock County.

Today, we recognize Mr. Robert Kane for his outstanding service to the Republican Party, the State of Mississippi, and to Hancock County.

RECOGNIZING THE VA NORTHERN INDIANA WOMEN'S VETERAN HEALTH CLINIC

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2021

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the VA Northern Indiana Women's Veteran Health Clinic for their service to women veterans in our community.

The VA Northern Indiana Health Care System is committed to providing high-quality services in a sensitive and safe environment. In the clinic, each woman veteran is assigned a Women's Health Primary Care Provider; each provider is trained to deliver comprehensive primary care in any number of programs.

With 3,383 women veterans currently enrolled in the VA Northern Indiana Health Care System, the clinic provides maternity care programs, general health and wellness programs, baby shower preparation, sexual trauma services and more.

As a veteran myself and member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee in Congress, I am honored to have served in uniform and to serve the people of northeast Indiana in Congress. One of my top priorities has been, and always will be, ensuring those who served the United States receive the honor, opportunity and care they deserve.

This is a testament to the honor and sacrifice of those heroes who have served our country, and to those who serve them.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 6TH UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL ROAD SAFETY WEEK

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2021

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today as co-chair of the Global Road Safety Caucus to mark the 6th United Nations Global Road Safety Week, which begins today.

In September 2020, the United Nations passed a resolution declaring the years 2021 through 2030 a new Decade of Action for Road Safety. Additionally, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 3.6 includes a call to address the personal, medical, and financial burdens associated with road traffic deaths and injuries.

The number of deaths on the world's roads remains unacceptably high, with an estimated 1.35 million people dying each year. But this is not just an issue in other countries. The National Safety Council (NSC) says deaths from motor vehicles rose 8 percent last year in the United States, with as many as 42,060 Americans dying in vehicle crashes. Also according to the State Department, road crash deaths are the single greatest cause of death for Americans traveling abroad.

As the Congress and the Biden administration consider investing in infrastructure, we must ensure these investments promote safety practices through a safe-systems approach and improve our roads and other infrastructure in ways that protect people and families. And as Americans begin traveling domestically and internationally again as we emerge from the Covid–19 pandemic, we should be cognizant of the many risk factors, including increased speed, that significantly increase the probability of death or injury.

By recognizing Global Road Safety Week and the 2nd Decade of Action for Road Safety, together we can make a difference in stemming the tide of the road crash epidemic in the United States and around the world. Ultimately, we should do everything in our power to protect the lives of all road users, and I hope to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do that.

HONORING BRENT STARK

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2021

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brent Stark. Brent is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brent has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the

many years Brent has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned 29 merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Brent has shown his leadership skills by maintaining the role of Patrol Leader, Den Chief and Troop Guide. Brent also holds the rank of Tom Tom Beater in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and is an Ordeal member of the Order of the Arrow. Brent has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project where he and his fellow Scouts and Scouters poured a concrete sidewalk to extend it to provide wheelchair access to the play area, firepit and picnic table.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brent Stark for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING MICHAEL CARPENTER FOR THE DISTINGUISHED RECOGNITION AS CLINTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S FIRST EDUCATION CHAMPION

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2021

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Michael Carpenter, named as the inaugural Education Champion by Clinton Community College.

Michael has been the president and CEO of The Northeast Group since 2008. Throughout his time with the company, his leadership and foresight have expanded The Northeast Group from a small print shop to four regional facilities providing an array of printing, publishing, and logistics services. However, Michael's influence and impact extends far beyond his business prowess. While Michael has had great success in the business world, he has also been an extremely impactful community leader. He currently serves on the Substance Abuse Prevention and Recovery of Clinton County Steering Committee, the Plattsburgh Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and the Clinton County Community Service Board. He has also previously served on the Workforce Investment Board, Strand Center for the Arts Board, the Literacy Volunteers, and Vision2Action Task Force as Chairman.

For more than 30 years, Michael has relentlessly dedicated himself to helping individuals recover from addiction, ensuring they have sound and necessary support systems in place. In conjunction with Clinton Community College, Michael launched the MHAB Life Skills Campus, a revolutionary program to offer transitional housing and a community space for those in recovery. In an effort supported by local nonprofit agencies, this program converted vacant dormitories into a campus where individuals can live, complete job training, literacy, and budgeting classes, and receive counseling services and drug treatment. Michael's work on this program has had an immeasurably positive impact on his community. He was also integral in bringing Club 12 to Plattsburgh, offering a welcoming space to host and encourage those working towards recovery through a 12-step program.

Michael has been an incredible advocate for the recovery community in the North Country. He has shared his personal testimony of overcoming addiction and constantly works to support others in that same journey. On behalf of New York's 21st District, I would like to thank Michael for his contributions to the Plattsburgh community and congratulate him on his innovative solution turning the unused dormitories into a thriving community gathering space.

HONORING MRS. NELL FRISBIE

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2021

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding work and dedication of Mrs. Nell Frisbie.

Mrs. Janet Gynell (''Nell'') Frisbie was born and raised in Meridian, Mississippi. She graduated from Meridian High School and attended the University of Southern Mississippi where she was a member of the Kappa Delta sorority and a Varsity cheerleader.

After attending Southern Miss, Nell moved to New Orleans where she was employed as a secretary for Continental Casualty Company. There she met and married the late William (''Bill'') Frisbie, an attorney, on June 10, 1961. In October 1962, Nell and Bill were blessed with a daughter, Joellyn.

Nell is a longtime Republican activist at the local, state, and national levels. She has recruited and campaigned for hundreds of Republican candidates at all levels of government, including supporting her husband, Bill, in his candidacy for City Council and Justice Court Judge.

Nell's passion for good government started at a young age. As a preschooler, she attended political rallies with her father. By the time she was a teenager, Nell was actively involved in local campaigns.

Nell has gone on to serve the Republican Party in almost too many ways to name. She was Chairman of the Hancock County Executive Committee for two terms and served two terms as President of the Hancock County Republican Women's Club. She has attended seven Republican National Conventions as a delegate and was on the Rules Committee at the 2016 Convention.

Nell was appointed to the Mississippi Republican Party Executive Committee and served as State President and 4th District Director for the Mississippi Federation of Republican Women. She has been invited to speak at Republican Women events in many states ranging from Georgia to California. Nell has had the honor of meeting former Presidents: Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, George W. Bush, and former Vice President Mike Pence. She has worked to elect four Mississippi governors as well as many U.S. Senators and Congressmen and several state and local officials.

She has a gift for grassroots activism and organization, using her network and leadership skills to organize campaign headquarters and orchestrate volunteer activities. If you want to hear a funny story, ask Nell about ''delivering a message to Congress''. Today we recognize Mrs. Nell Frisbie for her outstanding service to the Republican Party, the State of Mississippi and Hancock County.

IN HONOR OF THE 67TH ANNIVERSARY OF BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2021

Ms. SEWELL. Madam Speaker, on the 67th anniversary of the Supreme Court's Brown v. Board of Education ruling, I rise to pay tribute to the three living students who desegregated universities within Alabama's 7th Congressional District, as well as Attorney Fred Gray who assisted and led the litigation for each of these students.

Over 60 years ago today, the United States Supreme Court declared that the doctrine established by Plessy v. Ferguson of ''separate but equal'' no longer reflected this country's moral and legal principles. Officially declaring racial segregation in schools as unconstitutional, this case established and upheld the American principles of racial equality and justice for all. While Brown v. Board of Education was a landmark decision towards a more just and equal America, Dr. King said, ''the arc of the moral universe is long.'' While this case blazed trails for the progression of our society, the legacy of Jim Crow has deep roots, making it our responsibility to continue to fight against injustice.

This year, as we honor the living, breathing legacy of the Brown decision, it is critically important that we pay tribute to the sacrifices made by the three living students who took on the charge of desegregating institutions of higher education in Alabama: Autherine Lucy (age 91), Wendall Gunn (age 79), and Harold Franklin (age 88).

On September 4, 1952, Autherine Lucy submitted her application to the then segregated University of Alabama. Despite being accepted to the university, once the administration realized that Autherine was African American, her acceptance was withdrawn. Autherine was allowed to attend the university after receiving support from the community, two civil rights attorneys, and the Brown decision. As the first institution of higher education to be tested by the Brown decision, many believed that Autherine's sacrifices set the precedent for integrating institutions of higher education, yet many minority students after her continued to fight against institutionalized segregation.

In July 1963, 7 years after Autherine was admitted to the University of Alabama, Wendell Gunn attempted to enroll in Florence College, now known as the University of North Alabama. After being sent to the university president's office, Wendell was told that he could not be admitted without a federal court order. Once again, attorney Fred Gray took on the case upholding his simple declaration to ''destroy everything segregated.''

In January of the following year, Harold Franklin walked onto the campus of Auburn University as the school's first African American student. Similarly, Harold's enrollment to the university was met with strong opposition from those dedicated to preserving segregation within public schools despite the Brown decision. As a result, after ''completing'' every requirement to obtain his master's degree, he was not able to defend his master's thesis and graduate until February of 2020.

As a proud product of Selma High School and its first Black valedictorian, I stand on the

shoulders of so many who were denied access to great public schools in the name of institutionalized segregation. Understanding this, we know that 67 years later the fight to ensure that all people are afforded access to a quality education continues throughout this Nation. Today as we reflect on the Brown v. Board of Education decision, may we be renewed by the tenacity and bravery of Autherine Lucy, Wendall Gunn, and Harold Franklin and the perseverance of Attorney Fred Gray.

On behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to these three students and Attorney Gray for their contributions to reshaping education in Alabama and across our Nation.

CONGRATULATING THE OZARK HIGH SCHOOL ARMY JROTC PROGRAM

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2021

Mr. LONG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Ozark High School Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (AJROTC), for receiving National Championships in four separate disciplines, Raider Competition, Air Rifle Three Position Competition, Armed Drill Competition, and Unarmed Drill Competition. This is the first time in the history of AJROTC that one school has accomplished such a feat.

First created in 1916, AJROTC programs have expanded to over 1,700 schools nationwide. The goal of these programs is to develop Cadets into young men and women of impeccable character. A major part of the program is the development of leadership skills. As the Cadets progress, they are given the opportunity to lead younger Cadets. The teaching of the skills molds these men and women into the leaders of tomorrow.

The AJROTC program would not succeed without the hard work of dedicated instructors. There are currently nearly 4,000 instructors nationwide. They come from a variety of backgrounds and are all retired from either active duty, reserve duty, or the National Guard. Among these dedicated individuals are 3 instructors from Ozark High School. Major Danny Cazier, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jason Allen, and 1st Sergeant William Crawford have more than 60 years of Army and Training experience. They have worked tirelessly to instill in their Cadets the values of citizenship, community and national service, personal responsibility, and a sense of accomplishment. It is thanks to their hard work that Ozark High School AJROTC accomplished so much this year.

The Cadets of Ozark High School AJROTC are incredibly hard-working individuals. They begin their practices at 5:00 am, and they frequently sacrifice their Saturdays to the competitions. Their Drill Team also provides Ceremonial Color Guard for a variety of community events. All of this is in addition to their schoolwork.

Madam Speaker, it is clear that our nation needs more young men and women who demonstrate a strong devotion to their community and country. The cadets of Ozark High School AJROTC live these values every day. I commend Major Cazier, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Allen, and 1st Sergeant Crawford, and all the Cadets of Ozark High School for their historic achievements this past year and wish them well in their future competitions.

HONORING JACQUE HOWELL AS IOWAN OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2021

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, in honor of Child Care Provider Appreciation Day, I would like to recognize Jacque Howell, director of Red Oak Child Development Center. Jacque has led the way in expanding childcare options in her rural community of Red Oak, Iowa.

Childcare is an especially scarce resource in Iowa. In 2018, 41 percent of our cities had children but no known childcare and 48 percent have some childcare but fewer slots than there are children. As you might imagine, this has a significant impact on our workforce and economy as many families struggle to balance parenthood and employment. In Montgomery County where Jacque and her family live, there were 1,183 children under the age of 9 but only 435 available spaces in existing licensed childcare facilities.

In 2019, Jacque attended a meeting with the Iowa Women's Foundation and was faced with many of these same statistics and was blown away by the lack of available quality care in Iowa. That's when she sprang into action and gathered others to start the Red Oak Child Development Center. Jacque was hired as director of the center in January 2020 and raised an impressive $1.2 million in funds to bring this dream to reality.

Red Oak Child Development Center is a special organization as they partner with their local school district to make the care more accessible. They have also opted to offer infant care, a service that isn't provided by other care facilities in their community. The center is currently working on expanding its location to house two additional infant care rooms. Currently, they have 100 children enrolled in their care and they see an average of 70 to 75 of those children daily. They were baffled by how quickly they were able to fill their spots and continue to receive enrollment applications daily. Red Oak Child Development Center aims to provide quality, affordable childcare to their community. They accept childcare assistance with just over a quarter of their children receiving that support. It's clear that they are filling a significant need as some families drive up to 30 minutes one-way just to take their children to care.

Jacque says that educating the next generation of Iowan's is something that has been a lifelong passion of hers. She understands that children are truly our future and she endeavors to provide children with support, love, and encouragement. As the director of the Red Oak Child Development Center, she's been able to help build an organization that believes in quality over quantity, supports the social, emotional, and cognitive development of all children. Jacque also recognizes the importance of her amazing staff members and their ever-supportive community as they work together to continue to build what is already an incredible child development center.

Jacque's dedication to the children in her community is not only vital to the development of the children but also empowers families to reengage in their local economy as they are able to get back to work and rest easy knowing their kids are in good care. Because of that, it is my honor to recognize Jacque Howell as our Iowan of the Week.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 1447—COAST RESEARCH ACT OF 2021 AND H.R. 2533—NEAR ACT OF 2021

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2021

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1447, the Coastal and Ocean Acidification Stressors and Threats, or COAST, Research Act of 2021. I also rise in support of H.R. 2533, the National Estuaries and Acidification Resarch, or NEAR, Act of 2021.

These two bipartisan bills supporting ocean acidification research passed the House under suspension last Congress. The oceans have absorbed excess carbon dioxide in the atmosphere from the burning of fossil fuels. The resulting rise in ocean acidity levels has been shown to cause harm to marine life. Organisms like oysters, clams, and corals have difficulty building their shells and skeletons in more acidic environments. Higher acidity also alters the behavior of some fish. Ocean acidification threatens the vitality of our coastal economies. We need to get ahead of the problem of ocean acidification before it causes even greater economic harm.

Congresswoman BONAMICI's COAST Research Act reauthorizes and updates the Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act. The bill supports the ocean acidification program at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA. The bill has several updates to improve the text from last Congress, with bipartisan agreement.

This year marks 10 years of ocean acidification research at NOAA. This next decade will be crucial for further understanding the impacts of ocean acidification on marine ecosystems and coastal communities. We must pass this crucial legislation to help support federal efforts to inform mitigation and adaptation strategies.

Congressman POSEY's NEAR Act would require a study by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. This study would examine the impact of ocean acidification and other stressors in estuarine environments.

I thank Congresswoman BONAMICI for her leadership on this issue and Congressman POSEY for his bill. I thank Ranking Member LUCAS and our staffs for working together to prepare these bills for Floor passage. Finally, I thank the numerous experts who helped inform the development of both bills.

I urge my colleagues to swiftly pass these two bipartisan bills through the House. I look forward to working with the Senate to pass strong ocean acidification legislation into law.

I also want to include in the RECORD several letters of support we have received for H.R. 1447 from outside groups.

OCEAN CONSERVANCY,
Washington, DC, May 17, 2021.

Hon. SUZANNE BONAMICI,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE BONAMICI: On behalf of Ocean Conservancy, I am writing to express our strong support for H.R. 1447, the Coastal and Ocean Acidification Stressors and Threats (COAST) Research Act of 2021, and to urge your colleagues to vote to pass the legislation when it is considered on the House Floor. Americans depend on a healthy ocean, and ocean acidification threatens millions of jobs and livelihoods, cultures, and ways of life, from the Pacific Northwest's shellfish industry to Florida's coral reef tourism. The COAST Research Act will strengthen our nation's investments in ocean and coastal acidification, and we encourage Members of Congress to stand with coastal communities, businesses, and our marine environment by passing this important legislation.

From coast to coast, ocean acidification is having a broad range of impacts on the health of our ocean and coastal communities. Economically and ecologically important regional species are suffering. Ocean acidification has attributed to dissolving the shells of young Dungeness crab, an economically valuable fishery in the Pacific Northwest, with additional research suggesting that acidification also impacts the crab's ability to navigate their environment. Corals, such as the corals off the coast of Florida, grow more slowly under acidification and are less likely to recover from breakage or loss. However, ocean acidification is not the only stressor facing our ocean, and the combination of impacts can be more detrimental to our marine environment. Ocean acidification, when combined with increased ocean temperatures for example, have shown the ability to impact the reproductive success of Pacific herring, more than either change alone.

Since the first detrimental impacts of ocean acidification in the Pacific Northwest in the mid-2000s, when acidification caused widespread larval shellfish death in the region, researchers and coastal industries have faced the reality of an increasingly acidic ocean head-on. Oregon State University researchers studying Netarts Bay, the initial hotspot for documented ocean acidification impacts on the Pacific oyster, have uncovered the complex interactions among local circulation and biological activity, which is now informing local shellfish farmers of when to begin particular activities. From the Atlantic to the Pacific, ocean and coastal acidification has had extensive biological and socioeconomic impacts and research is accelerating to find ways to offset those harms.

In 2009, Congress recognized the urgent need for federal investments in ocean acidification research and monitoring, and subsequently passed the Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring (FOARAM) Act of 2009. FOARAM established the federal government's work on ocean acidification by creating the NOAA Ocean Acidification Program and an interagency working group on ocean acidification. Much of our knowledge and understanding of ocean acidification that has emerged in the last decade can be credited to the federal funding authorized by FOARAM. The law's authorization, however, expired in 2012, and there are changes that can be made to further improve our ability to understand acidification in the open ocean as well as in the coastal zone.

As the ocean continues to absorb carbon dioxide and the ocean continues to acidify, we must take action to protect our communities and wildlife from the impacts of acidification. The COAST Research Act will help our nation and coastal communities better prepare for the effects from ocean and coastal acidification, strengthen investments in research and monitoring, increase our understanding of the impacts acidification has on our communities and bring together ocean stakeholders to guide research and monitoring. Thank you for your leadership on this issue, and we look forward to working with you to craft solutions for our changing ocean environment.

Sincerely,

REGGIE PAROS,
Director, Government Relations,
Ocean Conservancy.

CONSORTIUM FOR OCEAN LEADERSHIP,
Washington, DC, May 17, 2021.

Hon. SUZANNE BONAMICI,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN BONAMICI: On behalf of the Consortium for Ocean Leadership (COL), which represents our nation's leading ocean science, research, and technology organizations from academia, industry, and the larger nonprofit sector (to include aquariums, philanthropy, and associations), I am writing to express support for the Coastal and Ocean Acidification Stressors and Threats (COAST) Research Act of 2021 (H.R. 1447). COL applauds the COAST Research Act in its mission to strengthen existing ocean acidification initiatives and to introduce new strategies to better understand and manage this environmental stressor.

Ocean acidification, which occurs as the ocean absorbs higher concentrations of atmospheric carbon dioxide, threatens the health of the entire ocean. As corals, shellfish, and many types of plankton struggle to create and maintain their shells or exoskeletons in more acidic waters, ocean food webs are disrupted. This, in turn, threatens the crucial balance in many ecosystems, as well as our own security and prosperity, jeopardizing the stability of those whose livelihoods depend on a healthy ocean. Like many environmental challenges of our time, vulnerable communities who rely on shellfish and healthy coastal ecosystems for food, employment, and commerce with few alternatives will feel the negative impacts of ocean acidification most acutely. Combatting the causes and mitigating the effects of ocean acidification requires sustained congressional support and interagency collaboration, as well as engagement by stakeholders in the private sector, academia, philanthropy, and beyond. I strongly commend the COAST Research Act's commitment to advancing ocean acidification research and monitoring efforts, as well as promoting cooperation among stakeholder groups.

I offer my sincere thanks to you, Congresswoman Bonamici, for your efforts to help us better understand this urgent threat and to improve overall ocean health by strengthening federal investments in the research and increasing monitoring of changing ocean conditions. Our lives and our future may well depend on it.

Respectfully,

JONATHAN W. WHITE,
RADM (RET.), USN,
President and CEO,
Consortium for Ocean Leadership.

EARTHJUSTICE,
May 17, 2021.

Re Earthjustice supports the H.R. 1447, the Coastal and Ocean Acidification Stressors and Threats Research Act of 2021.

Hon. SUZANNE BONAMICI,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN BONAMICI: Thank you for your leadership in addressing one of the greatest threats facing our oceans. Earthjustice strongly supports the Coastal and Ocean Acidification Stressors and Threats (COAST) Act of 2021 (H.R. 1447). Ocean acidification is a growing global phenomenon harming our coastal communities, ecosystems, and economies, and this proposed legislation would strengthen our ability to combat this threat with the urgency and resources needed.

Ocean acidification erodes the very foundations of our ocean ecosystems, as acidic waters imperil everything from cod larvae and lobsters to plankton and corals. The ocean absorbs 30% of the carbon dioxide that we release into the atmosphere, and acidification from excess carbon sets of a destructive chain reaction whereby the loss of tiny snails imperils species of all sizes that prey on them, such as killer whales. We have also seen the damage that acidification can wreak on coastal economies, such as our Pacific Northwest shellfish farms. We need immediate action to halt plunging pH levels and promote resilience in the face of changing temperatures.

The COAST Research Act jumpstarts ocean recovery by updating the Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act (FOARAM) to address the full scope of acidification's effects. Increasing funding for FOARAM and expanding the definition of ocean acidification ensures our efforts are informed by the best available science we have. Incorporating data on the socioeconomic and regional impacts of acidification ensures that our response to the problem is both comprehensive and practical. Establishing an advisory board that represents and coordinates the diverse stakeholders impacted by acidification ensures that interests at every level—industry, recreation, and conservation—are considered in federal actions against ocean acidification.

Bipartisan support for the COAST Research Act speaks to the seriousness of the problem and the efficiency of this bill's proposed solutions. Neither Democrats nor Republicans are willing to watch our blue economy dissolve in increasingly acidic waters. Both parties support action to stabilize and strengthen our ocean ecosystems. This bill provides the funding and the strategy to do just that.

We greatly appreciate your leadership on this important issue and implore Congress to timely pass it.

Sincerely,

DANNY FOLDS,
Associate Legislative Counsel, Earthjustice.

WILD SALMON CENTER,
February 22, 2021.

Hon. SUZANNE BONAMICI,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE BONAMICI: From coast to coast, ocean acidification is having a broad range of impacts on the health of our ocean and coastal communities. Coastal industries are continuing to face the reality of an increasingly acidic ocean. In 2017, researchers at Oregon State University recorded some of the highest levels of ocean acidification in the world off the coast of the

Pacific Northwest. Additionally, 63% of test sites on the west coast experienced levels of acidification known to cause commercial oyster production failures.

Our Pacific Northwest economies, our recreational and commercial fishing, and shellfish industry as well as our great northwest tourism economy—all depend on a healthy ocean. And because we are already seeing the effects of ocean acidification, we support your efforts and we support H.R. 1237, the Coastal and Ocean Acidification Stressors and Threats (COAST) Research Act.

Much of our knowledge and understanding of ocean acidification that has emerged in the last decade can be credited to the federal funding authorized by Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring (FOARAM) Act of 2009. FOARAM established the federal government's work on ocean acidification by creating the NOAA Ocean Acidification Program and an interagency working group on ocean acidification. FOARAM's authorization expired in 2012. The COAST Research Act amends FOARAM to further improve our ability to understand acidification in the open ocean as well as in the coastal zone.

We support the COAST Research Act and believe it will help our coastal communities better prepare for the effects from ocean and coastal acidification. Thank you for your leadership to strengthen the nation's focus and investment in oceans and coastal acidification.

Sincerely,

SARA LABORDE,
Executive Vice President, Wild Salmon Center.

IOOS ASSOCIATION,
May 17, 2021.

Hon. SUZANNE BONAMICI,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN BONAMICI: On behalf of the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) Association and its national network of eleven coastal observing systems, I write to support the Coastal and Ocean Acidification Stressors and Threats (COAST) Research Act.

NOAA's Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) links together Federal agencies and eleven Regional Associations (RAs) to design and to operate regional observing systems to provide timely and reliable data and information on our oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes. Coastal acidification is becoming an even more pressing concern for many of our stakeholders and users, such as shellfish growers, shellfish harvesters, fishermen, resource managers, and coastal communities.

The impacts of coastal acidification vary, and each system must be tailored to the unique situation of the region. The IOOS RAs work closely with NOAA's Ocean Acidification Program to understand the regional context, to deploy and operate sensors, support the data that can detect and monitor acidification to support and improve warnings and alerts and to provide for the sharing and integration of data.

The COAST Research Act will enhance these and other efforts to understand, monitoring and manage the nation's ability to respond and adapt to ocean acidification. The Act does this be expanding the Advisory Board to include representatives of the variety of industries and stakeholder impacted by ocean acidification, expanding the strategic plan for research and monitoring, and expanding the role of the Federal agencies for addressing ocean acidification.

Sincerely,

ELLA (JOSIE) QUINTRELL,
Director.

HONORING COLONEL ALBEN N. HOPKINS, JR., AIR NATIONAL GUARD

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2021

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding work of Colonel Alben N. Hopkins, Jr., Staff Judge Advocate of the Mississippi Air National Guard.

Colonel Hopkins hails from Gulfport, Mississippi where he attended St. John High School. His wife Jodie and 12-year-old son, Carter, proudly call Gulfport home.

Colonel Hopkins has served in several positions, but none more fulfilling than serving his country. His military career began in 1990 when he became a legal specialist for the Mississippi Army National Guard. Colonel Hopkins has strong family military ties including his father, retired Major General Alben Norris Hopkins, Sr.

Colonel Hopkins's extensive educational background includes a bachelor's degree in Arts and History from the University of Mississippi, where he was a member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity. He received his Juris Doctorate from the Mississippi College School of Law and a Master of Strategic Studies from the prestigious Air War College.

During his service, Colonel Hopkins was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, along with several other awards and decorations.

He is also a member of the Mississippi Bar, where he practices as a civilian lawyer with his private law firm of Hopkins, Barvie, & Hopkins, P.L.L.C. He has a general civil practice specializing in litigation.

Colonel Hopkins retired this month with over three decades of dedication to the state of Mississippi and our great nation. I thank Colonel Hopkins, and his family, for their service and sacrifice and on behalf of the 4th Congressional District, we wish him the best.

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE AND EXEMPLARY SERVICE OF PASTOR E. BAXTER MORRIS

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2021

Ms. SEWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and exemplary service of Pastor Edgar Baxter Morris, the beloved senior pastor of the historic First Baptist Church on North Ripley Street in Montgomery, Alabama who passed away on Sunday, May 2, 2021 surrounded by family. Pastor E. Baxter Morris was a devoted community leader and former Montgomery Police Department chaplain. He served for 50 years as the pastor of the iconic First Baptist Church, which was once pastored by Rev. Ralph Abernathy, a key strategist and architect of the Civil Rights Movement and Montgomery Bus Boycott.

Pastor Morris was born the second of two children to Mr. and Mrs. Willie and Ella Beatrice Morris in Anniston, Alabama. He studied at Jacksonville State University, Selma University, and Alabama State University. He continued his education at the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education and Samford University Extension Division. Later, Pastor Morris returned to the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education and the State Congress to serve as both an instructor and lecturer.

Pastor Morris was called to ministry on'August 20, 1972. As a faithful public servant to his community, Pastor Morris served as Chaplain for Montgomery Police Department for over 20 years and as a mentor for Montgomery police officers and their families. As the senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama for almost 50 years, Pastor Morris worked tirelessly to uphold the legacy of this historic church by promoting social justice and equity. Pastor Morris held numerous leadership positions within religious and community organizations. He is the past moderator of the Montgomery-Antioch of Christian Education, lecturer of the State Congress of Christian Education, missionary for the Alabama Baptist Southeast District State Convention, and lecturer of the Alabama Southeast District State Convention Women's Department.

Known as an active community leader, Pastor Morris dedicated his life to the police officers of Montgomery and to their families. He offered mentorship and support to police officers and emergency first-responders throughout his career. He served on various boards in Montgomery and the surrounding community including the Montgomery Area Mental Health Authority. Pastor Morris was also a member of the Fraternal Order and Masonic, Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., and the Inspector General 33° United Supreme Council A.A.S.R. of Freemasonry, S.J., Inc. Prince Hall.

Pastor Morris is survived by his loving and faithful wife, Rebie Morris, four children, twelve grandchildren, one great-grandniece, three nephews, one godson, and a host of other relatives and friends including his First Baptist Church Family, Ministerial Circle, Sigma Brothers, Zeta Sisters, and Masonic Family.

On a personal note, I am eternally grateful for the tremendous community contributions made by Pastor Morris and the dedicated congregation of First Baptist Church. Under the leadership of Pastor Morris, First Baptist Church opens its doors to thousands of travelers from across the world who want to learn more about the role this church played during the Civil Rights Movement. Pastor Morris remained committed to preserving and furthering the legacy of activism at First Baptist Church fostered by his predecessor Rev. Ralph Abernathy. I am especially appreciative of the warm and generous hospitality shown by Pastor Morris and the entire congregation of the First Baptist Church. They have served as the hosts for Members of Congress during the annual Faith and Politics Civil Rights Pilgrimage since 1998. Year after year, the highlight of the pilgrimage for many of my colleagues was the "five-star" Saturday Brunch hosted by Pastor Morris and his congregation. We will surely miss his warm smile, congenial personality, infinite wisdom, compassionate heart, and generous spirit. May we be comforted in knowing that the legacy of service and unwavering faith of Pastor Morris will live on in the hearts and actions of those he impacted.

On behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and legacy of Pastor Edgar Baxter Morris and his contributions to the Montgomery community.

HONORING RUSSELL EUGENE GWALTNEY

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2021

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Russell Eugene Gwaltney, who died on March 12, 2021 at the age of 81. Russ was a local legend in his youth who later served his hometown as a career law enforcement officer who honorably fulfilled his professional duties.

Russ was born in Roanoke, Virginia on August 21, 1939, to Charles Wesley Gwaltney and Florence Gay Gwaltney Boggess. His father passed away before he was born, and his mother, a cashier, raised him in Salem.

His first calling in life was as a marbles champion. The game was popular in his neighborhood, and his older brother Charlie taught him to play at the age of four or five. He grew in skill, amassing a collection of marbles he won from other players. Russ lost to Charlie in the semifinals of a 1948 tournament sponsored by the Salem Recreation Department. As he recalled to the Roanoke Times in 1993, ''When he beat me, he made me want to get better.'' Russ did, winning the town championship in 1949 and then the 1952 National Championship held in Asbury Park, New Jersey. Salem showered its national marbles champion with laurels upon his return. Although interest in marbles declined, he stayed involved in the game as an adult and helped with the national tournament.

In the following years, Russ graduated from Andrew Lewis High School and served in the United States Navy. After starting his policing career in Newport News, he moved back to Salem and began his 34 years with the Salem Police Department, which he served as a uniformed officer, detective, and member of the SWAT Team, rising to the rank of captain. He concluded his career as chief of police in Dublin, Virginia.

Russ is survived by his wife, Rita Woodyard Gwaltney; son and daughter-in-law, Rusty and Katy Gwaltney; daughter and grandson, Renee' Moore and Phoenix Moore; and brothers Charles Thomas Gwaltney and Douglas MacArthur Hawkins. I offer them my condolences on the loss of this good man, who earned a unique fame in Salem as a boy and then returned it with a career of faithful service in law enforcement.

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, May 18, 2021 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 19

9:45 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Bonnie D. Jenkins, of New York, to be Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, Jose W. Fernandez, of New York, to be an Under Secretary of State (Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment), to be United States Alternate Governor of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, to be United States Alternate Governor of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and to be United States Alternate Governor of the Inter-American Development Bank, routine lists in the Foreign Service, and other pending nominations; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the nominations of Brian A. Nichols, of Rhode Island, to be an Assistant Secretary (Western Hemisphere Affairs), and Michele Jeanne Sison, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary (International Organization Affairs), both of the Department of State, and other pending nominations.

SD–106

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

SD–138

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine rethinking disaster recovery and resiliency, focusing on protecting communities and accelerating assistance.

SD–192

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine biodiversity loss, focusing on drivers, impacts, and potential solutions.

SD–G50

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine COVID–19 health care flexibilities, focusing on perspectives, experiences, and lessons learned.

WEBEX

2 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government

To hold hearings to examine the Internal Revenue Service, focusing on narrowing the tax gap and improving taxpayer services.

SD–138

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Adrianne Todman, of the Virgin Islands, to be Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and Nuria I. Fernandez, of California, to be Federal Transit Administrator, Department of Transportation.

SD–106

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine COVID–19, focusing on evaluating the medical supply chain and pandemic response gaps.

SD–342/VTC

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights

To hold hearings to examine antitrust applied, focusing on hospital consolidation concerns and solutions.

SD–226

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine realizing the vision of Parren Mitchell, focusing on untapping the potential of minority and women contracting.

SR–301

3 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine military infrastructure and climate resilience.

SD–192

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Donald Michael Remy, of Louisiana, to be Deputy Secretary, Matthew T. Quinn, of Montana, to be Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs, Maryanne T. Donaghy, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary (Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection), and Patricia L. Ross, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Secretary (Congressional and Legislative Affairs), all of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SD–G50

4:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To hold hearings to examine the Department of Energy's atomic defense activities and programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2022 and future years defense program.

SR–232A

MAY 20

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine Federal, state, and private forestlands, focusing on opportunities for addressing climate change.

SR–301

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine taking aim at Alzheimer's, focusing on frontline perspectives and caregiver challenges.

VTC

10 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the transition of all United States and Coalition

forces from Afghanistan and its implications; to be immediately followed by a closed session in SVC–217.

SD–G50

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine 21st century communities, focusing on expanding opportunity through infrastructure investments.

WEBEX

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider the nomination of Eric S. Lander, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the nominations of Pamela A. Melroy, of New York, to be Deputy Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Carlos Alberto Monje, Jr., of Louisiana, to be Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy, and Richard W. Spinrad, of Oregon, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere.

SH–216

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the role of reforestation, active forest management, and carbon storage in fostering resiliency.

SD–366

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Subcommittee on Primary Health and Retirement Security

To hold hearings to examine solving the crisis in the health care workforce

SD–430

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 312, to expand eligibility for and provide judicial review for the Elderly Home Detention Pilot Program, provide for compassionate release based on COVID–19 vulnerability, shorten the waiting period for judicial review during the COVID–19 pandemic, and make other technical corrections, S. 601, to amend section 3661 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the consideration of acquitted conduct at sentencing, S. 1014, to reform sentencing laws and correctional institutions, and the nominations of Ketanji Brown Jackson, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit, Candace Jackson-Akiwumi, of Illinois, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit, Julien Xavier Neals, and Zahid N. Quraishi, both to be a United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey, and Regina M. Rodriguez, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado.

SD–106

MAY 25

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the Department of State.

SD–106

MAY 26

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine budgeting for the future of forest management, focusing on rethinking resiliency.

SD–138

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Subcommittee on National Parks

To hold hearings to examine the current state of the National Park System, focusing on the impacts of COVID–19 on National Park Service operations, staff, visitation and facilities.

SD–366

2 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the Department of Commerce.

SD–124

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the United States Agency for International Development.

SD–192

JUNE 17

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the Department of Defense.

SD–106

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2533–S2552

Measures Introduced: Twelve bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1652–1663, and S. Res. 217–218. **Page S2544**

Measures Passed:

TRANSPLANT Act: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 941, to reauthorize the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act of 2005, and the bill was then passed. **Page S2550**

Good Friday Agreement: Senate agreed to S. Res. 117, expressing support for the full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, or the Belfast Agreement, and subsequent agreements and arrangements for implementation to support peace on the island of Ireland, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S2550–51**

Whitehouse (for Lee) Amendment No. 1496, of a perfecting nature. **Page S2551**

Whitehouse (for Lee) Amendment No. 1497, to amend the preamble. **Page S2551**

National Public Works Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 217, designating the week of May 16 through May 22, 2021, as ''National Public Works Week''. **Page S2552**

National Foster Care Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 218, recognizing National Foster Care Month as an opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges of children in the foster care system, and encouraging Congress to implement policies to improve the lives of children in the foster care system. **Page S2552**

Measures Considered:

Endless Frontier Act—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 1260, to establish a new Directorate for Technology and Innovation in the National Science Foundation, to establish a regional technology hub program, to require a strategy and report on economic security, science, research, innovation, manufacturing, and job creation, to establish a critical supply chain resiliency program. **Pages S2535–41**

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

By 86 yeas to 11 nays (Vote No. 192), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S2541**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, post-cloture, at approximately 10 a.m., on Tuesday, May 18, 2021; that all time during recess, adjournment, and morning business count post-cloture on the motion to proceed. **Page S2552**

Messages from the House: **Page S2543**

Measures Referred: **Pages S2543–44**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S2544–45**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S2545–46**

Additional Statements: **Page S2543**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S2546–50**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S2550**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—192) **Page S2541**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 6:27 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, May 18, 2021. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2552.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

HORN OF AFRICA

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee received a closed briefing on the challenges and opportunities for the United States in the Horn of Africa from Robert F. Godec, Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of African Affairs, and Jeffrey Feltman, U.S. Special

Envoy for the Horn of Africa, both of the Department of State; and the National Intelligence Officer for Africa, Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 27 public bills, H.R. 3263–3289; and 5 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 34; and H. Res. 404–407 were introduced. **Pages H2419–21**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H2422**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 2788, to amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate the cap on full-time employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs who provide equal employment opportunity counseling (H. Rept. 117–35);

H.R. 2704, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the equal employment opportunity functions of Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 117–36); and

H. Res. 403, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1629) to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to limitations on exclusive approval or licensure of orphan drugs, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 275) condemning the horrific shootings in Atlanta, Georgia, on March 16, 2021, and reaffirming the House of Representative's commitment to combating hate, bigotry, and violence against the Asian-American and Pacific Islander community; and for other purposes (H. Rept. 117–37). **Page H2419**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Perlmutter to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H2359**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:05 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H2359**

Whole Number of the House: The Chair announced to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from Ohio, Mr. Stivers, the whole number of the House is 430. **Page H2360**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure:

VA Transparency Trust & Act of 2021: H.R. 2911, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a plan for obligating and expending Coronavirus pandemic funding made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 411 yeas to 4 nays, Roll No. 144. **Pages H2363–64, H2403–04**

Recess: The House recessed at 5:13 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H2403**

Communication from the Sergeant at Arms: The House received a communication from William J. Walker, Sergeant at Arms. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, following consultation with the Office of Attending Physician, Mr. Walker notified the House that the public health emergency due to the novel coronavirus SARS–CoV–2 remains in effect. **Page H2404**

Announcement by the Chair: The Chair announced the extension, pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 8, and effective May 20, 2021, of the covered period designated on January 4, 2021. **Page H2404**

Board of Visitors to the United States Coast Guard Academy—Appointment: The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members on the part of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Coast Guard Academy: Representatives Courtney, Barragan, Rutherford, and McClain. **Page H2404**

Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measures under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

Improving VA Accountability To Prevent Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Act of 2021: H.R. 2704, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the equal employment opportunity functions of Department of Veterans Affairs; **Pages H2360–62**

VA Equal Employment Opportunity Counselor Modernization Act: H.R. 2788, to amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate the cap on full-time employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs who provide equal employment opportunity counseling; **Pages H2362–63**

Homeless Veterans with Children Reintegration Act: H.R. 240, to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Labor to prioritize the provision of services to homeless veterans with dependents in carrying out homeless veterans reintegration programs; **Pages H2364–65**

West Los Angeles VA Campus Improvement Act of 2021: H.R. 711, amended, to amend the West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016 to authorize the use of certain funds received pursuant to leases entered into under such Act; **Pages H2365–66**

GI Bill National Emergency Extended Deadline Act: H.R. 2167, amended, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for extensions of the time limitations for use of entitlement under Department of Veterans Affairs educational assistance programs by reason of school closures due to emergency and other situations; **Pages H2366–69**

Directing the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a Native VetSuccess at Tribal Colleges and Universities Pilot Program: H.R. 2878, amended, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a Native VetSuccess at Tribal Colleges and Universities Pilot Program; **Pages H2369–72**

Directing the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on the use of cameras in medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs: H.R. 1510, amended, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on the use of cameras in medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs; **Pages H2372–73**

Amending title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration: H.R. 2494, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration; **Pages H2373–75**

Sgt. Ketchum Rural Veterans Mental Health Act of 2021: H.R. 2441, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to expand the Rural Access Network for Growth Enhancement Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study to assess certain mental health care resources of the Department of Veterans Affairs available to veterans who live in rural areas; **Pages H2375–78**

Coastal and Ocean Acidification Stressors and Threats Research Act of 2021: H.R. 1447, amended, to amend the Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act of 2009 to establish an Ocean Acidification Advisory Board, to expand and improve the research on Ocean Acidification and Coastal Acidification, to establish and maintain a data archive system for Ocean Acidification data and Coastal Acidification data; **Pages H2378–85**

National Estuaries and Acidification Research Act of 2021: H.R. 2533, to provide for a study by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine examining the impact of ocean acidification and other stressors in estuarine environments; **Pages H2385–87**

Rural STEM Education Research Act: H.R. 210, amended, to coordinate Federal research and development efforts focused on STEM education and workforce development in rural areas, including the development and application of new technologies to support and improve rural STEM education; **Pages H2387–90**

Supporting Early-Career Researchers Act: H.R. 144, amended, to forestall the loss of research talent by establishing a temporary early career research fellowship program; **Pages H2390–92**

STEM Opportunities Act: H.R. 204, amended, to direct the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy to carry out programs and activities to ensure that Federal science agencies and institutions of higher education receiving Federal research and development funding are fully engaging their entire talent pool; **Pages H2392–98**

MSI STEM Achievement Act: H.R. 2027, to direct Federal science agencies and the Office of Science and Technology Policy to undertake activities to improve the quality of undergraduate STEM education and enhance the research capacity at the Nation's HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs; and **Pages H2398–H2401**

Combating Sexual Harassment in Science Act: H.R. 2695, to provide for research to better understand the causes and consequences of sexual harassment affecting individuals in the scientific, technical, engineering, and mathematics workforce and to examine policies to reduce the prevalence and negative impact of such harassment. **Pages H2401–03**

Senate Referral: S. 593 was held at the desk. **Page H2405**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on pages H2404–05.

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote developed during the proceedings of today and appears on page H2404.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Committee Meetings

FAIRNESS IN ORPHAN DRUG EXCLUSIVITY ACT; CONDEMNING THE HORRIFIC SHOOTINGS IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA, ON MARCH 16, 2021, AND REAFFIRMING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE'S COMMITMENT TO COMBATING HATE, BIGOTRY, AND VIOLENCE AGAINST THE ASIAN-AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITY

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 1629, the ''Fairness in Orphan Drug Exclusivity Act''; and H. Res. 275, condemning the horrific shootings in Atlanta, Georgia, on March 16, 2021, and reaffirming the House of Representative's commitment to combating hate, bigotry, and violence against the Asian-American and Pacific Islander community. The Committee granted, by record vote of 9–4, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 1629, the ''Fairness in Orphan Drug Exclusivity Act'', and H. Res. 275, Condemning the horrific shootings in Atlanta, Georgia, on March 16, 2021, and reaffirming the House of Representative's commitment to combating hate, bigotry, and violence against the Asian-American and Pacific Islander community. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 1629, the ''Fairness in Orphan Drug Exclusivity Act'', under a closed rule. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their designees. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule provides for consideration of H. Res. 275, Condemning the horrific shootings in Atlanta, Georgia, on March 16, 2021, and reaffirming the House of Representative's commitment to combating hate, bigotry, and violence against the Asian-American and Pacific Islander community, under a closed rule. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Reform. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the resolution. The rule provides that the resolution shall be considered as read. The rule provides that House Resolution 398 is hereby adopted. The rule provides that House Resolution 188, agreed to March 8, 2021 (as amended by H. Res. 330, agreed to April 20, 2021) is amended by striking ''May 20, 2021'' each place it appears and inserting (in each instance) ''July 1, 2021''. The rule provides that at any time through the legislative day of Thursday, May 20, 2021, the Speaker may entertain motions offered by the Majority Leader or a designee that the House suspend the rules with respect to multiple measures that were the object of motions to suspend the rules on the legislative days of May 17 or 18, 2021, and on which the yeas and nays were ordered and further proceedings postponed. The Chair shall put the question on any such motion without debate or intervening motion, and the ordering of the yeas and nays on postponed motions to suspend the rules with respect to such measures is vacated. Testimony was heard from Chairman Pallone, and Representatives Latta, DeSaulnier, and Fallon.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2021

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense, to hold hearings to examine the National Guard and Reserve, 10 a.m., SH–216.

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of General Paul J. LaCamera, USA, for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Commander, United Nations Command/Combined Forces Command/United States Forces Korea, Department of Defense, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, to hold hearings to examine the cybersecurity of the defense industrial base, 2:30 p.m., SR–222.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program, 10 a.m., WEBEX.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Data Security, to hold hearings to examine protecting kids online, focusing on internet privacy and manipulative marketing, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Subcommittee on Tourism, Trade, and Export Promotion, to hold hearings to examine reviving international travel and tourism to create and restore jobs, 3 p.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Robert T. Anderson, of Washington, to be Solicitor, Shannon Aneal Estenoz, of Florida, to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife, and Tanya Marie Trujillo, of New Mexico, to be an Assistant Secretary, all of the Department of the Interior, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine funding and financing options to bolster American infrastructure, 10 a.m., WEBEX.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine paid leave for working families, focusing on examining access, options, and impacts, 10 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the role of the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Intelligence and Analysis, 10 a.m., SD–342/VTC.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Christopher Charles Fonzone, of Pennsylvania, to be General Counsel of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, and Brett M. Holmgren, of Minnesota, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Intelligence and Research), 2:30 p.m., SH–216.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Member Day'', 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth and Zoom.

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled ''Member Day'', 10 a.m., Webex.

Subcommittee on Defense, hearing entitled ''National Security Agency and Cyber Command FY 2022 Posture'', 10 a.m., HVC–304. This hearing is closed.

Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, hearing entitled ''The Need for Universal Broadband: Lessons from the COVID–19 Pandemic'', 10:30 a.m., Webex.

Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled ''Air Force Quality of Life and Installations Update'', 10 a.m., Webex.

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled ''Member Day'', 12:30 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittees on Readiness; and Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, joint hearing entitled ''Posture and Readiness of the Mobility Enterprise'', 4 p.m., 2118 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce, hearing entitled ''Promises and Perils: The Potential of Automobile Technologies'', 10:30 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on National Security, International Development, and Monetary Policy, hearing entitled ''Examining Belt and Road: The Lending Practices of the People's Republic of China and Impact on the International Debt Architecture'', 10 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''The U.S.-Afghanistan Relationship Following the Military Withdrawal'', 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Homeland Security, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 2795, the ''DHS Blue Campaign Enhancement Act''; H.R. 2980, the ''Cybersecurity Vulnerability Remediation Act''; H.R. 3138, the ''State and Local Cybersecurity Improvement Act''; H.R. 3223, the ''CISA Cyber Exercise Act''; legislation on Pipeline Security Act; legislation on DHS Medical Countermeasures Act; and legislation on Domains Critical to Homeland Security Act, 4 p.m., Webex.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 2922, the ''Elder Abuse Protection Act of 2021''; H.R. 2694, the ''Criminal Judicial Administration Act of 2021''; H.R. 2746, to amend title 28, United States Code, to redefine the eastern and middle judicial districts of North Carolina; H.R. 3239, to make improvements in the enactment of title 41, United States Code, into a positive law title and to improve the Code; and H.R. 3241, to make improvements in the enactment of title 54, United States Code, into a positive law title and to improve the Code, 10:30 a.m., 2141 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Unsustainable Drug Prices (Part III): Testimony from AbbVie CEO Richard Gonzalez'', 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on legislation on the Emergency Security Supplemental to Respond to January 6th Appropriations Act, 2021; and H.R. 3233, the ''National Commission to Investigate the January 6 Attack on the United States Capitol Complex Act'', 9:30 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, hearing entitled ''NASA's Earth Science and Climate Change Activities: Current Roles and Future Opportunities'', 11 a.m., Zoom.

Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access, hearing entitled ''Examining the role of Community Development Financial Institutions and Minority Depository Institutions in Small Business Lending'', 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn and Zoom.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of May 18 through May 21, 2021

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 1260, Endless Frontier Act, post-cloture.

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: May 20, to hold hearings to examine Federal, state, and private forestlands, focusing on opportunities for addressing climate change, 9:30 a.m., SR–301.

Committee on Appropriations: May 18, Subcommittee on Defense, to hold hearings to examine the National Guard and Reserve, 10 a.m., SH–216.

May 19, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies, to hold

hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 10 a.m., SD–138.

May 19, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine rethinking disaster recovery and resiliency, focusing on protecting communities and accelerating assistance, 10 a.m., SD–192.

May 19, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, to hold hearings to examine the Internal Revenue Service, focusing on narrowing the tax gap and improving taxpayer services, 2 p.m., SD–138.

May 19, Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine military infrastructure and climate resilience, 3 p.m., SD–192.

Committee on Armed Services: May 18, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of General Paul J. LaCamera, USA, for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Commander, United Nations Command/Combined Forces Command/United States Forces Korea, Department of Defense, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

May 18, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, to hold hearings to examine the cybersecurity of the defense industrial base, 2:30 p.m., SR–222.

May 19, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, to hold hearings to examine the Department of Energy's atomic defense activities and programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2022 and future years defense program, 4:30 p.m., SR–232A.

May 20, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the transition of all United States and Coalition forces from Afghanistan and its implications; to be immediately followed by a closed session in SVC–217, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: May 18, to hold hearings to examine reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program, 10 a.m., WEBEX.

May 19, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the nominations of Adrianne Todman, of the Virgin Islands, to be Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and Nuria I. Fernandez, of California, to be Federal Transit Administrator, Department of Transportation, 2:30 p.m., SD–106.

May 20, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine 21st century communities, focusing on expanding opportunity through infrastructure investments, 10 a.m., WEBEX.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: May 18, Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Data Security, to hold hearings to examine protecting kids online, focusing on internet privacy and manipulative marketing, 10 a.m., SR–253.

May 18, Subcommittee on Tourism, Trade, and Export Promotion, to hold hearings to examine reviving international travel and tourism to create and restore jobs, 3 p.m., SR–253.

May 20, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the nomination of Eric S. Lander, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the nominations of Pamela A. Melroy, of New York, to be Deputy Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Carlos Alberto Monje, Jr., of Louisiana, to be Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy, and Richard W. Spinrad, of Oregon, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, 10 a.m., SH–216.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: May 18, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Robert T. Anderson, of Washington, to be Solicitor, Shannon Aneal Estenoz, of Florida, to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife, and Tanya Marie Trujillo, of New Mexico, to be an Assistant Secretary, all of the Department of the Interior, 10 a.m., SD–366.

May 20, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the role of reforestation, active forest management, and carbon storage in fostering resiliency, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: May 19, to hold hearings to examine biodiversity loss, focusing on drivers, impacts, and potential solutions, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Finance: May 18, to hold hearings to examine funding and financing options to bolster American infrastructure, 10 a.m., WEBEX.

May 19, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine COVID–19 health care flexibilities, focusing on perspectives, experiences, and lessons learned, 10 a.m., WEBEX.

Committee on Foreign Relations: May 19, business meeting to consider the nominations of Bonnie D. Jenkins, of New York, to be Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, Jose W. Fernandez, of New York, to be an Under Secretary of State (Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment), to be United States Alternate Governor of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, to be United States Alternate Governor of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and to be United States Alternate Governor of the Inter-American Development Bank, routine lists in the Foreign Service, and other pending nominations; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the nominations of Brian A. Nichols, of Rhode Island, to be an Assistant Secretary (Western Hemisphere Affairs), and Michele Jeanne Sison, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary (International Organization Affairs), both of the Department of State, and other pending nominations, 9:45 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: May 18, to hold hearings to examine paid leave for working families, focusing on examining access, options, and impacts, 10 a.m., SD–106.

May 20, Subcommittee on Primary Health and Retirement Security, to hold hearings to examine solving the crisis in the health care workforce, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: May 18, to hold hearings to examine the role of the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Intelligence and Analysis, 10 a.m., SD–342/VTC.

May 19, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine COVID–19, focusing on evaluating the medical supply chain and pandemic response gaps, 2:30 p.m., SD–342/VTC.

Committee on Judiciary: May 19, Subcommittee on Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights, to hold hearings to examine antitrust applied, focusing on hospital consolidation concerns and solutions, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

May 20, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 312, to expand eligibility for and provide judicial review for the Elderly Home Detention Pilot Program, provide for compassionate release based on COVID–19 vulnerability, shorten the waiting period for judicial review during the COVID–19 pandemic, and make other technical corrections, S. 601, to amend section 3661 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the consideration of acquitted conduct at sentencing, S. 1014, to reform sentencing laws and correctional institutions, and the nominations of Ketanji Brown Jackson, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit, Candace Jackson-Akiwumi, of Illinois, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit, Julien Xavier Neals, and Zahid N. Quraishi, both to be a United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey, and Regina M. Rodriguez, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado, 10 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: May 19, to hold hearings to examine realizing the vision of Parren Mitchell, focusing on untapping the potential of minority and women contracting, 2:30 p.m., SR–301.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: May 19, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Donald Michael Remy, of Louisiana, to be Deputy Secretary, Matthew T. Quinn, of Montana, to be Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs, Maryanne T. Donaghy, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary (Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection), and Patricia L. Ross, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Secretary (Congressional and Legislative Affairs), all of the Department of Veterans Affairs, 3 p.m., SD–G50.

Select Committee on Intelligence: May 18, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Christopher Charles Fonzone, of Pennsylvania, to be General Counsel of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, and Brett M. Holmgren, of Minnesota, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Intelligence and Research), 2:30 p.m., SH–216.

Special Committee on Aging: May 20, to hold hearings to examine taking aim at Alzheimer's, focusing on frontline perspectives and caregiver challenges, 9:30 a.m., VTC.

House Committees

Committee on Appropriations, May 19, Subcommittee on Defense, hearing entitled ''Central Intelligence Agency FY 2022 Posture'', 10 a.m., HVC–304. This hearing is closed.

May 19, Subcommittee on Homeland Security, hearing entitled ''U.S. Customs and Border Protection Resource Management and Operational Priorities'', 10 a.m., Webex.

May 19, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled ''Public Witnesses'', 10 a.m., Webex.

May 19, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, hearing entitled ''Global Climate Finance'', 10 a.m., Webex.

May 19, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 2 p.m., Webex.

May 20, Subcommittee on Defense, hearing entitled ''Worldwide Threat and FY 2022 National Intelligence Program/Military Intelligence Program Posture with the Director of National Intelligence and Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security'', 10 a.m., Webex. This hearing is closed.

May 20, Subcommittee on Homeland Security, hearing entitled ''Member Day'', 10 a.m., Webex.

May 20, Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled ''Member Day'', 9:15 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Armed Services, May 19, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Recommendations of the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service'', 11 a.m., 2118 Rayburn and Webex.

May 20, Subcommittee on Cyber, Innovative Technologies, and Information Systems, hearing entitled ''Reviewing Department of Defense Science and Technology Strategy, Policy, and Programs for Fiscal Year 2022: Fostering a Robust Ecosystem for Our Technological Edge'', 11 a.m., 2118 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Education And Labor, May 19, Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education, hearing entitled ''Picking up the Pieces: Strengthening Connections with Students Experiencing Homelessness and Children in Foster Care'', 10:15 a.m., Zoom.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, May 19, Subcommittee on Energy, hearing entitled ''The Fiscal Year 2022 DOE Budget'', 10:30 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Financial Services, May 19, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Oversight of Prudential Regulators: Ensuring the Safety, Soundness, Diversity, and Accountability of Depository Institutions'', 10 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, May 19, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 922, the ''Crimea Annexation Non-Recognition Act''; H.R. 2785, the ''Energy Resource Governance Initiative Act of 2021''; H.R. 3261, to repeal the 1991 Authorization for the Use of Military Force against Iraq Resolution; legislation to repeal the 1957 Middle East Use of Force Authorization; legislation urging the Government of El Salvador to respect the country's democratic institutions; H.R. 1096, the ''Represent America Abroad Act of 2021''; H.R. 1135, the ''LITE Act''; H. Res. 402, recognizing the devastating impact of COVID–19 in India and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to COVID assistance to India; and H. Res. 348, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United Nations Security Council should immediately impose an arms embargo against the military of Burma, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on House Administration, May 19, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Reforming the Capitol Police

and Improving Accountability for the Capitol Police Board'', 3 p.m., Webex.

Committee on the Judiciary, May 19, Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties, hearing entitled ''Continuing Injustice: The Centennial of the Tulsa-Greenwood Race Massacre'', 9:30 a.m., CVC–200 and Zoom.

May 20, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, hearing entitled ''An Unending Crisis: Essential Steps to Reducing Gun Violence and Mass Shootings'', 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Natural Resources, May 19, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''Misuse of Taxpayer Dollars and Corporate Welfare in the Oil and Gas Industry'', 1 p.m., Webex.

May 20, Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States, hearing on H.R. 2930, the ''STOP Act of 2021''; H.R. 438, to amend the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children Act to extend the deadline for a report by the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and for other purposes; and legislation to prescribe procedures for effective consultation and coordination by Federal agencies with federally recognized Indian Tribes regarding Federal Government actions that impact Tribal lands and interests to ensure that meaningful Tribal input is an integral part of the Federal decision-making process, 12 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, May 19, Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, hearing entitled ''Examining Emergent BioSolutions' Failure to Protect Public Health and Public Funds'', 10:30 a.m., 2154 Rayburn and Zoom.

May 20, Subcommittee on National Security, hearing entitled ''Examining Next Steps for U.S. Engagement in Afghanistan'', 9 a.m., 2154 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, May 19, Subcommittee on Energy, hearing entitled ''Accelerating Discovery: The Future of Scientific Computing at the Department of Energy'', 11 a.m., Zoom.

Committee on Small Business, May 19, Subcommittee on Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Workforce Development, hearing entitled ''The Small Business Administration's Entrepreneurial Ecosystem: An Update and Next Steps with SBA's Resource Partners'', 10:15 a.m., 2360 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, May 19, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''Protecting Whistleblowers and Promoting Accountability: Is VA Making Progress?'', 10 a.m., Zoom.

May 20, Subcommittee on Technology Modernization, hearing entitled ''Cybersecurity and Risk Management at VA: Addressing Ongoing Challenges and Moving Forward'', 12 p.m., Zoom.

Committee on Ways and Means, May 19, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Leveraging the Tax Code for Infrastructure Investment'', 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth and Webex.

Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, May 20, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Powering Up Clean Energy: Investments to Modernize and Expand the Electric Grid'', 9:30 a.m., Zoom.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, May 18

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 1260, Endless Frontier Act, post-cloture.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Tuesday, May 18

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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