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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 15, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HENRY CUELLAR 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 11:50 a.m.

NATIONAL DAIRY MONTH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize June as National Dairy Month.

National Dairy Month began as National Milk Month in 1937. Now it has developed into an annual tradition that celebrates the contributions the dairy industry has made to the world.

Milk contains nine essential nutrients which may help reduce your risk of high blood pressure, osteoporosis, and certain cancers; yet dairy products, particularly milk, continue to be unfairly demonized.

Coming from a long line of dairy farmers, I understand the impact that this decrease in milk consumption has caused. Not only does it hurt our dairy industry, but it has also resulted in the loss of an entire generation of milk drinkers, which has negatively impacted their health.

That is why I introduced the Whole Milk For Healthy Kids Act in March of this year with the gentleman from New York, Mr. ANTONIO DELGADO. This bill addresses the importance of providing both flavored and unflavored whole milk in school cafeterias.

This builds upon the efforts from the School Milk Nutrition Act, which allows for flavored and unflavored 1 percent milk to return as an option for the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs.

Last month, Mr. JOE COURTNEY and I led a bipartisan coalition of 55 Members of Congress from across the country in writing a letter to Secretary Vilsack of the USDA. This letter urged him to codify the efforts to continue to provide schools the option to offer low-fat flavored or unflavored milk.

Whether it is protein to help build and repair the muscle tissues of active bodies or vitamin A to help maintain healthy skin, dairy products are a natural nutrient powerhouse.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to sign on to my bill, the Whole Milk For Healthy Kids Act, during National Dairy Month and allow our students the option of consuming the type of milk that they love.

And this month, when you pour a glass of milk, enjoy a cheese board, or cool down with some ice cream, remember the hardworking dairy farmers and farm families who made that possible.

HONORING THE LIFE OF COURTNEY ANN NEALE

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Courtney Ann Neale, my office's press secretary and digital manager. Courtney passed away suddenly on May 23.

It is still hard to fully express how much my staff and I feel Courtney's spirit, her energy, and her strength, and we miss her. She was an activist to the core and a dedicated public servant, an untiring advocate for women, for working-class people, immigrants, and communities of color.

In the year before she joined our office, Courtney was diagnosed with several medical conditions that changed her daily life. Still, she continued her fight for a world where healthcare and education are guaranteed rights. Courtney stood strongly by her principles and—this I can tell you from personal experience—challenged those around her to do the same.

As press secretary and digital manager, Courtney was a member of my office's communication team. Now, communications on the Hill can feel a bit like a one-way street, getting the message out fast before turning to the next thing. But Courtney took the meaning of communications seriously. Even under the greatest time crunch, she seemed to approach each tweet, each press statement, as a two-way dialogue.

She not only got out our message; most mornings she would bring new messages in, raising attention to feedback on social media or local angles on national news. True to her title as a communicator, Courtney didn't just tell, she also learned and responded, ensuring that constituents were heard.

And while she was known as our office's authority on all things social media, she gracefully filled many other

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roles in her personal life. She was an adventurous traveler; an avid reader; a doting dog mom; and beloved daughter, sister, and friend.

Despite the hectic Hill schedule, she still prioritized time with colleagues, friends, and family. Principled work was a passion, but a principled life was the goal.

So her memory is more than a legacy. It is a call to action, to take care of yourself, and take care of others as well, to give selflessly, and to savor what you have. Courtney dared to dream. She challenged us to act.

Alongside the many joyful memories she leaves with us, it is those actions that we remember. On and off Capitol Hill, Courtney helped advance the progressive cause and, through it all, remained a kind and grounded person.

As my staff and I mourn her passing, we also resolve ourselves to honor her legacy by continuing to fight for the better, fairer world that she so passionately believed in.

My prayers are with Courtney's parents, Jill and Kevin; her sister, Marissa; and the incredible network of friends she made along the way in Milwaukee, Chicago, and Washington, D.C.

Rest in peace, Courtney.

OUR NATION'S CURRENT ECONOMIC TRAJECTORY

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great concern for our Nation's current economic trajectory.

Inflation is spiraling out of control, unemployment numbers continue to disappoint, and millions of small businesses are unable to fill job openings. This pattern is increasingly alarming; and for anyone who is paying attention, it is not a surprise.

The Biden administration's plan to throw money at problems is failing the American people. This so-called rescue plan is stunting our economic recovery and impeding our Nation's comeback from the COVID–19 pandemic.

As President Biden makes even more plans to squander our taxpayer dollars, prices are skyrocketing. American families are experiencing this firsthand. As they see every day, the staggering 5 percent increase in inflation is affecting nearly everything, including essentials. Together, food and energy prices have increased nearly 4 percent. And with the current cost of materials, not even the kitchen sink is safe.

At home in Pennsylvania, no one is shocked that gas is more than 50 percent more expensive today than a year ago. Our Commonwealth already has one of the highest gas taxes in the Nation, burdening workers and families alike. We cannot afford to keep paying more at the pump.

For hardworking families in Pennsylvania and around the country, the cost of inflation is real. It is real at the grocery store. It is real at the gas pump. It is real at the hardware store and at the local diner. It is real for every Pennsylvanian every day of the week.

As a nation, we cannot ignore the sound and source of this alarming trend. This is rooted in President Biden's and the Democrats' broken economic agenda. From higher taxes and fewer jobs, to more regulations and burdens on American industries, their plan is not working.

Day after day, we see more evidence of this. Just last week, the developers of the Keystone pipeline stopped this project after the Biden administration effectively eliminated its opportunity to succeed. Not only will this decision hinder America's energy independence and security, it is also killing family-sustaining jobs for American workers.

The Biden administration already killed the pipeline. What will be next?

As inflation rises, the unemployment rate remains disappointingly high and our work force is suffering. This should be a major warning to all of us that we must stop this trend now. We cannot afford to stay entrenched in President Biden's 1970s-era economic crisis.

We must advance pro-work, pro-growth solutions that will jump-start America's recovery from the COVID–19 pandemic, and it starts with getting Americans back to work, supporting our small businesses, and strengthening the workforce. It also requires ending the current administration's infatuation with Big Government intervention.

The American people don't want more of the same. We simply cannot afford more of it. This is a time to invest in American workers, to promote the dignity of hard work, and restore our Nation to the path of recovery.

NATIONAL DAIRY MONTH

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate a truly essential industry at home in Pennsylvania and around our country.

Dairy farmers go to work every day of the year to produce safe and healthy food for all American people. Despite mounting regulations and obstacles, these hardworking men and women continue to persevere.

Dairy products, including nutrient-rich whole milk, are good for our kids and good for our families, and they are essential for our region's economy.

I have the distinct privilege of representing nearly 20 percent of Pennsylvania's dairy farms, which are home to more than a quarter of our Commonwealth's dairy cows.

This robust industry is a key part of our local community and our economy. It is truly my privilege to stand up for dairy farmers and to serve as their voice here in Congress as we seek to eliminate barriers to the dairy industry's success.

As we mark National Dairy Month, I thank dairy farmers in Pennsylvania and across the country for their steadfast dedication to our communities and to American families.

HIGHLIGHTING THE STAFF OF MANCHESTER VA MEDICAL CENTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. PAPPAS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the incredible efforts of the staff at the Manchester, New Hampshire, VA Medical Center, who worked long hours to resolve a massive backlog of unpaid medical claims for community care.

In a district where veterans travel long distances to get to a VA facility, community care has been a game-changer for vets to receive the services they need closer to home. But in the early years of the Choice Act, and now the Mission Act, provider payment delays and bureaucratic errors threatened the stability of community care networks and, ultimately, the access to critical lifesaving care for veterans.

One of the first providers who contacted our office was an acupuncturist who provides care to veterans experiencing PTS and debilitating pain. The acupuncturist was passionate about caring for those who served, but the chronic billing delays were creating severe uncertainty and financial hardship for her office.

She introduced me to a group of veterans that she cares for in her office to learn a little bit more about their experience. They all had a remarkable story about how their quality of life had improved since accessing these services through VA community care. But they understood that payment delays could disrupt that.

Countless other providers, including large hospital systems and small care organizations, were also caught up in this claims backlog. The VA was making it difficult, if not impossible, for many of these providers to continue serving veterans.

The issue of unpaid claims was compounded in the Northeast region by VA's multiple transitions between third-party administrators over the last few years. It created confusion and frustration in both the provider and the veteran communities.

I knew we couldn't let our veterans down, and that is why I am so thankful for the efforts of the community care team at the Manchester VA for working with our office, with providers, as well as the third-party billers to thoroughly address this issue.

Our office worked closely with the leadership at the Manchester VA Medical Center and the New Hampshire Hospital Association and its members. A plan was developed to painstakingly delve into the minutiae of the claims backlog, line by line, so that providers could be paid for legacy claims and receive timely payments for future services.

The Manchester VA Medical Center's Office of Community Care steadily plowed through the backlog, giving specialized attention to each provider. After more than 15 months of their hard work, I am proud these diligent efforts have resulted in tens of millions of dollars of paid claims to New Hampshire's VA Community Care providers. They were so successful in this work that their internal process is now being shared nationally across the VA system as a model.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to personally thank the team members at the VA in Manchester who put in so many hours to address this backlog, including:

Michelle Mercer, who spent considerable time dealing with each member's hospital billing department;

Patricia Patterson, who also spent considerable time dealing with each member's billing department;

Tracy Allaire, who worked closely with Tri-West on claims on behalf of hospitals on the back end;

Charlene Eaton, who supervised and provided oversight to the VA Office of Community Care staff;

Dr. Brain Phemester, who worked and provided leadership and served as a conduit between VA Central Office and the New Hampshire Hospital Association and its members;

And Daniel Wilson, who initially spearheaded the billing resolution effort within the VA Central Office, and worked with our district office and the Hospital Association.

These Manchester VA Medical Center employees went above and beyond the call of duty for our veterans and the providers, as well as the future of community care. I couldn't be more proud to be able to recognize them for their efforts here today.

□ 1015

AMERICA DESERVES BETTER

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

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in fierce opposition to President Biden's proposed budget.

When he released his budget just a few weeks ago, nearly 3 months later than any President in a transition year, by the way, President Biden reminded Americans of advice his father gave him years ago. ''Don't tell me what you value,'' Biden's father told him. ''Show me your budget, and I'll tell you what you value.''

If that is true, then Biden's $6 trillion budget reveals to us exactly what President Biden values: destroying America's oil and gas industry, prioritizing the rights of illegal immigrants over law-abiding Americans, funneling foreign aid away from our longtime ally Israel, turning a blind eye to protecting the unborn.

Under the Biden budget, President Biden suggests we spend our hard-earned dollars fixing problems he created.

He wants us spending $174 billion on electric cars, carports, car charging stations, and other subsidies to the electric vehicle market in a full-on attempt to replace the oil and gas industry; $40 billion to retain employees who lost their jobs after he blocked the Keystone pipeline and destroyed thousands of energy jobs; and a total of $36 billion to combat climate change, bringing back the waters of the U.S. rule and mandating 30 percent of our privately owned land be locked in conservation practices. President Biden's budget is the progressive's Green New Deal in disguise, and America doesn't want anything to do with it.

President Biden wants $2 billion to provide care for unaccompanied migrant children at our southern border after he put millions of innocent children in harm's way and encouraged immigrants to cross illegally. He wants no extension of funding to complete the already nearly finished wall system or money to enforce our immigration laws at the border and instead instated an executive order stopping construction on the very wall that keeps our country safe.

President Biden wants $63.5 billion for international affairs spending, a 12 percent increase from 2022 that lacks specific defense funding for Israel, America's only democratic ally in the Middle East. His omission is clear and comes at a time when the terrorist organization Hamas launched hundreds of rockets at Israel in the last month alone and when Democrats are on the record for their anti-Semitic language and slurs.

And President Biden refuses to protect our dollars from being spent on abortions or abortion services. Instead, for the first time in four decades, no such protection exists, a protection that 77 percent of Americans support and a protection even Biden supported for years before his Presidential campaign.

On top of all this, President Biden claims his budget is partly in response to the ongoing COVID–19 pandemic, but like the American Rescue Plan, it, too, fails to investigate the origins of COVID–19. Even more, the Biden administration won't commit that none of the budget requests would include funding for the research at the Wuhan lab.

The economic disaster to follow from his reckless spending will cripple American families' purchasing power and leave future generations with the crushing burden of the national debt. It is time we hold President Biden accountable for a budget that would cause our Federal debt to reach 117 percent of gross domestic product by 2031, the highest level since World War II, and continue the record rates of inflation we are already seeing under President Biden.

I ran for Congress with the intention of creating a better world for my children, our children, one where they don't have to pay President Biden's debts and suffer the consequences of irresponsible and egregious spending. America deserves better.

CELEBRATING CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, it is spring, the beginning of summer, but it is also Caribbean-American Heritage Month this June. It brings me great pride to join Virgin Islanders and other Caribbean people across the country in celebrating Caribbean-American Heritage Month.

As a Virgin Islander and an American of Caribbean descent, I am proud to celebrate the life, legacy, and achievement of Caribbean people in this country. Virgin Islanders and other Americans of Caribbean lineage have made enormous contributions to the United States through academia, athletics, the arts, and more.

Caribbeans have been involved in this country since its inception, such as des gens de couleurs libres, who included 800 French-Caribbean soldiers, 500 of whom were Haitian free men of color who fought at the battle of Savannah for the Colonies in the American Revolution.

Caribbean-American Heritage Month was officially celebrated and recognized on June 5, 2006, by Presidential proclamation signed by President George W. Bush. It had been unanimously adopted in the House in 2005 through the unwavering power of our colleague BARBARA LEE, who sponsored the legislation. Since 2006, the White House has released an annual proclamation recognizing June as National Caribbean-American Heritage Month.

Caribbean Americans have added to the history, culture, and communities in America in countless ways. The unique relationship between the United States and the Caribbean has enriched both regions, and this month is a wonderful time to celebrate our shared past and our future.

We should also look for opportunities for us as Americans to pursue new partnerships on a number of issues with the Caribbean. From trade, immigration, disaster preparedness, poverty eradication, and ending HIV/AIDS, the United States and the Caribbean share a number of mutual policy interests.

This year, the COVID–19 pandemic adds a new challenge to both our country and our Caribbean neighbors. I will keep fighting to ensure that the United States works to be an active and constructive partner in safeguarding the health and welfare of our third border.

The people of the Caribbean are as much a part of the fabric of this country as anyone else. We are not monolithic, nor do we represent one culture, one ideology, or even one ethnicity.

Alexander Hamilton, the drafter of the United States Constitution and our first Secretary of the Treasury, was born on the island of Nevis and spent his childhood and formative years on my home, St. Croix, in the Danish West Indies, what is now the Virgin Islands.

Caribbean-American heritage not only flows through the fabric of this country; it also flows through the Halls of Congress every day. Shirley Chisholm, a personal hero of mine, was the first African-American Congresswoman and the first Black woman to run for President, nominated by a major party. Her heritage hails from Barbados and Guyana. Without her, Caribbean women, even Black women, myself, and many other of my colleagues would not be here today: YVETTE CLARKE, JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ, SHEILA JACKSON LEE, FREDERICA WILSON, former Members Mia Love and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, and many more. Even our current Vice President, KAMALA HARRIS, is of Jamaican descent.

The Caribbean people have done so much more than just fight and make laws for this country. That doesn't even scratch the surface. The building we are standing in right now was designed by Dr. William Thornton, who was born on the island of Jost Van Dyke in the British Virgin Islands. The symbol of our democracy was designed by a Caribbean American.

Our works in the arts are felt every day: news commentators Joy Reid, Yamiche Alcindor, Karine Jean-Pierre; from Sidney Poitier, the first Black man to win an Academy Award, to Kerry Washington. Who can forget Cicely Tyson and Harry Belafonte; great minds like Edward Wilmot Blyden, the father of Pan-Africanism; Denmark Vesey; Malcolm X; and Stokely Carmichael.

In music, we have managed to not only be great but iconic as well: Maxwell, who is considered to be the godfather of neo-soul and the R&B movement; Biggie Smalls, a fellow Brooklynite born to Jamaican parents, changed hip-hop forever; and Nicki Minaj, who is changing it even more in the modern era.

Some of the greatest athletes of our time are Caribbean, from Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, whose family is from Trinidad, to Tim Duncan, from my home on St. Croix, who was just elected to the hall of fame, and even Ramon Harewood in the NFL.

During this unique time in our country's history, I encourage everyone to learn more about the contributions of Caribbean Americans.

DEMOCRATIC DOUBLE STANDARDS

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

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I am that woman, and I am back to talk about the Democratic double standards once again.

Democrats love to jump on the Republican outrage train. But when we see the blatant anti-Semitism from one of their own, all you see are timid, fake, pandering, and watered-down responses.

For those of you who struggle to keep up with the latest anti-Semitic rhetoric from a Democrat, I am referring to the Congresswoman from this Chamber comparing the United States and Israel to real terrorist organizations.

The Speaker and her leadership team issued a weak and embarrassing press release thanking her for her clarification and walking back her remarks. But, of course, Democrats are not serious in disciplining anti-Semitism, or even anti-American remarks, within their ranks.

This photo of the Speaker smiling next to the Congresswoman from Minnesota was on the cover of the March 2019 edition of Rolling Stone. This came after the Congresswoman from Minnesota had tweeted, and then defended, that ''Israel has hypnotized the world'' and implied that the Jewish people were buying political support by tweeting: ''It's all about the Benjamins baby.''

The cover of the magazine says: ''Women Shaping the Future: NANCY PELOSI and the New Voices of the House.''

Is this really the voice of the Democratic Party, Madam Speaker?

Can you imagine, for one moment, the Democratic outrage if this were the Republican leader and the Congresswoman from Georgia? There would be demands for resignations, and Republican office phones would be ringing off the hook from leftwing, liberal activists.

I ask the Speaker, are you truly proud of this photo?

I can't wait to hear her answer. I just hope she won't be as demeaning as the last time she spoke about ''that woman.''

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair and not to a perceived viewing audience.

REPUBLICANS SUPPORT POLICE

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

Mr. NEHLS. Mr. Speaker, as a 30-year law enforcement veteran, the rhetoric and hatred I have seen toward law enforcement the past 12 months are, quite honestly, infuriating.

Liberal cities across our country have defunded hundreds of millions from their police. Seattle, Portland, Minneapolis, Austin, they all cut police budgets, and every single one of them is now experiencing skyrocketing crime.

No surprise. Less police equal more crime, common sense that doesn't seem all too common in today's Democratic Party.

Whatever happened to the Democratic Party of Bill Clinton? In 1994, Clinton added 100,000 law enforcement officers to the streets with the COPS grants. Today's Democratic Party is unrecognizable to that party.

The socialist squad is the de facto leaders of the Democrats, and they are the driving force behind the defund the police movement. They would rather see 100,000 less police than 100,000 more.

The Republican Party has never wavered in our steadfast support for our Nation's law enforcement. I hope to see the Democrats will one day embrace common sense and join us.

□ 1030

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DON L. TAYLOR

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

Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and celebrate the life of Don L. Taylor, a lifelong resident of Wisconsin and a friend, who peacefully passed away at age 88 on April 16, 2021, surrounded by his family.

Don was active in many civic and service organizations and wore many hats throughout his lifetime. He served honorably as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army and was a longtime member and past president of the Waukesha Rotary Club. He spent his leisure time writing historical fiction set in Waukesha. He also had many other interests and, as many Wisconsinites do, Don enjoyed many trips to his family cabin up north in Wisconsin.

Don was a staple in the Waukesha community due to his involvement in the Waukesha State Bank. Don succeeded his father, Carl, as president and CEO of the Waukesha State Bank, a role he held for 25 years, from 1969 to 1994. Don is credited with modernizing the operations of the bank and computerizing operations in 1968, one of the first banks to do so. In 2004 Don's son, Ty Taylor, became the third generation of the family to serve as president of the bank.

Don will also be remembered for his deep involvement in politics. He served as chairman of the Waukesha County Republican Party for 30 years, from 1979 to 1989, and again from 1993 to 2013. Don was one of the early pioneers in Waukesha to help grow the conservative movement, and his efforts cannot be understated for their lasting impact today. Don was recognized for his organizing capabilities by being selected to chair and co-chair President Ronald Reagan's 1968, 1980, and 1984 Wisconsin campaigns.

Above all else, Don Taylor was first and foremost a man of faith. He was a devoted Christian who lived his values through his everyday work and his family life.

Don is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Carol. He is also survived by

children Wendy, Scott, Jenifer, and Ty; 10 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and his sister, Velma Geraldson.

On behalf of Wisconsin's Fifth Congressional District, it is my privilege to celebrate the life and legacy of Don L. Taylor for his unparalleled contributions and impact on our community. I offer my heartfelt condolences to Don's family and those who were lucky to call him a friend.

THIS NATION WON'T GIVE UP ITS LIBERTIES EASILY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. CAWTHORN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CAWTHORN. Mr. Speaker, for over 200 years, American citizens have chosen dangerous freedom over peaceful subjugation. For the past few decades, the American patriot has watched in horror as the Federal Government has opened the shackles of safety and firmly clamped them around the Second Amendment.

As the Second Amendment restrictions have risen, so has violent crime. Washington wonders in one moment why violent crime is rising, and then takes away the right of Americans to defend themselves in the next.

Mr. Speaker, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives exists for the sole purpose of regulating and keeping me from three of the things I hold most dear as an American.

This administration's proposed head of the ATF thinks that the Second Amendment was created for hunting and sporting. David Chipman could not be more wrong. The purpose of the Second Amendment was and is to hold back a tyrannical government. Chipman's tyrannical reading of the Constitution would turn millions of Americans into criminals overnight.

I am here to tell you today that these Americans who seek to defend their right to bear arms are not the criminals our Nation ought to be concerned by.

Mr. Speaker, the most dangerous threat to our safety and security does not arise from Americans wanting to protect themselves. No, it comes from men and women like those in this Chamber who would choose the quiet of servitude over the tumult of liberty.

The Second Amendment was designed to protect the First, and this Nation will not give up its liberties so easily.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 34 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. UNDERWOOD) at noon.

PRAYER

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

Holy God, even as we acknowledge the tragedy of over 600,000 deaths this pandemic has wrought on our country and the devastation it has caused around the world, help us to find the gift we are now being given: the opportunity to emerge, carefully, from the fear and anxiety COVID has imposed on our daily living and rediscover the importance of our relationships one with another.

What a joy it is to see someone else's whole face, to look not just in their eyes but to be graced by their whole countenance.

As we dare to unmask, may we dare also to reveal our hearts to one another and rediscover the gift of being in fellowship.

Even as we risk exposure to the enduring dangers of our environment, may we also risk exposing ourselves to the challenge of frank and open, albeit respectful, interchange of ideas and diversity of thought.

In sharing our heartfelt thoughts and opinions, may we also find ways to share care and concern with those whose perspectives are at times drastically different from our own.

May we, our faces, our whole selves, unhidden and unrestrained, reflect Your generosity, mercy, and love.

Then reveal Yourself to us, in the face of those with whom we serve this day.

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 gentlewoman from California (Mrs. STEEL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

HONORING UNITED STATES AIR FORCE THUNDERBIRDS

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

Mr. HORSFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the glorious Thunderbirds of Nellis Air Force Base, who are celebrating 65 years in Las Vegas this month.

Since their establishment, the Thunderbirds, America's Ambassadors in Blue, have performed in front of millions worldwide, defying gravity with stunning aerobatics that showcase our military power and might.

Their mission is to recruit, retain, and inspire. With each dazzling performance, they rouse America's future heroes to serve our Nation.

Congratulations on 65 years, Thunderbirds. You are the pride of Nevada's Fourth District and the pride of our Nation.

REMEMBERING COACH JOHN McDONNELL

(Mr. WOMACK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WOMACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of a legend in Arkansas sports, the late Razorback track and field coach John McDonnell.

Coach McDonnell was laid to rest last week, leaving a truly remarkable legacy: the most decorated coach in NCAA history, having won 40 national championships in indoor and outdoor track and cross country. He was the national coach of the year 30 times and is responsible for six NCAA triple crowns at Arkansas.

He coached and mentored some of the world's best athletes: Southwest Conference champions, Southeast Conference champions, NCAA champions, and Olympic champions. He himself was an outstanding runner, and he knew how to help his student-athletes become successful.

Coach McDonnell was a native of Ireland. He came to the U.S., graduated from Southwest Louisiana, and earned his citizenship in 1969.

He devoted his life to inspiring young people to excel. On the many occasions that I had a chance to visit with Coach McDonnell, I always came away thankful that we in America were blessed to have him.

When the starting gun fires and they are calling the Hogs on the track that bears his name, we will all be reminded of his legacy of good works and great coaching and his unrelenting Razorback spirit.

My deepest condolences to his wife of more than 50 years, Ellen, children Sean and Heather, and the rest of the McDonnell family.

HELP NEEDED FOR VETERANS WITH PTSD

(Mr. TRONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TRONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of our Nation's veterans struggling with PTSD and their family members anxious for help.

This week, I spoke with the mother of a young man who joined the Marines out of patriotic duty following 9/11. He served four tours.

His mother told me that when he came home, he was a changed man struggling with PTSD.

She took him to the VA when he said he was contemplating suicide. She was told all the beds were full; they couldn't help.

He was later denied extended treatment at an inpatient facility after he began self-medicating. A year-and-a-half ago, he died of an overdose.

We have to do better. The VA needs more and better addiction and mental health resources. This young man's mother said to me, after losing her son, she is in the fight now. I am, too, and I hope you will join me.

ANNIVERSARY OF CONGRESSIONAL BASEBALL SHOOTING

(Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Madam Speaker, 4 years ago yesterday, Republicans were tragically attacked by a liberal gunman with an agenda to shoot and kill Republican Members of Congress.

That day, United States Capitol Police Officers Griner and Bailey, along with Alexandria police, acted swiftly to neutralize the gunman and prevent what could have been an extraordinarily deadly event that changed the course of our country.

I stand here today because of their heroism, and I, along with my Republican colleagues present that morning, are forever grateful.

We must always support our men and women in blue and oppose any efforts to defund the police and make communities less safe.

Law enforcement officers go to work in their communities every day to make a difference, protect their neighbors, and prevent crime, a solemn duty we should commend and not tear down.

We will forever owe a debt of gratitude to the officers present 4 years ago and are grateful for every brave and honorable law enforcement officer who is willing to sacrifice themselves to keep us safe.

In God we trust.

NEED FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND CLEAN ENERGY

(Mrs. LEE of Nevada asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Madam Speaker, I rise today as Nevadans are facing the reality of our climate crisis head-on.

Lake Mead has reached record low levels not seen since the construction of the Hoover Dam, and a massive heat wave has now brought record-breaking temperatures and safety warnings.

We cannot deny the climate trajectory our country faces, and at the same time, our State and the country are climbing out of an economic crisis.

There is no question that the opportunity to take action on both the economic and the climate crises is now.

That is why I am proud to have joined my colleagues in the Problem Solvers Caucus to bring Democrats and Republicans together on an infrastructure proposal.

We need to work together now more than ever. Our crumbling roads, bridges, and the tools that grind the gears of our day-to-day American life cannot support our economy and our planet without bold new investment.

Those bold investments will create good-paying jobs in communities across the country.

The time to deliver solutions is now.

CONGRATULATING GRACE CHRISTIAN WARRIORS BASEBALL TEAM

(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, today, I rise to recognize the Grace Christian School Warriors baseball team for their come-from-behind victory in this year's Virginia Association of Christian Athletics State championship.

Down to the last 12 outs, the Warriors trailed 4–0. But thanks to some timely hits, their comeback started as they were able to put one run on the board in the fourth.

In the bottom of the fifth, things really started turning in Grace Christian's favor. A few hits, some heads-up base running, and costly errors made by their opponents gave the Warriors a 5–4 lead.

However, the lead didn't last long, as the Bulldogs from Westover Christian Academy scored two in the top of the sixth. But the Warriors battled back, tying the game in the bottom half of the inning.

Grace Christian's MVP pitcher, Isaiah Riddle, mastered Westover hitters in the top of the seventh, meaning it all came down to the Warriors' bats.

First baseman Justin Hain led off with a base hit, then stole second, and moved to third on a wild pitch. With another wild pitch, Hain sprinted home and secured Grace Christian the title.

Truly, it ain't over till it's over.

Congratulations to the players, coaches, parents, and staff on an incredible season and a well-deserved win.

REMEMBERING DAVID SAMRICK

(Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to honor the remarkable life of David Samrick of Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

David's faith and love for the Jewish community were evident in his support of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. He served on the AIPAC national board since 2015, working closely with Members of the United States Congress to strengthen and promote a strong and unbreakable U.S.-Israel relationship.

Through his work with AIPAC, he led citizen activists in building relationships with Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle, a key to the success of the pro-Israel movement. We worked together to address a multitude of issues facing our community, from the scourge of anti-Semitism to ensuring we maintain our strong U.S.-Israel relationship.

I am proud to have considered him my very dear friend. I will miss his guidance and wisdom but mostly his friendship.

My heartfelt sympathy goes out to his wife, Susan, and his entire family. David was one of a kind, a selfless, compassionate, and tireless advocate. May his memory be for a blessing.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RICHARD FURLONG

(Ms. TENNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TENNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Richard J. Furlong, a wonderful member of our community who passed away late last year.

Mr. Furlong was born in 1926 in Utica, New York, my hometown. He grew up on the Seminole Farm in Holland Patent.

He was called to serve his country at the age of 19 when he enlisted in the United States Army during the World War II era. After he left service, he returned home to Holland Patent. He would later go on to marry Neva Millias, who was his beloved wife of 37 years.

Mr. Furlong was a very proud son of Irish immigrants. He enjoyed sharing his heritage with those around him and made several visits to Ireland over the course of his life.

Friends and family remember him as a jovial and hardworking man. Mr. Furlong was the oldest living member of The American Legion Leon R. Roberts Post 161 and a past member and president of the Holland Patent Hose Company.

He was beloved by his siblings, 12 nieces and nephews, and many great-nieces and -nephews. I extend my condolences to his family and also his great friends.

Richard was larger than life, with a vibrant and fun personality. While we all miss him dearly, we will always remember his great legacy with a big smile.

HONORING PENNSYLVANIA'S FIFTH DISTRICT CLASS OF 2021

(Ms. SCANLON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Pennsylvania's Fifth District class of 2021 and wish them well in their next adventures.

As we watched the world change before our eyes over the past year-and-a-half, we also saw the strength and determination of young people in our district, throughout the U.S., and across the globe.

We saw students pick up jobs to help support their families, take to the streets to support causes they believed in deeply, and contribute their time and savings to help others in need.

Whether they realized it or not, their energy and activism have shifted the national conversation around issues like gun violence, racial justice, and the climate crisis.

We are at an inflection point of history, science, and technology, and I have never been more inspired or hopeful than I am for this generation.

I also want to acknowledge our debt of gratitude to all the teachers and school staff who showed such dedication and resilience as they guided our students through the challenges of a pandemic with patience, courage, and innovation.

Graduates, the world is waiting for our next wave of leaders, and we know that you are ready for the challenge. Congratulations.

□ 1215

ARVN DAY HONORS THE SERVICE OF VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS

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

Mrs. STEEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Veterans of the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Day. June 19th is ARVN Day, which honors the service and sacrifice of the South Vietnamese soldiers who fought to defend a free Vietnam.

Thousands of South Vietnamese soldiers fought alongside our U.S. Armed Forces in the Vietnam war in defense of freedom and democracy. They deserve our appreciation and respect for their service.

After the fall of Saigon, many who fought with the South Vietnamese forces fled Vietnam to escape tyranny. Many found a home here in the United States. Today, there are over 100,000 veterans from the Republic of Vietnam living in California.

On ARVN Day, we honor the sacrifice of those who served and remember those who paid the ultimate price in the pursuit of freedom.

STATEHOOD FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, the D.C. statehood bill will receive a hearing in the Senate, and I expect the date to be announced today. I appreciate that our D.C. statehood bill has already passed the House, and I thank the House.

Our hearings and House passage have alerted Americans that the residents of their own Nation's Capital do not have the same rights as other Americans. As a result, a detailed poll now shows that 54 percent of the American people support D.C. statehood for the District of Columbia.

As Americans who pay the highest Federal taxes per capita in the United States, D.C. residents say it is about time—indeed, well past time—for Congress to grant statehood to the residents of the District of Columbia.

THE CALIFORNIA DROUGHT MUST BE ADDRESSED

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

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share the disastrous consequences of the House majority's failure to address the California drought.

As you can see in this photo, California's water levels are dramatically low. This water is supposed to be up all the way at the tree line. The reservoirs are low at this point because of disastrous policies that force us to waste water during the wetter years.

Countless communities are relying on this water. If this is what we are seeing in the beginning of the system in the north, how are we supposed to supply the entire State of California with enough clean water to survive?

Across the State, communities rely on water supplied by the federally managed Central Valley Project. Last month the Bureau of Reclamation announced that Central Valley farmers would receive zero percent of their contracts, effectively signing a death sentence for their fields.

Acres of half-grown crops meant to feed families across the Nation are being abandoned to dry up and die. Meanwhile, the majority refuses to even consider my legislation, the RENEW WIIN Act, which would help prevent this from happening again in the future.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to acknowledge the suffering of California families and get to work to help them.

WE MUST PROTECT THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

(Mr. ROSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to be a voice for the most innocent and vulnerable among us. This Sunday many families, including mine, will celebrate Father's Day.

My faith and my family are the most important parts of my life, and I couldn't be more grateful for my wife, Chelsea; and our two sons, Guy and Sam. Being the father of Guy and Sam has only intensified my belief that we must protect the sanctity of life. Our society cannot leave our most vulnerable unprotected.

Safeguarding the right to life has always been one of my top priorities, and I will continue working to protect life at every stage of development.

As a Christian and a father, I will always fight for the right to life and for traditional family values. We must protect those who cannot protect themselves.

HONORING THE CAREER OF DR. ANNE SCHUCHAT

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor CDC's Principal Deputy Director Anne Schuchat for her outstanding career in medicine and public health.

Dr. Schuchat joined the CDC in 1988 as an Epidemic Intelligence Service officer. Since joining the agency, she has served as chief of the Respiratory Diseases Branch, director of the National Center For Immunization and Respiratory Diseases and as acting CDC director twice.

Her contributions have been recognized by an election to the National Academy of Medicine, and she has received the United States Public Health Service's Distinguished Service Medal and the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials Lifetime Achievement Award, among many other awards and recognitions.

Dr. Schuchat has dedicated her life to improving public health around the world and has inspired many young women to go into medicine and public health.

As a lifelong healthcare professional, I congratulate Dr. Schuchat on her retirement and commend her for her hard work over the past 33 years.

CLARISSA ROZENBOOM CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a very special day for a woman in my district, but I also want to say how joyful it is to see people's faces and smiles now that we are following the science and not fining the science.

I am rising today to celebrate a very special day for a woman in my district. Last week on June 8, Clarissa Rozenboom of Oskaloosa, Iowa, celebrated her 100th birthday. Clarissa was

born and raised on a farm in Mahaska County, Iowa, and is the oldest of five siblings.

In the 1930s many children who were raised on farms elected not to attend high school, but Clarissa was inspired by her aunt to not only attend high school but to continue her education through courses at William Penn University, which is still in Oskaloosa today.

In the early 1940s, her love for children and teaching led her to pursue a career in education at Bryan County school, a small school south of New Sharon.

On August 14, 1945, Clarissa married her husband, Gerald, and together they had six children: Allan, Calvin, Norman, Kathleen, David, and Ken, who is a State senator and my colleague in the State senate in Iowa.

Clarissa, I wish you all the joy in the world as you celebrate this with your loved ones.

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.

SAN FRANCISCO BAY RESTORATION ACT

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 610) to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to establish a grant program to support the restoration of San Francisco Bay, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 610

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 ''San Francisco Bay Restoration Act''.

SEC. 2. SAN FRANCISCO BAY RESTORATION GRANT PROGRAM.

Title I of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 124. SAN FRANCISCO BAY RESTORATION GRANT PROGRAM.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP.—The term 'Estuary Partnership' means the San Francisco Estuary Partnership, designated as the management conference for the San Francisco Bay under section 320.

''(2) SAN FRANCISCO BAY PLAN.—The term 'San Francisco Bay Plan' means—

''(A) until the date of the completion of the plan developed by the Director under subsection (d), the comprehensive conservation and management plan approved under section 320 for the San Francisco Bay estuary; and

''(B) on and after the date of the completion of the plan developed by the Director under subsection (d), the plan developed by the Director under subsection (d).

''(b) PROGRAM OFFICE.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator shall establish in the Environmental Protection Agency a San Francisco Bay Program Office. The Office shall be located at the headquarters of Region 9 of the Environmental Protection Agency.

''(2) APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR.—The Administrator shall appoint a Director of the Office, who shall have management experience and technical expertise relating to the San Francisco Bay and be highly qualified to direct the development and implementation of projects, activities, and studies necessary to implement the San Francisco Bay Plan.

''(3) DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY; STAFFING.—The Administrator shall delegate to the Director such authority and provide such staff as may be necessary to carry out this section.

''(c) ANNUAL PRIORITY LIST.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—After providing public notice, the Director shall annually compile a priority list, consistent with the San Francisco Bay Plan, identifying and prioritizing the projects, activities, and studies to be carried out with amounts made available under subsection (e).

''(2) INCLUSIONS.—The annual priority list compiled under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

''(A) Projects, activities, and studies, including restoration projects and habitat improvement for fish, waterfowl, and wildlife, that advance the goals and objectives of the San Francisco Bay Plan, for—

''(i) water quality improvement, including the reduction of marine litter;

''(ii) wetland, riverine, and estuary restoration and protection;

''(iii) nearshore and endangered species recovery; and

''(iv) adaptation to climate change.

''(B) Information on the projects, activities, and studies specified under subparagraph (A), including—

''(i) the identity of each entity receiving assistance pursuant to subsection (e); and

''(ii) a description of the communities to be served.

''(C) The criteria and methods established by the Director for identification of projects, activities, and studies to be included on the annual priority list.

''(3) CONSULTATION.—In compiling the annual priority list under paragraph (1), the Director shall consult with, and consider the recommendations of—

''(A) the Estuary Partnership;

''(B) the State of California and affected local governments in the San Francisco Bay estuary watershed;

''(C) the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority; and

''(D) any other relevant stakeholder involved with the protection and restoration of the San Francisco Bay estuary that the Director determines to be appropriate.

''(d) SAN FRANCISCO BAY PLAN.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Director, in conjunction with the Estuary Partnership, shall review and revise the comprehensive conservation and management plan approved under section 320 for the San Francisco Bay estuary to develop a plan to guide the projects, activities, and studies of the Office to address the restoration and protection of the San Francisco Bay.

''(2) REVISION OF SAN FRANCISCO BAY PLAN.—Not less often than once every 5 years after the date of the completion of the plan described in paragraph (1), the Director shall review, and revise as appropriate, the San Francisco Bay Plan.

''(3) OUTREACH.—In carrying out this subsection, the Director shall consult with the Estuary Partnership and Indian tribes and solicit input from other non-Federal stakeholders.

''(e) GRANT PROGRAM.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director may provide funding through cooperative agreements, grants, or other means to State and local agencies, special districts, and public or nonprofit agencies, institutions, and organizations, including the Estuary Partnership, for projects, activities, and studies identified on the annual priority list compiled under subsection (c).

''(2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF GRANTS; NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

''(A) MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF GRANTS.—Amounts provided to any entity under this section for a fiscal year shall not exceed an amount equal to 75 percent of the total cost of any projects, activities, and studies that are to be carried out using those amounts.

''(B) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—Not less than 25 percent of the cost of any project, activity, or study carried out using amounts provided under this section shall be provided from non-Federal sources.

''(f) FUNDING.—

''(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

''(2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Of the amount made available to carry out this section for a fiscal year, the Director may not use more than 5 percent to pay administrative expenses incurred in carrying out this section.

''(3) PROHIBITION.—No amounts made available under this section may be used for the administration of a management conference under section 320.

''(g) ANNUAL BUDGET PLAN.—For each of the budgets for fiscal years 2023 through 2026, the President, as part of the annual budget submission of the President to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, shall submit information regarding each Federal department and agency involved in San Francisco Bay protection and restoration, including—

''(1) a report that displays for each Federal agency—

''(A) the amounts obligated in the preceding fiscal year for protection and restoration projects, activities, and studies relating to the San Francisco Bay; and

''(B) the proposed budget for protection and restoration projects, activities, and studies relating to the San Francisco Bay; and

''(2) a description and assessment of the Federal role in the implementation of the San Francisco Bay Plan and the specific role of each Federal department and agency involved in San Francisco Bay protection and restoration, including specific projects, activities, and studies conducted or planned to achieve the identified goals and objectives of the San Francisco Bay Plan.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 610, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I will include in the RECORD a letter from Chairman JOHN YARMUTH of the House Committee on Budget agreeing to waive consideration of H.R. 610, as amended, as well as Chair DEFAZIO's response to Mr. YARMUTH expressing appreciation for his willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District in support of H.R. 610.

MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL
OPEN SPACE DISTRICT,
Los Altos, CA, June 10, 2021.

Re H.R. 610—San Francisco Bay Restoration Act—SUPPORT.

Hon. JACKIE SPEIER,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE SPEIER: On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (Midpen), I write to express our support for your legislation, H.R. 610, the San Francisco Bay Restoration Act. Comprised of over 65,000 acres of acquired and protected open space on the San Francisco Peninsula, Midpen is one of the largest regional open space districts in California. Our braided mission is to acquire and preserve in perpetuity open space and agricultural land of regional significance, to protect and restore the natural environment, to preserve rural character and encourage viable agricultural use of land resources, and to provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education.

As you know, the legislation would prioritize funding for the San Francisco Bay, a vital resource to our District, the regional community, and the entire state of California. The $250 million authorized in the bill would provide critical federal investment to restoring the Bay's wetlands and estuaries, assist in the recovery of endangered species, and help to alleviate the impacts of climate change. We greatly appreciate the legislation's establishment of this federal partnership to improve the Bay Area and protect our coastal community and economy.

For these reasons, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District greatly supports the San Francisco Bay Restoration Act (H.R. 610). Thank you for your leadership and continued work on improving the Bay Area. If you have any questions or would like to further discuss our support, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

ANA M. RUIZ,
General Manager.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 610. This legislation would create a stand-alone program for the San Francisco Bay within the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, in essence elevating restoration efforts of a water body that has been part of the national estuary program since 1993.

This legislation responds to an August 2018 Government Accountability Office report that found a centralized program would improve the existing efforts to restore and protect the San Francisco Bay.

This legislation would authorize $25 million annually for fiscal year 2022 through 2026, with a cap on Federal funding for eligible projects and a cap on administrative expenses. H.R. 610 is supported by the delegation representing the bay and surrounding area, including our committee colleagues JARED HUFFMAN, MARK DESAULNIER, and JOHN GARAMENDI.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 610, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,
Washington, DC, June 2, 2021.

Hon. JOHN YARMUTH:
Chair, Committee on the Budget, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. YARMUTH: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R 610, the San Francisco Bay Restoration Act. I appreciate your decision to waive formal consideration of the bill.

I agree that the Committee on the Budget has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I further agree that by forgoing formal consideration of the bill, the Committee on the Budget is not waiving any jurisdiction over any relevant subject matter. Additionally, if requested I will support the appointment of conferees from the Committee on the Budget should a House-Senate conference be convened on this legislation. Finally, this exchange of letters will be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD when the bill is considered on the floor.

Thank you again, and I look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with the Committee on the Budget on this important issue.

Sincerely,

PETER A. DEFAZIO,
Chair.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET,
Washington, DC, May 27, 2021.

Hon. PETER A. DEFAZIO,
Chair, Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIR DEFAZIO: I write to confirm our mutual understanding regarding H.R. 610, the San Francisco Bay Restoration Act. H.R. 610 contains provisions that fall within the rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on the Budget. However, the committee agrees to waive formal consideration of the bill.

The Committee on the Budget takes this action with the mutual understanding that we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and 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. The committee also reserves the right to seek appointment to any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation or similar legislation and requests your support if such a request is made.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and I ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I look forward to continuing to work with you as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

JOHN YARMUTH,
Chairman.

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

Last Congress we worked together to ensure bipartisan support for several regional water bills, including this one.

H.R. 610 codifies the Environmental Protection Agency's existing restoration work in the San Francisco Bay estuary and establishes a San Francisco Bay program office.

I urge support of this legislation and reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER).

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, this bill is something I have been working on for 10 years and have introduced in every Congress since I came to Congress. It provides $25 million a year for 5 years.

Over the last 200 years, 90 percent of the bay wetlands have disappeared. They are gone. What is even worse is that in less than 9 years, sea level rise in that region will effectively drown out all of the marshes. The damage will be irreversible.

Over the last 8 years the EPA has invested only $45 million in San Francisco Bay. However, even though it is the largest estuary on the West Coast, Puget Sound received more than $260 million and the Chesapeake Bay received $490 million. That is an unbelievable difference in funding opportunities.

We can't afford to keep pushing this off. The San Francisco Bay supports 4 million jobs and provides 20 million Californians with clean drinking water.

It is the lifeblood of the region and a worthy investment of taxpayer dollars. Every dollar spent on restoration efforts generates $2.10 in economic activity. More funding for the bay is a win-win. It would, in fact, be the right thing to do, the only fair thing to do considering how much more has been spent on other estuaries.

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

□ 1230

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her leadership and recognition on this important issue.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation.

I am so proud of Representative JACKIE SPEIER, with whom I have the privilege of corepresenting San Francisco. JACKIE SPEIER has been our champion on San Francisco Bay, and this San Francisco Bay Restoration Act is a vital step to restoring our cherished bay.

It is an honor to be joined in this legislation with other bay area colleagues, JARED HUFFMAN, JOHN GARAMENDI, MIKE THOMPSON, JERRY MCNERNEY, MARK DESAULNIER, BARBARA LEE, RO KHANNA, ANNA ESHOO, and ZOE LOFGREN. I also thank Senators DIANNE

FEINSTEIN and ALEX PADILLA, who have introduced a Senate companion bill.

Madam Speaker, Members may not know, but the San Francisco Bay is an icon of California and a national treasure: inspiring us with its beauty and its might, enriching our lives with world-class recreation, tourism, and jobs.

The bay area delta, of which it is a part, is also the economic lifeblood of our coast, contributing over $370 billion to our economy each year and supporting more than four million jobs.

As part of the bay-delta estuary, it is a vital part of public health, providing drinking water for millions of Californians, a key force in combating the climate crisis.

But, for centuries, this magnificent estuary has been overexploited and underprotected. Today, 90 percent of the bay area's wetlands have been destroyed, undermining the strength of our coastal economies and communities.

The San Francisco Bay Restoration Act—sponsored and championed by Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER over many years—would make a long overdue $125 million investment in restoration efforts. It improves coordination from San Francisco to Washington, as it revives our wetlands to protect our coastal communities, improves our water quality, strengthens our climate resilience, including by combating sea level rise.

In 2018, the GAO concluded that a centralized initiative providing improved coordination and communication across efforts, along with dedicated Federal funding, would be the best chance for long-term restoration and protection of this vital geographic area on the West Coast. And this bill introduced by Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER provides exactly that.

Californians have fought to increase appropriations for the bay area for years, and we are grateful for the support of then-chair Nita Lowey of the Appropriations Committee and the chair of the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, BETTY MCCOLLUM. We secured an increase of $3 million in funding for the bay.

Last year, with the support of Transportation and Infrastructure chair PETER DEFAZIO and, hence, the committee of Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, and Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee chair GRACE NAPOLITANO, the House passed this Bay Restoration Act by a voice vote, and then again as part of our infrastructure bill, H.R. 2, the Moving Forward Act. Now we want to make it the law of the land.

Our communities and our lives are heavily enriched by the bay-delta estuary. This investment is an economic, health, environmental, and moral imperative.

I urge Members to support it with strong bipartisan support, and I hope that it will be bipartisan on the part of our colleagues on the West Coast, who know the value of the quality of life that the bay estuary project brings to us. I urge a ''yes'' vote.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, in closing, I urge support of this bipartisan legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 610, 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. PERRY. 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.

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MUSEUM ACT

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1703) to amend title 40, United States Code, to require the Administrator of General Services to enter into a cooperative agreement with the National Children's Museum to provide the National Children's Museum rental space without charge in the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1703

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 Children's Museum Act''.

SEC. 2. NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MUSEUM.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the Museum and Library Services Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–81) designated the Capital Children's Museum, the predecessor to the National Children's Museum, as the ''National Children's Museum'';

(2) the National Children's Museum operates under section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is organized under the laws of the District of Columbia;

(3) the mission of the National Children's Museum is to inspire children to care about and change the world; and

(4) the National Children's Museum is located in the federally owned Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center.

(b) NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MUSEUM.—Chapter 67 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 6735. National Children's Museum

''(a) IN GENERAL.— Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator of General Services shall enter into a cooperative agreement with the National Children's Museum for the operation of the National Children's Museum in the approximately 32,369 square feet of space commonly known as suite C–001 (hereinafter referred to as the 'Space') of the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center for the duration of the retail space license agreement between Trade Center Management Associates, LLC, or a successor entity, and the Museum, dated December 4, 2017, including any exercised renewal options.

''(b) CONTENTS.—The cooperative agreement under subsection (a) shall include provisions that—

''(1) require, for the period in which the General Services Administration owns or controls the Space, the General Services Administration to provide rent for the Space;

''(2) terminate such agreement if—

''(A) the Museum does not continue to qualify as a nonprofit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

''(B) the Museum no longer uses the Space as a children's museum; and

''(3) prohibits the Museum from transferring the interest in such agreement.

''(c) SOURCE OF FUNDS.—To carry out this section, the Administrator shall use funds derived from—

''(1) the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation fund; or

''(2) the International Trade Center fund.

''(d) REPORT.—The cooperative agreement under subsection (a) shall require the National Children's Museum to submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate an annual report on the operations and finances of the Museum.''.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 67 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''6735. National Children's Museum.''.

SEC. 3. 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 gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1703, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1703, the National Children's Museum Act, which I have sponsored. Last Congress, the House passed this bill by voice vote.

This bipartisan, bicameral bill, which I introduced with Republican RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois and which has been introduced in the Senate by Democrat CHRIS VAN HOLLEN of Maryland and Republican SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO of West Virginia would require the General Services Administration to enter into a cooperative agreement with the National Children's Museum, a congressionally designated museum, to allow the museum to remain in the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, a Federally owned building in the Nation's capital without charge for the duration of its existing lease.

The National Building Museum operates under such an agreement. The National Children's Museum is the only congressionally designated museum required to pay rent in a Federal building.

Originally named the Capital Children's Museum, the museum was a staple in D.C. for decades. The museum opened in 1974 in a former convent on H Street Northeast. In 2003, Congress recognized the immense value of having a children's museum in the Nation's capital and officially designated the museum as the National Children's Museum.

After being closed for several years, the museum reopened last year in the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in downtown D.C. where it immediately attracted visitors from throughout the Nation's capital and the entire Nation. However, only 18 days later, the coronavirus pandemic forced the museum to close its physical space.

Still, the museum continued to offer valuable online resources to our children as they navigated new, challenging learning circumstances, including over 75 at-home experiment and project video programs and monthly podcasts. The museum has served teachers in 45 States and the District through its virtual field trips since the pandemic began. However, due to revenue losses during the pandemic and other costs, the museum has said it will close permanently without enactment of this bill.

This bill would allow the National Children's Museum to continue to benefit the millions who visit and live in the Nation's capital and the national capital region.

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am pleased to lead this effort with my good friend and colleague, the chair of the Highways and Transit Subcommittee, Ms. NORTON.

As Congresswoman NORTON said, this important legislation directs the General Services Administration to provide rent relief to the National Children's Museum that is currently housed in the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center right here in Washington, D.C.

Currently, the museum is the only federally designated museum sitting in a Federal building that is required to pay rent. This bill will give the museum the same benefits afforded to other congressionally designated museums.

Prepandemic, the museum offered our children the ability to interact with exhibits that were focused on science, technology, engineering, arts, and math. And that allowed children to foster a greater appreciation for our STEM fields.

As our country reopens and we look to the future, the museum will continue to build off that success and become even more valuable of a resource for our youth. In that spirit, I actually look forward to visiting with some of my colleagues soon and talking about this important bill. It is just frustrating that it is the only museum that is congressionally directed that has to pay another government agency, the GSA, for rent when they weren't allowed to be open.

So this is a commonsense bill. It has been great to work with Congresswoman NORTON, and I support this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the remarks of my good friend, Mr. DAVIS, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I thank Ms. NORTON for her cooperation on this. It is great to be back on the floor and see everybody. I enjoy this greatly. I certainly hope everybody supports this commonsense bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, like my friend, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1703, 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. PERRY. 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.

OCEAN POLLUTION REDUCTION ACT II

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 587) to modify permitting requirements with respect to the discharge of any pollutant from the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant in certain circumstances, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 587

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 ''Ocean Pollution Reduction Act II''.

SEC. 2. SAN DIEGO POINT LOMA PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any provision of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), the Administrator may issue a permit under section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342) for a discharge from the Point Loma Plant into marine waters that requires compliance with the requirements described in subsection (b).

(b) CONDITIONS.—A permit issued under this section shall require—

(1) maintenance of the currently designed deep ocean outfall from the Point Loma Plant with a discharge depth of not less than 300 feet and distance from the shore of not less than 4 miles;

(2) as applicable to the term of the permit, discharge of not more than 12,000 metric tons of total suspended solids per year commencing on the date of enactment of this section, not more than 11,500 metric tons of total suspended solids per year commencing on December 31, 2025, and not more than 9,942 metric tons of total suspended solids per year commencing on December 31, 2027;

(3) discharge of not more than 60 milligrams per liter of total suspended solids, calculated as a 30-day average;

(4) removal of not less than 80 percent of total suspended solids on a monthly average and not less than 58 percent of biochemical oxygen demand on an annual average, taking into account removal occurring at all treatment processes for wastewater upstream from and at the Point Loma Plant;

(5) attainment of all other effluent limitations of secondary treatment as determined by the Administrator pursuant to section 304(d)(1) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1314(d)(1)), other than any requirements otherwise applicable to the discharge of biochemical oxygen demand and total suspended solids;

(6) compliance with the requirements applicable to Federal issuance of a permit under section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, including State concurrence consistent with section 401 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1341) and ocean discharge criteria evaluation pursuant to section 403 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1343);

(7) implementation of the pretreatment program requirements of paragraphs (5) and (6) of section 301(h) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1311(h)) in addition to the requirements of section 402(b)(8) of such Act (33 U.S.C. 1342(b)(8));

(8) that the applicant provide 10 consecutive years of ocean monitoring data and analysis for the period immediately preceding the date of each application for a permit under this section sufficient to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Administrator that the discharge of pollutants pursuant to a permit issued under this section will meet the requirements of section 301(h)(2) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1311(h)(2)) and that the applicant has established and will maintain throughout the permit term an ocean monitoring program that meets or exceeds the requirements of section 301(h)(3) of such Act (33 U.S.C. 1311(h)(3)); and

(9) to the extent potable reuse is permitted by Federal and State regulatory agencies,

that the applicant demonstrate that at least 83,000,000 gallons per day on an annual average of water suitable for potable reuse will be produced by December 31, 2035, taking into account production of water suitable for potable reuse occurring at all treatment processes for wastewater upstream from and at the Point Loma Plant.

(c) MILESTONES.—The Administrator shall determine development milestones necessary to ensure compliance with this section and include such milestones as conditions in each permit issued under this section before December 31, 2035.

(d) SECONDARY TREATMENT.—Nothing in this section prevents the applicant from alternatively submitting an application for the Point Loma Plant that complies with secondary treatment pursuant to section 301(b)(1)(B) and section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1311(b)(1)(B); 33 U.S.C. 1342).

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) BIOCHEMICAL OXYGEN DEMAND.—The term ''biochemical oxygen demand'' means biological oxygen demand, as such term is used in the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

(3) POINT LOMA PLANT.—The term ''Point Loma Plant'' means the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant owned by the City of San Diego on the date of enactment of this Act.

(4) STATE.—The term ''State'' means the State of California.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 587.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1245

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

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from the city of San Diego in support of H.R. 587.

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO,
San Diego, CA, June 14, 2021.

Hon. SCOTT PETERS,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN PETERS: On behalf of the City of San Diego, I am writing to you in support of the Ocean Pollution Reduction Act II (OPRA II) H.R. 587.

OPRA II is the product of a decades-long regional collaboration and will deploy advanced technology to purify recycled water. Additionally, this legislation is critical to implementing the comprehensive Pure Water San Diego program, which will provide a reliable, sustainable source of drinking water while simultaneously reducing treated discharge to the ocean by nearly 50 percent. This bill delivers certainty and provides a more streamlined process to comply with regulations, provided the City meets stringent water recycling milestones.

Under OPRA II, the City of San Diego must demonstrate that its Pure Water program is able to produce 83 million gallons of water a day, nearly one-half of the City's water supply demand by 2036. Over the same period, the program is expected to reduce treated discharge from the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant, which will be continuously monitored and subjected to ongoing research efforts by academic, local, state, and national entities.

The City of San Diego is grateful for your leadership on this important legislative effort.

Sincerely,

TODD GLORIA,
Mayor,
City of San Diego.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 587. The legislation, introduced by Representative SCOTT PETERS, clarifies that the city of San Diego, California, can utilize the standard Clean Water Act National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit process to continue operation of the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant with alternative standards.

The legislation, which provides regulatory accountability and consistency to the city, has the support of surrounding localities, local public works departments and water districts, as well as local nongovernmental and environmental organizations.

Currently, the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant applies for and receives a waiver under the Clean Water Act to discharge wastewater with less than full secondary treatment, the baseline requirement of the Clean Water Act. The facility qualifies for the waiver by meeting certain criteria and must renew its application every 5 years.

As part of a long-term effort, the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant is working to reduce its discharges to coastal waters. This effort involves water recycling and will redirect a portion of the facility's discharge. However, the facility's discharges to coastal waters will never be eliminated.

To be clear, this legislation is not a waiver of all the requirements of the Clean Water Act, and the facility will need to comply with the other requirements of the act.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 587, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 587, introduced by Congressman PETERS from California and others from his home State, is a bipartisan bill that aims to make permanent a regulatory exemption under the Clean Water Act. This exemption allows certain wastewater treatment facilities seeking to discharge to the ocean to apply for permit modifications that offer alternatives to the Clean Water Act's secondary treatment standards.

These alternative standards must be met every 5 years during the normal permit renewal period. This permit renewal process is lengthy, complex, and costly.

The city of San Diego's Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant has been operating under this regulatory exemption for well over two decades.

The objectives of this bill are worthy and a win-win for the city and the environment.

Madam Speaker, the bill will help ensure that San Diego has long-term certainty for its water supply and will save the city millions of dollars and protect regional ratepayers from billions in new costs by providing this regulatory certainty while preserving applicable standards.

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

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. PETERS).

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I introduced the Ocean Pollution Reduction Act II, or OPRA II, for three reasons: one, to ensure that the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant's waiver process is fair and efficient; two, to further reduce the facility's pollution output to the ocean; and three, to increase our region's freshwater supply.

The city's proposed wastewater recycling plan, the Pure Water Program, will guarantee the region's water security and further reduce the amount of wastewater that flows into the ocean from the plant.

OPRA II requires that the city of San Diego demonstrate that the Pure Water Program can produce 83 million gallons of freshwater a day by 2036. This is an estimated one-third of the entire city's drinking water needs. Over the same period, the program is expected to reduce treated wastewater flows from the Point Loma plant by over 100 million gallons.

This bill replaces the complex and expensive secondary treatment waiver application with a simpler process, as long as the city meets stringent water recycling milestones.

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

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 587 would support the water recycling and conservation efforts of the city of San Diego's Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant by making permanent its longstanding regulatory exemption under the Clean Water Act.

Madam Speaker, this is a good bill, and I urge support of this bipartisan legislation.

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

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 587.

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. PERRY. 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.

PROMOTING UNITED GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO SAVE OUR SOUND ACT

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1144) to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide assistance for programs and activities to protect the water quality of the Puget Sound, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1144

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Promoting United Government Efforts to Save Our Sound Act'' or the ''PUGET SOS Act''.

SEC. 2. PUGET SOUND COORDINATED RECOVERY.

Title I of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 124. PUGET SOUND.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) COASTAL NONPOINT POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM.—The term 'Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program' means the State of Washington's Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program approved under section 6217 of the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments of 1990.

''(2) DIRECTOR.—The term 'Director' means the Director of the Program Office.

''(3) FEDERAL ACTION PLAN.—The term 'Federal Action Plan' means the plan developed under subsection (c)(3)(B).

''(4) INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION.—The term 'International Joint Commission' means the International Joint Commission established by the Treaty relating to the boundary waters and questions arising along the boundary between the United States and Canada, signed at Washington January 11, 1909, and entered into force May 5, 1910 (36 Stat. 2448; TS 548; 12 Bevans 319).

''(5) PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION.—The term 'Pacific Salmon Commission' means the Pacific Salmon Commission established by the United States and Canada under the Treaty concerning Pacific salmon, with annexes and memorandum of understanding, signed at Ottawa January 28, 1985, and entered into force March 18, 1985 (TIAS 11091; 1469 UNTS 357) (commonly known as the 'Pacific Salmon Treaty').

''(6) PROGRAM OFFICE.—The term 'Program Office' means the Puget Sound Recovery National Program Office established by subsection (b).

''(7) PUGET SOUND ACTION AGENDA; ACTION AGENDA.—The term 'Puget Sound Action Agenda' or 'Action Agenda' means the most recent plan developed by the Puget Sound National Estuary Program Management Conference, in consultation with the Puget Sound Tribal Management Conference, and approved by the Administrator as the comprehensive conservation and management plan for the Puget Sound under section 320.

''(8) PUGET SOUND FEDERAL LEADERSHIP TASK FORCE.—The term 'Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force' means the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force established under subsection (c).

''(9) PUGET SOUND FEDERAL TASK FORCE.—The term 'Puget Sound Federal Task Force' means the Puget Sound Federal Task Force established in 2016 under a memorandum of understanding among 9 Federal agencies.

''(10) PUGET SOUND NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE.—The term 'Puget Sound National Estuary Program Management Conference' means the management conference for the Puget Sound convened pursuant to section 320.

''(11) PUGET SOUND PARTNERSHIP.—The term 'Puget Sound Partnership' means the State agency created under the laws of the State of Washington (section 90.71.210 of the Revised Code of Washington), or its successor agency that has been designated by the Administrator as the lead entity to support the Puget Sound National Estuary Program Management Conference.

''(12) PUGET SOUND REGION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'Puget Sound region' means the land and waters in the northwest corner of the State of Washington from the Canadian border to the north to the Pacific Ocean on the west, including Hood Canal and the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

''(B) INCLUSION.—The term 'Puget Sound region' includes all watersheds that drain into the Puget Sound.

''(13) PUGET SOUND TRIBAL MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE.—The term 'Puget Sound Tribal Management Conference' means the 20 treaty Indian tribes of western Washington and the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission.

''(14) SALISH SEA.—The term 'Salish Sea' means the network of coastal waterways on the west coast of North America that includes the Puget Sound, the Strait of Georgia, and the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

''(15) SALMON RECOVERY PLANS.—The term 'Salmon Recovery Plans' means the recovery plans for salmon and steelhead species approved by the Secretary of the Interior under section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 that are applicable to the Puget Sound region.

''(16) STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The term 'State Advisory Committee' means the advisory committee established by subsection (d).

''(17) TREATY RIGHTS AT RISK INITIATIVE.—The term 'Treaty Rights at Risk Initiative' means the report from the treaty Indian tribes of western Washington entitled 'Treaty Rights At Risk: Ongoing Habitat Loss, the Decline of the Salmon Resource, and Recommendations for Change' and dated July 14, 2011, or its successor report that outlines issues and offers solutions for the protection of Tribal treaty rights, recovery of salmon habitat, and management of sustainable treaty and nontreaty salmon fisheries, including through Tribal salmon hatchery programs.

''(b) PUGET SOUND RECOVERY NATIONAL PROGRAM OFFICE.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Environmental Protection Agency a Puget Sound Recovery National Program Office, to be located in the State of Washington.

''(2) DIRECTOR.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—There shall be a Director of the Program Office, who shall have leadership and project management experience and shall be highly qualified to—

''(i) direct the integration of multiple project planning efforts and programs from different agencies and jurisdictions; and

''(ii) align numerous, and possibly competing, priorities to accomplish visible and measurable outcomes under the Action Agenda.

''(B) POSITION.—The position of Director of the Program Office shall be a career reserved position, as such term is defined in section 3132 of title 5, United States Code.

''(3) DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY; STAFFING.—Using amounts made available pursuant to subsection (h), the Administrator shall delegate to the Director such authority and provide such staff as may be necessary to carry out this section.

''(4) DUTIES.—The Director shall—

''(A) coordinate and manage the timely execution of the requirements of this section, including the formation and meetings of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force;

''(B) coordinate activities related to the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound across the Environmental Protection Agency;

''(C) coordinate and align the activities of the Administrator with the Action Agenda, Salmon Recovery Plans, the Treaty Rights at Risk Initiative, and the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program;

''(D) promote the efficient use of Environmental Protection Agency resources in pursuit of the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound;

''(E) serve on the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force and collaborate with, help coordinate, and implement activities with other Federal agencies that have responsibilities involving the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound;

''(F) provide or procure such other advice, technical assistance, research, assessments, monitoring, or other support as is determined by the Director to be necessary or prudent to most efficiently and effectively fulfill the objectives and priorities of the Action Agenda, the Salmon Recovery Plans, the Treaty Rights at Risk Initiative, and the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program, consistent with the best available science, to ensure the health of the Puget Sound ecosystem;

''(G) track the progress of the Environmental Protection Agency towards meeting the agency's specified objectives and priorities within the Action Agenda and the Federal Action Plan;

''(H) implement the recommendations of the Comptroller General set forth in the report entitled 'Puget Sound Restoration: Additional Actions Could Improve Assessments of Progress' and dated July 19, 2018;

''(I) serve as liaison and coordinate activities for the restoration and protection of the Salish Sea with Canadian authorities, the Pacific Salmon Commission, and the International Joint Commission; and

''(J) carry out such additional duties as the Director determines necessary and appropriate.

''(c) PUGET SOUND FEDERAL LEADERSHIP TASK FORCE.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force.

''(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

''(A) COMPOSITION.—The Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall be composed of the following members:

''(i) The following individuals appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture:

''(I) A representative of the National Forest Service.

''(II) A representative of the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

''(ii) A representative of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration appointed by the Secretary of Commerce.

''(iii) The following individuals appointed by the Secretary of Defense:

''(I) A representative of the Corps of Engineers.

''(II) A representative of the Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

''(III) A representative of the Commander, Navy Region Northwest.

''(iv) The Director of the Program Office.

''(v) The following individuals appointed by the Secretary of Homeland Security:

''(I) A representative of the Coast Guard.

''(II) A representative of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

''(vi) The following individuals appointed by the Secretary of the Interior:

''(I) A representative of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

''(II) A representative of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

''(III) A representative of the United States Geological Survey.

''(IV) A representative of the National Park Service.

''(vii) The following individuals appointed by the Secretary of Transportation:

''(I) A representative of the Federal Highway Administration.

''(II) A representative of the Federal Transit Administration.

''(viii) Representatives of such other Federal agencies, programs, and initiatives as the other members of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force determines necessary.

''(B) QUALIFICATIONS.—Members appointed under this paragraph shall have experience and expertise in matters of restoration and protection of large watersheds and bodies of water, or related experience that will benefit the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound.

''(C) CO-CHAIRS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The following members of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall serve as Co-Chairs of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force:

''(I) The representative of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

''(II) The Director of the Program Office.

''(III) The representative of the Corps of Engineers.

''(ii) LEADERSHIP.—The Co-Chairs shall ensure the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force completes its duties through robust discussion of all relevant issues. The Co-Chairs shall share leadership responsibilities equally.

''(3) DUTIES.—

''(A) GENERAL DUTIES.—The Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall—

''(i) uphold Federal trust responsibilities to restore and protect resources crucial to Tribal treaty rights, including by carrying out government-to-government consultation with Indian tribes when requested by such tribes;

''(ii) provide a venue for dialogue and coordination across all Federal agencies represented by a member of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force to align Federal resources for the purposes of carrying out the requirements of this section and all other Federal laws that contribute to the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound, including by—

''(I) enabling and encouraging such agencies to act consistently with the objectives and priorities of the Action Agenda, the Salmon Recovery Plans, the Treaty Rights at Risk Initiative, and the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program;

''(II) facilitating the coordination of Federal activities that impact such restoration and protection;

''(III) facilitating the delivery of feedback given by such agencies to the Puget Sound Partnership during the development of the Action Agenda;

''(IV) facilitating the resolution of interagency conflicts associated with such restoration and protection among such agencies;

''(V) providing a forum for exchanging information among such agencies regarding activities being conducted, including obstacles or efficiencies found, during restoration and protection activities; and

''(VI) promoting the efficient use of government resources in pursuit of such restoration and protection through coordination and collaboration, including by ensuring that the Federal efforts relating to the science necessary for such restoration and protection are consistent, and not duplicative, across the Federal Government;

''(iii) catalyze public leaders at all levels to work together toward shared goals by demonstrating interagency best practices coming from such agencies;

''(iv) provide advice and support on scientific and technical issues and act as a forum for the exchange of scientific information about the Puget Sound;

''(v) identify and inventory Federal environmental research and monitoring programs related to the Puget Sound, and provide such inventory to the Puget Sound National Estuary Program Management Conference;

''(vi) ensure that Puget Sound restoration and protection activities are as consistent as practicable with ongoing restoration and protection and related efforts in the Salish Sea that are being conducted by Canadian authorities, the Pacific Salmon Commission, and the International Joint Commission;

''(vii) ensure that Puget Sound restoration and protection activities are consistent with national security interests;

''(viii) establish any working groups or committees necessary to assist the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force in its duties, including relating to public policy and scientific issues; and

''(ix) raise national awareness of the significance of the Puget Sound.

''(B) PUGET SOUND FEDERAL ACTION PLAN.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall develop and approve a Federal Action Plan that leverages Federal programs across agencies and serves to coordinate diverse programs and priorities for the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound.

''(ii) REVISION OF PUGET SOUND FEDERAL ACTION PLAN.—Not less often than once every 5 years after the date of approval of the Federal Action Plan under clause (i), the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall review, and revise as appropriate, the Federal Action Plan.

''(C) FEEDBACK BY FEDERAL AGENCIES.—In facilitating feedback under subparagraph (A)(ii)(III), the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall request Federal agencies to consider, at a minimum, possible Federal actions within the Puget Sound region designed to—

''(i) further the goals, targets, and actions of the Action Agenda, the Salmon Recovery Plans, the Treaty Rights at Risk Initiative, and the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program;

''(ii) as applicable, implement and enforce this Act, the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and all other Federal laws that contribute to the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound, including those that protect Tribal treaty rights;

''(iii) prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species;

''(iv) protect marine and wildlife habitats;

''(v) protect, restore, and conserve forests, wetlands, riparian zones, and nearshore waters;

''(vi) promote resilience to climate change and ocean acidification effects;

''(vii) restore fisheries so that they are sustainable and productive;

''(viii) preserve biodiversity;

''(ix) restore and protect ecosystem services that provide clean water, filter toxic chemicals, and increase ecosystem resilience; and

''(x) improve water quality, including by preventing and managing stormwater runoff, incorporating erosion control techniques and trash capture devices, using sustainable stormwater practices, and mitigating and minimizing nonpoint source pollution, including marine litter.

''(4) PARTICIPATION OF STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND PUGET SOUND TRIBAL MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE.—The Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall carry out its duties with input from, and in collaboration with, the State Advisory Committee and the Puget Sound Tribal Management Conference, including by seeking advice and recommendations on the actions, progress, and issues pertaining to the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound.

''(5) MEETINGS.—

''(A) INITIAL MEETING.—The Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall meet not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section—

''(i) to determine if all Federal agencies are properly represented;

''(ii) to establish the bylaws of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force;

''(iii) to establish necessary working groups or committees; and

''(iv) to determine subsequent meeting times, dates, and logistics.

''(B) SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS.—After the initial meeting, the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall meet, at a minimum, twice per year to carry out the duties of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force.

''(C) WORKING GROUP MEETINGS.—A meeting of any established working group or committee of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall not be considered a biannual meeting for purposes of subparagraph (B).

''(D) JOINT MEETINGS.—The Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force—

''(i) shall offer to meet jointly with the Puget Sound National Estuary Program Management Conference and the Puget Sound Tribal Management Conference, at a minimum, once per year; and

''(ii) may consider such a joint meeting to be a biannual meeting of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force for purposes of subparagraph (B).

''(E) QUORUM.—A simple majority of the members of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall constitute a quorum.

''(F) VOTING.—For the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force to take an official action, a quorum shall be present, and at least a two-thirds majority of the members present shall vote in the affirmative.

''(6) PUGET SOUND FEDERAL LEADERSHIP TASK FORCE PROCEDURES AND ADVICE.—

''(A) ADVISORS.—The Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force may seek advice and input from any interested, knowledgeable, or affected party as the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force determines necessary to perform its duties.

''(B) COMPENSATION.—A member of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall receive no additional compensation for service as a member on the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force.

''(C) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Travel expenses incurred by a member of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force in the performance of service on the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force may be paid by the agency that the member represents.

''(7) PUGET SOUND FEDERAL TASK FORCE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—On the date of enactment of this section, the 2016 memorandum of understanding establishing the Puget Sound Federal Task Force shall cease to be effective.

''(B) USE OF PREVIOUS WORK.—The Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall, to the extent practicable, use the work product produced, relied upon, and analyzed by the Puget Sound Federal Task Force in order to avoid duplicating the efforts of the Puget Sound Federal Task Force.

''(d) STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a State Advisory Committee.

''(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The State Advisory Committee shall consist of up to seven members designated by the governing body of the Puget Sound Partnership, in consultation with the Governor of Washington, who will represent Washington State agencies that have significant roles and responsibilities related to the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound.

''(e) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force, State Advisory Committee, and any working group or committee of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force, shall not be considered an advisory committee under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

''(f) PUGET SOUND FEDERAL LEADERSHIP TASK FORCE BIENNIAL REPORT ON PUGET SOUND RESTORATION AND PROTECTION ACTIVITIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, and biennially thereafter, the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force, in collaboration with the Puget Sound Tribal Management Conference and the State Advisory Committee, shall submit to the President, Congress, the Governor of Washington, and the governing body of the Puget Sound Partnership a report that summarizes the progress, challenges, and milestones of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force relating to the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound.

''(2) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include a description of the following:

''(A) The roles and progress of each State, local government entity, and Federal agency that has jurisdiction in the Puget Sound region relating to meeting the identified objectives and priorities of the Action Agenda, the Salmon Recovery Plans, the Treaty Rights at Risk Initiative, and the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program.

''(B) If available, the roles and progress of Tribal governments that have jurisdiction in the Puget Sound region relating to meeting the identified objectives and priorities of the Action Agenda, the Salmon Recovery Plans, the Treaty Rights at Risk Initiative, and the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program.

''(C) A summary of specific recommendations concerning implementation of the Action Agenda and the Federal Action Plan, including challenges, barriers, and anticipated milestones, targets, and timelines.

''(D) A summary of progress made by Federal agencies toward the priorities identified in the Federal Action Plan.

''(g) CROSSCUT BUDGET REPORT.—

''(1) FINANCIAL REPORT.—As soon as practicable, but not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, and every 5 years thereafter, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force, shall, in conjunction with the annual budget submission of the President to Congress for the year under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, submit to Congress and make available to the public, including on the internet, a financial report that is certified by the head of each agency represented by a member of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force.

''(2) CONTENTS.—The report shall contain an interagency crosscut budget relating to Puget Sound restoration and protection activities that displays—

''(A) the proposed funding for any Federal restoration and protection activity to be carried out in the succeeding fiscal year, including any planned interagency or intra-agency transfer, for each of the Federal agencies that carry out restoration and protection activities;

''(B) the estimated expenditures for Federal restoration and protection activities from the preceding 2 fiscal years, the current fiscal year, and the succeeding fiscal year; and

''(C) the estimated expenditures for Federal environmental research and monitoring programs from the preceding 2 fiscal years, the current fiscal year, and the succeeding fiscal year.

''(3) INCLUDED RECOVERY ACTIVITIES.—With respect to activities described in the report, the report shall only describe activities that have a total Federal cost of more than $100,000.

''(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to any other funds authorized to be appropriated for activities related to the Puget Sound, there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

''(i) TRIBAL RIGHTS AND CONSULTATION.—

''(1) PRESERVATION OF TRIBAL TREATY RIGHTS.—Nothing in this section affects, or is intended to affect, any right reserved by treaty between the United States and one or more Indian tribes.

''(2) CONSULTATION.—Nothing in this section affects any authorization or obligation of a Federal agency to consult with an Indian tribe under any other provision of law.

''(j) CONSISTENCY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Actions authorized or implemented under this section shall be consistent with—

''(A) the Salmon Recovery Plans;

''(B) the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program; and

''(C) the water quality standards of the State of Washington approved by the Administrator under section 303.

''(2) FEDERAL ACTIONS.—All Federal agencies represented on the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall act consistently with the protection of Tribal, treaty-reserved rights and, to the greatest extent practicable given such agencies' existing obligations under Federal law, act consistently with the objectives and priorities of the Action Agenda, the Salmon Recovery Plans, the Treaty Rights at Risk Initiative, and the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program, when—

''(A) conducting Federal agency activities within or outside the Puget Sound that affect any land or water use or natural resources of the Puget Sound region, including activities performed by a contractor for the benefit of a Federal agency;

''(B) interpreting and enforcing regulations that impact the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound;

''(C) issuing Federal licenses or permits that impact the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound; and

''(D) granting Federal assistance to State, local, and Tribal governments for activities related to the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1144, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1144. The bill establishes a new regional program within the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to address water pollution concerns in the Puget Sound and authorizes $50 million annually for fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

The Puget Sound has seen significant degradation of water quality and habitat as a result of human development. This legislation builds on the successes Puget Sound has seen while part of the National Estuary Program and incorporates the recommendations of a July 2018 report of the U.S. Government Accountability Office on the Federal and State efforts to restore the Sound.

This legislation is vitally important to ensure long-term health of a watershed that helps provide food, water, and other ecosystem services for 4.5 million people and contributes to the State's economy.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1144, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 1144, the PUGET SOS Act, codifies the Environmental Protection Agency's existing restoration work in the Puget Sound and establishes a Puget Sound program office.

Puget Sound was one of the first estuaries designated within the National Estuary Program in 1987, and EPA has worked with Federal and non-Federal entities to coordinate restoration efforts. This bill ensures this important work will continue.

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

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. KILMER).

Mr. KILMER. Madam Speaker, I am proud to rise in support of the Promoting United Government Efforts to Save Our Sound Act, or the PUGET SOS Act, and I thank my good friend and colleague, Representative STRICKLAND, for her partnership on this important legislation.

Madam Speaker, those of us who are lucky to call the better Washington home know that Puget Sound is our most iconic body of water. Generations of our friends and neighbors have built their lives and earned their livelihoods on the Sound.

We know the Puget Sound is critical to the environmental and economic future of our region. And some of our region's most iconic species, including salmon, orca, and Dungeness crab, rely on a healthy Puget Sound.

But despite years of efforts to protect and restore Puget Sound, we still have a lot of work to do to address the significant challenges, including storm water runoff, habitat loss, and harmful algal blooms, that continue to threaten this crown jewel of our region's identity and economy.

That is why I am proud to see the House advance this critical bill, which will finally bring to bear the coordinated Federal resources necessary to save our Sound. If we are going to recover our salmon and orca populations, if we are going to ensure future generations can dig for clams, if we are going to respect and uphold Tribal treaty rights, we need the Federal Government to step up and support the work already being done by the State, Tribes, local communities, and businesses that all depend on a vibrant and healthy Puget Sound.

Madam Speaker, I am proud that this bill represents meaningful progress toward these goals. If future generations, including my two kiddos, are going to have the opportunities to enjoy these treasures and to build their livelihoods in our region, we have to act now to protect and restore the Sound.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this critical bill.

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

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. STRICKLAND).

Ms. STRICKLAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1144, the PUGET SOS Act, which I am honored to co-lead with Congressman KILMER, who I thank for working on this bill over the years. I also thank the Puget Sound Partnership and Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission for all their help. I am proud to work with you to restore Puget Sound.

Madam Speaker, as a western Washington native, I know how critical the health of the Puget Sound is to our region—economically, culturally, and environmentally.

The Sound is an economic engine creating over $30 billion in economic activity and supporting nearly 150,000 jobs. It is a biodiversity hotspot, home to over 7,000 different species, including 200 different types of fish. It is a sacred resource for Tribal nations throughout the region who rely on the flora and fauna the Sound supports for their lives and livelihoods. And it is a cultural treasure, with the salmon, shellfish, orca, and others which live in the ecosystem, that is fundamental to the history and identity of the Pacific Northwest.

For years, this ecosystem has been on the brink of danger, and we are at a tipping point. As the human population continues to grow significantly, the risks and strain on Puget Sound intensify.

This legislation takes much-needed, timely steps to secure the health of the Puget Sound now and into the future by establishing a dedicated program office within the EPA and codifying the Puget Sound Federal Task Force. Together, these groups will develop a Federal action plan to preserve and restore this most critical national maritime treasure.

Washingtonians view and use Puget Sound the way Marylanders view the Chesapeake Bay and how Michiganders view the Great Lakes. It is well past time the Federal Government does as well.

If we really want to make an impact, and support hundreds of thousands of jobs while trying to save orcas and salmon, we must act now.

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

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

□ 1300

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

Madam Speaker, the Puget Sound watershed has long provided food, clean water, and other ecosystem benefits for 4.5 million people and a wide variety of species as well. The region is essential to the State's economy. Human development and other actions have degraded the water quality and habitat of the Sound, including that of critical species like salmon and orca whales.

The Puget Sound was deemed an Estuary of National Significance in 1988, and in 2018, GAO determined that further investment and a program with clear leadership and coordination of objectives is crucial to achieving the long-term restoration and protection goals of this diverse and dynamic ecosystem.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS), the ranking member on the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I want to also thank my colleague from Washington State (Mr. KILMER) for his attention to the Puget Sound, and his commitment to putting us on a better path.

The Puget Sound is in crisis. The salmon in Puget Sound, the salmon that are most crucial to the orcas, are in crisis. You can see right here; this is the State of Salmon report. This is the graphic Washington State of Salmon report, and it says that the Puget Sound Chinook, the Puget Sound steelhead—over here—are in crisis.

And I might just point out, the Snake River Chinook are actually approaching goal. The Snake River steelhead are making progress. It is part of the reason that I believe the Puget Sound SOS Act is so important, to bring much needed oversight and enforcement of Federal pollution standards in Puget Sound. But we must do more.

Despite NOAA's research indicating that these salmon stocks are the most critical to our orcas, the State of Washington continues to allow outdated sewage treatment plants to illegally dump raw sewage into the Sound, creating conditions that are literally suffocating the salmon.

Over the years, 80 sewage treatment plants have illegally dumped toxins into the Sound, and now the Washington State Department of Ecology is considering permits to allow 58 plants to continue poisoning the water. It is unacceptable.

By establishing a Puget Sound Recovery National Program Office, I hope this bill will finally push the EPA to hold the State of Washington accountable for the damage that unchecked pollution in the Sound is doing for our endangered salmon and orcas.

It is also critically important that we stop this pollution at its source so that the money we are authorizing for the Puget Sound Recovery Act is actually effective.

Madam Speaker, I am urging leadership in my State, stop the sewage, save our Sound, save our salmon, save our orcas.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, in closing, H.R. 1144 would continue the EPA's management of a competitive grant program to support projects that protect and restore the Puget Sound.

Madam Speaker, I urge support of this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1144, 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. PERRY. 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.

LOCAL WATER PROTECTION ACT

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2008) to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize certain programs relating to nonpoint source management, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2008

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 ''Local Water Protection Act''.

SEC. 2. NONPOINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS.

Section 319(j) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1329(j)) is amended by striking ''subsections (h) and (i) not to exceed'' and all that follows through ''fiscal year 1991'' and inserting ''subsections (h) and (i) $200,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Madam 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. 2008.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2008. H.R. 2008 is a bipartisan bill to reauthorize appropriations for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Nonpoint Source Management grants program. I would like to thank my colleagues, Ms. CRAIG from Minnesota and Mr. MAST from Florida, for introducing this bill.

Nonpoint sources of water pollution come from many diffuse sources, including runoff from farms, managed forests, and urban areas. This runoff can carry pollutants, such as fertilizers and sediment from fields and lawns, toxins from abandoned mines, and oils and heavy metals from roads into lakes, rivers, and other bodies of water. Nationally, some 55 percent of assessed rivers and streams currently do not meet State water quality standards.

The Clean Water Act was enacted in 1972 to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters. In 1987, the Clean Water Act was amended to add section 319 to create a non-regulatory program through which EPA administers annual grants to help States develop and implement their own programs for managing nonpoint sources of water pollution.

Under EPA's 319 program, States retain the primary role for addressing nonpoint source water pollution, which they do largely through voluntary means and financial incentives. However, according to the General Accounting Office, the extent of the available incentives has declined in recent years, as grants to States under the section 319 program have declined by more than 30 percent from a high of about $240 million annually in fiscal year 2004.

The section 319 program was initially authorized at $70 million annually in fiscal year 1988, and its authorization level steadily increased to $130 million in fiscal year 1991, the last year of authorization for this program.

Since that time, the section 319 program has continued to receive funds through the annual appropriation for EPA. In fiscal year 2021, the section 319 program received a Federal appropriation of $177 million, and the President's fiscal year 2022 budget request proposes an increase in funding for the program to $180 million.

H.R. 2008 would authorize $200 million annually for the section 319 program through 2026. This would be a modest increase of the current appropriated level for this popular program, but less than the historic peak appropriation for this program in the early 2000s.

Again, I thank Ms. CRAIG and Mr. MAST for leading this bipartisan bill. This legislation passed out of committee with bipartisan support and is a good bill for a valuable program.

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

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 2008 reauthorizes the Environmental Protection Agency's section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Control program under the Clean Water Act.

Reauthorizing this program reinforces the Federal leadership that helps our State and local partners in their efforts to control nonpoint source pollution.

For example, my home State of North Carolina typically receives $1 million for competitive grant funding for watershed restoration projects. This money is put to good use conducting watershed restoration projects like stormwater and agricultural best management practices and restoration of impaired streams affected by nonpoint source pollution.

In my district, some of these grant funds are being used to reduce stormwater runoff volume on the campus of UNC-Wilmington.

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

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. CRAIG).

Ms. CRAIG. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2008, the Local Water Protection Act.

Madam Speaker, in the Land of 10,000 Lakes, we take water quality very seriously. Not only are our lakes and waterways critical for transporting agriculture goods, but they are at the core of Minnesota's natural beauty and tourism economy.

That is why I was so proud to introduce the bipartisan Local Water Protection Act to reauthorize funding for pollution mitigation efforts in our communities.

From 1987 to 1991, Congress authorized funds each year for the Environmental Protection Agency's Nonpoint Source Management grants program, which provides grants to State and local governments to reduce water pollution.

Our Local Water Protection Act would reauthorize funding for this important task with $200 million annually to help protect our lakes, rivers, and streams, and protect them for future generations.

This program would give State and local governments the authority to create locally-focused, voluntary conservation programs that are tailor-made for their own communities. And recent history in my home district demonstrates that these programs are incredibly effective.

In fact, the Goodhue County Soil and Water Conservation District is currently working to reduce pollutants in the Mississippi River-Lake Pepin watershed by 20 percent. And I would add, I was out there on Lake Pepin just this last weekend with some great folks.

In Wabasha County, these projects provided low-interest loans to improve residential infrastructure and help farmers come into compliance with pollution standards.

And the South Washington Watershed District integrated a stormwater reuse plan that is estimated to reduce potable water usage by more than 40 million gallons annually. There is no doubt that these programs can be effective, and there is no good reason why we shouldn't prioritize them.

As we look toward preserving our environment, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation, and I thank my colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST) for introducing the bill with me.

Madam Speaker, thank you so much, and I urge my colleagues to support this piece of legislation.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, in closing, the Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Control program has benefited water bodies all across the country and reauthorizing this program will reinforce this successful cooperative Federal, State, and local partnership to control nonpoint sources of pollution around the country.

Madam Speaker, I urge support of this important legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2008.

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. PERRY. 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.

□ 1315

AMENDING THE FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT TO REAUTHORIZE LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN BASIN RESTORATION PROGRAM

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1921) to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1921

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

SECTION 1. LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN BASIN RESTORATION PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION.

(a) REVIEW OF COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Section 121 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1273) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (5), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (6), by striking the period and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(7) ensure that the comprehensive conservation and management plan approved for the Basin under section 320 is reviewed and revised in accordance with section 320 not less often than once every 5 years, beginning on the date of enactment of this paragraph.''; and

(2) in subsection (d), by striking ''recommended by a management conference convened for the Basin under section 320'' and inserting ''identified in the comprehensive conservation and management plan approved for the Basin under section 320''.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 121(e)(1) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1273(e)(1)) is amended by striking '', a 5,000 square mile''.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 121(f) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1273(f)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''2001 through 2012 and the amount appropriated for fiscal year 2009 for each of fiscal years 2013 through 2017'' and inserting ''2022 through 2026''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—The Administrator may use for administrative expenses not more than 5 percent of the amounts appropriated to carry out this section.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1921.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1921. This legislation reauthorizes the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program for 5 years at $20 million annually and provides for regular reporting on the progress of the program.

Some 2.1 million people live in the area surrounding Lake Pontchartrain, which is threatened by pollution related to urban and agricultural runoff, sewage overflows, and nonpoint source pollution. The Basin Restoration Program helps address these environmental challenges in a nonregulatory fashion and has made some progress. With continued funding and reauthorization, the program can continue implementing projects related to restoration.

During a Water Resources Subcommittee hearing last Congress, some implementation issues related to this program were identified. Ranking Member GRAVES and Chair DEFAZIO requested that the U.S. Government Accountability Office study the program implementation; however, those issues should not prevent us from acting on this bill today.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1921, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 1921, the Protect and Restore Lake Pontchartrain Basin Act, introduced by my friend GARRET GRAVES from Louisiana, would reauthorize the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program to provide assistance to the Federal, State, and local watershed partners in addressing the water quality challenges that are in this especially sensitive area.

I support the critical work these partners are doing to help restore the water quality of the lake, and this bill will help continue this work.

I commend Aviation Subcommittee Ranking Member GARRET GRAVES for his leadership on this issue, and I urge support of this legislation. I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES), who is the Aviation Subcommittee ranking member.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for the opportunity to talk about this important legislation.

Before I get started, I do want to thank the chair of the subcommittee, Mrs. NAPOLITANO; the ranking member, Mr. ROUZER from North Carolina; Chairman DEFAZIO; and Ranking Member SAM GRAVES as well. I do want to thank some of the other partners from Louisiana we worked with, Congressman STEVE SCALISE, former Congressman Cedric Richmond, and Congressman TROY CARTER, who all worked with us on this important legislation.

Madam Speaker, Lake Pontchartrain is one of the largest saltwater lakes in the United States. It is incredibly productive. It is a productive ecosystem. There is much fishing, shrimping, and crabbing and oysters that are produced there. As a matter of fact, since 1997, over 40 million pounds of blue crabs have been produced almost annually.

The secret, Madam Speaker, if you can keep this between the two of us, is that much of that is actually headed to Maryland restaurants to improve Maryland crab cakes. That is right. Just don't tell anybody. They also put spice on the outside of the shells. It is really confusing what they do. The meat is on the inside.

But in any case, Madam Speaker, this is a huge watershed. It is about a 10,000-square-mile watershed, that comprises 16 parishes and four Mississippi counties, into this lake.

But more importantly, and why there is a Federal nexus here, is that, since the first time in 1937, they open the nearly 7,000-acre Bonnet Carre Spillway to shift water from the Mississippi River into Lake Pontchartrain and ultimately to the Gulf of Mexico as an emergency pressure relief valve. You see, Madam Speaker, the Mississippi River drains 32 States and two Canadian provinces. This is one of the largest watersheds in the world, and the Mississippi River is the largest watershed in the United States.

When the water hits a certain level—again, since 1937, when they began opening this, and it has been opened an

average of once every 10 years—it sends huge flows, hundreds of thousands of cubic feet of water per second, out of the Mississippi River into the Bonnet Carre Spillway and into Lake Pontchartrain, and it shifts from a salt or a brackish lake into a freshwater lake because of this huge surge.

As a result of the floodwaters coming from Canada and all over the United States, they come and impact the ecosystem of this lake.

So, what this legislation does is builds upon some of the efforts for ecological restoration.

I want to thank the great work of Carlton Dufrechou, Kristi Trail, and others who have done an amazing job in working to restore the ecological function of Lake Pontchartrain.

I again want to thank all the cosponsors and folks who have helped us to work on this legislation. It did pass unanimously last Congress, and I want to remind everybody here that there is a huge Federal nexus with this legislation. I urge its adoption.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, H.R. 1921 would reauthorize an important program that supports the critical efforts of the Federal, State, and local watershed partners in restoring water quality in the Lake Pontchartrain Basin.

Madam Speaker, I urge support of this important legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1921.

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. PERRY. 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.

PREVENTING DISASTER REVICTIMIZATION ACT

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 539) to amend the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to waive certain debts owed to the United States related to covered assistance provided to an individual or household, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 539

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 ''Preventing Disaster Revictimization Act''.

SEC. 2. FLEXIBILITY.

Section 1216(a) of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 (42 U.S.C. 5174a(a)) is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (2)(A) to read as follows:

''(A) except as provided in subparagraph (B), shall—

''(i) waive a debt owed to the United States related to covered assistance provided to an individual or household if the covered assistance was distributed based on an error by the Agency and such debt shall be construed as a hardship; and

''(ii) waive a debt owed to the United States related to covered assistance provided to an individual or household if such assistance is subject to a claim or legal action, including in accordance with section 317 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5160); and''; and

(2) in paragraph (3)(B)—

(A) by striking ''REMOVAL OF'' and inserting ''REPORT ON''; and

(B) in clause (ii) by striking ''the authority of the Administrator to waive debt under paragraph (2) shall no longer be effective'' and inserting ''the Administrator shall report to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate actions that the Administrator will take to reduce the error rate''.

SEC. 3. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report containing a description of the internal processes used to make decisions regarding the distribution of covered assistance under section 1216 of the Disaster Recovery and Reform Act of 2018 (42 U.S.C. 5174a) and any changes made to such processes.

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 gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 539.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 539, the Preventing Disaster Revictimization Act, introduced by Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Ranking Member GRAVES from Missouri and Representatives CARBAJAL, GARAMENDI, HUFFMAN, THOMPSON, and LAMALFA of California.

This legislation is designed to ensure disaster survivors are not revictimized by recoupment—or clawbacks—of Federal disaster assistance they have received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Unfortunately, FEMA has repeatedly instructed disaster survivors to register for individual assistance for which they were ultimately not eligible, or granted qualified survivors more assistance than they should have received.

However, once FEMA identifies an error, it forces these survivors into a bureaucratic nightmare to appeal the debt that they now owe as a result of the agency's error. I am not surprised that this still goes on, but I am disappointed that—given the technology and data we have at our fingertips—we have not been able to improve this system for survivors, especially considering that this program is just a small piece of the Federal disaster recovery apparatus.

H.R. 539 would waive survivors' debt owed to the Federal Government in instances where FEMA erroneously distributed assistance. This bill would also provide a similar waiver to disaster survivors who may be involved in a legal action against a party deemed responsible for a disaster event. While this scenario is less common, it played out in California last year and jeopardized disaster relief for tens of thousands of families displaced by the unprecedented wildfires of the last few years.

Survivors have already been traumatized by a disaster—the Federal Government should not force them to endure a convoluted process to correct FEMA's mistakes or decision to pursue legal action years after an event against a liable party.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I am a proud sponsor of this bill, the Preventing Disaster Revictimization Act.

In 2018, Congress made the recovery process fairer and more equitable for communities when we passed important reforms to the disaster preparation and recovery processes. This bill builds upon those efforts by ensuring that funds spent by disaster victims aren't clawed back by the government.

When victims apply—and this is in good faith, mind you—when victims apply for assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and receive it from the agency, those individuals likely need to move quickly to use that assistance for eligible expenses like home repairs to speed up

recovery and to begin rebuilding their lives, for obvious reasons. So, these victims should never expect that FEMA is going to come back weeks, months, and sometimes even years later and say: Oops, we made a mistake. Now you, the victim, are going to have to give back those funds that you have already put to good use.

To add insult to injury, FEMA's information on how disaster victims can appeal these decisions is incredibly confusing, and it is absolutely insufficient.

Remember, this is due to no fault of their own, but many disaster victims are faced with debt collectors and the full force of the Federal Government when it comes to repaying these funds.

This is absolutely unacceptable. People acting in good faith to rebuild should not be revictimized after they have properly relied upon FEMA's determination that they were qualified for the assistance that they did receive.

This bill, H.R. 539, is going to clarify that if FEMA makes an error, and there is no evidence of fraud, then the victim will not be revictimized. Their debt is automatically viewed as a hardship, and it is waived.

In addition, the bill would also require FEMA to report back to Congress, to us, on its error rates and tell us what they are doing to be more accurate.

Last Congress, this bill passed on the House floor and had bipartisan support. This Congress, the bill now has a companion version in the Senate, and I hope that we can see this legislation enacted into law this year and truly help disaster victims not only in my district but also across the Nation.

Madam Speaker, I encourage support for this bill. It is a good bill, and people don't need to be revictimized.

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

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 539.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1330

EXPEDITED DELIVERY OF AIRPORT INFRASTRUCTURE ACT OF 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 468) to amend title 49, United States Code, to permit the use of incentive payments to expedite certain federally financed airport development projects.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 468

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 ''Expedited Delivery of Airport Infrastructure Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. ALLOWABLE COST STANDARDS FOR AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 47110(b)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''(1) if the cost necessarily'' and inserting ''(1)(A) if the cost necessarily'';

(2) by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) if the cost is an incentive payment incurred in carrying out the project described in subparagraph (A) that is to be provided to a contractor upon early completion of a project, if—

''(i) such payment does not exceed the lesser of 5 percent of the initial construction contract amount or $1,000,000;

''(ii) the level of contractor's control of, or access to, the worksite necessary to shorten the duration of the project does not negatively impact the operation of the airport;

''(iii) the contract specifies application of the incentive structure in the event of unforeseeable, non-weather delays beyond the control of the contractor;

''(iv) nothing in any agreement with the contractor prevents the airport operator from retaining responsibility for the safety, efficiency, and capacity of the airport during the execution of the grant agreement; and

''(v) the Secretary determines that the use of an incentive payment is likely to increase airport capacity or efficiency or result in cost savings as a result of shortening the project's duration;''.

(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 47110(e)(7) of title 49, United States Code, is amended in the heading by striking ''PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM AIRPORTS'' and inserting ''PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM AIRPORTS''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 468.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 468, the Expedited Delivery of Airport Infrastructure Act of 2021. Introduced by the committee's ranking member, SAM GRAVES, the bill incentivizes the early completion of airport projects funded by the Federal Aviation Administration's Airport Improvement Program.

As the global pandemic begins to subside and the number of vaccinated Americans has steadily grown, the number of passengers traveling by air has dramatically increased. In fact, last month, the Transportation Security Administration recorded the highest number of daily passengers screened at U.S. airports since the start of the COVID–19 pandemic, forcing airports to find ways to keep up with the growing passenger demand.

This legislation will help address this need by allowing airports to use their Airport Improvement Program funding to offer incentive payments to contractors for early completion of airport development projects.

Importantly, H.R. 468 includes conditions that ensure projects completed early do not have a negative impact on airport safety, efficiency, or capacity.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 468, which is the Expedited Delivery of Airport Infrastructure Act of 2021, and I want to thank Aviation Subcommittee Ranking Member GARRET GRAVES for cosponsoring the bill.

H.R. 468 provides airports with some commonsense tools to incentivize the early completion of airport projects using AIP funds, or Airport Improvement Program funds.

Under this bill, the use of AIP funds for incentive payments is left to the discretion of the airport operator, but the benefits of incentive payments are already well-known in the surface transportation sector.

This bill is going to allow airports to expedite the delivery of airport projects, take better advantage of short construction seasons, relieve operational disruptions that result from such projects and, obviously, save the taxpayer money.

This is a commonsense practice that is utilized in so many other Federal infrastructure projects and it does not increase Federal spending.

H.R. 468 is supported by the American Association of Airport Executives, the Airports Council International, and the Associated General Contractors of America.

This bill was introduced in Congress last year. It passed the House under suspension of the rules, and it was done by voice vote. I am hopeful that we can get this commonsense bill across the finish line this Congress. I would very much urge support of the legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES), the ranking member of the Aviation Subcommittee.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I want to thank Chairman

DEFAZIO; the sponsor of the bill, the ranking member of the committee, SAM GRAVES; as well as Aviation Ranking Member RICK LARSEN of Washington State.

Madam Speaker, we need to be able to have the authority to make incentive payments. We have seen an extraordinary shift in aviation travel. In April of last year, there was a 95 percent reduction in airline passengers. We recently saw TSA screen the same number of passengers as before the pandemic.

The aviation demand is coming back with a vengeance. Our airports are crowded. Our airlines are packed. Our airplanes are packed.

What this allows the FAA to do is to provide incentive payments to expedite the completion of construction projects at airports. This is for safety. This is for additional capacity. This is going to ensure that the aviation industry, that our airport infrastructure can keep up with increased demand.

And as the ranking member said, this same expedited authority and incentive payments is allowed in other forms of infrastructure. So I want to thank the ranking member, SAM GRAVES, for bringing up this commonsense legislation.

Madam Speaker, I urge its adoption.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, this is commonsense legislation. It doesn't cost the government any money. And the fact of the matter is, it is already being done in so many other areas of transportation projects.

Madam Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 468.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE COORDINATION ACT

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2016) to amend the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 to develop a study regarding streamlining and consolidating information collection and preliminary damage assessments, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2016

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 ''Federal Disaster Assistance Coordination Act''.

SEC. 2. STUDY TO STREAMLINE AND CONSOLIDATE INFORMATION COLLECTION AND PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1223 of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–254) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 1223. STUDY TO STREAMLINE AND CONSOLIDATE INFORMATION COLLECTION AND PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS.

''(a) INFORMATION COLLECTION.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator, in coordination with the Small Business Administration, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Disaster Assistance Working Group of the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, and other appropriate agencies, shall—

''(1) conduct a study and develop a plan, consistent with law, under which the collection of information from disaster assistance applicants and grantees will be modified, streamlined, expedited, efficient, flexible, consolidated, and simplified to be less burdensome, duplicative, and time consuming for applicants and grantees; and

''(2) develop a plan for the regular collection and reporting of information on Federal disaster assistance awarded, including the establishment and maintenance of a website for presenting the information to the public.

''(b) PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator, in consultation with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, shall convene a working group on a regular basis with the Secretary of Labor, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, the Secretary of Transportation, the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, and other appropriate agencies as the Administrator considers necessary, to—

''(1) identify and describe the potential areas of duplication or fragmentation in preliminary damage assessments after disaster declarations;

''(2) determine the applicability of having one Federal agency make the assessments for all agencies; and

''(3) identify potential emerging technologies, such as unmanned aircraft systems, consistent with the requirements established in the FEMA Accountability, Modernization and Transparency Act of 2017 (42 U.S.C. 5121 note), to expedite the administration of preliminary damage assessments.

''(c) COMPREHENSIVE REPORT.—The Administrator shall submit one comprehensive report that comprises the plans developed under subsections (a)(1) and (a)(2) and a report of the findings of the working group convened under subsection (b), which may include recommendations, to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

''(d) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The comprehensive report developed under subsection (c) shall be made available to the public and posted on the website of the Federal Emergency Management Agency—

''(1) in pre-compressed, easily downloadable versions that are made available in all appropriate formats; and

''(2) in machine-readable format, if applicable.

''(e) SOURCES OF INFORMATION.—In preparing the comprehensive report, any publication, database, or web-based resource, and any information compiled by any government agency, nongovernmental organization, or other entity that is made available may be used.

''(f) BRIEFING.—Not later than 180 days after submission of the comprehensive report, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or a designee, and a member of the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, or a designee, shall brief, upon request, the appropriate congressional committees on the findings and any recommendations made in the comprehensive report.''.

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—The item relating to section 1223 in the table of contents of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–254) is amended to read as follows:

''Sec. 1223. Study to streamline and consolidate information collection and preliminary damage assessments.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico (Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2016.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 2016, the Federal Disaster Assistance Coordination Act, introduced by Representatives GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN and PETERS. This legislation amends the Disaster Recovery Reform Act to help Federal agencies streamline and consolidate information collection and preliminary damage assessments following disasters.

When a major disaster occurs, Americans don't have time to wait for bureaucracy. Today, however, too many barriers stand between emergency response and Americans in crisis due to disaster.

Federal recovery assistance following major disasters is currently hampered by inefficient information collection and assessments conducted by multiple agencies.

This bill will remove information collection barriers that currently impede disaster aid. It creates a working group to identify duplicative assessments and propose their elimination.

Further, it would streamline Federal disaster recovery efforts by concluding that a single agency is sufficient to conduct damage assessments to account for the needs of disaster victims in 2021.

It is 2021, and we can and should be doing this smarter. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First of all, I rise in support of this bill, H.R. 2016, the Federal Disaster Assistance Coordination Act.

First, I want to thank Chairman DEFAZIO and Ranking Member GRAVES for bringing this bill to the floor, as well as Chairwoman NORTON. But I would also like to thank Representative SCOTT PETERS from California for cosponsoring this legislation.

In the last Congress, I joined with former colleague, MARK MEADOWS, in proposing this bill, and it was with great satisfaction that I see it come to the floor.

This is a simple bill that will establish a process to identify ways to streamline and consolidate the collection of certain disaster information in order to start the recovery process for individuals, families, and government devastated by natural disasters.

While FEMA is the lead Federal agency on disasters, there are multiple Federal agencies involved in every disaster response and recovery. This often leads to duplicative assessments and causes serious delays for the recovery process to begin.

In the aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, and the seismic activity in Puerto Rico, we discovered how Federal agency after Federal agency, from FEMA, to HUD, to SBA, would require the same information from applicants, location, nature of damage, ownership, value of damage, estimated repair costs, among many others, in each of their preliminary assessments.

There was no process to share this information between the Federal agencies, which ultimately caused significant delays during both immediate relief and long-term recovery. At one point, these represented more than 70,000 assessments of individual worksites that each needed to be completed by FEMA. Many of these assessments will be small parts of a larger project; sites costing under $126,000, with responsibilities divided among municipalities and State agencies. Many of these were each, itself, a part of a larger process.

For example, repairs to individual pipes, storage tanks or pumps of an aqueduct system; and having to evaluate each site individually will slow down the whole project.

After many complaints from us and the local governments, FEMA, finally, in 2020, decided to begin consolidating these assessments for Puerto Rico to speed up the project delivery process across multiple Federal agencies.

I think it is critically important that Federal response agencies work together to minimize overlaps in their assessments and take advantage of the newest technologies.

Specifically, this bill will establish a Federal working group led by FEMA that will work with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, and in consultation with HUD, SBA, HHS, EDA, the Department of Labor, and OMB to identify ways to reduce duplication and modernize the Federal damage assessments process.

This is a good government bill that will help expedite all forms of disaster recovery across the Nation. As we have learned in Puerto Rico, it is not a matter of if there is a next disaster; it is about when it is going to happen, at least in our case.

So we must be ready to respond in a way that takes care of the immediate needs of those facing a disaster and of rebuilding with resiliency. That response needs to be efficient and effective, and with this legislation, we are going to help bring this about.

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

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. VAN DUYNE).

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my colleagues' bill, H.R. 2016, the Federal Disaster Assistance Coordination Act.

When I was Regional Secretary for HUD during Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Maria, and Hurricane Irma, I saw firsthand the bureaucratic web of red tape and inefficiencies that prevented getting help to those who needed it the most in a timely manner.

I spoke with several of you in this body on both sides of the aisle, who came to me fighting for your constituents, asking why it was taking so long to get aid. I felt and understood your frustration, but had to explain the long list of policies, procedures, and red tape that our regulations demanded. And, boy, I never felt like more of a bureaucrat than when I spoke with you.

It is a very difficult position for our folks to be in. These inefficiencies have serious costs.

This is a bipartisan piece of commonsense legislation to establish procedures to streamline and consolidate processes. When we allocate dollars, they need to get to those who are suffering the most. And the last thing we need is for them to be caught up in a bureaucracy of the government's making.

The faster FEMA is able to help get to communities of need, the faster they can recover. It is critically important that these agencies all work together.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

□ 1345

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

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES), my friend and the ranking member of the Aviation Subcommittee.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, you have heard numerous speakers talk about the bureaucracy that happens in the aftermath of a disaster, and we had legislation by Ranking Member SAM GRAVES trying to help to cut through that bureaucracy and not have our own Federal Government revictimize our disaster victims, who are citizens of this country.

In the aftermath of a disaster—which, being from south Louisiana, we experience, unfortunately, way too frequently—we have FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, that comes in; we have the Small Business Administration that comes in; we have the Department of Housing and Urban Development; we have the Department of Agriculture; and others that all offer different types of emergency aid or programs.

Madam Speaker, apparently, it appears that many of these agencies aren't aware that there has been this invention called the internet that connects everybody. Instead of coming in and forcing these disaster victims, who potentially have lost everything that they own, to come in and stop by numerous locations and fill out the same paperwork over and over again, they should come in and apply commonsense solutions that we have seen in the private sector for decades now, simply coming in, providing information once, being more efficient, truly providing service to these disaster victims, instead of revictimizing them.

I want to thank the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico, my friend, for her leadership on this effort. I know, being from Puerto Rico and victimized by Hurricanes Irma, Maria, and others, this is an extraordinary issue for her constituents. I really do appreciate Congressman DEFAZIO, Ranking Member SAM GRAVES, and others who have partnered with her on this legislation, allowing it to go through. I urge adoption of this legislation.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. GUEST).

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, I want to first thank Chairman DEFAZIO and Ranking Member GRAVES for bringing this important bipartisan legislation to the floor.

H.R. 2016 would begin the critical process in working to consolidate the overlapping disaster response programs that delay disaster assistance for citizens in Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN's district, as well as in my district.

Mississippi has withstood flooding, hurricanes, and tornadoes over the last 2 years, and many of these response efforts are still underway today. This is no fault of the Federal agencies that are tasked with responding, but it is, instead, the product of overlapping programs that result in duplicative assessments that delay the recovery process.

This bill would establish a Federal working group to help identify a more streamlined approach to helping Americans respond to natural disasters.

This commonsense approach to solving delays in Federal disaster response would help expedite recovery and give Americans confidence in the Federal response.

I appreciate Congresswoman GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN's leadership on this issue, and I ask my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, I just want to say, in closing, that H.R. 2016 is a good-government, bipartisan piece of legislation that will help streamline and improve disaster recovery efforts.

It is not just Puerto Rico. It is not just the Caribbean. From the western part of the United States to even the territories, we are all affected by natural disasters.

I want to thank, again, Representative SCOTT PETERS from California for co-leading this legislation, as well as Chairman DEFAZIO and Ranking Member GRAVES for recognizing the merits of this bill.

I urge support of H.R. 2016, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2016.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NOTICE TO AIRMEN IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1262) to establish a task force on improvements for certain notices to airmen, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1262

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 ''Notice to Airmen Improvement Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. FAA TASK FORCE ON NOTAM IMPROVEMENT.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall establish a task force to be known as the FAA Task Force on NOTAM Improvement (in this section referred to as the ''Task Force'').

(b) COMPOSITION.—The Task Force shall consist of members appointed by the Administrator, including at least one member of each of the following:

(1) Air carrier representatives.

(2) Labor union representatives of airline pilots.

(3) Labor union certified under section 7111 of title 5, United States Code, to represent FAA air traffic control specialists assigned to the U.S. NOTAM Office.

(4) Labor union certified under section 7111 of title 5, United States Code, to represent FAA aeronautical information specialists.

(5) General and business aviation representatives.

(6) Aviation safety experts with knowledge of NOTAMs.

(7) Human factors experts.

(c) DUTIES.—The duties of the Task Force shall include—

(1) reviewing existing methods for presenting NOTAMs and flight operations information to pilots;

(2) reviewing regulations and policies relating to NOTAMs, including their content and presentation to pilots;

(3) evaluating and determining best practices to organize, prioritize, and present flight operations information in a manner that optimizes pilot review and retention of relevant information; and

(4) providing recommendations for—

(A) improving the presentation of NOTAM information in a manner that prioritizes or highlights the most important information, and optimizes pilot review and retention of relevant information;

(B) ways to ensure that NOTAMs are complete, accurate, and contain the proper information;

(C) any best practices that the FAA should consider to improve the accuracy and understandability of NOTAMs and the display of flight operations information; and

(D) ways to work with air carriers, other airspace users, and aviation service providers to implement solutions that are aligned with the recommendations under this paragraph.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the establishment of the Task Force, the Task Force shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report detailing—

(1) the results of the reviews and evaluations of the Task Force under paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (c);

(2) the best practices identified and recommendations provided by the Task Force under subsection (c)(4);

(3) any recommendations of the Task Force for additional regulatory or policy actions to improve the presentation of NOTAMs; and

(4) the degree to which implementing the recommendations of the Task Force described under paragraph (2) will address National Transportation Safety Board Safety Recommendation A–18–024.

(e) APPLICABLE LAW.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Task Force.

(f) SUNSET.—The Task Force shall terminate on the later of—

(1) the date on which the Task Force submits the report required under subsection (d); or

(2) the date that is 18 months after the date on which the Task Force is established under subsection (a).

(g) AUTHORITY.—The Administrator shall have the authority to carry out the recommendations of the Task Force detailed in the report required under subsection (d).

(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) FAA.—The term ''FAA'' means the Federal Aviation Administration.

(2) NOTAM.—The term ''NOTAM'' means notices to airmen required by international or domestic regulation or law, as described in the order issued by the FAA on December 11, 2018, titled ''Notices to Airmen (NOTAM)''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. 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. 1262, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 1262, the Notice to Airmen Improvement Act, introduced by Mr. STAUBER and Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 1262 will create a task force to review existing methods for presenting notices to airmen. Notices to airmen provide pilots with essential and real-time information regarding abnormalities or issues in the National Airspace System. For example, notices to airmen alert pilots to potential hazards in the airspace or at an airport, such as a closed runway or taxiway. While pilots are required to review all notices to airmen before flight, there has been concern about the lengthiness and completeness of the critical information contained in notices to airmen and how the information is displayed to, and organized for, pilots.

Under H.R. 1262, the task force will determine best practices for organizing and presenting flight operations information to pilots in the most optimal manner and make recommendations to improve the presentation of notices to airmen while ensuring their accuracy and completeness.

Recommendations from the task force could help prevent future aviation accidents and near-accidents. We saw, in July 2017, an Air Canada A320 almost land on top of five jetliners, with more than a thousand people on board, awaiting takeoff at San Francisco International Airport, before executing a go-around. The aircraft came as close as 60 feet above one of the planes on the ground.

Thankfully, there were no injuries, but this could have been catastrophic. The National Transportation Safety Board determined the probable cause of the incident was the pilots' misidentification of the taxiway for a runway, based in part on their ineffective review of notices to airmen before flight.

Notices to airmen and airwomen can and must be better for pilots. I expect the task force established under H.R. 1262 will lead to recommendations that will improve aviation safety.

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

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Mr. STAUBER from Minnesota for introducing this legislation and working together with Congressman DESAULNIER from California.

As Ms. NORTON, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia, noted, in 2017, at San Francisco International Airport, a NOTAM had been issued, a notice to airmen, which is usually sent to notify pilots about changes in airspace or construction conditions or changes of conditions at airports.

One was issued that indicated that a runway was under construction and an alternative runway was open. They had an Air Canada flight that came in while four occupied planes were on the taxiway, and there was a near miss where this Air Canada flight nearly landed on a taxiway that they mistook for the alternative runway. It would have caused widespread death in the event that those five planes ultimately would have collided.

The National Transportation Safety Board, as noted, did find that the lack of comprehension, or possibly even reviewing this NOTAM, was a primary cause.

This legislation creates a task force to look at better ways of informing, of connecting with pilots, to make sure that they have accurate information and that they actually read or are aware of these changing conditions which could, as in the 2017 incident, be the difference between life and death.

Again, I want to thank Chairman DEFAZIO. I want to thank Ranking Member SAM GRAVES. I want to thank Mr. STAUBER, the author of this bill, with his partner, Congressman DESAULNIER from California.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER).

Mr. STAUBER. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of my bipartisan legislation that improves the safety of air travel. I would also like to thank my colleague, Mr. DESAULNIER, for his support and leadership on this piece of legislation.

In 2020, the United States was home to 7 of the top 10 busiest airports in the world. This means that, as Americans, we have no room for error when it comes to aviation safety.

Although aviation is the safest form of travel, we must always strive to do better. This is why we must address the notice to airmen, or NOTAM, system. NOTAMs are critical, as they relay safety information to pilots that allow them to understand the possible hazards and conditions of airports and runways before actually getting to the destination.

The current system simply is not working as well as it should. NOTAMs are often buried in lengthy reports, conflating important safety information with more common alerts. These inefficiencies have the potential to create life-threatening situations, as described earlier.

My legislation addresses these issues and creates a task force at the FAA with important input from safety experts and industry professionals to address what changes need to be made to NOTAMs to make air travel even safer than it already is.

Americans are more comfortable and excited to travel than they have been in over a year. Let's ensure that we support this sentiment and bolster the safety in our skies.

I was proud to work with my colleagues to get this reported out of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee unanimously, both last Congress and this one.

The House also passed this legislation with strong bipartisan support during the 116th Congress, and I urge the same support this Congress of the Notice to Airmen Improvement Act.

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

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. GUEST).

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, first, I would like to thank Chairman DEFAZIO and Ranking Member GRAVES for bringing this bipartisan legislation to the floor.

H.R. 1262 would create a task force to recommend reforms and improvements to the notice to airmen system, a crucial domestic and international flight safety notification to pilots that has become both inefficient and outdated over the years.

The current state of the notice to airmen system has the potential to create life-threatening situations for both pilots and their passengers. This reform would provide the needed steps to provide important safety information to our Nation's pilots in a timely and concise manner.

In the most recent FAA reauthorization, Congress made it a priority that the agency delivers a new and modernized notice to airmen system, yet we have seen few results to date. This legislation would make that priority a reality within 1 year from this bill's enactment.

I would like to thank Congressman STAUBER for his leadership on this issue and for prioritizing aviation safety within this bill.

□ 1400

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I want to say that the United States has the safest aviation system in the world, and air travel is the safest way to travel.

This bipartisan legislation by Congressmen STAUBER and DESAULNIER ensures that we maintain that level of safety for air passengers in the future. I think it is a great bipartisan piece of legislation. I appreciate those two gentlemen working on this together. I urge adoption of the legislation.

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

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1262, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

WEST LOS ANGELES VA CAMPUS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2021

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 711) An Act 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, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. 5. INCLUSION OF ASSESSMENT OF REVENUE EXPENDITURES AND DIRECT BENEFITS TO VETERANS IN ANNUAL REPORT.

Section 2(j)(2) of the West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–226; 130 Stat. 929) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C); and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following new subparagraph (B):

''(B) an assessment of—

''(i) the manner in which such revenue is expended; and

''(ii) the direct benefits such expenditures provide to veterans; and''.

Mr. TAKANO (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

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

There was no objection.

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

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

VETERANS AND FAMILY INFORMATION ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2093) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make all fact sheets of the Department of Veterans Affairs available in English, Spanish, and Tagalog, and other commonly spoken languages, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2093

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 ''Veterans and Family Information Act''.

SEC. 2. FACT SHEETS.

(a) LANGUAGES.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall make available versions of all fact sheets of the Department of Veterans Affairs in—

(1) English;

(2) Spanish;

(3) Tagalog; and

(4) each of the 10 most commonly spoken languages, other than English, in the United States that are not otherwise covered by paragraphs (2) and (3).

(b) WEBSITE.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish and maintain a publicly available website of the Department of Veterans Affairs that contains links to all fact sheets of the Veterans Benefits Administration, Veterans Health Administration, and of the National Cemetery Administration. The website shall be accessible by a clearly labeled hyperlink on the homepage of the Department.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit a report to Congress regarding fact sheets described in subsection (a) and details of the Language Access Plan of the Department of Veteran Affairs. The report shall include the following:

(1) What the Secretary determines constitutes a fact sheet of the Department for purposes of this Act.

(2) How such fact sheets are utilized and distributed other than on and through the website of the Department.

(3) How such Language Access Plan is communicated to veterans, family members of veterans, and caregivers.

(4) The roles and responsibilities of patient advocates in the coordination of care for veterans with limited English proficiency, family members of such veterans, and caregivers.

(5) Other demographic information that the Secretary determines appropriate regarding veterans with limited English proficiency.

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 to insert extraneous material on H.R. 2093.

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, since 2001 the foreign-born share of the veteran population has steadily risen. Immigrants have served in the Armed Forces since the very beginning of our Nation, and they today make up 600,000 veterans. 1.9 million veterans are the U.S.-born children of immigrants. Together, the 2.5 million veterans of immigrant origin, by birth or parentage, account for 13 percent of all veterans living today.

Certain nationals of countries in free association with the United States—the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau—are eligible to serve the United States, and they do in numbers much larger than their counterparts stateside.

Half a million veterans live in Puerto Rico. There are 6,000 regular Philippine Scouts still alive and 15,000 U.S. veterans who live in the Philippines, half of whom rely on the VA clinic in Manila for their service-connected care.

Two-thirds of the veteran cohorts I just mentioned do not speak English at home. Many of them are aging and have to rely more and more on their families for care and to manage health decisions.

VA has scarce availability of veteran-facing materials in other languages, both online and in paper. Facilities are, for the most part, on their own to translate material that best serves their patients.

This extra burden was made clear to me during committee trips to Puerto Rico, where we heard from staff about the arduous work it took to have to translate everything from administrative staff training materials to hurricane brochures. Everything sent from VA Central Office in Washington, D.C., to Puerto Rico had to be redone so it could be usable and accessible to veterans and the staff who serve them.

The VA should be fully accessible to all veterans who need it, and that includes language accessibility. Mr. JEFFRIES' bill, H.R. 2093, the Veterans and Family Information Act, would require VA to do what it should have been doing for years, make its veteran-facing fact sheets and websites available in languages veterans and their families speak; specifically, the languages of Spanish, Tagalog, and the other top 10 spoken languages in the United States. It would also require VA to create a language access plan for the VA enterprise.

Now, this is a long overdue correction of VA's posture. If this pandemic has taught us anything, it is that clearly communicated public health information from our healthcare institutions is essential. VA must ensure that language proficiency is never a barrier to a veteran's care.

I therefore ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the Veterans and Family Information 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. 2093, the Veterans and Family Information Act. This bill would require VA to make fact sheets available in multiple languages, including English, Spanish, and Tagalog.

I appreciate Congressman JEFFRIES' introduction of this legislation, and I am glad to support it today. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES), my good friend, the chairman of the Democratic Caucus and author of H.R. 2093.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend and classmate, Chairman TAKANO, for his tremendous leadership as well as the leadership of the ranking member and all of the distinguished members of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2093, the Veterans and Family Information Act, a bipartisan bill that will serve those who have served our Nation with distinction. This commonsense legislation would improve non-English language accessibility for veterans, their families, and caregivers.

The Veterans Benefits Administration provides critical information to all veterans about their benefits that have been hard earned, including service-connected disability benefits, home loans, vocational rehabilitation, employment information, and how to access assistance for trauma.

For veterans of limited English proficiency, there is no guarantee that this critical information is made available in their primary language, thereby creating barriers for them and for their families.

As Chairman TAKANO indicated, there are over 500,000 foreign-born veterans that live in the United States, and additionally 1.9 million veterans who are the U.S.-born children of foreign-born parents.

Not only are our veterans increasingly diverse in terms of country of origin, but tens of thousands of veterans have self-identified to the VA that they speak English less than well.

In the most recent survey conducted, the VA also found that minorities, people of color, and language minorities comprise approximately 24 percent of the total veteran population in the United States.

Every single veteran deserves consistent, clear, and equal access to any and all information that the VA offers, regardless of their English proficiency. They have all served this country well.

The Veterans and Family Information Act would direct the Department of Veterans Affairs to make versions of

all of its fact sheets available in the 10 most commonly spoken languages other than English in the United States, including Spanish and Tagalog.

I would like to thank the lead cosponsor of this bill, Representative YOUNG KIM, for her extraordinary leadership and partnership in this effort, as well as, again, the chair, ranking member, and all of the distinguished members of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on H.R. 2093.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM).

Mrs. KIM of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2093, the Veterans and Family Information Act. This is the legislation I introduced with my colleague, Representative JEFFRIES.

This bipartisan bill directs the Department of Veterans Affairs to make versions of all fact sheets available in the 10 most commonly spoken languages other than English in the United States, including Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog, and Korean.

My district is home to more than 27,000 veterans from diverse backgrounds who faithfully served in the United States military, including my own sister, brother-in-law, and my husband, too. With an increasingly diverse population of veterans across the country, and with United States veterans residing in the Philippines and in Puerto Rico, this bill ensures that our veterans and their caretakers whose first languages are not English are aware of and understand the VA's benefits.

I want to thank Representative JEFFRIES for working with me to improve language availability and accessibility at the VA. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support H.R. 2093.

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

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

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I am very, very pleased to recommend to all of my colleagues to vote ''yes.'' This issue affects my own constituency where I know that we have veterans that have caregivers that may only speak, say, the language of Spanish, and so I am very convinced that this legislation will benefit all of our country, but especially my own district.

It is with that spirit that I recommend that we pass this important piece of legislation. 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. 2093.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1415

EQUAL ACCESS TO CONTRACEPTION FOR VETERANS ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 239) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for limitations on copayments for contraception furnished by 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. 239

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 ''Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act''.

SEC. 2. LIMITATION ON COPAYMENTS FOR CONTRACEPTION.

Section 1722A(a)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''to pay'' and all that follows through the period and inserting ''to pay—''; and

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

''(A) an amount in excess of the cost to the Secretary for medication described in paragraph (1); or

''(B) an amount for any contraceptive item for which coverage under health insurance coverage is required without the imposition of any cost-sharing requirement pursuant to section 2713(a)(4) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg–13(a)(4)).''.

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.

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 to insert extraneous material on H.R. 239.

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, contraception access is a crucial element of preventative healthcare and reduces the likelihood that a woman will live in poverty. Copay-free access to contraception is covered under every insurance program in this country, except at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 239, the Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act, would eliminate copays on contraceptive items at the Department of Veterans Affairs. I thank Congresswoman BROWNLEY for introducing this bill and for her efforts as chair of the Subcommittee on Health and the Women Veterans Task Force.

Contraception is already widely available at VA, and veterans enrolled at VA can obtain oral contraceptions, shots, skin patches, vaginal rings, and long-acting reversible contraceptives, such as implants or intrauterine devices. In addition, the VA pharmacy dispenses over-the-counter contraceptives, including condoms and emergency contraception.

Even a small copay can be insurmountable for a veteran struggling to make ends meet. Eliminating copays ensures parity with both Federal insurers and private insurers, as mandated under the Affordable Care Act. Most of all, it eliminates an unnecessary financial burden on our veterans.

Furthermore, we know also that every tax dollar spent on family planning, such as contraception, ultimately saves seven times that amount.

Passing this bill is an essential element of both meeting the health and economic well-being of our Nation's veterans.

This legislation has the support of the VA, broad VSO support, and passed on suspension last Congress.

Again, I thank Chairwoman JULIA BROWNLEY for her leadership on this issue, and I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 239.

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. 239, the Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act.

The bill would prohibit the VA from charging copayments to veterans for contraception.

Women are volunteering to serve our country in uniform in record numbers. When they separate from the service, they are seeking care from the VA in record numbers as well. Ensuring that those women receive the recognition, respect, and welcome they are owed is one of our highest priorities.

This bill would further that goal. I am glad to support it here today.

Copayments have been prohibited for contraception in the private sector for many years. This bill would bring the VA healthcare system in line with that precedent.

This bill passed the committee last year with unanimous, bipartisan support. One of those supporters was the former Republican leader of this committee, Dr. ROE. Dr. ROE, who is an OB/GYN, has decades of experience with women's health and reproductive care. Like me, he is also a steadfast defender of pro-life principles.

This bill also passed the House last Congress by voice vote. I hope that it can do so again this Congress.

The Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act was introduced by Congresswoman BROWNLEY. I thank her for her continued efforts on behalf of women veterans and for introducing the bill.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in voting for this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 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 legislation.

Ms. BROWNLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 239, the Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act, my bill to ensure that veterans have access to contraception coverage without any copay.

I thank the chairman for working with me to advance this legislation.

Because of the Affordable Care Act, women using civilian health insurance may access basic contraceptive services, like the pill or an IUD, without any copay. Active Duty servicemembers can also receive contraceptive care without any copay.

However, women veterans who receive healthcare through the VA do not have access to the same benefit.

Clearly, we need to fix this inequity.

The benefits of contraception are widely recognized.

Choosing when, or if, to have a family is essential to women's health and to their economic security.

Today, there are two million women veterans living in the United States, and women compromise the fastest growing subpopulation within the military and veteran populations; yet many of their health needs go unaddressed in a VA system that has not evolved to equitably serve a rapidly changing population.

As chairwoman of the Women Veterans Task Force and chair of the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health, I have worked to identify disparities in healthcare for women veterans and, where necessary, introduce, advocate for, and pass legislation that eliminates these gaps.

Our veterans have sacrificed so much for our country. It is past time that we ensure that they get the equitable healthcare they have earned and deserve.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on H.R. 239.

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 want to thank Ranking Member BOST for pointing out that the previous ranking member and previous chairman of this committee, an OB/GYN, Representative ROE, stood in firm support of this legislation. I know him to also be someone of very firm pro-life convictions. I am very proud of the bipartisan support that has gathered around Ms. BROWNLEY's legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 239.

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.

HOMELESS VETERANS CREDIT REPAIR, ENHANCEMENT, AND DEBT IMPROVEMENT FOR TOMORROW ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1257) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the effect of financial and credit counseling for homeless veterans and veterans experiencing housing instability, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1257

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 Credit Repair, Enhancement, and Debt Improvement for Tomorrow Act'' or the ''Homeless Veterans CREDIT Act''.

SEC. 2. STUDY ON FINANCIAL AND CREDIT COUNSELING.

(a) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall conduct a comprehensive study on—

(1) the use of and variation of financial and credit counseling services available for homeless veterans and veterans experiencing housing instability;

(2) barriers to accessing financial and credit counseling for such veterans; and

(3) the ability to evaluate and assess the potential effects of financial and credit counseling for such veterans with respect to housing, employment, income, and other outcomes the Secretary determines appropriate.

(b) METHODOLOGY.—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) survey—

(A) homeless veterans and veterans experiencing housing instability who are enrolled in the Supportive Services for Veterans Families program;

(B) such veterans who do not seek or receive the care or services under such program or a similar program;

(C) grantees of the Supportive Services for Veterans Families program;

(D) financial and credit counselors; and

(E) persons who are subject matter experts regarding the use of financial and credit counseling services that the Secretary determines appropriate; and

(2) administer the survey to a representative sample of homeless veterans and veterans experiencing housing instability in areas with high veteran homelessness.

(c) USE AND VARIATION OF SERVICES.—In conducting the study under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary shall—

(1) use data from the Supportive Services for Veterans Families program and other data collected by the Department of Veterans Affairs, data collected by other departments or agencies of the Federal Government, and data collected by nongovernmental entities to compare the use of and variation of financial and credit counseling services available for homeless veterans and veterans experiencing housing instability and such use and variation for other individuals; and

(2) assess such services made available through the Supportive Services for Veterans Families program, including with respect to the types, modes of delivery, duration, consistency, and quality, of such services.

(d) BARRIERS TO COUNSELING.—In conducting the study under subsection (a)(2), the Secretary shall conduct research on the effects of the following perceived barriers to financial and credit counseling for homeless veterans and veterans experiencing housing instability surveyed in the study:

(1) The cost of financial and credit counseling services.

(2) The perceived stigma associated with seeking financial and credit counseling assistance.

(3) The effect of driving distance or availability of other forms of transportation to the nearest facility that received a grant under the Supportive Services for Veterans Families program.

(4) The availability of child care.

(5) The comprehension of eligibility requirements for, and the scope of services available under, the Supportive Services for Veterans Families program.

(6) The effectiveness of outreach for the services available to such veterans under the Supportive Services for Veterans Families program.

(7) The location and operating hours of facilities that provide services to such veterans under the Supportive Services for Veterans Families program.

(8) The COVID–19 pandemic and other health related issues.

(9) Such other significant barriers as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(e) EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS OF COUNSELING.—

(1) EFFECTS.—In conducting the study under subsection (a)(3), the Secretary shall conduct research on the ability to evaluate and assess the potential effects of financial and credit counseling services on homeless veterans and veterans experiencing housing instability with respect to the following:

(A) The effects of such services on employment by comparing the veterans who received such services and the veterans who did not receive such services.

(B) The effects of such services on housing status by comparing the veterans who received such services and the veterans who did not receive such services.

(C) The effects of such services on income by comparing the veterans who received such services and the veterans who did not receive such services.

(D) The effects of such services on credit score by comparing the veterans who received such services and the veterans who did not receive such services.

(E) The effects of such services on other outcomes the Secretary determines appropriate.

(2) DATA AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) determine the relevant data that is available to the Secretary and determine the confidence of the Secretary with respect to accessing any additional data the Secretary may require; and

(B) provide recommendations regarding the optimal research or evaluation design that would generate the greatest insights and value.

(f) DISCHARGE BY CONTRACT.—The Secretary may seek to enter into a contract with a qualified independent entity or organization to carry out the study and research required under this section, including such an entity or organization that is able to access credit scores, data maintained by the Internal Revenue Service, and other date beneficial to studying income.

(g) MANDATORY REVIEW OF DATA BY CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF DEPARTMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ensure that the head of each element of the Department of Veterans Affairs specified in paragraph (2) reviews the results of the study conducted under subsection (a). The head of each such element shall submit to the Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management the findings of the head with respect to the study, including recommendations regarding what data the Secretary should collect from grantees under the Supportive Services for Veterans Families program.

(2) SPECIFIED ELEMENTS.—The elements of the Department of Veterans Affairs specified in this paragraph are the following:

(A) The Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans established under section 2066 of title 38, United States Code.

(B) The Advisory Committee on Women Veterans established under section 542 of title 38, United States Code.

(C) The Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans established under section 544 of title 38, United States Code.

(D) The Homeless Programs Office of the Veterans Health Administration.

(E) The Office of Tribal Government Relations of the Department.

(h) REPORTS.—

(1) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress an interim report on the study under subsection (a).

(2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 30 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the study under subsection (a). The report shall include—

(A) the findings of the head of each element of the Department specified under subsection (g)(2); and

(B) recommendations for such administrative and legislative action as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(i) DEFINITION.—In this section:

(1) The term ''homeless veterans and veterans experiencing housing instability'' means veterans who are homeless (as that term is defined in subsection (a) or (b) of section 103 of the McKinney–Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11302)).

(2) The term ''Supportive Services for Veterans Families program'' means the program established pursuant to section 2044 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 3. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

(a) TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE.—Title 38, United States Code, is amended as follows:

(1) In section 1786(d), as added by section 3006 of the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 (Public Law 116–315), by striking paragraph (3).

(2) In section 3673(f), as added by section 1023 of such Act, by striking paragraph (3).

(b) JOHNNY ISAKSON AND DAVID P. ROE, M.D. VETERANS HEALTH CARE AND BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2020.—The Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 (Public Law 116–315) is amended as follows:

(1) In section 3010—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking ''The Secretary'' and inserting ''Subject to the availability of appropriations for such purpose, the Secretary''; and

(B) by striking subsection (h).

(2) In section 4201(a), by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) USE OF AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall ensure that paragraph (1) is carried out in accordance with established procedures for reprogrammings or transfers, including with respect to presenting a request for a reprogramming of funds.''.

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 to insert extraneous material on H.R. 1257, 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, credit and financial counseling services remain a top 10 unmet need for veterans experiencing or who are at risk of homelessness.

This bill directs the VA to study the efficacy and barriers to credit and financial counseling for homeless and unstably housed veterans, and to provide recommendations for improvements to these services.

Under the Homeless Veterans CREDIT Act, the Secretary will work with outside organizations to review these barriers, and submit to Congress concrete steps we can take to expand credit access to veterans in need.

H.R. 1257, as amended, has the support of VA and key veteran service organizations, like the VFW, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and the IAVA.

Also included in this legislation are various oversight improvements to existing law that our committee has worked on with the House Appropriations Committee, and I thank my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee for their hard work. I therefore, ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1257, as amended.

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. 1257, as amended, the Homeless Veterans Credit Repair, Enhancement, and Debt Improvement for Tomorrow—or CREDIT—Act.

This bill would direct the VA to study the effects of financial and credit counseling for homeless veterans.

COVID–19 has impacted our economy and our lives in many ways.

The most recent Department of Housing and Urban Development Point-in-Time—or the PIT—count found that, on a single night in January of 2020, an estimated 37,252 veterans were homeless.

We must do everything we can to help eliminate veteran homelessness and prevent those who have worn the uniform of our country from having to worry about where they will lay their head at night.

This bill, which I am proud to support, would direct the VA to conduct a comprehensive study on the financial and credit counseling services for homeless veterans.

This study would use data from the Supportive Services for Veterans Families—or the SSVF—program to look at barriers that homeless veterans are facing in relation to financial counseling services.

I thank Congressman PALLONE for his hard work on crafting this bill and for his continued support of our Nation's veterans.

This bill, as amended, also includes some technical changes to the omnibus bill that was signed into law earlier this year that were requested by the Committee on Appropriations.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), my good friend, the author of this critical piece of legislation, and also the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, my friend from California, for moving this bill through the committee as quickly as he did.

I rise today in support of the bill, H.R. 1257, the Homeless Veterans Credit Repair, Enhancement, and Debt Improvement for Tomorrow Act.

We know that veterans' homelessness continues to be a blight on our Nation. Congress and advocates from across the country have worked hard to nearly halve the homeless veteran population in the past decade.

Unfortunately, the coronavirus pandemic jeopardized this progress by negatively impacting the credit and financial stability of our Nation's veterans.

□ 1430

Now is the time to redouble our efforts and do everything we can to ensure stable housing for veterans. We must start by examining the underlying causes of veteran homelessness in our Nation.

The VA has declared credit and financial counseling services a top 10 unmet need for our homeless veterans. My bill directs the Secretary of the VA to conduct a study of the credit and financial counseling services available to homeless veterans and veterans facing housing instability. The study will assess current services available to veterans and the barriers they face in utilizing them, including the COVID–19 pandemic and other health challenges.

During a time of such economic uncertainty, we must look out for our

most vulnerable communities, including homeless veterans and veterans experiencing housing instability. We have a responsibility to help those who served in uniform and stood ready to make the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

The CREDIT Act will identify the credit and financial counseling services needed to help our veterans avoid financial pitfalls and make informed decisions about their future.

Madam Speaker, again, I thank Chairman TAKANO for his partnership on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense, bipartisan legislation. Together, we can improve veterans' financial literacy to build a better life for themselves after they complete their service to our country.

Madam Speaker, I also thank my staff member, Jake Freed, who basically came up with this idea, after talking to various veterans groups, and put this together.

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

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

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, we know that preventing homelessness is especially critical as we try to emerge out of this pandemic.

Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support Chairman PALLONE's bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1257, the Homeless Veterans Credit Act, and would like my good friend Chairman PALLONE for his work to bring this bill to the floor.

The freedom and luxuries that we are afforded on a daily basis are made possible by the sacrifices of our men and women in uniform. It is unthinkable that, after returning home from serving our country, veterans are often faced with several challenges including a lack of accessibility to quality and affordable housing. The state of Texas is home to the second largest population of veterans in the United States, and veterans homelessness is becoming an increasingly prevalent issue in our communities.

That is why I am proud to support the Homeless Veterans Credit Act. This bill will direct the Department of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the effectiveness of financial and credit counseling services currently available to homeless veterans and how those services can be improved so these veterans can move a step closer to securing stable housing, employment and income. Such studies are critical for us as legislators to determine the efficiency of the institutions, programs, and funding levels in place to assist veterans.

As Chair of the Congressional Homelessness Caucus, I remain committed to advocating on behalf of veterans experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity. This pandemic has brought to light the stark inequities in access to housing for veterans, but I am confident that this bill will set the stage for transformative efforts to reform care for those in need.

Madam Speaker, I look forward to voting in favor of this bipartisan, commonsense legislation and would urge my colleagues to do the same.

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. 1257, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: ''A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the effect of financial and credit counseling for homeless veterans and veterans experiencing housing instability, and for other purposes.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

VA POLICE IMPROVEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2429) to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the staffing, transparency, and accountability of the law enforcement operations of 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. 2429

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 Police Improvement and Accountability Act''.

SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS TO TRANSPARENCY OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) PROVISION OF INFORMATION.—Section 902 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(e)(1) The Secretary shall publish on the internet website of each facility of the Department the following information with respect to the facility:

''(A) Summaries and statistics covering the previous five-year period regarding—

''(i) arrests made by and tickets issued by Department police officers;

''(ii) prosecutions, ticketing, and other actions relating to such arrests;

''(iii) the use of force and weapons discharge by Department police officers; and

''(iv) complaints, investigations, and disciplinary actions regarding Department police officers.

''(B) Contact information for employees of the Department and the public to directly contact the police force of the facility, including for an individual (or the representative, attorney, or authorized agent of the individual) to request information regarding the arrest, ticketing, detainment, use of force, or other police matters pertaining to that individual.

''(2) The Secretary shall ensure that each police force of a facility of the Department is able to provide to an individual who contacts the police force pursuant to paragraph (1)(B) the information described in such paragraph.''.

(b) USE OF BODY WORN CAMERAS BY DEPARTMENT POLICE OFFICERS.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—Subsection (a) of such section 902 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) Beginning not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary shall require Department police officers to use cameras worn on the individual police officer's person that record and store audio and video (commonly known as 'body worn cameras').''.

(2) GUIDANCE.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue, and make publicly available, guidance on the use of body worn cameras by Department police officers pursuant to section 902(a)(3) of title 38, United States Code, as amended by paragraph (1).

(3) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall issue the guidance under paragraph (2) in consultation with veterans service organizations, civil rights organizations, law enforcement organizations, law enforcement accreditation organizations, privacy rights organizations, and other relevant organizations or experts.

(c) DATA AND REPORTING ON POLICE INCIDENTS.—Section 902 of title 38, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a), is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(f) POLICE INCIDENTS.—(1)(A) The Secretary shall track and analyze the following information regarding the police force of the Department:

''(i) Arrests made by and tickets issued by Department police officers.

''(ii) Prosecutions, ticketing, and other actions relating to such arrests.

''(iii) The use of force and weapons discharge.

''(iv) Complaints, investigations, and disciplinary actions.

''(B) The Secretary shall carry out subparagraph (A) by implementing one or more Department-wide data systems.

''(2)(A) Beginning not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall ensure that each incident described in subparagraph (C) is promptly reported to the Assistant Secretary with responsibility for operations, preparedness, security, and law enforcement functions.

''(B) The Assistant Secretary shall, in a timely manner—

''(i) review each incident described in subparagraph (C)(i) that is reported under subparagraph (A); and

''(ii) investigate each incident described in subparagraph (C)(ii) that is reported under subparagraph (A).

''(C) An incident described in this subparagraph is either of the following:

''(i) An incident, including an allegation, of the use of force by a Department police officer.

''(ii) An incident, including an allegation, of the use of force by a Department police officer that results in any person receiving medical attention.''.

(d) PLAN ON POLICE STAFFING.—The Secretary shall develop a plan that establishes minimum standards for police staffing at each facility of the Department, including with respect to—

(1) the number of Department police officers assigned to each facility; and

(2) the pay grades for such officers.

(e) REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than one year 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 on the implementation of this section and the amendments made by this section. The report shall include the following:

(1) With respect to the staffing needs of the Department police force—

(A) identification of the amount of turnover among Department police officers;

(B) how the compensation for Department police officers affects such turnover;

(C) a comparison of such compensation with the compensation provided to specialty police units, such as police units at medical facilities and other police units in the same locality pay area; and

(D) the plan developed under subsection (d), including—

(i) estimates on the costs to carry out the plan; and

(ii) any recommendations for legislative actions required to carry out the plan.

(2) With respect to body worn cameras, a review of the implementation and use of body worn cameras by Department police officers, including under pilot programs carried out by the Secretary during the five-year period preceding the date of the report.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term ''body worn camera'' means a camera worn on an individual police officer's person that records and stores audio and video.

(2) The term ''Department police officer'' means an employee of the Department of Veterans Affairs described in section 902(a) of title 38, United States Code.

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 to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 2429.

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 support H.R. 2429, the VA Police Improvement and Accountability Act, introduced by former Committee on Veterans' Affairs member Representative RICE from New York.

This bipartisan legislation cosponsored by Representative RADEWAGEN would improve the transparency and accountability of the VA police. Specifically, the legislation would require the VA police to publish online information about arrests and use of force, as well as establish a consistent way for the public to obtain more detailed information about those incidents.

Importantly, this bill would also require VA to have its police use body-worn cameras, publish guidance on the use of such cameras, improve tracking and analysis of arrests and other police actions, and develop a staffing plan that adequately supports every VA facility's needs. Together, these improvements will build accountability and trust between the VA police and anyone who walks through VA facility doors across the country.

H.R. 2429 was reported favorably by the committee, and I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the VA Police Improvement and Accountability 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. 2429, the VA Police Improvement and Accountability Act.

This bill represents months of bipartisan work by the committee. I thank my colleagues for their efforts.

This bill would increase transparency and accountability in the VA police force by requiring each officer to wear a body-worn camera. It would also require VA to make police statistics public and available and report on police actions, including arrests and use of force.

Madam Speaker, 2 years ago, the VA began modernizing its police force. This legislation would support the VA's ongoing efforts.

Veterans deserve safe environments in which to seek the care and benefits they have earned. I believe this legislation and the VA work will help provide those safe environments.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE), my good friend, a former member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and the lead Democratic cosponsor.

Miss RICE of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my bipartisan bill, the VA Police Improvement and Accountability Act, H.R. 2429. This bill takes important steps to strengthen oversight and accountability for VA police and law enforcement operations.

A number of shortcomings with VA's law enforcement operations were identified in a hearing held by the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs last Congress. Inadequate policing procedures and a lack of true oversight for the Department's police force were two of the pressing issues raised at the hearing.

Challenges with management and oversight of VA police were also revealed in subsequent reports issued by the VA Office of Inspector General and the Government Accountability Office. These challenges include insufficient officer staffing, inappropriate conduct, and other concerning issues at VA facilities across the country.

On Long Island, I have worked with one of my constituents who was horribly mistreated by the Northport VA police. Our veterans deserve much better from an agency that is always supposed to be on their side.

My bill aims to address these pressing issues with the VA police by requiring the VA police to implement the use of body cameras, improve data collection and reporting on police incidents at VA facilities, and enact other important measures to strengthen oversight and transparency for VA's police program.

Madam Speaker, I thank my Republican co-lead, Representative RADEWAGEN, for joining me on this bill. I also thank Chairman TAKANO and Ranking Member BOST for helping to bring H.R. 2429 to the floor today.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation to help us better serve and protect our Nation's veterans.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support the bill of the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE).

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. 2429.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

VA FOIA REFORM ACT OF 2021

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2726) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a plan to reduce the backlog of requests for information made to the Department of Veterans Affairs pursuant to section 552 of title 5, United States Code, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2726

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 FOIA Reform Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. PLAN FOR REDUCTION OF BACKLOG OF FOIA REQUESTS.

(a) PLAN.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish and carry out a plan for the Secretary to meet, by not later than five years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the requirements of section 552 of title 5, United States Code, with respect to providing documents and information under such section within the timeframes required by such section. The plan shall include the following:

(1) Improving and acquiring technology, including with respect to searching email and other electronic information, and the timelines for such improvement, to ensure that the information technology of the Department of Veterans Affairs is capable of carrying out the plan.

(2) Identification of efficient procedures, policies, and systems of the Department that could be developed to allow employees of the Department responsible for replying to requests under such section 552 to search and review documents rather than other employees of the Department.

(3) A schedule for carrying out the plan, including key milestones and metrics.

(b) COMPLIANCE ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary shall request the Director of the Office of Government Information Services of the National Archives and Records Administration to conduct an assessment of the compliance by the Department of Veterans Affairs with section 552 of title 5, United States Code.

(c) REPORTS.—

(1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 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 on implementing subsections (a) and (b). The report shall include the following:

(A) The plan established under subsection (a).

(B) An analysis of the root causes of the backlog of FOIA requests.

(C) Recommendations with respect to any additional resources or legislative action the Secretary determines necessary for such implementation.

(2) ANNUAL REPORTS.—During the five-year period following 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 annual reports on—

(A) carrying out the plan under subsection (a), including any updates or changes made to the plan; and

(B) the compliance by the Department as described in subsection (b).

(3) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall make publicly available on the internet website of the Department the reports under paragraphs (1) and (2) by not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary submits the reports to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

(d) BACKLOG OF FOIA REQUESTS DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''backlog of FOIA requests'' means the number of requests, as reported by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Attorney General in the Annual FOIA Report, made by individuals to the Secretary pursuant to section 552 of title 5, United States Code, for documents or information that the Secretary has not fulfilled or provided a response to the individual.

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 to insert extraneous material on H.R. 2726.

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 support H.R. 2726, the VA FOIA Reform Act of 2021, introduced by Representative GALLEGO, a member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

This bipartisan legislation is cosponsored by Representative MURPHY from North Carolina and would modernize the Department of Veterans Affairs' Freedom of Information Act, or FOIA, process to help VA meet statutory requirements and improve efficiency.

The FOIA process is essential for ensuring a transparent and accountable VA by allowing the public insight into the workings of a Department that serves millions of veterans each year. However, an enduring backlog of open requests and out-of-date technology have made it difficult for the Department to provide timely access to requested information.

Madam Speaker, this bill would require VA to establish a plan in order to meet all statutory FOIA requirements, identify its technology needs, and carry out this plan within 5 years.

Veterans and their families, employees, and the public who have made FOIA requests at VA have been kept waiting for too long. I hope this bill puts VA on a path to providing FOIA information in a timely manner.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 2726 was reported favorably by the committee, and I ask my colleagues to support the 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. 2726, the VA FOIA Reform Act of 2021.

Madam Speaker, over the last few years, VA has worked hard to reduce the Freedom of Information Act, or FOIA, requests backlog. These efforts have achieved some success, but the VA still has a long way to go.

At the end of fiscal year 2020, VA reported 4,206 pending requests. This bill would require VA to carry out a plan to reduce the backlog and comply with existing FOIA requirements.

It would also require VA to report to Congress on a plan and the Department's work. This will help Congress oversee VA's efforts to reduce the FOIA backlog and provide additional resources that may be necessary.

Madam Speaker, I appreciate the bipartisan work on this legislation, and I encourage my colleagues to support it. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO), my good friend, author of H.R. 2726, and a member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. GALLEGO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 2726, the VA FOIA Reform Act.

Madam Speaker, I thank Chair TAKANO and Ranking Member BOST for bringing this bill to the floor and Representative MURPHY for co-leading this important legislation with me.

The bill is a simple, bipartisan measure to improve efficiency and transparency at the VA.

As we all know, transparency is critical in ensuring that the VA is serving our veterans as effectively as possible. Veterans, their caregivers, VSOs, and the public all deserve easy and timely access to information about veteran care, VA performance, and other data when requested.

Unfortunately, VA currently has among the worst backlogs of Freedom of Information Act requests across Federal agencies. Among these backlogged requests are inquiries about VA performance and decisions, as well as requests from veterans for their own personal records.

My bill will ensure that the VA takes concrete steps to reduce its FOIA backlogs so that these veterans get answers. It also calls for the National Archives and Records Administration to review VA's FOIA process.

Finally, the bill requires the VA to analyze the root causes of its FOIA backlog and to identify technology needs and procedural improvements that will increase efficiency in responding to requests.

This straightforward bill is a commonsense step toward improving the flow of information from the VA to all the stakeholders it serves.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support it today, and I look forward to working to get it signed into law.

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 would like to close by saying I urge all of my colleagues to support the VA FOIA Reform Act of 2021. We need to make sure that our veterans and their families get information that they have requested from the VA in a timely manner.

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. 2726.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1445

CLARIFYING ROLE OF DOCTORS OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE IN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2545) to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the role of doctors of podiatric medicine in 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. 2545

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

SECTION 1. ROLE OF DOCTORS OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE IN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) CLARIFICATION OF ROLE.—Section 7306 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (6), by striking ''a Director of Podiatric Service,'';

(B) by redesignating paragraph (10) as paragraph (11); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (9) the following new paragraph:

''(10) A Podiatric Medical Director, who shall be a qualified doctor of podiatric medicine and who shall be responsible to the Under Secretary for Health for the operation of the Podiatric Service.'';

(2) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting ''podiatric medicine,'' after ''doctors of medicine,''; and

(3) in subsection (c), by striking ''and (8)'' and inserting ''(8), and (10)''.

(b) CLARIFICATION OF PAY GRADE.—Section 7404 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2), by inserting '', podiatrists,'' after ''physicians'' ; and

(2) in subsection (b), in the first heading of the list following the colon, by striking ''PODIATRIST'' and inserting ''PODIATRIST (DPM)''.

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 include extraneous material on H.R. 2545.

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 support H.R. 2545 to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the role of doctors of podiatric medicine in the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2545 is offered by former Veterans' Affairs Committee member, Dr. BRAD WENSTRUP. This legislation seeks to clarify a technical error affecting the Director of Podiatric Services which developed following the inclusion of Dr. WENSTRUP's VA Provider Equity Act in the MISSION Act.

The renaming of the position to Podiatric Medical Director will create equity by allowing this position holder to be paid on par with their peers rather than below, which is currently the case.

If VA is to recruit top talent, we must ensure VA is able to offer competitive salaries whenever possible, that is why I support this legislation and I hope my colleagues will too.

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. 2545, a bill that would clarify the role of podiatrists in the VA health system. Podiatrists are increasingly called upon to care for veterans in the VA medical facilities.

This bill would make a technical correction to current law to ensure that they are properly compensated for their important work.

This bill is sponsored by Dr. WENSTRUP. Dr. WENSTRUP is a veteran, a podiatrist, and a former member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. I am grateful for his continued commitment to those who he serves.

Madam Speaker, I urge every Member of the Chamber to join me and Dr. WENSTRUP and the chairman in supporting this bill today, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I encourage everyone to support this piece of legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support the legislation and join me in passing H.R. 2545, 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. 2545.

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. TAKANO. 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.

VA HOSPITALS ESTABLISHING LEADERSHIP PERFORMANCE ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 293) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish qualifications for the human resources positions within the Veterans Health Administration of 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. 293

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 Hospitals Establishing Leadership Performance Act''.

SEC. 2. QUALIFICATIONS FOR HUMAN RESOURCES POSITIONS WITHIN THE VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall—

(1) establish qualifications for each human resources position within the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs;

(2) establish standardized performance metrics for each such position; and

(3) submit to Congress a report containing the qualifications and standardized performance metrics established under paragraphs (1) and (2).

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the establishment of the qualifications and performance metrics under subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate a report containing—

(1) a description of the implementation of such qualifications and performance metrics; and

(2) an assessment of the quality of such qualifications and performance metrics.

SEC. 3. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the requirements of this Act. Such requirements shall be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized to be appropriated.

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 include extraneous material on H.R. 293.

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 support H.R. 293, the VA Hospitals Establishing Leadership Performance Act, introduced by our committee's ranking member, Mr. BOST.

This bill would require VA to establish qualifications and performance metrics for human resources positions within the Veterans Health Administration. This legislation follows a 2017 Government Accountability Office report that found human capital process deficiencies, such as a lack of performance metrics for certain positions.

GAO concluded that these deficiencies negatively affected VA's ability to serve veterans. The legislation does not specify what metrics VA must use, but leaves that determination up to VA. Instituting these human resource management improvements at VA is a commonsense, good–government step.

H.R. 293 was favorably reported by the committee, and I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the VA Hospitals Establishing Leadership Performance 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. 293, VA Hospitals Establishing Leadership Performance Act. I believe that a high-performing organization needs to have clear qualifications and metrics by which they can measure success. Without them, organizations lose their way.

That is why I am proud to have, once again, introduced the VA Hospital Establishing Leadership Performance Act. My bill would require VA to establish standardized qualifications and performance metrics for each human resource position within the Veterans Health Administration.

A few years ago, the committee found that certain HR professionals working in the VA healthcare system did not have the proper education or experience for the jobs that they held.

For example, one HR director at a medical center lacked both a college degree and relevant work experience when hired for the job. This bill would make sure that that does not happen again by requiring HR staff to be qualified and equipped to handle VA's complex human resources needs.

During the 115th Congress, this bill passed the House by a vote of 417–0. I hope that it, again, gains that type of support with this entire Chamber.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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 urge all my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 293, 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. 293.

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. TAKANO. 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.

SOLE LIABILITY FOR TRANSFERRED EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE BY AN INDIVIDUAL WHO FAILS TO COMPLETE A SERVICE AGREEMENT

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 290) to amend title 38, United States Code, to render an individual, who transfers certain educational assistance, to which the individual is entitled because of an agreement by such individual to serve in the Armed Forces, to a dependent of that individual, and who fails to complete such agreement, solely liable for the overpayment of such educational assistance, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 290

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

SECTION 1. SOLE LIABILITY FOR TRANSFERRED EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE BY AN INDIVIDUAL WHO FAILS TO COMPLETE A SERVICE AGREEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (i) of section 3319 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking ''In the event'' and inserting ''Subject to paragraph (2), in the event''; and

(B) by inserting ''of this title'' after ''section 3685'';

(2) in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (2)—

(A) in the heading, by striking ''IN GENERAL'' and inserting ''SOLE LIABILITY''; and

(B) by inserting ''for which the individual shall be solely liable to the United States for the amount of the overpayment for purposes of section 3685 of this title'' before the period at the end; and

(3) in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (2)—

(A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''Subparagraph (A) shall not apply'' and inserting ''Neither the individual nor the dependent shall be liable to the United States for the amount of the overpayment for purposes of section 3685 of this title''; and

(B) in clause (ii), by inserting ''of this title'' after ''section 3311(c)(4)''.

(b) REVERSION.—Effective October 1, 2024, such subsection (i) is amended to read as it read on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 2. 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 have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 290, 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, the eligibility for veterans to transfer their earned educational benefits is limited based on service time and commitments to additional service time. Recently, there have been a number of cases where DOD erroneously calculated servicemembers' time in service, allowing the servicemember to transfer a benefit when they should not have, as in the case of Russell Dotson.

In Mr. Dotson's case, he was told by the Navy that he was able to transfer his benefit to his daughter. Unfortunately, the Navy was 6 days off in its calculation. That led to his daughter's GI Bill-covered tuition at DePaul University being cut off. Now, she and her father, a veteran who served 22 years and was honored for saving two lives in Afghanistan, are left having to repay more than $20,000.

As a result of these errors, the veteran and their dependent are saddled with a huge bill, that is overpayment, for the cost of erroneously billed educational costs. The debt levied on the dependent is costly and can ruin their credit before they enter the labor force, which could impact their housing and job opportunities.

H.R. 290, as amended, limits liabilities to ensure that there aren't surprise debts created by errors in paperwork. This legislation has been supported by VSOs such as the VFW, American Legion, and the Student Veterans of America.

Madam Speaker, I thank Ranking Member BOST for his work on this issue. I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 290, as amended, 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 my bill, H.R. 290, as amended, to create a sole liability for GI Bill payments during transfer in certain cases. This bill would hold a servicemember liable should they transfer the GI Bill entitlement but fail to complete their service obligation.

The GI Bill is a fantastic benefit. The GI Bill has helped tens of thousands of veterans and their families obtain a higher education. Some servicemembers are eligible to transfer their GI Bill entitlement to a dependent. They can do this once they have completed 6 years of active service and agree to serve an additional 4 years.

Under my bill, if the servicemember begins to transfer the entitlement at the 6-year mark but fails to complete the additional 4 years of the required service, their dependent would not be held liable for overpayments. This would help dependents avoid unexpected VA debt for actions outside of their control. Some overpayments can total hundreds of thousands of dollars. It is only right that we ensure that they are assigned to the right person.

Madam Speaker, I thank our VSO partners, especially those at the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors for bringing this issue to my attention.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 290, 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. 290, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1500

HARLEM HELLFIGHTERS CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3642) to award a Congressional gold medal to the 369th Infantry Regiment, commonly known as the ''Harlem Hellfighters'', in recognition of their bravery and outstanding service during World War I, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3642

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 ''Harlem Hellfighters Congressional Gold Medal Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) When the United States officially entered World War I in April 1917, the Armed Forces were still segregated, even though African-American soldiers had served and distinguished themselves in every war since the Revolutionary War, and even the Colonial Wars preceding the American Revolution.

(2) After several years of advocacy and debate, in 1916 the State of New York authorized the recruitment of the 15th New York National Guard Regiment, which was called to Federal service on July 25, 1917, soon after arriving for training at Camp Whitman, New York.

(3) The 15th completed its basic military practice training at Camp Whitman, New York.

(4) To receive combat training, the 15th reported, on October 8, 1917, to Camp Wadsworth, in Spartanburg, South Carolina, where it experienced many incidents of racial discrimination.

(5) Consequently, the government agreed to remove the 15th from Camp Wadsworth, but, instead of receiving further training, the regiment began preparing for deployment to France in November.

(6) The 15th arrived in Saint Nazaire, France, on January 1, 1918, where it was redesignated the 369th Infantry Regiment

(7) Partly because many White soldiers within the American Expeditionary Forces (hereinafter, the ''AEF'') refused to perform combat duty with Black soldiers, members of the 369th were initially assigned manual labor tasks, such as loading and unloading supplies, and constructing roads and railroads.

(8) After receiving pressure from the 369th regimental commander about not having a combat mission, the AEF attached the 369th to the French Fourth Army.

(9) By mid-March of 1918, the 369th went to the Argonne Forest with the French 16th Division for training and soon entered the trenches.

(10) The 369th encountered its first German soldiers in combat in April, 1918.

(11) In May of 1918, Private Henry Johnson of the 369th received the French Croix de Guerre, with Palm, for extraordinary valor, becoming one of the first American soldiers to be awarded this honor.

(12) Johnson also belatedly received a Purple Heart, was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, and in, 2015, was awarded the Medal of Honor.

(13) Throughout the remainder of the spring and into the summer the 369th served at Minacourt, in the Champagne-Marne Defensive, and during the Aisne-Marne Offensive in support of the French 161st Infantry Division.

(14) As summer turned to autumn, the 369th went on to participate in the Meuse-Argonne offensive, where it captured the important village of Sechault despite sustaining severe losses.

(15) On October 14, 1918, the 369th advanced to Alsace.

(16) On November 20, 1918, the 369th reached the banks of the Rhine River as part of the French Army of Occupation, the first Allied unit to do so.

(17) The 369th was relieved of its assignment with the French 161st Division in December, 1918, and elements of the regiment sailed for New York in late January and early February, 1919.

(18) The 369th Infantry Regiment received a parade up 5th Avenue in New York City on February 17, 1919, receiving applause and cheers from hundreds of thousands of onlookers.

(19) The 369th was demobilized on February 28, 1919.

(20) Over 170 individual members of the 369th received the Croix de Guerre, many were awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, and the 369th was awarded a unit citation.

(21) It is generally believed that the 369th was dubbed the ''Harlem Hellfighters'' by German soldiers, who found the men to be incredibly determined and courageous in battle.

(22) The 369th was the first regiment of African Americans to deploy overseas during World War I and spent 191 days on the front line in World War I, more than any other American regimental sized unit.

(23) The 369th never lost a foot of ground nor had a man taken prisoner, despite suffering a high number of casualties.

SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the award, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold medal of appropriate design to the 369th Infantry Regiment, commonly known as the ''Harlem Hellfighters'', in recognition of their bravery and outstanding service during World War I.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury shall strike the gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the gold medal in honor of the 369th Infantry Regiment, the ''Harlem Hellfighters'', the gold medal shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where it will be displayed as appropriate and made available for research.

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should make the gold medal awarded pursuant to this Act available for display elsewhere, particularly at other locations associated with the Harlem Hellfighters.

SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3, at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the bronze medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

(b) PROCEEDS OF SALES.—The amounts received from the sale of duplicate medals under subsection (a) shall be deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

(c) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be necessary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under this Act.

SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.

The gold medal struck pursuant to this Act is a national medal for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

SEC. 6. 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 gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, the soldiers of the 369th Infantry Regiment were known to both their enemies and allies alike for their fierceness in battle and dedication to their country. They were called the Black Rattlers, the Men of Bronze, and Hollenkampfer, but they were best known as the Harlem Hellfighters.

The Harlem Hellfighters were one of the first African-American regiments

to serve with the American Expeditionary Forces in World War I. Over the course of the war, the Harlem Hellfighters spent more time than any other American unit in the frontline trenches and suffered 1,500 casualties—the most losses of any American unit.

In addition to facing the dangers of frontline trench warfare, the men of the Harlem Hellfighters endured racist, derogatory attacks from their White compatriots, many of whom refused to perform combat duty with African-American soldiers. This resulted in the Harlem Hellfighters being transferred to a French Army where, despite racist warnings from American Expeditionary Forces headquarters of the alleged inferior nature of African-American troops, the Harlem Hellfighters were treated as welcome reinforcements and equals.

Despite the racism and derogatory attacks from their fellow countrymen, the Harlem Hellfighters were steadfast in their devotion to their country. Some members considered their service to be a way to prove they deserved respect from their White compatriots. Even German propaganda targeting the Harlem Hellfighters highlighting the racism of a segregated U.S. military failed to diminish their resolve.

Yet, despite their considerable sacrifices and being awarded the Croix de Guerre by the French Army for their efforts, the Harlem Hellfighters continued to face considerable racism when they returned home after World War I. Their bravery and accomplishments were similarly ignored by the broader American public. But their legacy and memory has been kept alive in their hometown. The annual Harlem Hellfighters Parade in Harlem, New York, became a marker of African-American service to their Nation, and their service was frequently referenced as part of the civil rights campaign.

This bill directs the U.S. Mint to strike a Congressional Gold Medal honoring the Harlem Hellfighters for their service during World War I. The gold medal will be displayed at the Smithsonian Institution so that others may learn of the patriotism and courage displayed by the men of the 369th Infantry Regiment.

So, Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. SUOZZI for introducing this bill. I urge Members to vote ''yes,'' and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3642, a bill that awards a Congressional Gold Medal to the 369th Infantry Regiment commonly known as the Harlem Hellfighters. This gold medal is in recognition of their bravery and outstanding service during World War I.

I would like to thank Congressman SUOZZI and the numerous original cosponsors for getting this important bill to the floor today.

I have heard from constituents who had family members and I have heard from folks from around the country about the importance of our recognizing this heroic group of—at that point—men. The 369th Infantry Regiment nicknamed the Harlem Hellfighters were the first African-American infantry unit to fight in World War I. They were also one of the most decorated.

This is extraordinary. They became one of the most feared units fighting for the Allies in World War I, and they were notorious for never yielding ground to their enemies. This is extraordinary.

Their name, Harlem Hellfighters, which was given to them by the Germans, is reflective of that reputation. That was a hard-won reputation that they had, and that name is synonymous with the fear that produced in our enemies. They fearlessly spent 191 consecutive days on the front lines, which was more time in combat than any other American unit during the Great War—during World War I.

Additionally, I would be remiss if I did not point out that at least 249 North Carolina-born African-American men served in this prestigious unit. These brave sons of Carolina fought valiantly just west of the Argonne Forest in defense of an outpost against a German raiding party. During this conflict, four North Carolinian Hellfighters were wounded, including Sergeant Henry Johnson, a native of Winston-Salem that I have the honor to represent.

Not only were these men fierce fighters, they were also instrumental in influencing art and culture, including introducing jazz to Europe, and for that the Europeans should be grateful. Their leader, James Reese Europe, directed their regimental band to international acclaim.

Madam Speaker, the Harlem Hellfighters of World War I deserve a Congressional Gold Medal as the highest recognition of national appreciation. I urge my colleagues to support this bill. I am grateful for the bipartisan nature of this bill and also bringing attention to the valiant soldiers who protected us during the Great War, especially this very special decorated unit of intense fighters but fantastic humans.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SUOZZI) who is also the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. SUOZZI. Madam Speaker, today we have the opportunity to begin to right a century-old wrong. I rise to support the creation of a Congressional Gold Medal in honor of the Harlem Hellfighters.

Thousands of Harlem Hellfighters were African-American soldiers who signed up to join the U.S. Army in World War I. Sadly, but predictably, White soldiers were unwilling to serve alongside Black soldiers, and these brave men were assigned to join the French Army. But that didn't stop them.

The Harlem Hellfighters, wearing U.S. uniforms but issued weapons and helmets by the French, went on to face more combat time than any other regiment during World War I. No Harlem Hellfighter was captured as a prisoner of war, and they never gave up any ground.

The bravery, dedication, and sacrifices of the Harlem Hellfighters who served 191 days under near-constant enemy fire impacted the outcome of World War I, but instead of receiving a hero's welcome, they returned home to racism and race-fueled violence.

There were three dozen Hellfighters who came from my hometown of Glen Cove. In 2019 the family of Sergeant Leander Willett came to tell me about their father and grandfather. He had served in France and had been stabbed by a German bayonet and been the victim of mustard gas attacks, but never received a Purple Heart. He returned home and died in 1956 without ever being properly recognized and honored for his service to our country. He joined his fellow comrades who have been lost to history.

In November of 2019 we surprised the Willett family with a posthumous Purple Heart for Sergeant Willett for wounds received as a result of hostile actions in France on October 4, 1918.

I then approached my colleague ADRIANO ESPAILLAT, who represents Harlem, and the chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, JOYCE BEATTY, about collaborating together to attain a Congressional Gold Medal. They both immediately and enthusiastically agreed. We went on to obtain 310 bipartisan cosponsors of this bill and expect strong support today.

I would like to especially thank Chairwoman WATERS for her and the Financial Services Committee's support. On behalf of the Willett family, the families of dozens of Harlem Hellfighters from my hometown, and a grateful Nation, we say thank you to this body for putting aside partisanship and helping to right a century-old harm. It is never too late to do the right thing.

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

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT).

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, I thank Congressman SUOZZI for his leadership on this bill and for working with me on this fight for justice. I also want to thank Chairwoman WATERS and Ranking Member MCHENRY for working with us to get this bill out of the committee.

Today, I rise in support of this bill to honor a group of brave men who have yet to receive their due commendation: the Harlem Hellfighters.

This distinguished group of African-American and Puerto Rican men were patriots of the highest valor. Their bravery, dedication, perseverance, and

service helped the United States and our Allied forces in our fight to secure victory. But, Madam Speaker, these fighters weren't even permitted to serve alongside their fellow White soldiers. Our government threw them to the side—assigning them to a unit of the French Government rather than our own.

They put their lives on the line for the freedoms enshrined in our Constitution, despite doing so at a time when many like them did not enjoy the very freedoms they fought to protect.

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

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield the gentleman from New York an additional 1 minute.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, these men spent 191 days in combat and were the most active regiment throughout the entire First World War. Under constant enemy fire and cast away from the nation they swore an oath to protect, they still persevered, fighting until the end.

There is no doubt that their heroism impacted the outcome of the war and, undoubtedly, American history as well.

This bill is a necessary first step to righting the decades-old injustice. It is about time the Harlem Hellfighters' invaluable contributions be commended and commemorated, and their service be formally recognized by our government. Let's finally give these men the Congressional Gold Medal they deserve.

□ 1515

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

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY).

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairwoman WATERS for managing this time.

To the gentleman from New York, what an honor it is for me to stand on this House floor as chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, as a Black woman, to urge my colleagues to support the Harlem Hellfighters Congressional Gold Medal Act.

We have heard so much about them, and I am proud to join them, giving them the recognition that they deserve. These men of this segregated unit fought bravely in the First World War and distinguished themselves in battle across France. The men of the 369th Infantry Regiment, the Harlem Hellfighters, are an important chapter in the long history of Black Americans serving our country.

So often we talk about Black history, but it is important to know that Black history is American history. And, today, we stand here united as Americans, Democrats, Republicans, asking our colleagues to make sure that we recognize the Harlem Hellfighters for the great work, the great bravery, for what they did for this country.

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, may I inquire if there are additional speakers? I am prepared to close.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers and I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

There is an extraordinary story to tell about the American Armed Forces. There is an extraordinary story to tell about African Americans in our Armed Forces in the United States.

The Harlem Hellfighters were representative of a really amazing achievement during the war to end all wars, World War I. But there are also stories before this. That was not the first group of African Americans to fight to defend our Nation.

It was not the Civil War where African Americans fought for our Nation for the first time. It was not. It was actually our liberation from Great Britain. It was George Washington's army that had African Americans serving alongside other Americans to liberate us from Great Britain.

Our founding of this Nation is one of a multiracial, multiethnic, multilingual, amazing group of folks who wanted the same things, which is freedom to make decisions for themselves and for their families. And it was that first integrated army, which was George Washington's army, the Continental Army, that begat the African Americans who served alongside other Americans in the Civil War.

And, sadly, that established capacity was lost for two generations before the Great War, and the Harlem Hellfighters showed the American people that African Americans can fight just as well as any other American, and, in fact, do better in unmitigated harsh treatment on the front lines of the biggest war that anyone thought they would ever see in their lifetimes; which then said, during World War II, actually, we are all in this together; which then changed the whole face of the 20th century.

So what the Harlem Hellfighters represent to us in this debate is not just the good work of the Congressional delegation from New York, or Congressman SUOZZI in bringing this to the floor today, but giving us the opportunity to highlight what this generation of men showed to the American people and to our allies in Europe about who we are as Americans.

So for us to honor the Harlem Hellfighters today has given us the opportunity to recognize 100 years of progress. Not even progress, not fulfillment of every dream that we have as Americans, not perfect, not perfect, but a whole hell of a lot better than we were 100 years ago when these Harlem Hellfighters showed the world not just what America is about, but specifically what African Americans were about and their capacity. Not just capacity to fight, but to be smart, to be capable, to deliver results, to be the best, the best.

So the last hundred years, you can go back to that generation of Harlem Hellfighters and you can see what they brought to the public and the understanding that they brought over the last hundred years, and it made us better.

So for us to have this opportunity to recognize them also lets us recognize ourselves as a country and who we are, and to actually say, you know, it is pretty amazing. We have an amazing country. And these men who fought and died—many who died—they loved their country. They love their country and they are willing to not just support it with words like I am right now, but with their lives.

So, with a grateful heart, I say thank you to Congressman SUOZZI and his constituents for bringing this debate to the floor.

I want to thank my colleagues for doing this in a very wide, bipartisan way, and giving us the opportunity to have a broader look at history and the greatness of the last century and the improvement that we have as a result of what they broke through over 100 years ago in the Argonne Forest.

Madam Speaker, I urge adoption of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

In closing, I certainly want to thank Mr. SUOZZI for bringing forward this legislation. I want to thank Mr. ESPAILLAT and Congresswoman BEATTY for joining with him to bring this legislation forward. I want to thank Mr. MCHENRY and the members of the Financial Services Committee for joining together in support of this legislation.

The Harlem Hellfighters braved long deployments, treacherous conditions, and the scorn of their fellow patriots. So we find ourselves, I guess, 100 years later or so, understanding the important role that they played and the sacrifices that they made.

We also understand how important it is for all of us to not only give recognition to their sacrifice, but also recognize that this country has gone through some very difficult times, faced with the question of race.

Despite the fact that we have seen times in this country when we were moving forward and we thought we were erasing the kind of racism that had been present for too long, we find ourselves today fighting some of the same battles.

There are many in the history of this country who have made sacrifices in so many different ways that perhaps will never be recognized. But I am hopeful, with the cooperation, the cosponsorship, and the work for both sides of the aisle on a recognition such as this, that this will help us to continue to fight to rid this country of racism and discrimination and hatred.

I am hopeful that the word will go forward today about this recognition that we are giving to the Harlem Hellfighters and will inspire others to want to praise and honor those who are certainly ones who are so committed to

justice and equality, and who love this country will be treated better, will be recognized, and certainly will be given their correct place in history.

So I urge Members to celebrate the memory of these brave men of the 369th Infantry Regiment, who, through their service, sought to realize a more equal and a more perfect union, by voting ''yes'' on H.R. 3642.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3642, 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.

Mrs. BOEBERT. 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.

DEBT BONDAGE REPAIR ACT

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2332) to prohibit consumer reporting agencies from furnishing a consumer report containing any adverse item of information about a consumer if such consumer is a victim of trafficking, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2332

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 ''Debt Bondage Repair Act''.

SEC. 2. ADVERSE INFORMATION IN CASES OF TRAFFICKING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 605B the following:

''§ 605C Adverse information in cases of trafficking

''(a) IN GENERAL.—A consumer reporting agency may not furnish a consumer report containing any adverse item of information about a consumer that resulted from a severe form of trafficking in persons or sex trafficking if the consumer has provided trafficking documentation to the consumer reporting agency.

''(b) RULEMAKING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, issue a rule to implement subsection (a).

''(2) CONTENTS.—The rule issued pursuant to paragraph (1) shall establish a method by which consumers shall submit trafficking documentation to consumer reporting agencies.

''(c) DEFINITIONS.—

''(1) TRAFFICKING DOCUMENTATION.—The term trafficking documentation means—

''(A) documentation of either—

''(i) a determination by a Federal or State government entity that a consumer is a victim of trafficking; or

''(ii) a determination by a court of competent jurisdiction that a consumer is a victim of trafficking; and

''(B) documentation that identifies items of adverse information that should not be furnished by a consumer reporting agency because the items resulted from the severe form of trafficking in persons or sex trafficking of which such consumer is a victim.

''(2) VICTIM OF TRAFFICKING.—For the purposes of this section, the term ''victim of trafficking'' means a person who is a victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons or sex trafficking, as such terms are defined in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the Fair Credit Reporting Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 605B the following new item:

''605C. Adverse information in cases of trafficking.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply on the date that is 30 days after the date on which the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection issues a rule pursuant to section 605C(b) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act.

(d) 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 gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the Committee on Financial Services ranking member, Mr. MCHENRY, for introducing H.R. 2332, the Debt Bondage Repair Act.

Over the last year, working in a bipartisan manner, the Financial Services Committee has been engaged in an examination of trafficking issues of all types. As we heard at a recent hearing that delved into issues of human trafficking, which includes forced labor, sex trafficking and organ trafficking, victims of trafficking are not only abused physically and emotionally, but financially also.

The moving testimony of Reverend Dr. Martin Hatcher, an advocate for sex trafficking survivors and a survivor himself, demonstrated how traffickers steal their victims' identities, open accounts in their names, run up credit card debt, purchase large ticket items like automobiles, and take out loans while pretending to be their victims.

This financial exploitation is not only designed as a stream of finance, allowing the traffickers' operation to thrive, but it also inflicts long-term harm and asserts control over the victim.

This bill, which aims to help survivors of human trafficking restore their credit and gain access to the consumer financial products and services that most of us take for granted, is an important step in restoring survivors' dignity and financial stability and in preventing revictimization.

Specifically, the bill prohibits credit bureaus from including adverse information that resulted from human or sex trafficking in a victim's credit report. It directs the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to develop a process to ensure that adverse information caused by their traffickers is not included in a victim's credit report. Such a process does not exist now and, given the importance that credit reports play in our economy, it makes it difficult for survivors in our communities to get a loan or even secure a job.

As noted by the Survivor Inclusion Initiative of the Human Trafficking Focus Liechtenstein Initiative, we must ''facilitate survivor access to basic banking services, such as checking and savings accounts, and help survivors' financial recovery to become full financial participants in their communities.''

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

□ 1530

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2332, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, debt bondage is a terrible crime, and many victims find themselves trapped in a perpetual cycle of forced labor and coerced debt because of it.

Earlier this year, the House Financial Services Committee held a hearing where we focused on the financing of human trafficking. This is an area of bipartisan cooperation on the House Financial Services Committee. I want to commend my Democrat colleagues for leading this discussion and finding time on the committee docket for us to continue the conversation we have had over the last couple of Congresses.

In that hearing, we heard from many powerful witnesses, including Rev. Dr. Marian Hatcher, who is a trafficking survivor. Rev. Dr. Hatcher had the courage to tell us her story, and because of it, we now have legislation that will help others.

This is the way Congress is supposed to work. We are supposed to listen to experts and get ideas out of that on how we can construct legislation. Because of Dr. Hatcher, we know a lot more.

Dr. Hatcher, like so many others in this country and around the globe, but in this country, in particular, fell victim to human traffickers. Thankfully, she was able to escape a terrible situation and restore her life.

However, she struggled to reestablish herself because of a credit score, which was negatively affecting her whole financial life. She was affected by loans in particular that she was forced to obtain on behalf of her traffickers.

So not only does she have to go through the emotional and social struggles, but she has this that is a weight around her. This is something where we can legislate and make her life and make the lives of trafficking survivors like hers better.

You see, Madam Speaker, this is where traffickers trap a victim into a debt cycle. Traffickers will take out loans, open businesses, and destroy a victim's credit, which forces them to remain a victim until they pay off the debt.

Now, you think this happens in other places around the globe. You think that this is some other country. No, it is here. It is here in our midst, and they are doing it through what seems like legal means.

Too often, these victims are never able to get out. This is something that we have to be aware of and focus on.

That is where this bill, the Debt Bondage Repair Act, comes in. This simple, 4-page bill has the potential to help thousands of victims every year by ensuring that a consumer reporting agency may not furnish a credit report with adverse information from a severe form of trafficking.

While this does not erase the terrible crimes committed against them, it will help victims to regain their financial freedom and begin to rebuild their lives.

I would like to note that this bill has a very tailored rulemaking provision.

We want to fix this problem. We provide the CFPB a window of 180 days for rulemaking. This should be sufficient time to hear from all the stakeholders. But it is my hope that they will complete this rulemaking quickly so that the victims can get relief as soon as possible.

I would like to thank the many victim advocates and consumer data industry representatives who provided technical assistance to get this bill where it is.

I would say the difficulty of legislating is that you have to take in folks who are on opposite sides of an issue. Not that they don't care about the same issue, but you have folks that are on one side of a business and those advocates that see things differently. It takes time to bring them together to see what is a workable solution, maybe not a perfect solution, but a workable solution.

I include in the RECORD statements of support from Shared Hope International, the National Center on Sexual Exploitation, Rev. Dr. Hatcher herself, and the Consumer Data Industry Association.

SHAREDHOPE INTERNATIONAL,
June 11, 2021.

Letter of Support for the Debt Bondage Repair Act.

DEAR RANKING MEMBER MCHENRY AND CONGRESSMEMBERS WAGNER, GONZALEZ, TAYLOR, AND HILL: Traffickers financially benefit from exploiting human trafficking victims through forced labor and commercial sex, but also by exploiting their victims' credit history. With credit cards, loan applications, and access to financial services all dependent on an individual's credit history, the impact of this financial exploitation is both far reaching and long-term.

We thank you for taking an important step in addressing these harms by introducing and sponsoring HR 2332, the Debt Bondage Repair Act (DBRA). The DBRA supports trafficking survivors by preventing consumer reporting agencies from issuing credit reports containing adverse information that resulted from a survivor's victimization. This legislation is essential to address the long-term impact of human trafficking by eliminating adverse credit history that would otherwise remain on a survivor's credit report. Most importantly, the DBRA provides survivors an opportunity for financial independence and stability that can help end the cycle of exploitation.

Good credit history is essential for opening bank accounts, and applying for loans, credit cards, insurance, and housing. Credit reports are also sometimes necessary for applying for student loans, and utility and cellphone service contracts. Individuals with adverse credit history and low credit scores experience higher interest rates or denial altogether.

Traffickers use coercion and control to financially exploit their victims in various ways. One survivor described her trafficker coercing her into obtaining a loan and then credit cards by threatening the survivor's family. This left the survivor with poor credit and more than $25,000 in debt. Traffickers may also try to access credit that has not yet been exploited by intentionally targeting younger victims. One survivor recalled a trafficker targeting seventeen-year-old girls, who were about to turn eighteen because the trafficker could exploit their fresh credit by having them sign up for credit cards. In addition, as Rev. Dr. Marian Hatcher powerfully recounted in her testimony to the House Committee on Financial Services, traffickers may also use their victim's credit to purchase expensive items, such as cars. Traffickers also control their victim's bank accounts, passwords, and use the victim's accounts to engage in criminal activities. Consequently, financial institutions may later deny the survivor services because of criminal activity. Traffickers often exploit their victim's credit history at a time when the victim is not present in the formal economy and unable to build positive credit history.

Trafficking survivors then experience adverse credit history and burdensome loan obligations because of their financial exploitation. Consequently, when survivors leave their trafficking situations, they often cannot access financial resources. Trafficking survivors report difficulty opening bank accounts and obtaining safe housing, employment, cars, and cell phones. Access to housing is especially important to ending the cycle of vulnerability and exploitation. In one study, 64% of trafficking victims reported that lack of affordable housing prevented them from escaping their trafficking situation. Lack of resources may result in survivors returning to their exploitative circumstances. In her testimony to the House Committee on Financial Services, Rev. Dr. Marian Hatcher testified that lack of resources leads to reexploitation because ''survivors feel they have no option other than returning to the commercial sex industry.'' Also, obstacles to accessing financial resources and student loans may also hinder a survivor's educational aspirations. This negatively impacts the survivor's academic empowerment and long-term goals. Furthermore, survivors may feel stigmatized or embarrassed because of their poor credit. By preventing a consumer reporting agency from reporting adverse information resulting from a survivor's trafficking, the DBRA prevents a survivor's credit report from becoming an apparatus for continuing victimization.

Poor credit due to financial exploitation has long-term impacts on a survivor's ability to access financial resources, build financial independence, and navigate life after exploitation. The Debt Bondage Repair Act is crucial to providing trafficking survivors a clean slate and path toward financial independence. We support this critical legislation and urge Congress to support trafficking survivors by passing the Debt Bondage Repair Act.

Sincerely,

CHRISTINE RAINO,
Senior Director of Public Policy,
Shared Hope International.

NCSE LETTER OF SUPPORT

The National Center on Sexual Exploitation is grateful to Rep. Patrick McHenry for introducing HR 2332, the Debt Bondage Repair Act (DBRA) and to Survivor Leader Marian Hatcher, whose testimony before the Financial Services Committee inspired this solution.

H.R. 2332 provides financial relief to victims of human trafficking by preventing adverse credit reporting of incidents which occurred while being trafficked. The ability to move forward in life after tremendous adversity requires financial well-being along with personal well-being. In America, financial health depends on good credit. HR 2332 allows victims to put the past behind them and seek a much-needed fresh start. It is an excellent complement to the Trafficking Victims Protection Act in supporting justice for survivors.

We look forward to working toward passage of this act as well as continued efforts on behalf of trafficking survivors.

REVEREND DR. MARIAN HATCHER LETTER OF SUPPORT: H.R. 2332

Survivors spend a great deal of time trying to heal in ways you would expect; physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

However, another critically important aspect of healing is often left unattended and impedes the path to holistic health. That aspect is financial healing.

In many cases, the lack of financial wellness causes victims to have no option but to return to exploitive situations.

In other circumstances, survivors may be held civilly or criminally liable for debt incurred during their trafficking.

Any of these scenarios prevent the life of liberty and wholeness that survivors yearn for and deserve.

The Debt Bondage Repair Act will help provide survivors with a viable chance at full wellbeing, inclusive of financial stability and security.

I strongly support this critical legislation and urge Congress to support trafficking survivors by passing the Debt Bondage Repair Act.

REV. DR. MARIAN HATCHER.

CONSUMER DATA INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION,
Washington, DC, June 14, 2021.

Hon. MAXINE WATERS,
Chairwoman,
Hon. PATRICK T. MCHENRY,
Ranking Member,
Committee on Financial Services,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN WATERS AND RANKING MEMBER MCHENRY: I write on behalf of the Consumer Data Industry Association in support of H.R. 2332, the Debt Bondage Repair Act. This bill will give victims of human trafficking and debt bondage the ability to prove that they were victims of human trafficking and financial abuse so they can remove that information from their financial history.

This bill will help to address the financial trauma victims of human trafficking often endure. These victims should not have to bear the burden of fraudulent debts and ruined credit from their exploitation as they begin to rebuild their lives. Any verified fraudulent data on a credit report should be removed promptly from credit reports. In fact, the current practice credit bureaus follow is to remove any verified fraudulent data from reports. This bill will be helpful as it will specifically acknowledge in the law that these kinds of abuses occur and that the resulting tradelines should be deleted from reports.

Thank you for your work on this legislation.

Sincerely,

FRANCIS CREIGHTON,
President & CEO.

Mr. MCHENRY. Additionally, I would like to thank Polaris for their support of this legislation.

This is a great example of what happens when both parties work together. I want to thank Chairwoman WATERS for her help and assistance, and her staff, the Financial Services Committee majority Democrat staff, for their help with my staff and the Republican minority staff on the House Financial Services Committee.

We have a bipartisan solution to help trafficking victims pick up the pieces and begin a new life. I urge my colleagues to support this bill. I think this will be helpful to the lives at stake and let them rebuild their lives, not just financially but rebuild their lives.

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

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time until Mr. MCHENRY yields back.

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote for this good bipartisan bill that will help victims.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from North Carolina has yielded back.

The gentlewoman from California has the only time remaining.

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, I thought I reserved.

Madam Speaker, I urge adoption of this important measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Survivors of human trafficking face many obstacles to recovering from the physical, emotional, and financial abuse inflicted by their traffickers. The Debt Bondage Repair Act makes strides in assisting them to restore their credit and achieve financial reintegration into their communities.

Congress can play a leading role in helping trafficking survivors to take back control. For that reason, I certainly urge both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this important bill.

I do want to take a moment to thank my ranking member, Mr. MCHENRY, for the leadership that he has provided on trafficking in general and on financial trafficking specifically. This is important legislation, and I am so pleased to be able to work with him, and I am so pleased that this bill has bipartisan support. I want to thank him for the work that he has done and will continue to do.

I would also briefly note that survivors of trafficking are not the only individuals who are harmed by our broken credit reporting system. The system serves as a major barrier to economic opportunity for so many others. So we are going to continue working with Mr. MCHENRY, and I have scheduled a full committee hearing on June 29 to further explore these credit reporting challenges. I believe that our Republican colleagues will join with us to advance bold solutions to make the system fair for all of our constituents.

Again, I am so pleased that the members of the committee have worked together. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2332, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2332, 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.

Mrs. BOEBERT. 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.

LGBTQ BUSINESS EQUAL CREDIT ENFORCEMENT AND INVESTMENT ACT

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1443) to amend the Equal Credit Opportunity Act to require the collection of small business loan data related to LGBTQ-owned businesses, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1443

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 ''LGBTQ Business Equal Credit Enforcement and Investment Act''.

SEC. 2. SMALL BUSINESS LOAN DATA COLLECTION.

Section 704B of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (15 U.S.C. 1691c–2) is amended—

(1) by inserting ''LGBTQ-owned,'' after ''minority-owned,'' each place such term appears;

(2) in subsection (e)(2)(G), by inserting '', sexual orientation, gender identity'' after ''sex''; and

(3) in subsection (h), by adding at the end the following:

''(7) LGBTQ-OWNED BUSINESS.—The term 'LGBTQ-owned business' means a business—

''(A) more than 50 percent of the ownership or control of which is held by 1 or more individuals self-identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer; and

''(B) more than 50 percent of the net profit or loss of which accrues to 1 or more individuals self-identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer.''.

SEC. 3. 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 gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATERS. Madam 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 thereon.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from New York, Representative TORRES, for his leadership on H.R. 1443, the LGBTQ Business Equal Credit Enforcement and Investment Act.

We know transparency is critical in helping identify discriminatory lending practices in the financial marketplace. This bill would enhance a provision of Dodd-Frank requiring data collection on lending to small and minority-owned businesses to include data on lending to LGBTQ-owned businesses as well, including self-reported gender identity and sexual orientation.

This bill will also define an LGBTQ-owned business in the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, the ECOA, which would allow more businesses to gain access to capital and investment.

Of course, June is Pride Month, a time to recognize and celebrate the

LGBTQ community's significant contributions to our country, including to the economy, and to also stand as allies.

We know there is more work to be done to ensure equal opportunities. For example, according to a study of mortgage lending data from 2019, loan applicants in neighborhoods with a higher density of LGBTQ people received higher interest and fees, regardless of the applicant's sexuality or identity.

In addition, LGBTQ individuals face employment discrimination, which has contributed to high rates of poverty, especially for LGBTQ people of color. The Williams Institute found that nearly 31 percent of Black LGBTQ people live in poverty compared with nearly 25 percent of Black cisgender, straight people.

These factors further support the urgency of supporting LGBTQ businesses as they create job opportunities and build community wealth.

As of 2016, there were an estimated 1.4 million LGBTQ-owned businesses in the United States. The CFPB needs to begin collecting this data and help us as policymakers and the public identify and understand the community development needs of LGBTQ-owned businesses.

I am pleased we were able to report this bill unanimously out of committee with a voice vote. I hope we can build on that bipartisan effort, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

We can all agree data is important. But we need to recognize, particularly as it relates to obtaining data on companies, that each one is unique. Mandatory reporting metrics do not accurately measure progress.

Just look at the mandatory disclosure bills on the floor this week. They are a mess. The only outcome we can expect to see with those bills is a higher compliance cost on companies, leaving fewer resources to build out a workforce and invest in research and development.

Simply put, one size does not fit all, and one-size-fits-all doesn't work.

However, the bill we have in front of us today does not impose a new mandatory reporting regime. It adds on a list of voluntary data and adds a new item to that voluntary data. Data is collected on a voluntary basis under ECOA, under this law that is being amended. Any loan applicant who does not wish to provide information can decline to provide it, meaning there are fewer concerns over privacy or a one-size-fits-all reporting regime.

These are the things I have raised about this bill. I want to commend the sponsor for being willing to work with Republicans on getting back to the essence of the bill. I appreciate that my Democrat colleagues have offered a solution to promote diversity and inclusion without imposing new requirements on businesses or business owners that do not effectively measure their success.

I support this bill. I will vote for this bill. And I want to commend my Democrat colleagues for working with us on a number of concerns that we had with the various drafts of the bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1545

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time we have remaining in this debate?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from California has 17½ minutes remaining.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield all 17½ minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES), who is also the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 1443, the LGBTQ Business Equal Credit Enforcement and Investment Act.

I want to thank Chairwoman WATERS and Ranking Member MCHENRY for their support. As the ranking member noted, we did make concessions to address his concerns about the legislation.

In the United States there are 1.4 million LGBTQ businesses, contributing more than $1.7 trillion to the American economy. We have a vested interest in sustaining and strengthening these businesses with equal access to credit, which is the beating heart of the American economy.

As a former New York City Council member, I partnered with the National LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce to establish the Nation's largest municipal certification program for LGBTQ business enterprises, enabling those businesses to enjoy equal access to a $25 billion pool of government procurement.

The legislation before us, H.R. 1443, builds on a foundation laid by several statutes and regulations. The Equal Credit Opportunity Act, most commonly known as ECOA, prohibits credit discrimination, including but not limited to sex discrimination. A new interpretive rule from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, CFPB, clarifies that ECOA's prohibition against sex discrimination applies to sexual orientation and gender identity.

Section 1071 of Dodd-Frank, which exists to enable and enhance the enforcement of ECOA, requires financial institutions to report information about the race, ethnicity, and sex of credit applicants who serve as principal owners of small businesses.

My legislation would expand the 1071 reporting requirements to include not only sex but also sexual orientation and gender identity. In doing so, it would enable antidiscrimination enforcement where none might exist.

Even though the United States has made substantial strides toward LGBTQ equality, the mission is far from accomplished. Seventy percent of the LGBTQ community remains unprotected by antidiscrimination laws. When it comes to credit in particular, according to the Williams Institute, more than 7.7 million LGBTQ adults live in states that offer no protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

It is often said that knowledge is power. Knowledge affords us the power to detect discrimination that might otherwise go undetected. Take as an example the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act, which is analogous to the legislation before us. Both the National Community Reinvestment Coalition and Iowa State University reviewed data from the HMDA and found that same-sex couples were denied loans at higher rates than heterosexual couples despite having comparable creditworthiness. It also found that those same-sex couples paid higher fees and interest. The experience of HMDA tells us that sunlight can be a powerful disinfectant against discrimination.

H.R. 1443 would make credit more accessible, credit laws more enforceable, and creditors more accountable. It would represent a triumph of transparency in the service of economic opportunity for all, regardless of who you are and whom you love.

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

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

The LGBTQ Business Equal Credit Enforcement and Investment Act led by Representative TORRES would help ensure that LGBTQ business owners have access to opportunities to grow and invest through government and other private procurement contracts as well as have equal access to credit opportunities.

This bill is supported by the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, the Center for American Progress, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, the National Center for Transgender Equality, Center for LGBTQ Economic Advancement & Research, Human Rights Campaign, Out Leadership, and many others.

The Financial Services Committee passed this bill unanimously by voice vote in May 2021, and I would like to urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, again, to join me in supporting this important legislation.

I would like to thank the ranking member, Mr. MCHENRY, for joining with me and others to pass this important legislation and particularly this Pride Month that we are all celebrating the progress that has been made in the LGBTQ community.

I thank Mr. MCHENRY for his cosponsorship, his support, and his cooperation, for all that we are able to get done these days working together.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1443, 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.

Mrs. BOEBERT. 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.

AWARDING FOUR CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDALS TO UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE AND THOSE WHO PROTECTED THE U.S. CAPITOL ON JANUARY 6, 2021

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3325) to award four congressional gold medals to the United States Capitol Police and those who protected the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3325

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

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) Every day, the United States Capitol Police (''Capitol Police'') protects the U.S. Capitol, Members of Congress, congressional staff and institutional staff, journalists, and the visiting public.

(2) On January 6, 2021, a mob of insurrectionists forced its way into the U.S. Capitol building and congressional office buildings and engaged in acts of vandalism, looting, and violently attacked Capitol Police officers.

(3) The sacrifice of heroes including Capitol Police Officers Brian Sicknick and Howard Liebengood, Metropolitan Police Department Officer Jeffrey Smith, and those who sustained injuries, and the courage of Capitol Police Officer Eugene Goodman, exemplify the patriotism and the commitment of Capitol Police officers, and those of other law enforcement agencies, to risk their lives in service of our country.

(4) Up to seven Americans died following this violent attack, and more than 140 law enforcement officers suffered physical injuries, including 15 officers who were hospitalized.

(5) The desecration of the U.S. Capitol, which is the temple of our American Democracy, and the violence targeting Congress are horrors that will forever stain our Nation's history.

(6) On April 2, 2021 Officer William ''Billy'' Evans was killed while protecting the North Barricade of the Capitol. Officer Evans was a distinguished member of the First Responders Unit and an eighteen-year veteran of the United States Capitol Police. Also injured in that assault was Officer Kenneth Shaver. Officer Shaver is a fifteen-year veteran of the United States Capitol Police.

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDALS.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZATION.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of four gold medals of appropriate design to the United States Capitol Police and those who protected the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the ''Secretary'') shall strike gold medals with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) DISPOSITION OF MEDALS.—Following the award of the gold medals under subsection (a):

(1) USCP HEADQUARTERS.—One gold medal shall be given to the United States Capitol Police, so that the medal may be displayed at the headquarters of the United States Capitol Police and made available for research, as appropriate.

(2) DC METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS.—One gold medal shall be given to the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia, so that the medal may be displayed at the headquarters of the Metropolitan Police Department and made available for research, as appropriate.

(3) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—One gold medal shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where it shall be available for display as appropriate and available for research.

(B) PLAQUE.—In displaying the gold medal given under subparagraph (A), the Smithsonian Institution shall display the medal with a plaque that lists all of the law enforcement agencies that participated in protecting the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021.

(C) SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should make the gold medal given under subparagraph (A) available for display elsewhere, particularly at appropriate locations associated with the protection of the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021.

(4) UNITED STATES CAPITOL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—One gold medal shall be given to the Architect of the Capitol, for display in a prominent location in the United States Capitol as appropriate and available for research.

(B) PLAQUE.—In displaying the gold medal given under subparagraph (A), the Architect of the Capitol shall display the medal with a plaque that lists all of the law enforcement agencies that participated in protecting the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021.

SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medals struck pursuant to section 2 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of the Congress that the United States Mint should expedite production of the gold medals and duplicate medals under this Act, so that the sacrifices of fallen officers and their families, and the contributions of other law enforcement agencies who answered the call of duty on January 6, 2021, can be recognized and honored in a timely manner.

SEC. 5. NATIONAL MEDALS.

Medals struck pursuant to this Act are national medals for the purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

SEC. 6. 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 gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Ms. WATERS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, every day the men and women of the United States Capitol Police protect the U.S. Capitol. They protect us, they protect our staff, they protect journalists and other visitors who come into the people's House.

In March of this year, the House passed H.R. 1085 to award three Congressional Gold Medals honoring the courage, patriotism, and commitment to service exemplified by the men and women of the Capitol Police, Metropolitan Police, and other law enforcement agencies who risked their lives and sustained injuries as they sought to protect those trapped in the Capitol on January 6, 2021.

This bill builds upon H.R. 1085 to include minting of a fourth Congressional Gold Medal to be displayed by the Architect of the Capitol so that we may continue to honor those officers who sustained injuries in the line of duty and the sacrifices of heroes, including Capitol Police Officers Brian Sicknick and Howard Liebengood and Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police Department Officer Jeffrey Smith. We also honor Capitol Police Officer Eugene Goodman; whose quick thinking and selfless action undoubtedly saved the lives of many.

Additionally, this bill honors the memory of Capitol Police Officer William ''Billy'' Evans, who was killed while protecting the north barricade of the Capitol against a vehicular assault on April 2, 2021. It also honors the bravery displayed by Capitol Police Officer Kenneth Shaver, who was also injured in that assault.

I thank Speaker PELOSI for introducing this bill this Congress and urge Members to vote ''yes.''

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3325, a bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the U.S. Capitol Police and those who protected the Capitol on January 6, 2021.

I would like to thank the Speaker for bringing this legislation to the floor to honor the officers who work tirelessly to protect us in and out every day, to not just protect this building, but to protect the Members in this building. Not just protect the Members, but to make sure that staff is safe on a daily basis. And the staff, indeed, makes Congress what it is and gives us the capacity that we have to legislate. We want to make sure that staff and Members and our visitors here are protected on a daily basis, and the Capitol Police, indeed, do that.

Madam Speaker, what happened to this institution on January 6 was horrific. This building is a working monument to our Nation's Founding Fathers and our founding principles. It is a testament to the freedoms we hold dear and that we strive for, and we strive to become a more perfect Union on every day that we are here. Not perfectly, but we strive for a more perfect Union.

Madam Speaker, the brave men and women who stood and faced danger on January 6 deserve to be recognized for their actions. Without their courageous work and their dedication, many of us here today could have been seriously injured or worse.

This gold medal will also honor another Capitol Police Officer, William ''Billy'' Evans. Officer Evans, an 18-year veteran of Capitol Police, was killed at his post when a car rammed into the Capitol barricade on Good Friday. Any life lost is a tragedy, especially those of our friends on the police force.

Once this bill is enacted, a Congressional Gold Medal will be displayed at the U.S. Capitol Police headquarters. It will be a recognition of the good work the Capitol Police do on a daily basis. Another will be displayed at the D.C. Metropolitan Police headquarters, and the third will be given to the Smithsonian Institution so everyone who visits D.C. will be reminded of the bravery by our police officers on that very day.

Madam Speaker, I think I speak for all my colleagues when I say thank you, thank you to each and every officer who was here on January 6. Their bravery will not be forgotten.

The U.S. Capitol Police and those who protected us on January 6 deserve this Congressional Gold Medal. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) the Speaker, who is also the sponsor of this legislation.

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding and for leading the effort on the floor today to pass this important legislation. I commend her and the ranking member, Mr. MCHENRY, for his good words about this legislation and his reference to the bravery of our Capitol Police.

Madam Speaker, over 5 months have passed since the January 6 insurrection was waged against our Capitol and our democracy.

For most of us, the horror of January 6 has not faded. The memory of Members, staff, and workers fleeing for their lives, the sound of screams and shots fired, the agony of over 140 law enforcement officers physically harmed and those killed all remain very raw.

January 6 was unquestionably one of the darkest days in the history of our democracy, but because of the courage of the Capitol Police and other law enforcement officers, it will also be etched in history as a day of heroism. That day the Capitol Police Force put themselves between the violence and us. They risked their safety and their lives for others with the utmost selflessness. Some died, becoming martyrs for our democracy.

They did so because they were patriots, the type of Americans who heard the call to serve and answered it, putting country above self. They enabled us to return to the Capitol, to that podium that night to show the world that our democracy had prevailed and that it had succeeded because of them.

□ 1600

In March, as you recall, we came together and we passed legislation to award these patriots the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest award, as has been mentioned, that this body can offer.

Doing so was a high honor and privilege for each of us, and it was also our responsibility to ensure that we always remember those heroes and their sacrifice.

As I said on the floor then: ''May the courage of these heroes always remain an inspiration to us. And may we always remember the valor of the fallen.''

This gold medal will be proudly displayed, as the distinguished gentleman referenced, for years to come, ensuring that their valor and the sacrifice of the fallen are always remembered.

But 2 weeks after we passed that gold medal legislation, as you know, Madam Speaker, under your leadership, Congress honored one of the fallen, Officer Brian Sicknick, with a lying-in-state ceremony to convey the grief and gratitude felt for all Americans by his sacrifice.

That respect was reflected in the presence of distinguished leaders, military leaders, and leaders of institutions of government who came to pay their respects, including President Biden.

Sadly, just weeks later, we returned to the Capitol rotunda for a lying-in-honor ceremony for Officer Billy Evans, as the distinguished ranking member mentioned, killed in the line of duty in April on Good Friday.

Officer Evans was a distinguished member of the first responders unit and an 18-year veteran of the United States Capitol Police.

Everyone who knew him knew he was a hero. We hope that it was a comfort to his children Logan and Abigail that so many learned that day what a hero their father was. We hope by adding Billy's name to the pantheon of patriots honored with this gold medal, the memory of his sacrifice will always endure.

So here we are once again on the floor of the House honoring our heroes. As we pass this legislation, we, as Members of Congress, have a responsibility to do more than simply laud these officers as heroes.

We must respect them and we must support them with resources and funding. We must keep them safe. And we must ensure that a January 6th attack can never happen again.

This is about our respect for their service and our responsibility to honor their sacrifice. Any chance we get, we want to praise our Capitol Police. Sadly, we are doing this in a time when we are honoring some who have lost their lives and some were severely injured, but every day we know that they are making a sacrifice, and that is what we respect.

I urge a strong bipartisan vote for this legislation. I am pleased to hear both our distinguished chair, MAXINE WATERS, and the distinguished ranking member both support the legislation. I urge all members to join us in honoring our law enforcement heroes with real action with a gold medal.

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

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank Congresswoman WATERS for yielding, and I thank the gentlewoman and the ranking member for their leadership.

I ask that we think carefully as this legislation is debated and really reflect on January 6, where each of us probably has a personal experience that we can offer to be able to add to the sacrifice of that day, the moment in history and imaging that we never expected an insurrectionist mob to rise to attack the citadel of democracy.

We were here quietly doing the people's business, the constitutional responsibility of affirming the President and Vice President of the United States. We were doing what the American people asked us to do. We were representing the Capitol Police and law enforcement throughout America. Nurses, doctors, students, teachers, the impoverished, all were with hope looking toward the Biden-Harris administration.

We knew that there were those who did not vote for them, but we also knew the sacredness of our Constitution, and so did the Capitol Police and other law enforcement.

For as we were down in this very august place where noises could not be heard quickly, our Capitol Police were already facing a torrent of outrageous behavior, violence, guns, smears, flags representing the worst of our Nation.

So I am very proud to rise today and thank Speaker PELOSI for the vision

and leadership and to remember to be reminded of the names Brian Sicknick, Howard Liebengood, Metropolitan Police Department Officer Jeffrey Smith, and those who sustained injuries, those who were heroic; Officer Eugene Goodman exemplified the patriotism, commitment, and unselfishness in saving the lives of others; and the Metropolitan police, along with many other law enforcement.

I rise to support this gold medal. I rise so that we never have this happen again. And I rise to say the simple words of ''thank you.''

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3325, legislation awarding four Congressional Gold Medals to the United States Capitol Police and those who, on January 6, 2021, displayed selfless and heroic service in defense of American democracy in protecting the U.S. Capitol from the violent assault of domestic terrorists.

The United States Capitol Police dates back to 1800 when the Congress moved from Philadelphia to Washington, D.C., and a lone watchman was hired to protect the Capitol Building.

In 1827, President John Quincy Adams asked that a regular Capitol Police force be established, and on May 2, 1828, Congress passed an Act that expanded the police regulations of the City of Washington to include the Capitol and Capitol Square.

The United States Capitol Police expanded its force after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, and again following the historic merger with the Library of Congress Police in 2009.

In addition to the more than 2,000 sworn members of the force, the United States Capitol Police Department has over 350 civilian personnel who provide operational and administrative support, and its diverse workforce is comprised of employees from nearly all 50 states and the U.S. territories.

The United States Capitol Police embodies the best in American policing and serves as a model in security, urban crime prevention, dignitary protection, specialty response capabilities, and homeland security.

As ambassadors of the Congress, officers of the United States Capitol Police Department are often the first face that visitors and employees encounter, leaving a lasting impression that is reflective of the Legislative Branch and its role in America's democracy.

Officers of the United States Capitol Police Department each day proudly protect the legislative process, the symbol of the Nation's democracy, the people who carry out the process, and the millions of visitors who travel here to see democracy in action.

No finer example of the selfless devotion to duty, love of country, and fidelity to their oath to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the officers of the United States Capitol Police Department's than their valiant, heroic, and courageous response to the January 6, 2021 assault on the Capitol Building by thousands of domestic terrorists, insurrectionists, and rioters sent there by the President of the United States to ''fight like hell'' to disrupt and derail the constitutionally required Joint Meeting of Congress to open, count, and publicly confirm the vote tally of the presidential electors and announce the persons who had been elected President and Vice-President of the United States.

District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser and the Metropolitan Police Department have a distinguished record of protecting all groups, regardless of their beliefs, who come to the Nation's capital to exercise their First Amendment rights peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

At the direction of Mayor Bowser, and in advance of the scheduled demonstrations, mutual aid was requested by the Metropolitan Police Department from several area police departments to be on standby in the District, including neighboring law enforcement departments, the Metropolitan Transit Police and non-law enforcement agencies such as the District's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency and the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department.

The sustained assault on the Capitol precipitated an equally unprecedented response, necessitating the urgent request of the United States Capitol Police for the Metropolitan Police Department to come defend the Capitol to which the Metropolitan Police Department responded immediately with several Civil Disturbance Unit Platoons and proceeded to deploy to the west front of the Capitol and arrived within minutes.

The violent mob overran protective measures at the Capitol, and by 1:50 p.m., Metropolitan Police Department had declared the assembly to be a riot and immediately began working to achieve the objectives of stopping domestic terrorists from entering the Capitol building and removing those that were already inside, secure a perimeter so that the Capitol could be cleared for lawmakers to resume the Joint Meeting of Congress to demonstrate to the Nation and the world the robustness and vitality of America's democracy, and making arrests of anyone violating the law.

During the height of the siege of the Capitol, approximately 850 Metropolitan Police Department members were at the Capitol, with another 250 had been in the area to directly support the response and aftermath.

Madam Speaker, people around the country and the world were shocked and moved by the video of a Metropolitan Police Department Officer being beaten by a crowd of insurgents, including one wielding an American flag, and of another in agony as he was crushed between a door and a riot shield but also awed by their bravery in the face of this unprovoked and vicious attack, bravery that was matched that day by countless other unheralded Metropolitan Police Department officers.

The January 6, 2021 siege of the Capitol assault resulted in one of the worst days of injuries for law enforcement in the United States since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Madam Speaker, officers of the United States Capitol Police Department, the Metropolitan Police Department of Washington, D.C., and other uniformed law enforcement officers stood their ground in defense of American democracy while being attacked by the angry mob of domestic terrorists with metal pipes, discharged chemical irritants, and other weapons.

At least 138 officers, 73 from the United States Capitol Police Department and 65 from the Metropolitan Police Department in Washington, sustained injuries during the attack on the Capitol Building, several of which required hospitalization.

The injuries sustained ranged from bruises and lacerations to more serious damage such as concussions, rib fractures, burns, and even a mild heart attack.

One United States Capitol Police Department officer died from injuries sustained while physically engaging with protesters and two officers involved in the response have died by suicide.

Dozens, if not hundreds, of officers whom law enforcement officials estimate will suffer in years to come with post-traumatic stress disorder and the dozens who contracted the coronavirus from the unmasked domestic terrorists and rioters who stormed the Capitol.

At least 38 Capitol Police officers have tested positive or were exposed to the coronavirus as well as nearly 200 National Guard personnel who were deployed to protect the Capitol.

Madam Speaker, the seven hours between the urgent call for help from the Capitol Police to Metropolitan Police Department and the resumption of work by both houses of Congress will be indelibly etched in the memories of every law enforcement officer who was on the scene, as it is in the minds of the Senators, Representatives, congressional and support staff, and members of the media corps who were forced to seek safety behind locked doors.

Despite being overwhelmed and outnumbered, the indomitable forces of American democracy, symbolized by the resolve of the officers of the United States Capitol Police Department, prevailed and the seditious attack was quelled, the Capitol Building preserved, and the lives of United States Senators and Representatives protected, as well as those of congressional and support staff, and order was restored so that the Joint Meeting of Congress was resumed and completed its constitutionally required duty of counting and announcing the votes of the presidential electors, an essential step in the peaceful transfer of power that has been a hallmark of American democracy and the example to the world for more than two centuries.

As the legislation recites, ''the courage of Capitol Police Officer Eugene Goodman,'' and ''the sacrifice of heroes including Capitol Police Officers Brian Sicknick and Howard Liebengood, Metropolitan Police Department Officer Jeffrey Smith, and those who sustained injuries, exemplify the patriotism'' and devotion to duty of Capitol Police officers, and those of other law enforcement agencies, who risk their lives in service of our country.

Madam Speaker, the Congressional Gold Medals authorized to be minted by this legislation and to be displayed at the United States Capitol Police headquarters, the Metropolitan Police Department of Washington, D.C., the Smithsonian Institution, and by the Architect of the Capitol at the United States Capitol conveys the thanks and appreciation of a grateful nation for the selfless and heroic service exhibited by these sentinels of the republic in defense of American democracy in responding to the January 6, 2021 assault on the U.S. Capitol by domestic terrorists.

This tribute is, as President Lincoln noted at Gettysburg, ''altogether fitting and proper'' for heroes of the republic.

The action we are taking today should encourage all educational and media institutions throughout the United States to teach and celebrate the story of the heroism of the officers

of the United States Capitol Police Department, the Metropolitan Police Department, and all other law enforcement officers who, out of true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of the United States, selflessly risked their lives to protect the Capitol Building and its personnel, the Congress, and the spirit and fact of democracy in America.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Americans to read, celebrate, and revere the Constitution of the United States, fidelity to which is the surest best means of forming a more perfect union, establishing justice, ensuring domestic tranquility, providing for the common defense, promoting the general welfare, and securing the blessing of liberty to them and their posterity.

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

Madam Speaker, I think this is a special moment for the House in a very tough year for us to pause and to say thank you to those men and women who stand guard over this institution; not just this building, not just this campus, but the people who work here every day.

It is not Members; it is staff that are here every day. It is the people that make the Capitol work physically. It is the folks who are at the daycare, the folks who are in the press. They are the folks who are frequent visitors here, such that they feel like they work here, too.

It is the Capitol Police that keep us safe not from one another, but safe from the harms that can happen in a very dangerous world. And we want to say thank you to the men and women of the Capitol Police for their dedication, for their bravery, for their training every day.

And we honor you not just in word, but with deed; not just with word and this deed of a Congressional Gold Medal, but our ongoing support. Our ongoing support, such that you can operate every day to the best of your training with the best training and tactics available to police and law enforcement anywhere in the world, the best equipment, the best training resources, but also the freedom to use those things in a way that is commensurate with public safety.

So I want to thank the Capitol Police for their service and their sacrifice in making this institution safe; safe so we can debate important things that need to be debated, to disagree, for us to be able to disagree as a civil society, yet still come together for the important things of being friends and neighbors and lovers of this great country.

Madam Speaker, I encourage a ''yes'' vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

In closing, I commend Speaker PELOSI for bringing forward this legislation.

Every day, the brave men and women of the U.S. Capitol Police put their lives on the line in service to our Nation.

On January 6, we all witnessed this bravery firsthand as they fought against those who would seek to end this democracy. It is true that the leadership and decisive action on that day saved many lives, including my own. We honor their sacrifices on that day, and every day we thank them for their service.

Madam Speaker and Members, I cannot help but say at this time where this bill is being discussed on the floor of the House of Representatives, I saw Capitol Police in hand-to-hand combat with these insurrectionists. I saw them being attacked by QAnon, by the proud boys, by the oath keepers, by the KKK, by white supremacists. I thought I would never see such in my lifetime.

I watched Capitol Police being attacked with the American flag jabbed into their bodies. I never thought those who considered themselves conservative would attack uniformed police officers of the Capitol or any place, but we saw it.

So we can't say enough about these Capitol Police, whose lives were endangered and some who lost their lives and some who are still trying to recuperate from the injuries that they received.

I am absolutely saddened by the fact that too many do not want to know what really happened that day, who oppose investigation, oppose a commission to delve into exactly what took place, who was responsible, who organized it, who paid for it, et cetera.

I could go on all day and night talking about that experience, as many Members of Congress perhaps would like to do, but I know that, despite the fact, there is opposition to delving into what happened. We are going to find out what happened. We are going to find out who supported all of the resources that were put together to bring people here in buses and put them on airplanes to come and attack us in the Capitol of the United States of America.

So I urge all Members to honor the sacrifices and courage displayed by the members of the Capitol Police, the Metropolitan Police, and other law enforcement agencies by voting ''yes'' on H.R. 3325.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3325, 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.

Ms. WATERS. 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.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES AND PASS CERTAIN BILLS

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to section 8 of House Resolution 473, I move to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 293, H.R. 587, H.R. 610, H.R. 1144, H.R. 1703, H.R. 1921, H.R. 2008, H.R. 2332, H.R. 2545, and H.R. 3642.

The Clerk read the title of the bills.

The text of the bills are as follows:

VA HOSPITALS ESTABLISHING LEADERSHIP PERFORMANCE ACT

H.R. 293

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 Hospitals Establishing Leadership Performance Act''.

SEC. 2. QUALIFICATIONS FOR HUMAN RESOURCES POSITIONS WITHIN THE VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall—

(1) establish qualifications for each human resources position within the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs;

(2) establish standardized performance metrics for each such position; and

(3) submit to Congress a report containing the qualifications and standardized performance metrics established under paragraphs (1) and (2).

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the establishment of the qualifications and performance metrics under subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate a report containing—

(1) a description of the implementation of such qualifications and performance metrics; and

(2) an assessment of the quality of such qualifications and performance metrics.

SEC. 3. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the requirements of this Act. Such requirements shall be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized to be appropriated.

OCEAN POLLUTION REDUCTION ACT II

H.R. 587

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 ''Ocean Pollution Reduction Act II''.

SEC. 2. SAN DIEGO POINT LOMA PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any provision of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), the Administrator may issue a permit under section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342) for a discharge from the Point Loma Plant into marine waters that requires compliance with the requirements described in subsection (b).

(b) CONDITIONS.—A permit issued under this section shall require—

(1) maintenance of the currently designed deep ocean outfall from the Point Loma Plant with a discharge depth of not less than 300 feet and distance from the shore of not less than 4 miles;

(2) as applicable to the term of the permit, discharge of not more than 12,000 metric tons of total suspended solids per year commencing on the date of enactment of this section, not more than 11,500 metric tons of total suspended solids per year commencing on December 31, 2025, and not more than 9,942 metric tons of total suspended solids per year commencing on December 31, 2027;

(3) discharge of not more than 60 milligrams per liter of total suspended solids, calculated as a 30-day average;

(4) removal of not less than 80 percent of total suspended solids on a monthly average and not less than 58 percent of biochemical oxygen demand on an annual average, taking into account removal occurring at all treatment processes for wastewater upstream from and at the Point Loma Plant;

(5) attainment of all other effluent limitations of secondary treatment as determined by the Administrator pursuant to section 304(d)(1) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1314(d)(1)), other than any requirements otherwise applicable to the discharge of biochemical oxygen demand and total suspended solids;

(6) compliance with the requirements applicable to Federal issuance of a permit under section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, including State concurrence consistent with section 401 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1341) and ocean discharge criteria evaluation pursuant to section 403 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1343);

(7) implementation of the pretreatment program requirements of paragraphs (5) and (6) of section 301(h) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1311(h)) in addition to the requirements of section 402(b)(8) of such Act (33 U.S.C. 1342(b)(8));

(8) that the applicant provide 10 consecutive years of ocean monitoring data and analysis for the period immediately preceding the date of each application for a permit under this section sufficient to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Administrator that the discharge of pollutants pursuant to a permit issued under this section will meet the requirements of section 301(h)(2) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1311(h)(2)) and that the applicant has established and will maintain throughout the permit term an ocean monitoring program that meets or exceeds the requirements of section 301(h)(3) of such Act (33 U.S.C. 1311(h)(3)); and

(9) to the extent potable reuse is permitted by Federal and State regulatory agencies, that the applicant demonstrate that at least 83,000,000 gallons per day on an annual average of water suitable for potable reuse will be produced by December 31, 2035, taking into account production of water suitable for potable reuse occurring at all treatment processes for wastewater upstream from and at the Point Loma Plant.

(c) MILESTONES.—The Administrator shall determine development milestones necessary to ensure compliance with this section and include such milestones as conditions in each permit issued under this section before December 31, 2035.

(d) SECONDARY TREATMENT.—Nothing in this section prevents the applicant from alternatively submitting an application for the Point Loma Plant that complies with secondary treatment pursuant to section 301(b)(1)(B) and section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1311(b)(1)(B); 33 U.S.C. 1342).

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) BIOCHEMICAL OXYGEN DEMAND.—The term ''biochemical oxygen demand'' means biological oxygen demand, as such term is used in the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

(3) POINT LOMA PLANT.—The term ''Point Loma Plant'' means the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant owned by the City of San Diego on the date of enactment of this Act.

(4) STATE.—The term ''State'' means the State of California.

SAN FRANCISCO BAY RESTORATION ACT

H.R. 610

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 ''San Francisco Bay Restoration Act''.

SEC. 2. SAN FRANCISCO BAY RESTORATION GRANT PROGRAM.

Title I of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 124. SAN FRANCISCO BAY RESTORATION GRANT PROGRAM.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP.—The term 'Estuary Partnership' means the San Francisco Estuary Partnership, designated as the management conference for the San Francisco Bay under section 320.

''(2) SAN FRANCISCO BAY PLAN.—The term 'San Francisco Bay Plan' means—

''(A) until the date of the completion of the plan developed by the Director under subsection (d), the comprehensive conservation and management plan approved under section 320 for the San Francisco Bay estuary; and

''(B) on and after the date of the completion of the plan developed by the Director under subsection (d), the plan developed by the Director under subsection (d).

''(b) PROGRAM OFFICE.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator shall establish in the Environmental Protection Agency a San Francisco Bay Program Office. The Office shall be located at the headquarters of Region 9 of the Environmental Protection Agency.

''(2) APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR.—The Administrator shall appoint a Director of the Office, who shall have management experience and technical expertise relating to the San Francisco Bay and be highly qualified to direct the development and implementation of projects, activities, and studies necessary to implement the San Francisco Bay Plan.

''(3) DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY; STAFFING.—The Administrator shall delegate to the Director such authority and provide such staff as may be necessary to carry out this section.

''(c) ANNUAL PRIORITY LIST.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—After providing public notice, the Director shall annually compile a priority list, consistent with the San Francisco Bay Plan, identifying and prioritizing the projects, activities, and studies to be carried out with amounts made available under subsection (e).

''(2) INCLUSIONS.—The annual priority list compiled under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

''(A) Projects, activities, and studies, including restoration projects and habitat improvement for fish, waterfowl, and wildlife, that advance the goals and objectives of the San Francisco Bay Plan, for—

''(i) water quality improvement, including the reduction of marine litter;

''(ii) wetland, riverine, and estuary restoration and protection;

''(iii) nearshore and endangered species recovery; and

''(iv) adaptation to climate change.

''(B) Information on the projects, activities, and studies specified under subparagraph (A), including—

''(i) the identity of each entity receiving assistance pursuant to subsection (e); and

''(ii) a description of the communities to be served.

''(C) The criteria and methods established by the Director for identification of projects, activities, and studies to be included on the annual priority list.

''(3) CONSULTATION.—In compiling the annual priority list under paragraph (1), the Director shall consult with, and consider the recommendations of—

''(A) the Estuary Partnership;

''(B) the State of California and affected local governments in the San Francisco Bay estuary watershed;

''(C) the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority; and

''(D) any other relevant stakeholder involved with the protection and restoration of the San Francisco Bay estuary that the Director determines to be appropriate.

''(d) SAN FRANCISCO BAY PLAN.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Director, in conjunction with the Estuary Partnership, shall review and revise the comprehensive conservation and management plan approved under section 320 for the San Francisco Bay estuary to develop a plan to guide the projects, activities, and studies of the Office to address the restoration and protection of the San Francisco Bay.

''(2) REVISION OF SAN FRANCISCO BAY PLAN.—Not less often than once every 5 years after the date of the completion of the plan described in paragraph (1), the Director shall review, and revise as appropriate, the San Francisco Bay Plan.

''(3) OUTREACH.—In carrying out this subsection, the Director shall consult with the Estuary Partnership and Indian tribes and solicit input from other non-Federal stakeholders.

''(e) GRANT PROGRAM.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director may provide funding through cooperative agreements, grants, or other means to State and local agencies, special districts, and public or nonprofit agencies, institutions, and organizations, including the Estuary Partnership, for projects, activities, and studies identified on the annual priority list compiled under subsection (c).

''(2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF GRANTS; NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

''(A) MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF GRANTS.—Amounts provided to any entity under this section for a fiscal year shall not exceed an amount equal to 75 percent of the total cost of any projects, activities, and studies that are to be carried out using those amounts.

''(B) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—Not less than 25 percent of the cost of any project, activity, or study carried out using amounts provided under this section shall be provided from non-Federal sources.

''(f) FUNDING.—

''(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

''(2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Of the amount made available to carry out this section for a fiscal year, the Director may not use more than 5 percent to pay administrative expenses incurred in carrying out this section.

''(3) PROHIBITION.—No amounts made available under this section may be used for the administration of a management conference under section 320.

''(g) ANNUAL BUDGET PLAN.—For each of the budgets for fiscal years 2023 through 2026, the President, as part of the annual budget

submission of the President to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, shall submit information regarding each Federal department and agency involved in San Francisco Bay protection and restoration, including—

''(1) a report that displays for each Federal agency—

''(A) the amounts obligated in the preceding fiscal year for protection and restoration projects, activities, and studies relating to the San Francisco Bay; and

''(B) the proposed budget for protection and restoration projects, activities, and studies relating to the San Francisco Bay; and

''(2) a description and assessment of the Federal role in the implementation of the San Francisco Bay Plan and the specific role of each Federal department and agency involved in San Francisco Bay protection and restoration, including specific projects, activities, and studies conducted or planned to achieve the identified goals and objectives of the San Francisco Bay Plan.''.

PROMOTING UNITED GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO SAVE OUR SOUND ACT

H.R. 1144

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Promoting United Government Efforts to Save Our Sound Act'' or the ''PUGET SOS Act''.

SEC. 2. PUGET SOUND COORDINATED RECOVERY.

Title I of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 124. PUGET SOUND.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) COASTAL NONPOINT POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM.—The term 'Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program' means the State of Washington's Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program approved under section 6217 of the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments of 1990.

''(2) DIRECTOR.—The term 'Director' means the Director of the Program Office.

''(3) FEDERAL ACTION PLAN.—The term 'Federal Action Plan' means the plan developed under subsection (c)(3)(B).

''(4) INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION.—The term 'International Joint Commission' means the International Joint Commission established by the Treaty relating to the boundary waters and questions arising along the boundary between the United States and Canada, signed at Washington January 11, 1909, and entered into force May 5, 1910 (36 Stat. 2448; TS 548; 12 Bevans 319).

''(5) PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION.—The term 'Pacific Salmon Commission' means the Pacific Salmon Commission established by the United States and Canada under the Treaty concerning Pacific salmon, with annexes and memorandum of understanding, signed at Ottawa January 28, 1985, and entered into force March 18, 1985 (TIAS 11091; 1469 UNTS 357) (commonly known as the 'Pacific Salmon Treaty').

''(6) PROGRAM OFFICE.—The term 'Program Office' means the Puget Sound Recovery National Program Office established by subsection (b).

''(7) PUGET SOUND ACTION AGENDA; ACTION AGENDA.—The term 'Puget Sound Action Agenda' or 'Action Agenda' means the most recent plan developed by the Puget Sound National Estuary Program Management Conference, in consultation with the Puget Sound Tribal Management Conference, and approved by the Administrator as the comprehensive conservation and management plan for the Puget Sound under section 320.

''(8) PUGET SOUND FEDERAL LEADERSHIP TASK FORCE.—The term 'Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force' means the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force established under subsection (c).

''(9) PUGET SOUND FEDERAL TASK FORCE.—The term 'Puget Sound Federal Task Force' means the Puget Sound Federal Task Force established in 2016 under a memorandum of understanding among 9 Federal agencies.

''(10) PUGET SOUND NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE.—The term 'Puget Sound National Estuary Program Management Conference' means the management conference for the Puget Sound convened pursuant to section 320.

''(11) PUGET SOUND PARTNERSHIP.—The term 'Puget Sound Partnership' means the State agency created under the laws of the State of Washington (section 90.71.210 of the Revised Code of Washington), or its successor agency that has been designated by the Administrator as the lead entity to support the Puget Sound National Estuary Program Management Conference.

''(12) PUGET SOUND REGION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'Puget Sound region' means the land and waters in the northwest corner of the State of Washington from the Canadian border to the north to the Pacific Ocean on the west, including Hood Canal and the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

''(B) INCLUSION.—The term 'Puget Sound region' includes all watersheds that drain into the Puget Sound.

''(13) PUGET SOUND TRIBAL MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE.—The term 'Puget Sound Tribal Management Conference' means the 20 treaty Indian tribes of western Washington and the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission.

''(14) SALISH SEA.—The term 'Salish Sea' means the network of coastal waterways on the west coast of North America that includes the Puget Sound, the Strait of Georgia, and the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

''(15) SALMON RECOVERY PLANS.—The term 'Salmon Recovery Plans' means the recovery plans for salmon and steelhead species approved by the Secretary of the Interior under section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 that are applicable to the Puget Sound region.

''(16) STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The term 'State Advisory Committee' means the advisory committee established by subsection (d).

''(17) TREATY RIGHTS AT RISK INITIATIVE.—The term 'Treaty Rights at Risk Initiative' means the report from the treaty Indian tribes of western Washington entitled 'Treaty Rights At Risk: Ongoing Habitat Loss, the Decline of the Salmon Resource, and Recommendations for Change' and dated July 14, 2011, or its successor report that outlines issues and offers solutions for the protection of Tribal treaty rights, recovery of salmon habitat, and management of sustainable treaty and nontreaty salmon fisheries, including through Tribal salmon hatchery programs.

''(b) PUGET SOUND RECOVERY NATIONAL PROGRAM OFFICE.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Environmental Protection Agency a Puget Sound Recovery National Program Office, to be located in the State of Washington.

''(2) DIRECTOR.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—There shall be a Director of the Program Office, who shall have leadership and project management experience and shall be highly qualified to—

''(i) direct the integration of multiple project planning efforts and programs from different agencies and jurisdictions; and

''(ii) align numerous, and possibly competing, priorities to accomplish visible and measurable outcomes under the Action Agenda.

''(B) POSITION.—The position of Director of the Program Office shall be a career reserved position, as such term is defined in section 3132 of title 5, United States Code.

''(3) DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY; STAFFING.—Using amounts made available pursuant to subsection (h), the Administrator shall delegate to the Director such authority and provide such staff as may be necessary to carry out this section.

''(4) DUTIES.—The Director shall—

''(A) coordinate and manage the timely execution of the requirements of this section, including the formation and meetings of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force;

''(B) coordinate activities related to the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound across the Environmental Protection Agency;

''(C) coordinate and align the activities of the Administrator with the Action Agenda, Salmon Recovery Plans, the Treaty Rights at Risk Initiative, and the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program;

''(D) promote the efficient use of Environmental Protection Agency resources in pursuit of the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound;

''(E) serve on the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force and collaborate with, help coordinate, and implement activities with other Federal agencies that have responsibilities involving the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound;

''(F) provide or procure such other advice, technical assistance, research, assessments, monitoring, or other support as is determined by the Director to be necessary or prudent to most efficiently and effectively fulfill the objectives and priorities of the Action Agenda, the Salmon Recovery Plans, the Treaty Rights at Risk Initiative, and the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program, consistent with the best available science, to ensure the health of the Puget Sound ecosystem;

''(G) track the progress of the Environmental Protection Agency towards meeting the agency's specified objectives and priorities within the Action Agenda and the Federal Action Plan;

''(H) implement the recommendations of the Comptroller General set forth in the report entitled 'Puget Sound Restoration: Additional Actions Could Improve Assessments of Progress' and dated July 19, 2018;

''(I) serve as liaison and coordinate activities for the restoration and protection of the Salish Sea with Canadian authorities, the Pacific Salmon Commission, and the International Joint Commission; and

''(J) carry out such additional duties as the Director determines necessary and appropriate.

''(c) PUGET SOUND FEDERAL LEADERSHIP TASK FORCE.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force.

''(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

''(A) COMPOSITION.—The Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall be composed of the following members:

''(i) The following individuals appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture:

''(I) A representative of the National Forest Service.

''(II) A representative of the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

''(ii) A representative of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration appointed by the Secretary of Commerce.

''(iii) The following individuals appointed by the Secretary of Defense:

''(I) A representative of the Corps of Engineers.

''(II) A representative of the Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

''(III) A representative of the Commander, Navy Region Northwest.

''(iv) The Director of the Program Office.

''(v) The following individuals appointed by the Secretary of Homeland Security:

''(I) A representative of the Coast Guard.

''(II) A representative of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

''(vi) The following individuals appointed by the Secretary of the Interior:

''(I) A representative of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

''(II) A representative of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

''(III) A representative of the United States Geological Survey.

''(IV) A representative of the National Park Service.

''(vii) The following individuals appointed by the Secretary of Transportation:

''(I) A representative of the Federal Highway Administration.

''(II) A representative of the Federal Transit Administration.

''(viii) Representatives of such other Federal agencies, programs, and initiatives as the other members of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force determines necessary.

''(B) QUALIFICATIONS.—Members appointed under this paragraph shall have experience and expertise in matters of restoration and protection of large watersheds and bodies of water, or related experience that will benefit the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound.

''(C) CO-CHAIRS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The following members of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall serve as Co-Chairs of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force:

''(I) The representative of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

''(II) The Director of the Program Office.

''(III) The representative of the Corps of Engineers.

''(ii) LEADERSHIP.—The Co-Chairs shall ensure the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force completes its duties through robust discussion of all relevant issues. The Co-Chairs shall share leadership responsibilities equally.

''(3) DUTIES.—

''(A) GENERAL DUTIES.—The Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall—

''(i) uphold Federal trust responsibilities to restore and protect resources crucial to Tribal treaty rights, including by carrying out government-to-government consultation with Indian tribes when requested by such tribes;

''(ii) provide a venue for dialogue and coordination across all Federal agencies represented by a member of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force to align Federal resources for the purposes of carrying out the requirements of this section and all other Federal laws that contribute to the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound, including by—

''(I) enabling and encouraging such agencies to act consistently with the objectives and priorities of the Action Agenda, the Salmon Recovery Plans, the Treaty Rights at Risk Initiative, and the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program;

''(II) facilitating the coordination of Federal activities that impact such restoration and protection;

''(III) facilitating the delivery of feedback given by such agencies to the Puget Sound Partnership during the development of the Action Agenda;

''(IV) facilitating the resolution of interagency conflicts associated with such restoration and protection among such agencies;

''(V) providing a forum for exchanging information among such agencies regarding activities being conducted, including obstacles or efficiencies found, during restoration and protection activities; and

''(VI) promoting the efficient use of government resources in pursuit of such restoration and protection through coordination and collaboration, including by ensuring that the Federal efforts relating to the science necessary for such restoration and protection are consistent, and not duplicative, across the Federal Government;

''(iii) catalyze public leaders at all levels to work together toward shared goals by demonstrating interagency best practices coming from such agencies;

''(iv) provide advice and support on scientific and technical issues and act as a forum for the exchange of scientific information about the Puget Sound;

''(v) identify and inventory Federal environmental research and monitoring programs related to the Puget Sound, and provide such inventory to the Puget Sound National Estuary Program Management Conference;

''(vi) ensure that Puget Sound restoration and protection activities are as consistent as practicable with ongoing restoration and protection and related efforts in the Salish Sea that are being conducted by Canadian authorities, the Pacific Salmon Commission, and the International Joint Commission;

''(vii) ensure that Puget Sound restoration and protection activities are consistent with national security interests;

''(viii) establish any working groups or committees necessary to assist the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force in its duties, including relating to public policy and scientific issues; and

''(ix) raise national awareness of the significance of the Puget Sound.

''(B) PUGET SOUND FEDERAL ACTION PLAN.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall develop and approve a Federal Action Plan that leverages Federal programs across agencies and serves to coordinate diverse programs and priorities for the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound.

''(ii) REVISION OF PUGET SOUND FEDERAL ACTION PLAN.—Not less often than once every 5 years after the date of approval of the Federal Action Plan under clause (i), the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall review, and revise as appropriate, the Federal Action Plan.

''(C) FEEDBACK BY FEDERAL AGENCIES.—In facilitating feedback under subparagraph (A)(ii)(III), the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall request Federal agencies to consider, at a minimum, possible Federal actions within the Puget Sound region designed to—

''(i) further the goals, targets, and actions of the Action Agenda, the Salmon Recovery Plans, the Treaty Rights at Risk Initiative, and the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program;

''(ii) as applicable, implement and enforce this Act, the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and all other Federal laws that contribute to the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound, including those that protect Tribal treaty rights;

''(iii) prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species;

''(iv) protect marine and wildlife habitats;

''(v) protect, restore, and conserve forests, wetlands, riparian zones, and nearshore waters;

''(vi) promote resilience to climate change and ocean acidification effects;

''(vii) restore fisheries so that they are sustainable and productive;

''(viii) preserve biodiversity;

''(ix) restore and protect ecosystem services that provide clean water, filter toxic chemicals, and increase ecosystem resilience; and

''(x) improve water quality, including by preventing and managing stormwater runoff, incorporating erosion control techniques and trash capture devices, using sustainable stormwater practices, and mitigating and minimizing nonpoint source pollution, including marine litter.

''(4) PARTICIPATION OF STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND PUGET SOUND TRIBAL MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE.—The Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall carry out its duties with input from, and in collaboration with, the State Advisory Committee and the Puget Sound Tribal Management Conference, including by seeking advice and recommendations on the actions, progress, and issues pertaining to the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound.

''(5) MEETINGS.—

''(A) INITIAL MEETING.—The Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall meet not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section—

''(i) to determine if all Federal agencies are properly represented;

''(ii) to establish the bylaws of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force;

''(iii) to establish necessary working groups or committees; and

''(iv) to determine subsequent meeting times, dates, and logistics.

''(B) SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS.—After the initial meeting, the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall meet, at a minimum, twice per year to carry out the duties of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force.

''(C) WORKING GROUP MEETINGS.—A meeting of any established working group or committee of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall not be considered a biannual meeting for purposes of subparagraph (B).

''(D) JOINT MEETINGS.—The Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force—

''(i) shall offer to meet jointly with the Puget Sound National Estuary Program Management Conference and the Puget Sound Tribal Management Conference, at a minimum, once per year; and

''(ii) may consider such a joint meeting to be a biannual meeting of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force for purposes of subparagraph (B).

''(E) QUORUM.—A simple majority of the members of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall constitute a quorum.

''(F) VOTING.—For the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force to take an official action, a quorum shall be present, and at least a two-thirds majority of the members present shall vote in the affirmative.

''(6) PUGET SOUND FEDERAL LEADERSHIP TASK FORCE PROCEDURES AND ADVICE.—

''(A) ADVISORS.—The Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force may seek advice and input from any interested, knowledgeable, or affected party as the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force determines necessary to perform its duties.

''(B) COMPENSATION.—A member of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall receive no additional compensation for service as a member on the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force.

''(C) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Travel expenses incurred by a member of the Puget Sound

Federal Leadership Task Force in the performance of service on the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force may be paid by the agency that the member represents.

''(7) PUGET SOUND FEDERAL TASK FORCE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—On the date of enactment of this section, the 2016 memorandum of understanding establishing the Puget Sound Federal Task Force shall cease to be effective.

''(B) USE OF PREVIOUS WORK.—The Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall, to the extent practicable, use the work product produced, relied upon, and analyzed by the Puget Sound Federal Task Force in order to avoid duplicating the efforts of the Puget Sound Federal Task Force.

''(d) STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a State Advisory Committee.

''(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The State Advisory Committee shall consist of up to seven members designated by the governing body of the Puget Sound Partnership, in consultation with the Governor of Washington, who will represent Washington State agencies that have significant roles and responsibilities related to the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound.

''(e) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force, State Advisory Committee, and any working group or committee of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force, shall not be considered an advisory committee under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

''(f) PUGET SOUND FEDERAL LEADERSHIP TASK FORCE BIENNIAL REPORT ON PUGET SOUND RESTORATION AND PROTECTION ACTIVITIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, and biennially thereafter, the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force, in collaboration with the Puget Sound Tribal Management Conference and the State Advisory Committee, shall submit to the President, Congress, the Governor of Washington, and the governing body of the Puget Sound Partnership a report that summarizes the progress, challenges, and milestones of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force relating to the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound.

''(2) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include a description of the following:

''(A) The roles and progress of each State, local government entity, and Federal agency that has jurisdiction in the Puget Sound region relating to meeting the identified objectives and priorities of the Action Agenda, the Salmon Recovery Plans, the Treaty Rights at Risk Initiative, and the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program.

''(B) If available, the roles and progress of Tribal governments that have jurisdiction in the Puget Sound region relating to meeting the identified objectives and priorities of the Action Agenda, the Salmon Recovery Plans, the Treaty Rights at Risk Initiative, and the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program.

''(C) A summary of specific recommendations concerning implementation of the Action Agenda and the Federal Action Plan, including challenges, barriers, and anticipated milestones, targets, and timelines.

''(D) A summary of progress made by Federal agencies toward the priorities identified in the Federal Action Plan.

''(g) CROSSCUT BUDGET REPORT.—

''(1) FINANCIAL REPORT.—As soon as practicable, but not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, and every 5 years thereafter, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force, shall, in conjunction with the annual budget submission of the President to Congress for the year under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, submit to Congress and make available to the public, including on the internet, a financial report that is certified by the head of each agency represented by a member of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force.

''(2) CONTENTS.—The report shall contain an interagency crosscut budget relating to Puget Sound restoration and protection activities that displays—

''(A) the proposed funding for any Federal restoration and protection activity to be carried out in the succeeding fiscal year, including any planned interagency or intra-agency transfer, for each of the Federal agencies that carry out restoration and protection activities;

''(B) the estimated expenditures for Federal restoration and protection activities from the preceding 2 fiscal years, the current fiscal year, and the succeeding fiscal year; and

''(C) the estimated expenditures for Federal environmental research and monitoring programs from the preceding 2 fiscal years, the current fiscal year, and the succeeding fiscal year.

''(3) INCLUDED RECOVERY ACTIVITIES.—With respect to activities described in the report, the report shall only describe activities that have a total Federal cost of more than $100,000.

''(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to any other funds authorized to be appropriated for activities related to the Puget Sound, there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

''(i) TRIBAL RIGHTS AND CONSULTATION.—

''(1) PRESERVATION OF TRIBAL TREATY RIGHTS.—Nothing in this section affects, or is intended to affect, any right reserved by treaty between the United States and one or more Indian tribes.

''(2) CONSULTATION.—Nothing in this section affects any authorization or obligation of a Federal agency to consult with an Indian tribe under any other provision of law.

''(j) CONSISTENCY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Actions authorized or implemented under this section shall be consistent with—

''(A) the Salmon Recovery Plans;

''(B) the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program; and

''(C) the water quality standards of the State of Washington approved by the Administrator under section 303.

''(2) FEDERAL ACTIONS.—All Federal agencies represented on the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall act consistently with the protection of Tribal, treaty-reserved rights and, to the greatest extent practicable given such agencies' existing obligations under Federal law, act consistently with the objectives and priorities of the Action Agenda, the Salmon Recovery Plans, the Treaty Rights at Risk Initiative, and the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program, when—

''(A) conducting Federal agency activities within or outside the Puget Sound that affect any land or water use or natural resources of the Puget Sound region, including activities performed by a contractor for the benefit of a Federal agency;

''(B) interpreting and enforcing regulations that impact the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound;

''(C) issuing Federal licenses or permits that impact the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound; and

''(D) granting Federal assistance to State, local, and Tribal governments for activities related to the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound.''.

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MUSEUM ACT

H.R. 1703

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 Children's Museum Act''.

SEC. 2. NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MUSEUM.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the Museum and Library Services Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–81) designated the Capital Children's Museum, the predecessor to the National Children's Museum, as the ''National Children's Museum'';

(2) the National Children's Museum operates under section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is organized under the laws of the District of Columbia;

(3) the mission of the National Children's Museum is to inspire children to care about and change the world; and

(4) the National Children's Museum is located in the federally owned Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center.

(b) NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MUSEUM.—Chapter 67 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 6735. National Children's Museum

''(a) IN GENERAL.— Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator of General Services shall enter into a cooperative agreement with the National Children's Museum for the operation of the National Children's Museum in the approximately 32,369 square feet of space commonly known as suite C–001 (hereinafter referred to as the 'Space') of the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center for the duration of the retail space license agreement between Trade Center Management Associates, LLC, or a successor entity, and the Museum, dated December 4, 2017, including any exercised renewal options.

''(b) CONTENTS.—The cooperative agreement under subsection (a) shall include provisions that—

''(1) require, for the period in which the General Services Administration owns or controls the Space, the General Services Administration to provide rent for the Space;

''(2) terminate such agreement if—

''(A) the Museum does not continue to qualify as a nonprofit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

''(B) the Museum no longer uses the Space as a children's museum; and

''(3) prohibits the Museum from transferring the interest in such agreement.

''(c) SOURCE OF FUNDS.—To carry out this section, the Administrator shall use funds derived from—

''(1) the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation fund; or

''(2) the International Trade Center fund.

''(d) REPORT.—The cooperative agreement under subsection (a) shall require the National Children's Museum to submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate an annual report on the operations and finances of the Museum.''.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 67 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''6735. National Children's Museum.''.

SEC. 3. 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.

AMENDING THE FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT TO REAUTHORIZE LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN BASIN RESTORATION PROGRAM

H.R. 1921

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

SECTION 1. LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN BASIN RESTORATION PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION.

(a) REVIEW OF COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Section 121 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1273) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (5), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (6), by striking the period and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(7) ensure that the comprehensive conservation and management plan approved for the Basin under section 320 is reviewed and revised in accordance with section 320 not less often than once every 5 years, beginning on the date of enactment of this paragraph.''; and

(2) in subsection (d), by striking ''recommended by a management conference convened for the Basin under section 320'' and inserting ''identified in the comprehensive conservation and management plan approved for the Basin under section 320''.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 121(e)(1) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1273(e)(1)) is amended by striking '', a 5,000 square mile''.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 121(f) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1273(f)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''2001 through 2012 and the amount appropriated for fiscal year 2009 for each of fiscal years 2013 through 2017'' and inserting ''2022 through 2026''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—The Administrator may use for administrative expenses not more than 5 percent of the amounts appropriated to carry out this section.''.

LOCAL WATER PROTECTION ACT

H.R. 2008

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 ''Local Water Protection Act''.

SEC. 2. NONPOINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS.

Section 319(j) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1329(j)) is amended by striking ''subsections (h) and (i) not to exceed'' and all that follows through ''fiscal year 1991'' and inserting ''subsections (h) and (i) $200,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026''.

DEBT BONDAGE REPAIR ACT

H.R. 2332

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 ''Debt Bondage Repair Act''.

SEC. 2. ADVERSE INFORMATION IN CASES OF TRAFFICKING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 605B the following:

''§ 605C Adverse information in cases of trafficking

''(a) IN GENERAL.—A consumer reporting agency may not furnish a consumer report containing any adverse item of information about a consumer that resulted from a severe form of trafficking in persons or sex trafficking if the consumer has provided trafficking documentation to the consumer reporting agency.

''(b) RULEMAKING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, issue a rule to implement subsection (a).

''(2) CONTENTS.—The rule issued pursuant to paragraph (1) shall establish a method by which consumers shall submit trafficking documentation to consumer reporting agencies.

''(c) DEFINITIONS.—

''(1) TRAFFICKING DOCUMENTATION.—The term trafficking documentation means—

''(A) documentation of either—

''(i) a determination by a Federal or State government entity that a consumer is a victim of trafficking; or

''(ii) a determination by a court of competent jurisdiction that a consumer is a victim of trafficking; and

''(B) documentation that identifies items of adverse information that should not be furnished by a consumer reporting agency because the items resulted from the severe form of trafficking in persons or sex trafficking of which such consumer is a victim.

''(2) VICTIM OF TRAFFICKING.—For the purposes of this section, the term ''victim of trafficking'' means a person who is a victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons or sex trafficking, as such terms are defined in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the Fair Credit Reporting Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 605B the following new item:

''605C. Adverse information in cases of trafficking.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply on the date that is 30 days after the date on which the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection issues a rule pursuant to section 605C(b) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act.

(d) 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.

CLARIFYING ROLE OF DOCTORS OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE IN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

H.R. 2545

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

SECTION 1. ROLE OF DOCTORS OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE IN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) CLARIFICATION OF ROLE.—Section 7306 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (6), by striking ''a Director of Podiatric Service,'';

(B) by redesignating paragraph (10) as paragraph (11); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (9) the following new paragraph:

''(10) A Podiatric Medical Director, who shall be a qualified doctor of podiatric medicine and who shall be responsible to the Under Secretary for Health for the operation of the Podiatric Service.'';

(2) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting ''podiatric medicine,'' after ''doctors of medicine,''; and

(3) in subsection (c), by striking ''and (8)'' and inserting ''(8), and (10)''.

(b) CLARIFICATION OF PAY GRADE.—Section 7404 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2), by inserting '', podiatrists,'' after ''physicians'' ; and

(2) in subsection (b), in the first heading of the list following the colon, by striking ''PODIATRIST'' and inserting ''PODIATRIST (DPM)''.

HARLEM HELLFIGHTERS CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

H.R. 3642

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 ''Harlem Hellfighters Congressional Gold Medal Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) When the United States officially entered World War I in April 1917, the Armed Forces were still segregated, even though African-American soldiers had served and distinguished themselves in every war since the Revolutionary War, and even the Colonial Wars preceding the American Revolution.

(2) After several years of advocacy and debate, in 1916 the State of New York authorized the recruitment of the 15th New York National Guard Regiment, which was called to Federal service on July 25, 1917, soon after arriving for training at Camp Whitman, New York.

(3) The 15th completed its basic military practice training at Camp Whitman, New York.

(4) To receive combat training, the 15th reported, on October 8, 1917, to Camp Wadsworth, in Spartanburg, South Carolina, where it experienced many incidents of racial discrimination.

(5) Consequently, the government agreed to remove the 15th from Camp Wadsworth, but, instead of receiving further training, the regiment began preparing for deployment to France in November.

(6) The 15th arrived in Saint Nazaire, France, on January 1, 1918, where it was redesignated the 369th Infantry Regiment

(7) Partly because many White soldiers within the American Expeditionary Forces (hereinafter, the ''AEF'') refused to perform combat duty with Black soldiers, members of the 369th were initially assigned manual labor tasks, such as loading and unloading supplies, and constructing roads and railroads.

(8) After receiving pressure from the 369th regimental commander about not having a combat mission, the AEF attached the 369th to the French Fourth Army.

(9) By mid-March of 1918, the 369th went to the Argonne Forest with the French 16th Division for training and soon entered the trenches.

(10) The 369th encountered its first German soldiers in combat in April, 1918.

(11) In May of 1918, Private Henry Johnson of the 369th received the French Croix de

Guerre, with Palm, for extraordinary valor, becoming one of the first American soldiers to be awarded this honor.

(12) Johnson also belatedly received a Purple Heart, was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, and in, 2015, was awarded the Medal of Honor.

(13) Throughout the remainder of the spring and into the summer the 369th served at Minacourt, in the Champagne-Marne Defensive, and during the Aisne-Marne Offensive in support of the French 161st Infantry Division.

(14) As summer turned to autumn, the 369th went on to participate in the Meuse-Argonne offensive, where it captured the important village of Sechault despite sustaining severe losses.

(15) On October 14, 1918, the 369th advanced to Alsace.

(16) On November 20, 1918, the 369th reached the banks of the Rhine River as part of the French Army of Occupation, the first Allied unit to do so.

(17) The 369th was relieved of its assignment with the French 161st Division in December, 1918, and elements of the regiment sailed for New York in late January and early February, 1919.

(18) The 369th Infantry Regiment received a parade up 5th Avenue in New York City on February 17, 1919, receiving applause and cheers from hundreds of thousands of onlookers.

(19) The 369th was demobilized on February 28, 1919.

(20) Over 170 individual members of the 369th received the Croix de Guerre, many were awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, and the 369th was awarded a unit citation.

(21) It is generally believed that the 369th was dubbed the ''Harlem Hellfighters'' by German soldiers, who found the men to be incredibly determined and courageous in battle.

(22) The 369th was the first regiment of African Americans to deploy overseas during World War I and spent 191 days on the front line in World War I, more than any other American regimental sized unit.

(23) The 369th never lost a foot of ground nor had a man taken prisoner, despite suffering a high number of casualties.

SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the award, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold medal of appropriate design to the 369th Infantry Regiment, commonly known as the ''Harlem Hellfighters'', in recognition of their bravery and outstanding service during World War I.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury shall strike the gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the gold medal in honor of the 369th Infantry Regiment, the ''Harlem Hellfighters'', the gold medal shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where it will be displayed as appropriate and made available for research.

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should make the gold medal awarded pursuant to this Act available for display elsewhere, particularly at other locations associated with the Harlem Hellfighters.

SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3, at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the bronze medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

(b) PROCEEDS OF SALES.—The amounts received from the sale of duplicate medals under subsection (a) shall be deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

(c) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be necessary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under this Act.

SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.

The gold medal struck pursuant to this Act is a national medal for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

SEC. 6. 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 (Mr. CUELLAR). Pursuant to section 8 of House Resolution 473, the ordering of the yeas and nays on postponed motions to suspend the rules with respect to such measures is vacated to the end that all such motions are considered as withdrawn.

The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bills.

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. TIFFANY. 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.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 287, nays 140, not voting 3, as follows:

[Roll No. 159]

YEAS—287

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Auchincloss
Axne
Bacon
Barr
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bice (OK)
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cheney
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Comer
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Feenstra
Fitzpatrick
Fletcher
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel, Lois
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gimenez
Golden
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
Grijalva
Guthrie
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jacobs (NY)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Joyce (OH)
Kahele
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kinzinger
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Lamb
Lamborn
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Letlow
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luria
Lynch
Mace
Malinowski
Malliotakis
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meijer
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (NC)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newhouse
Newman
Norcross
O'Halleran
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)
Ross
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Salazar
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stansbury
Stanton
Steel
Stevens
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wagner
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Womack
Yarmuth
Young

NAYS—140

Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Bentz
Bergman
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Brady
Brooks
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Calvert
Cammack
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson
DesJarlais
Donalds
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Estes
Fallon
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fleischmann
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gibbs
Gohmert
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Grothman
Guest
Hagedorn
Harris
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Huizenga
Jackson
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (PA)
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Latta
LaTurner
Lesko
Long
Loudermilk
Mann
Massie
Mast
McClain
McClintock
Miller (IL)

Miller (WV)
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Nehls
Norman
Nunes
Owens
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Roy
Rutherford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Smith (MO)
Spartz
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Taylor
Tenney
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Van Duyne
Walberg
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—3

Aderholt
DeFazio
Rogers (AL)

□ 1645

Messrs. FULCHER, CARL, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. CHABOT, Ms. STEFANIK, Messrs. WILLIAMS of Texas, ZELDIN, BUCSHON, BALDERSON, WESTERMAN, BAIRD, MAST, JOHNSON of South Dakota, and TURNER changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Messrs. WELCH, Ms. GRANGER, Messrs. MURPHY of North Carolina, and SMITH of Nebraska, changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bills were passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Barragán (Gallego)
Cárdenas (Gomez)
DeSaulnier (Thompson (CA))
Fleischmann (Bilirakis)
Gaetz (Greene (GA))
Grijalva (García (IL))
Hoyer (Brown)
Johnson (TX) (Jeffries)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Langevin (Courtney)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lieu (Raskin)
Lowenthal (Beyer)
Meng (Clark (MA))
Mfume (Evans)
Mullin (Lucas)
Napolitano (Correa)
Payne (Pallone)
Porter (Wexton)
Roybal-Allard (Escobar)
Ruiz (Aguilar)
Rush (Underwood)
Sewell (DelBene)
Sherrill (Pallone)
Van Drew (Norman)
Velázquez (Clarke (NY))
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

EQUAL ACCESS TO CONTRACEPTION FOR VETERANS ACT

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. 239) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for limitations on copayments for contraception furnished by 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 240, nays 188, not voting 2, as follows:

[Roll No. 160]

YEAS—240

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Auchincloss
Axne
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brown
Brownley
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crenshaw
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fitzpatrick
Fletcher
Foster
Frankel, Lois
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gimenez
Golden
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Kahele
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kinzinger
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Luria
Lynch
Mace
Malinowski
Malliotakis
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCarthy
McClain
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Mfume
Miller-Meeks
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newhouse
Newman
Norcross
O'Halleran
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reed
Rice (NY)
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Salazar
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stansbury
Stanton
Steel
Stevens
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Upton
Van Drew
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NAYS—188

Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bentz
Bergman
Bice (OK)
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Brady
Brooks
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Calvert
Cammack
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Comer
Crawford
Curtis
Davidson
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Estes
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fleischmann
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Gibbs
Gohmert
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harris
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
Jacobs (NY)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
LaTurner
Lesko
Letlow
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
Meijer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Mullin
Murphy (NC)
Nehls
Norman
Nunes
Owens
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Valadao
Van Duyne
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Young
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—2

Biggs
DeFazio

□ 1707

Mr. MCKINLEY changed his vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mr. MCCARTHY changed his vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So (two-thirds not being in the affirmative) the motion was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, on roll call No. 160, I mistakenly voted "yes" when I intended to vote "No."

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Barragán (Gallego)
Cárdenas (Gomez)
DeSaulnier (Thompson (CA))
Fleischmann (Bilirakis)
Gaetz (Greene (GA))
Grijalva (García (IL))
Hoyer (Brown)
Johnson (TX) (Jeffries)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Langevin (Courtney)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lieu (Raskin)
Lowenthal (Beyer)
Meng (Clark (MA))
Mfume (Evans)
Mullin (Lucas)
Napolitano (Correa)
Payne (Pallone)
Porter (Wexton)
Roybal-Allard (Escobar)
Ruiz (Aguilar)
Rush (Underwood)
Sewell (DelBene)
Sherrill (Pallone)
Van Drew (Norman)
Velázquez (Clarke (NY))
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

AWARDING FOUR CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDALS TO UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE AND THOSE WHO PROTECTED U.S. CAPITOL ON JANUARY 6, 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. 3325) to award four congressional gold medals to the United States Capitol Police and those who protected the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, as amended, 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 gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 406, nays 21, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 161]

YEAS—406

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)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NC)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady
Brooks
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Cammack
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carl
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cline
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Comer
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
Davids (KS)
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donalds
Doyle, Michael F.
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Estes
Evans
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Golden
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gooden (TX)
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harder (CA)
Harshbarger
Hayes
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Higgins (LA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Huffman
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
Jackson Lee
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
Kinzinger
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
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, Sean
Mann
Manning
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meijer
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (NC)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Newman
Norcross
Nunes
O'Halleran
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Pence
Perlmutter
Peters
Pfluger
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Ross
Rouzer
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
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Spanberger
Spartz
Speier
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Stevens
Stewart
Strickland
Suozzi
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)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yarmuth
Young
Zeldin

NAYS—21

Biggs
Boebert
Cloud
Clyde
Davidson
Gaetz
Gohmert
Good (VA)
Gosar
Greene (GA)
Harris
Hice (GA)
Massie
Miller (IL)
Moore (AL)
Norman
Perry
Rose
Rosendale
Roy
Steube

NOT VOTING—4

DeFazio
Hartzler
Hudson
Maloney, Carolyn B.

□ 1729

Ms. CHENEY, Messrs. VEASEY and DESJARLAIS changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, I missed the vote on rollcall No. 161. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 161.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Barragán (Gallego)
Cárdenas (Gomez)
DeSaulnier (Thompson (CA))
Fleischmann (Bilirakis)
Gaetz (Greene (GA))
Grijalva (García (IL))
Hoyer (Brown)
Johnson (TX) (Jeffries)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Langevin (Courtney)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lieu (Raskin)
Lowenthal (Beyer)
Meng (Clark (MA))
Mfume (Evans)
Mullin (Lucas)
Napolitano (Correa)
Payne (Pallone)
Porter (Wexton)
Roybal-Allard (Escobar)
Ruiz (Aguilar)
Rush (Underwood)
Sewell (DelBene)
Sherrill (Pallone)
Strickland (Kilmer)
Van Drew (Norman)
Velázquez (Clarke (NY))
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

LGBTQ BUSINESS EQUAL CREDIT ENFORCEMENT AND INVESTMENT ACT

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. 1443) to amend the Equal Credit Opportunity Act to require the collection of small business loan data related to LGBTQ-owned businesses, as amended, 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 gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 248, nays 177, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 162]

YEAS—248

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Auchincloss
Axne
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brown
Brownley
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Emmer
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fitzpatrick
Fletcher
Foster
Frankel, Lois
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gimenez
Golden
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Himes
Hinson
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Joyce (OH)
Kahele
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna

Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kinzinger
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Luria
Lynch
Mace
Malinowski
Malliotakis
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McNerney
Meeks
Meijer
Meng
Mfume
Miller-Meeks
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (NC)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newhouse
Newman
Norcross
O'Halleran
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reed
Rice (NY)
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Salazar
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stansbury
Stanton
Steel
Stevens
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NAYS—177

Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bentz
Bergman
Bice (OK)
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Brady
Brooks
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Cammack
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Comer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson
DesJarlais
Duncan
Dunn
Estes
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fleischmann
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gibbs
Gohmert
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harris
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
Jacobs (NY)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (PA)
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
LaTurner
Lesko
Letlow
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McKinley
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Mullin
Nehls
Norman
Nunes
Owens
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Van Duyne
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Young
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—5

Boebert
DeFazio
Donalds
Higgins (NY)
Rodgers (WA)

□ 1751

So (two-thirds not being in the affirmative) the motion was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Barragán (Gallego)
Cárdenas (Gomez)
DeSaulnier (Thompson (CA))
Fleischmann (Bilirakis)
Gaetz (Greene (GA))
Grijalva (García (IL))
Hoyer (Brown)
Johnson (TX) (Jeffries)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Langevin (Courtney)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lieu (Raskin)
Lowenthal (Beyer)
Meng (Clark (MA))
Mfume (Evans)
Mullin (Lucas)
Napolitano (Correa)
Payne (Pallone)
Porter (Wexton)
Roybal-Allard (Escobar)
Ruiz (Aguilar)
Rush (Underwood)
Sewell (DelBene)
Sherrill (Pallone)
Strickland (Kilmer)
Van Drew (Norman)
Velázquez (Clarke (NY))
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Natural Resources:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 15, 2021.

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

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: I write today to request to be removed from the House Committee on Natural Resources to allow Representative Stansbury to serve on this important committee.

Representative Stansbury was recently sworn in as a Member of the House of Representatives serving New Mexico's 1st Congressional District. Representative Stansbury is filling the vacancy created when then Representative Haaland was nominated and confirmed to be the United States Secretary of the Interior. Before serving as Secretary of the Interior, former Representative Haaland used her position on the House Committee on Natural Resources to combat the climate crisis and create a more equitable future for her constituents and all Americans. I believe it is important that Representative Stansbury have an opportunity to continue this legacy and represent her constituents in New Mexico's 1st Congressional District on the House Committee on Natural Resources.

I appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

DORIS MATSUI,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

ELECTING A CERTAIN MEMBER TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. AGUILAR. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 475

Resolved, That the following named Member be, and is hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES: Ms. Stansbury, to rank immediately after Ms. Leger Fernández.

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY: Ms. Stansbury, to rank immediately after Mr. Bowman.

Mr. AGUILAR (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRESS MUST TAKE ACTION

(Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, last week, the unthinkable happened. A grandmother, Litha Verone, was innocently shopping in a local supermarket with her precious young grandson when they were both brutally murdered by a deranged man with a semi-automatic weapon.

My heart breaks for Litha's family for their unbearable loss.

But, once again, prayers and good wishes are not enough. On so many levels we must take action passing commonsense gun legislation, strengthening our mental health system, reaching out to those in trouble because in the last moments of her life, a grandmother watched in horror as her grandchild was shot and killed by a man who should never have had a gun.

Madam Speaker, last week, the unthinkable happened, and we must not stop thinking about it.

HONORING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDIANA VETERANS' HOME

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

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to honor the 125th anniversary of the Indiana Veterans' Home.

It was established in Tippecanoe County in 1895, and the Indiana Veterans' Home initially served as a facility to care for the disabled Union soldiers after the Civil War.

By 1910, the home served over 1,400 residents and offered its own hospital, bakery, and electric light plant.

Over a century later, the Indiana Veterans' Home continues to operate as a full-service facility offering a multitude of medical and support services for its residents.

It is also home to a small museum of historical artifacts, and serves as the final resting place for nearly 3,000 veterans and their spouses.

Indiana has a proud tradition of honoring its veterans, and the Indiana Veterans' Home is a shining example of Hoosiers' commitment to the care of those who have served.

I congratulate those at the Indiana Veterans' Home on their 125th anniversary, and I offer my sincere gratitude for their continued service to Hoosier veterans and their families.

□ 1800

BRING DANNY FENSTER HOME

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

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise to mark 3 weeks since my constituent, Danny Fenster—pictured here—was captured and imprisoned by the Burmese military simply for doing his job as a journalist, 22 days spent on the phone and with my arms wrapped around his traumatized but determined family, upwards of 500 hours reading our community's outpouring of comments about Danny's dignity and his career of standing up for people around the world.

I have called on ambassadors all throughout the region. I have called on our own State Department to ask why, what is the justification for our Embassy not having access to our citizen? And they have no reason.

It is a violation of international law, and it is a violation of human rights.

The U.S. Embassy needs access to Danny while we keep fighting for his immediate and unconditional release and to protect the freedom of the press.

I will not stop fighting and our community will not stop fighting until we bring Danny home.

HOLDING CAMILA ORTEGA ACCOUNTABLE

(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, Latin America's dictators exploit their children just like they exploit their own people.

The best example is Nicaragua's dictator, Daniel Ortega. Ortega leads his corrupt, oppressive, dictatorial regime along with his wife and Vice President, Rosario Murillo. Their daughter, Camila Ortega, has defalcated millions and millions of dollars from the Nicaraguan people while her mother and father continue oppressing anyone who opposes them.

Madam Speaker, 10 days ago, the United States Government blacklisted Camila Ortega for corruption. She is officially sanctioned. Her bank accounts are frozen. No one can do business with her at this hour. She will no longer lavishly spend the people's money in the streets of Miami, my district, where I represent thousands and thousands of the Nicaraguan exile community who fled her father's regime and his oppression.

Madam Speaker, from the floor of the United States Congress, from this floor, we ask the European Union and Canada to join America in holding Camila Ortega accountable.

Ortega wants to steal the elections by jailing anyone who opposes him. But make no mistake, he and his family will pay for these atrocities.

HONORING SISTER PEG SPINDLER

(Mr. MRVAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MRVAN. Madam Speaker, it is with great admiration and pride that I rise to honor Sister Peg Spindler for her lifetime of service and dedication to the Sojourner Truth House in Gary, Indiana.

After more than 24 years of service, Sister Peg will be retiring on July 1 as the executive director of the women's shelter.

Sister Peg found her calling to sisterhood at a young age while growing up in Cedar Lake, Indiana. In November 1997, Sister Peg, along with the support of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, opened the doors to the Sojourner Truth House, which serves the true vulnerable populations, the homeless, the underserved, and the at-risk women and their children, with the goal of providing them the necessary tools and resources to improve their quality of life.

After retiring, Sister Peg plans to visit Catholic parishes throughout the country to advocate on best practices, to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, and to combat the harmful effects of climate change on the most vulnerable.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in honoring Sister Peg Spindler for her lifetime of leadership and tireless dedication to the most vulnerable of populations in her community.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF FREDERICK AURELIUS ''RELE'' EVANS

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

Mr. PALMER. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate a life well-lived.

Frederick Aurelius ''Rele'' Evans passed away last month at the age of 94. After graduating high school in Tuscaloosa, he joined the Navy. After his service, he enrolled at Tulane University and earned a bachelor of science in electrical engineering.

Following his college graduation, he joined the Air Force and became a fighter pilot, protecting Strategic Air Command while stationed in Sioux City, Iowa.

Following his time in the military, he became employed as a test pilot for Hughes Aircraft and later worked for TRW. While working for TRW, he earned a Ph.D. in aerospace engineering at UCLA, specializing in control systems theory.

Rele was the lead guidance engineer at Cape Canaveral when John Glenn was put into orbit, and he designed the on-board computer's guidance system for the lunar lander. He also coauthored the formula to put Apollo on the Moon and was present at Mission Control when Neil Armstrong took one giant leap for mankind. He eventually returned to Alabama.

Madam Speaker, I am grateful for the contributions Rele made to our military, our space program, and the State of Alabama. I wish his family the best as they mourn the loss of this modest man who accomplished much.

ENSURING EQUAL TRANSPORTATION ACCESSIBILITY

(Ms. NEWMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. NEWMAN. Madam Speaker, today, I rise on behalf of the millions of Americans with disabilities, the millions of Americans who live in a major city with a major public transit system but are unable to utilize it because it is not accessible to them.

If we want to build a world-class public transportation system in America, it has to start by ensuring every station and every bus and train across our Nation is equally accessible to everyone.

That is why I introduced the All Stations Accessibility Act, or ASAP Act, of 2021, which would establish a Federal grant program to support transit authorities to upgrade stations to meet or exceed ADA accessibility standards.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to say that we have secured this grant program in the INVEST in America Act. Now, I urge this body to pass that legislation so that we can better ensure our public transit services are for all riders, especially those with a disability.

ENDING ILLEGAL MARIJUANA OPERATIONS

(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, in California, we are known for having a lot of marijuana grows. But we have to

recognize this is still an illegal substance at the Federal level.

We have, in my district—it is amazing—many hundreds of illegal hothouses that have been planted in Siskiyou County full of marijuana grows.

Now, we haven't had many resources to help out up there until very recently, when a sheriff up there took it upon himself to eradicate these grows, to go against the county ordinances there, to go against other ordinances on water use, chemical use. They are using chemicals that are not even available to farmers that have long been made illegal in this country and in the State of California.

These grows cause irreparable damage to the environment and wildlife and are even dangerous to people who happen to traipse in there accidentally, with folks who are so heavily armed. They are cartels from out of the country that are in there doing this operation—all illegally. Why do we allow this to go on?

These marijuana grows are dangerous and are against the law. The Federal Government needs to be a stronger partner in backing the locals on eradicating these grows because of how much damage they do to the community, to the environment, to the wildlife, and to the overall feeling people have of their community up there. We need to help more.

CONTINUE RESTAURANT REVITALIZATION

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, earlier this year, Congress sprung into action to deal with the part of the economy that was hit perhaps hardest than any: the hospitality industry.

Independent restaurants suffered massive job losses. Congress responded with the Restaurant Rescue Plan, $28.6 billion. Madam Speaker, the need was so overwhelming that the fund was totally subscribed in 3 days.

We are working now with H.R. 3807 to replenish that fund with a $60 billion allocation, with bipartisan support in the House and Senate.

Madam Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this important legislation to replenish the fund and rescue our restaurants, which are the cornerstone of a livable community.

RECLAIMING OUR FISCAL FUTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. ROSS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. HERN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HERN. 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 the topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HERN. Madam Speaker, our country is facing a crisis of our own making. Republicans and Democrats alike have contributed to the rampant spending in Washington over the last several decades. But it is time for someone to stand up and say enough is enough.

I am here tonight with some of the greatest minds in Congress to talk about our floor-ready plan to tackle wasteful spending and restore fiscal responsibility to the Federal Government.

In December, Republican Study Committee Chairman JIM BANKS asked me to lead the Budget Task Force for the 117th Congress, and I gladly accepted. I put together a team of incredible fiscal conservatives to help repair our fiscal year 2022 budget.

I thank these intelligent, hard-working colleagues for rising to the occasion, working diligently to meet our ambitious goals, and putting together a fine product that will serve all Americans. They are Chairman JIM BANKS, ROGER WILLIAMS, TRENT KELLY, RALPH NORMAN, RON ESTES, MICHAEL CLOUD, BEN CLINE, BYRON DONALDS, and BOB GOOD. Thank you, gentlemen.

In addition to my task force members, I would like to thank a man who is integral to the work of the task force and is a huge reason for the success of this final budget, Richard Stern.

When I said yes to drafting the budget for fiscal year 2022, I committed to creating a thorough, floor-ready budget that reflects the conservative values that gave us the greatest economy in the history of the world before the pandemic. I believe, as do my colleagues, that the pro-growth policies of the Trump administration are proven tactics to grow the economy and give Americans more control of their own money.

Everyone in Washington seems to forget that we have no money of our own. Everything we appropriate in this Chamber, every dollar, comes from the American taxpayers. None of it belongs to us.

In the last year, we spent $7.6 trillion, largely due to an unprecedented global pandemic. The Biden administration has shown no sign of slowing down and is starting to alarm more than just conservatives. It is our responsibility to hold this administration accountable and prove to the American people that there is someone left on Capitol Hill who cares about our debts.

We need to return to federalism, where the Federal Government, the State, and the individual have their own distinct roles.

In order to combat aggressive spending, we need an aggressive plan. That brings us to this year's budget, aptly named ''Reclaiming Our Fiscal Future.''

President Trump's budget proposal to Congress would have balanced in 15 years. That was our starting point, and we knew we were capable of balancing in less than 10.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to say that our budget will balance in just 5 years. Many of you would ask how that is even possible. There are two parts to that answer. The first part is due to changes in inflation and interest costs following the COVID–19 pandemic. The second is due to pro-growth policies like the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

When we give Americans more control of their own money, the result is market growth, wage growth, consumer confidence, and, yes, increased revenues for the Federal Government.

We are making provisions from the Tax Cuts and Job Cuts Act permanent, reducing the tax burden by $1.9 trillion, almost $16,000 per household.

We are shielding the middle class from capital gains taxes, eliminating the death taxes, and repealing market-distorting tax carve-outs.

Our budget is the most pro-life budget ever introduced, with 17 pieces of pro-life legislation included. Our budget stands strong for the issues Americans care about, and we are crystal clear about how to pay for it.

We are securing our border and building the wall. We are protecting your Second Amendment rights. We are supporting our police officers and ensuring our communities remain safe for everyone.

Our budget includes over 30 specific deregulation bills ensuring liberty for American job creators and workers alike.

□ 1815

We are putting Medicare and Social Security on a path to solvency without cutting immediate benefits. Whether you call them earmarks or community project funding, we are getting rid of it for good. We are reforming the budget process to be transparent and effective. To put it simply, we are fighting for Main Street America.

Tonight, you will hear from me and my colleagues who helped shape this budget, whether as a member of the task force or by contributing legislation that is included in our budget. These Members all have something very important in common, a deep respect for the American taxpayer.

It is our job to ensure that Americans' tax dollars are being spent wisely, that the government is making every effort to prevent waste and promote efficiency. It is pretty clear this hasn't been the case in Washington for a long time.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY), my dear friend from the 21st Congressional District.

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma and appreciate his work on this important matter, and my colleagues on the Republican Study Committee.

I am happy to be working on a task force to advance healthcare freedom, personalized healthcare, the ways that we believe we can get the American people to see the doctor of his or her choice without having to see an insurance bureaucrat or a government bureaucrat and be able to get access to care. And that is all germane, by the way, to this question of spending.

I think it is really important here, and I am going to talk in a minute about how good I believe it is that we have a 5-year balanced budget that the Republican Study Committee has put forward, and proving that it can, in fact, be done.

But let's talk for a minute about the irresponsible budgeting and spending of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

Most Americans hear these large numbers and they don't know how to put them in context. What our national debt is, over $28 trillion. But nobody knows what that means. It doesn't mean anything to the average person. We divide it and we say how much it is per person or family. We got numbers here, $226,000 per taxpayer, $85,000 per citizen. People still don't know what that means.

If you set out to count the roughly $28.2 trillion debt we have now, how long do you think that would take, Madam Speaker? 900,000 years if you counted one per second; one Mississippi. It would take you 900,000 years to count to $28.2 trillion. It is just absurd.

We are literally destroying the fiscal health of our country by the second. We are destroying it by the second. Our children and grandchildren are going to inherit this. But what is the real problem? We are killing our economy in the process. We are killing the American Dream in the process. We are killing small businesses in the process.

We just spent $6 trillion appropriated in the process of spending. $6 trillion in a year in the name of COVID, as my friend from Oklahoma and my other colleagues well know. $6 trillion. Some of that was worthwhile. I think there was some PPP money in there that helps small businesses that I was happy to support, but $6 trillion.

Would it interest the Madam Speaker to know that we spent $4.1 trillion for all of World War II, in current dollars? All of World War II, from the very beginning, from Pearl Harbor all the way to the second bomb in Japan, $4 trillion over 3½ years.

We just spent $6 trillion in a year, effectively shutting down our economy, scaring the heck out of our children, forcing them to wear masks, shoving them into the corners of the classroom, forcing people not to go to the doctor of their choice, all so that Anthony Fauci could find himself on the cover of another magazine, while perpetuating a whole lot of myths that scare the hell out of the American people. That is just what occurred over the last year.

And what is the impact of that? Well, last week the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that year over year consumer prices rose 5 percent in May. Has anybody gone to go buy a sheet of plywood? Two times, three times, four times. Anybody talking to the builders in your districts? How is their pipeline looking down the road?

Did anybody go talk to the small restaurants and businesses out there? They are devastated, unable to hire people. Why? Because we are paying people more not to work than to work. How many people do you talk to that are in your district that say, well, I have got a help wanted sign up, but I can't get anybody to work.

How is that going to bring back the economy and bring back jobs and bring back opportunity and bring back prosperity for the American people? And, oh, by the way, how is it ever going to allow us to have any fiscal responsibility as a nation? And that is what we are talking about here.

And we are talking about a plan that Republicans are putting forward. Meanwhile, our Democratic colleagues have not passed a budget. We just had a deeming statement, or whatever it is we adopted, for $1.5 trillion, it just slid in this week. $1.5 trillion. It is like Monopoly money. Nobody even understands what we are doing here.

And so we have got a budget that we put forward that balances in 5 years. Why don't we debate it? For all the C–SPAN viewers out there, look how many people are in the Chamber. About, what, 10 of us. Ten Members, election certificates, in here. Why don't we have a bill on the floor and why don't we debate it?

How many Americans would love to hear that the people's House has not had an amendment offered on the floor of this Chamber since May of 2016 in regular order, an open amendment? Congressman ROY offers an amendment to a bill. Not since May of 2016, 5 years. It is all done in committee and rules and some smoke room in the back up here, just drop down, and we all go up and we vote ''yes'' or ''no'', and then we go out and give speeches. That is no way to govern. The American people know how to balance their own budgets at home. Businesses know how to balance budgets. Yet, this irresponsible government doesn't.

Madam Speaker, I would implore my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to follow the great work of the Republic Study Committee, and look at the budget that we put forward that balances in 5 years, bring it to the floor of the House, and allow us to have an open debate. Go through the Budget Committee, go to the floor, and actually have a debate about the fiscal health and responsibility of this country so that our kids and grandkids can inherit the greatest country in the world, rather than $30 trillion in debt, and leaving us crippled and unable to carry forward for the good of our country.

Mr. HERN. Madam Speaker, I would yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER), the 15th Congressional District.

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the Republican Study Committee for hosting this important Special Order. Our Nation's taxpayers deserve to be respected when it comes to our Federal budget. Fiscal responsibility is vital for a stable, strong, and long-lasting economy.

Under the current administration and Democrat control in Congress, there are actual Federal efforts being conducted at the taxpayers' expense to redefine gender and demonize traditional American values. We must put a stop to this nonsense, especially on the taxpayers' dime.

I have always told my children; the government has no money except for what they extract from the American people. The Republican Study Committee released a counter budget to the extremely irresponsible and radical budget that the Biden administration has put forth. This budget would balance our Federal budget in 5 years, cut spending by $14.4 trillion over 10 years, incorporate 30-plus deregulatory legislative proposals, and reduces taxes by $1.9 trillion.

The RSC budget will also adopt my bill, the Safety and Opportunity for Girls Act, to protect spaces for women and girls in schools. The bill would prevent the Title IX provisions in President Biden's executive order—it would limit them to being biological and the genetic definition of sex.

I support the RSC budget proposal because it treats the government's money as its own and works to promote all the best parts in America.

Mr. HERN. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN), the co-chair of the Border Caucus from the 36th Congressional District.

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend from Oklahoma for having this Special Order tonight.

Madam Speaker, my message tonight is simple. We are more than $28 trillion in debt and sinking fast. If we don't make drastic changes to the way we govern, we won't have a country left to govern.

In 2011, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Mike Mullen, famously proclaimed that the national debt is the single greatest risk to our Nation.

When I was elected in 2014, 7 years ago, the national debt was $18 trillion. In just 7 years, Madam Speaker, we have increased the debt by more than $10 trillion. In fact, we have spent more in the last year than the annual economic production of every single country in the world, with the exception of our own, China, and India.

Shockingly, President Biden's only idea of how to deal with our rapidly increasing debt is to spend $6 trillion more. The President and my colleagues across the aisle throw the word trillion around like it is nothing. It is hard to contemplate the magnitude of a trillion, but think about this: one trillion seconds is around 32,000 years. Let that sink in.

The left's out of control spending and blatant disregard for our future must absolutely be stopped. Our failure to do so will undoubtedly lead us down the road to economic ruin, which is exactly why the Republican Study Committee's, the RSC's balanced budget is our best chance at reclaiming our fiscal future.

Madam Speaker, I am incredibly proud that one of my bills, the State and Local Pensions Accountability and Security Act, which prohibits the unelected bureaucrats at the Treasury Department or the Federal Reserve from bailing out irresponsible State or local government pension systems was included in the RSC's final budget proposal.

So let's eliminate the deficit and let's balance the budget in the next 5 years, as this does. Let's cut spending by $14.4 trillion over the next decade, and reduce taxes by $1.9 trillion, and get our country back on the right track, and that is exactly what this budget proposal does.

To quote my colleague from Alabama, Congressman MO BROOKS, he says, ''Great nations weaken from within before they fall from without.'' Our future generations are counting on us to get this done.

Mr. HERN. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DAVIDSON).

Mr. DAVIDSON. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague and the whole group of the Republican Study Committee for working on this budget proposal because, frankly, this is an incredible threat to our Nation's security. It is a threat to the U.S. dollar as our global reserve currency, and as the Fed continues to accommodate it, we are destroying the value of our dollar.

This is an essential duty of our body here in the House of Representatives, and so it is an incredible honor to have three of the bills that I have drafted be included in the proposal. One is the CBO Show Your Work Act. Frankly, the Congressional Budget Office is our accounting office.

Now, imagine if you worked at a firm and you were on the board, and you simply said, I want to see the books. And the accounting department said, no, we are not going to show it to you. They won't even show it to regular Members sometimes. They should show it to the whole public. They are doing the work on behalf of the public. It is not a trade secret. It is not proprietary. They model our economy, their scores have incredible consequences, and they need to show their work.

Another one is the Global Trade Accountability Act. President Trump rightly put a lot of attention on trade, and it is right that Congress would reclaim some of its authority. Because when Congress doesn't enact a law, it doesn't endure, it pivots from administration to administration. It pulls the authority back to Congress where it lies in the Constitution, and it puts the President on a shot clock. And, frankly, not the President so much as the people we initiate against; either come to the table and negotiate something within 90 days, or the authority goes away, and you have to change something. 90 more days. And, in general, until you agree, it is going to keep getting worse.

□ 1830

Lastly, we have the fair representation amendment, and that would say that when we apportion congressional districts, we apportion them based on the number of U.S. citizens.

Frankly, rural America is being disenfranchised by counting noncitizens when we apportion Representatives. Ohio is losing yet another Representative.

That is not a partisan issue. It doesn't break on party lines. Frankly, Texas and California benefit by counting noncitizens, but it is hurting a lot of our country by counting them.

There are factors in terms of how we allocate dollars. Instead of dollars per citizen, we are allocating dollars per capita, and that sends more dollars to urban districts and fewer dollars to rural districts.

It is important work. I thank the committee, and I thank, particularly, Mr. HERN for his work leading it.

Mr. HERN. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the great State of Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS).

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of America's fiscal future as it is envisioned in the RSC budget.

For the first time since I have been here in 5 years, we have managed to assemble a very reasonable path forward to fiscal stability for our country.

I have language in this bill reflective of the crisis at the border. My legislation, H.R. 2729, the Finish the Wall Act, is included in the language of the underlying bill.

On President Biden's first day in office, he halted the use of border security funds allocated by Congress, ended all ongoing construction of the border wall, and implemented very weak border policies that have had dire consequences for our Nation.

We have had over 1 million illegal crossings thus far this year. In history, it has never been this high. We have had surges here and there in 2014 and 2019, yes, under various administrations for various reasons. But we have never had 1.1 million illegal crossings into our country.

Our border has created layers of crisis, and we must deal with it. We must act. We must force action from our executive.

The debt that we face as a nation is crippling, and the generations yet unborn will not survive a $31 trillion debt that we are looking at right now. America will not continue to exist as we know it with that type of crippling debt. But we won't get there. We won't get to our grandchildren and great-grandchildren as a strong American nation if we allow the sovereignty of America to be destroyed in the course of one Presidential term.

Madam Speaker, we are trending over 2 million illegal crossings this year. We cannot allow this to happen. I urge my colleagues to take a reasonable look at the RSC budget.

Mr. HERN. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the Fourth Congressional District of Iowa (Mr. FEENSTRA).

Mr. FEENSTRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss Sarah's Law, a bicameral bill I introduced along with Senator JONI ERNST from Iowa.

Our proposal was named in honor of Sarah Root, a 21-year-old girl who, after her graduation, that night, was killed by an illegal immigrant. The illegal immigrant was drunk and drag racing. He posted bond. ICE did not detain him, and he left the country, never to be seen from ever again.

The bill would require authorities to keep illegal immigrants in custody if they have been charged with a crime that resulted in death or serious bodily injury.

I am pleased that my proposal was included in the Republican Study Committee budget. After all, budgets reflect priorities, and given the crisis at our border, it is crucial that we implement tougher immigration policies that protect Iowans and protect Americans.

Border encounters have hit an all-time high in the last two decades, with over 180,000 encounters in the month of May. Last year, we had over 23,000. Yet, President Biden's bloated $6 trillion budget proposal does not include a single cent more for homeland security.

Unlike Vice President Harris, the administration's self-appointed border czar, I went to the border. I heard directly from law enforcement officers. We need to ensure they have the resources they need to do their jobs, and we need to start enacting stricter immigration and border security policies that address this crisis.

At the very least, we can all agree that neither American citizens nor illegal immigrants should ever be able to evade the law. Sarah's Law would ensure illegal immigrants cannot escape justice simply due to immigration policy loopholes.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Republican Study Committee's budget. It is a fantastic budget.

Mr. HERN. Madam Speaker, may I ask how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Oklahoma has 35 minutes remaining.

Mr. HERN. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the Fifth Congressional District of Virginia (Mr. GOOD). He is also a task force member who gave us a tremendous amount of input on our process, and I want to thank him for his work. It was a 5-month journey that we went through to arrive at this budget and a lot of sleepless nights. I really appreciate the gentleman's inputs and his thoughts.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I thank Congressman HERN for his work as chairman of the Republican Study Committee Budget Task Force and for leading this effort. Also, I would like to thank RSC Chairman JIM BANKS for his outstanding leadership overall of the RSC.

This team has done remarkable work to try to keep money where it belongs: in the wallets of hardworking American taxpayers.

The RSC budget proposal would balance the Federal budget within 5 years of implementation, and I am thrilled to say that it is the most pro-life RSC budget ever.

The RSC budget would cut Federal spending by $14.4 trillion over 10 years and cut taxes by $1.9 trillion. In fact, it reduces the burden on American taxpayers by nearly $16,000 per household.

Unlike Biden's budget buster, this budget prioritizes American families and hardworking taxpayers.

I am proud to have served as a member of the RSC Budget Task Force, and this budget is historic for two reasons. First, it unapologetically and unequivocally affirms the conservative values that we were elected to fight for. Second, it courageously addresses our unsustainable entitlement programs, preserves and protects our commitment to America's seniors and those nearing retirement, builds the framework for responsible fiscal management, and secures the future for younger generations of Americans.

The RSC budget contains many of the conservative principles that I have fought for since my first day in office nearly 6 months ago. From protecting people of faith from government intrusion to shielding small businesses from the heavy hand of government regulations to putting the needs of our students before teachers' unions, the RSC budget contains many pieces of legislation that I have personally introduced.

This includes my ALERT Act, which would require monthly updates from executive agencies about any rules they are working on, including the costs to taxpayers of those regulations.

My Article I Regulatory Budget Act would restore direct, accountable congressional control of the Federal regulatory system, as the Founders intended, and require a budget from the President for all regulatory costs, similar to the annual budget for other taxes and spending.

My Right to Earn a Living Act would prevent Congress from subsidizing costly lockdown policies like those handed down by State and local Democrat officials. As a free-market conservative, I know there is no better way to stimulate our economy than by opening it up and turning the American people loose. Congress cannot continue bailing out poorly run States whose economies have been devastated by these lockdown orders.

My Protecting Religion from Government Act seeks to preserve all Americans' First Amendment rights by allowing citizens to sue State or local governments that seek to prevent or regulate religious services. Government has no constitutional authority over religion.

My Students Before Unions Act would put children first and make COVID funding contingent upon the transparency of local teachers' unions.

My bill to repeal the Jim Crow-era Davis-Bacon Act, which requires the Federal Government to pay the prevailing wage, would end this inexcusable, long-held practice that drives up prices for taxpayer-funded construction and eliminates opportunities for hardworking Americans.

Finally, my SHUSH Act would deregulate firearm suppressors at the Federal level and preempt State laws that regulate, tax, or prohibit the possession of suppressors. No constitutional right should be at risk of public opinion or subject to regulatory and tax burdens.

As a freshman, I am truly grateful and humbled to have so many of my bills included in the budget, second only to the number submitted by RSC Chairman JIM BANKS.

At $28 trillion of debt that we have now, that equates to about $85,000 per American citizen. Every time we recklessly and foolishly spend another $1 trillion, that is about $10,000 per household. This is unsustainable. The majority in this administration is, at best, economically and fiscally illiterate and incompetent, or, at worst, they are intentionally crushing our financial future and our very Republic.

Our work on this conservative budget shows that it is possible to do what the Democrats seem to find impossible: balance the budget through practical solutions that put American taxpayers first while preserving the values that have made this the greatest country in history.

Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman HERN again for his leadership in crafting this budget that deserves a vote in the House Budget Committee and on this very floor so that the American people can see if their Representatives are serious about fighting inflation and restoring our fiscal sanity.

Mr. HERN. Madam Speaker, Speaker PELOSI reminded us about 3 years ago when she infamously said: Show me your budget, and I will show you your values.

That phrase and that statement have been made so many times by leaders talking about budgets.

In America, individuals have budgets, counties have budgets, communities have budgets, cities have budgets, schools have budgets, businesses have budgets, and States have budgets. The United States of America has gone 3 years now without a budget from the Budget Committee that is run by my colleagues from the Democratic Party, the people in power.

We have a budget that we are asking to get on the floor, a budget that is built on the pro-growth policies that we saw 16 months ago yield the greatest economy in our lifetime, the lowest unemployment rate, the most people employed with all diversity, of all ethnicities, of all countries of origin, women, African Americans, and Hispanics. Everywhere, people have seen the greatest jobs they have ever seen. There were double-digit increases for the lowest earning wage earners among us.

We know these policies work. This budget builds upon them. The American people are demanding that we be accountable for the dollars they send us. What we are seeing now in the budget that was just put out by the President in a piecemeal fashion is a budget that sends jobs overseas and that destroys jobs in our energy-producing companies, some of the highest wage earners we have in this country. We see our defense budget being cut below the inflation rate.

As we speak about inflation, the President promised the American people that he wouldn't raise taxes on anybody making less than $400,000 a year. Madam Speaker, I will tell you the greatest hidden tax in America is inflation, and what we are seeing right now is inflation rising at an annualized rate of 5, 6, and 7 percent that spans everybody in America on top of the proposed tax increases that the President is talking about.

He is proposing looking at changing the tax rates for our multinational companies, our companies that were starting to move jobs back to America. Now we are seeing a deal is being struck by Secretary Yellen to try to take the G7 to tax our companies to the point that we are going to see jobs leave our country and return back to where they moved their headquarters overseas, to lower tax nations.

To my colleagues out there, all we are asking for is to put a budget on the floor, our budget, to get your vote to be responsible to the American taxpayers so that we can see, once and for all, where everyone is on doing the right thing for the American taxpayers.

□ 1845

For all of my colleagues that joined us tonight, what we have heard over the last hour was a clear vision for America, an outline of how conservatives intend to govern. It is sad that we have to call it a conservative budget. It is a budget for the American people. This is the future of our Nation. This is the hope of democracy.

Before I finally close, I would like to yield to the gentleman from Kansas

(Mr. ESTES), my dear colleague, a member of the task force, to give his thoughts on what he saw and worked on, on our budget.

Mr. ESTES. Madam Speaker, I thank the Republican Study Committee for hosting this Special Order hour.

Today, our Nation's debt is more than $28 trillion. With a number that large, it is hard to really understand how much taxpayer money we are really talking about. Well, $28 trillion is $1 million 28 million times. Or another way to think about it is it is 28 with 12 zeros behind it.

Spending far beyond our means and watching the debt clock grow astronomically higher has real implications for the future of our country and for our citizens. While many out there would like to believe that we can go on spending without some sort of restraint and it doesn't have any consequences, common sense tells us that is not true.

Because of overspending, the debt held by Americans has already eclipsed the size of our economy and will top 200 percent of the GDP by 2051. Every American, adult and child, bears a burden of more than $85,000.

The problem is so stark that our country spends about $800 million per day on interest payments alone. The net interest costs for taxpayers financing this debt will skyrocket from 1.4 percent of GDP, about $300 billion this year, to 8.6 percent of GDP. That would be more than 2½ times higher than what the U.S. currently spends on defense as a percent of our GDP.

Another way to look at this problem is through the lens of any family budget and take away some zeros.

Let's say in 2020 an individual made $34,000. That same person spent $65,000, meaning they spent $31,000 they didn't have. And they also had a credit card with $280,000 already on it and growing. This would clearly be absurd and unsustainable, yet somehow that is how the Federal Government operates.

Madam Speaker, American families understand that we should tackle the spending problem first and live within our means. This has to be the focus of our body. It is our duty and our responsibility to those we represent.

We have got to tackle the out-of-control spending before it brings down this great Nation. We need to stop mortgaging our grandkids' future just to sustain and spend our lifestyle today.

Madam Speaker, we need to do the hard work now to address our spending, balance the budget, and fiscally secure our Nation for future generations. Our constituents deserve it.

Mr. HERN. Madam Speaker, the Biden administration has put themselves on the side of Big Government, big taxes, and big bureaucracy.

To paraphrase the great President Ronald Reagan, he said: You can't be for Big Government and still fight for the little guy.

Our budget is a clear outline for middle and working-class Americans that their government hasn't left them behind. We have a plan and it will benefit all Americans.

I am proud of the budget we put together this year, and I am ready to defend it in front of any committee and any Member of this House.

We have spent the last hour talking about conservative principles. Well, I want to make it clear that this budget is not just for conservatives. It is not just for Republicans. It is a budget for all Americans.

It doesn't matter if your children grow up to be Republicans or Democrats. They will be paying for our debts regardless, long after we are gone. That is why it is important to have leaders who are thinking about our grandchildren and great-grandchildren's future.

It is clear that Joe Biden, KAMALA HARRIS, NANCY PELOSI, and CHUCK SCHUMER would rather auction off that future in order to pay for an unpopular radical agenda.

The American people need to know that we are the captains of this ship and we will not let economic doomsday destroy America's future.

Fiscal responsibility does not have to be partisan, which is why I am calling on my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to help us bring this budget to the floor for a vote.

I thank everyone who supported this budget tonight and to everyone who helped us put it together.

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

AMERICAN FAMILIES PLAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOWMAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, tonight, I am pleased to be joined by many of my colleagues in the Congressional Progressive Caucus to talk about the long overdue investment we would need to make in the care economy, something that our infrastructure has always relied upon.

I introduced the Care for All Agenda earlier this spring calling for the Federal Government to dramatically expand and strengthen the care economy.

The American Families Plan outlines the next step we need to take to get there, which must include improving work conditions and compensation for care workers nationwide.

The care economy impacts all of us: Our children, elderly loved ones, family members with disabilities, childcare workers, home health aides, nurses, and so many more. Care is something we all need at different stages in our lives.

The care economy includes our essential workers who put their lives on the line every day during the most devastating global pandemic in a century. Many of us will be caregivers ourselves, if we haven't been one yet.

Ask any working family about how hard it has been to find affordable, quality childcare even before COVID.

Ask a childcare worker if they can afford to send their own child to the center they work at.

Ask any one of the vast majority of workers who do not have paid family and medical leave how hard it is to care for a loved one who is ill while holding on to their job.

Ask anyone who qualifies for long-term care under Medicaid but has been unable to access it due to the healthcare workforce shortage.

Ask a home health aide how much they make hourly, and the need to redesign our care infrastructure will become abundantly clear.

Just as our physical infrastructure is crumbling, the United States today suffers from a lack of care infrastructure. These two truths are intertwined.

Our crumbling infrastructure disproportionately harms Black, Brown, Indigenous and low-income communities. The negative health impacts arising from fossil fuel use, industrial pollution, and toxic materials in our homes and schools are literally making us sick.

We need to invest in eliminating carbon emissions, and we also need to invest in the caregivers we are counting on to heal us now.

We are calling for a broader shift to a society based on care for the people, communities, and the planet we share.

We are still grieving more than 600,000 lives lost to COVID in our country, many of them caregivers themselves. In this last year, we saw how badly we need a robust care economy and what happens when our investment in care doesn't match our needs.

I know that for some, talking about caregiving as infrastructure sounds like a new idea and a ''nice to have.'' None of this work is new, and all of it is necessary.

I have heard directly from New Yorkers who rely on caregivers every day; like a constituent of mine in Westchester, who was born with diastrophic dysplasia, and wrote in about how we need to do better by our caregivers and pay them a living wage. Now in her fifties, she qualifies for Medicaid and needs home-based care. The home health aide who cares for her has to work two additional jobs to make ends meet. That should give us all pause.

One of the biggest champions for caregivers and domestic workers, Aijen Poo, said that: ''The definition of infrastructure is that which enables society and the economy to function. So

what is more fundamental than the ability to take care of our loved ones?''

Caregiving is almost always provided by women, especially Black and Brown women. This work has historically been made invisible, which creates opportunities for the exploitation and poverty wages many of our caregivers face without protection or recourse.

When it comes to finding care, millions of families are left with no option but to figure it out, which we know so often means women not taking paid work in order to provide unpaid care for their own families.

The American Families Plan will help us bring the care economy out of the shadows with key investments in childcare, paid leave, Medicaid, home and community-based services, and more.

This goes so much deeper than making it possible for families to enter and remain in the workforce. We need to ask ourselves what kind of systems and structures we want in place not only for people to survive, but also to thrive and reach their full potential.

Given how common it is to need care and not get it, we must ask ourselves: Are we, as a nation, structured to listen? Are we structured to care?

We need to listen to the caregivers and the families who rely on them so that we make the most powerful investments that will not only boost our economy, but also allow us to heal and truly move forward as a society.

We need to rebuild our Nation with a new foundation; a foundation rooted in love, care, and equality. That is the kind of thinking we need in the infrastructure package.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield to my other colleagues who will highlight other critical care economy needs. I yield to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL), the chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Madam Speaker, I thank Congressman BOWMAN for yielding to me and also for his tremendous leadership in the Progressive Caucus. We are so proud to welcome him into the Progressive Caucus, into Congress, and to have the benefit of his tremendous experience in education, in caregiving, on so many fronts. I am so proud to cosponsor the Care resolution with the gentleman. I think it is a very important statement.

Madam Speaker, I am also very proud to be here as the chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus. This is our Special Order hour that we get to devote to any topic that we want; and, today, it is a real privilege and an honor to devote it to the American Families Plan.

Why?

Because the American Families Plan and the American Jobs Plan are what this country needs and what this country wants. Democrats, Republicans, and Independents across the country have said clearly that they are ready for a big, bold investment that allows us, allows America, to build back better.

That is what the President has proposed because, Madam Speaker, at the core of any society is how we care and look out for each other. That reality was made undeniably clear as we have struggled to overcome the COVID–19 pandemic, with over 600,000 deaths.

And at the root of our recovery is how we look out for each other, how we give each other opportunities, how we ensure that America truly is a country where we are all better off when we are all better off.

For me, coming to this country by myself at the age of 16, now getting to serve in the United States Congress as the first South Asian-American woman, I have watched how too many people across America do not have that opportunity. They do not have the investments that we, as a Federal Government, should make in order for them to be successful.

Now, our care economy is broad. I am not just talking about essential healthcare providers, like nurses and doctors who cared for patients struck by COVID–19. I am talking about the broader care infrastructure, and that includes childcare. It includes home- and community-care services. And it includes providing everyone with basic paid family and medical leave and more.

The American Families Plan also includes investing in healthcare for everyone across America, investing in education, the kind of education that gave me my opportunity to come here. We need to provide that 2 years of free community college or college for people across this country so that they can get the additional skills they need.

We need to invest in housing and, of course, we need to invest in this broader care economy.

At the end of the day, our American Families Plan, the President's American Families Plan, the jobs plan, has to be about every person across this country, working-class, poor, people who are seeking opportunity, people who deserve to have the American Dream that is no more; to make sure that every person, White, Black, and Brown, with understanding that the disproportionate burden of our inequities and racial injustices in the United States have fallen on Black, Brown, and Indigenous people, we need to make sure that all people are taken care of and have opportunity.

□ 1900

Care infrastructure is the critical infrastructure that allows our families and communities to thrive and stay healthy.

Take, for instance, the home care workers across the country who have been serving on the front lines of the pandemic. For those most vulnerable to COVID, such as people with disabilities and seniors, home care workers were often the difference between life and death. Home care workers allowed many of those most vulnerable to avoid congregate settings, like nursing and group homes, that saw a high spread of COVID.

Yet, this critical workforce shrunk by 280,000 people at the beginning of the pandemic, despite an increasing need for home care services. That is why the Biden administration has proposed investing $400 billion to expand the home care workforce, something I was very proud to help negotiate last year as part of our Unity Task Force on healthcare.

But we can't stop there, and the American Families Plan doesn't stop there. The American Families Plan also recognizes that the majority of caregivers, as Mr. BOWMAN said, are women and disproportionately women of color. Many of them are responsible for care at home, which is a huge reason why we have seen women forced out of the workforce in record numbers.

In December 2020 alone, women accounted for nearly all the jobs lost, with a disproportionately high number of job losses coming from women of color.

That is why we need robust investments in universal childcare. No family, regardless of income, should pay more than 7 percent of their income on childcare. And we have to eliminate administrative barriers, like work requirements, that make it much more difficult for low-income White, Black, Brown, and indigenous people to access childcare.

Finally, we have to ensure strong labor standards for this care workforce. We cannot entrust people to care for the most valuable people in our lives and deny them a living wage, the right to join a union, and paid leave. These workers give our loved ones dignity. They give so many of us the ability to work outside of our homes to support our families.

As we talk about domestic workers, I am so proud to have the Domestic Workers Bill of Rights that I have introduced in Congress. Let's remember that this care work is the work that allows all other work to be possible.

This is an important moment for us to pass the American Families Plan to invest in education, to invest in healthcare, to lower the Medicare eligibility age, to take on prescription drugs, and to invest in this oh-so-important care economy. It is time to deliver for the American people so we continue to build back better and ensure that everyone has the support they need.

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO), my friend.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for his work. We are indeed friends. We both were teachers, Mr. BOWMAN a principal. We are educators at heart.

To recover from one of the worst economic crises we have faced as a Nation, we must invest in families, our care economy, and our Nation's childcare.

For most American families, quality childcare and preschool are

unaffordable. In Riverside County, where my district, the 41st District of California, is located, it is unavailable. My district is a childcare desert. My constituents do not have childcare locations available, even if eligible, to help them care for their children while they attend school or work.

It doesn't have to be this way, and it shouldn't be this way. In fact, we should use our path toward recovery as an opportunity to address the disparities communities like mine have been facing when it comes to affordable childcare options. The American Families Plan will secure universal access to preschool and will expand the supply of quality childcare options for all families.

Studies have proven that quality preschool will positively impact children's cognitive, behavioral, and social-emotional development that is critical for their long-term success and mental health. If we are serious about investing in our children's education, we must provide universal preschool and affordable childcare for every child in need.

Investing in preschool and affordable childcare will not only help our children, but will also greatly benefit our workforce. As more preschools and childcare centers are available, more families can get back to work without worrying about their child's well-being.

This is our opportunity to help struggling families and take bold action to create a just and equitable post-COVID economy. I urge my colleagues to invest in our care economy by supporting the American Families Plan Act.

We just can't go back to the way things were before. We have to be bold and act with urgency to give families and parents access to the resources they need to help our country bounce back stronger than ever before.

Let me just close with a short anecdote, a short story. This happened on the weekend, the Friday before the Memorial Day weekend. I, as chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, joined Secretary McDonough in a ceremony to honor our Nation's veterans at the Quantico cemetery. I met the commander of the base, who has responsibility not just for the Marine base that is there but also the FBI training center. There are a number of different facilities that are sort of associated with the base.

We just got in a chat, and I wasn't fishing for any sort of answers from him or any information. But I said: What has been your biggest challenge, in terms of reopening your base?

He said: Congressman, quite surprisingly to me, the biggest challenge has been childcare. That is what has held us back, and that has been my biggest challenge as a base commander.

I said: Do you think other base commanders across the country have had the same challenge?

He said: Yes.

This challenge of providing quality childcare and preschool is something that is really holding our road to recovery back, and it is slowing it down. The American Families Plan is a sound and substantive answer to meeting this challenge.

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. EVANS), my friend.

Mr. EVANS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from the great State of New York for his leadership. In such a short period of time, what he has demonstrated to all of us about being a leader, I applaud him for this.

I am pleased to join with my colleagues in the Progressive Caucus as we continue to advocate for President Biden's American Families Plan and investing in the care economy.

That means things like funding for high-quality, affordable childcare, including universal pre-K; making sure that childcare costs do not exceed 7 percent of income for working families; ensuring that childcare workers, who are largely women and people of color, have a $15 minimum wage—let me repeat that—ensuring that childcare workers, who are largely women and people of color, have a $15 minimum wage; and meaningful investments in Medicare home and community-based services, which would help workers in the home care industry.

Everyone would like to say they are pro-family and pro-children. This is the chance to prove it.

Earlier this month, I joined with SEIU members in Philadelphia to rally for passing $400 billion for caregiving. I told them funding for childcare and other caregiving is essential, since we actually want people to be able to go back to work.

We started this year off big and bold with $1.9 trillion in the American Rescue Plan. That was a big step in the right direction. It was a down payment.

The American people voted into office a Democratic President, a Democratic Senate, and a Democratic House. As we promise to build back better, they expect us to do more than just reset the calendar to February 2020. The old normal wasn't so great for millions of Americans, including many Philadelphians I represent. They deserve better than the old normal. The American Families Plan would do a lot to deliver on our promise. Let's get it done.

Again, I thank Mr. BOWMAN for his leadership and the importance of this leadership and all the members of the Progressive Caucus demonstrating how we are going to lead the charge.

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, I now yield to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. OMAR), my friend.

Ms. OMAR. Madam Speaker, as our country recovers from this devastating pandemic, it is critical we prioritize our families. All working families deserve to thrive, and that starts with ensuring high-quality, affordable childcare.

This is a generational opportunity to invest in affordable, quality care for all children, and I urge my colleagues not to let it go to waste.

Right now, the average cost of childcare for children under 5 is around $10,000 a year. This amount is even higher for infants. In my home State of Minnesota, we have some of the highest childcare costs in the Nation, ranking fourth in the country.

A minimum-wage worker working full-time in my district in Minneapolis would have to work 30 weeks to cover the cost of childcare for one infant. This is unconscionable.

As a mom, I know how difficult it can be to find affordable childcare options and how a lack of childcare impacts all aspects of life, including the ability to graduate from college while taking care of young children or even the ability to find a job and thrive.

We need universal childcare and pre-K for all families, and we need to pay our childcare workers a living wage.

Ensuring affordable, quality care for every child and family would stimulate the economy and have a lasting benefit for children's development and growth.

The American Families Plan moves us closer to this goal by investing in universal preschool, ensuring childcare costs do not exceed 7 percent of income for working families, and guarantees childcare workers make a $15 minimum wage.

I urge my colleagues to ensure that women and families are not left behind in our recovery. Families across America are counting on us to do the right thing.

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. KAHELE), my brother.

Mr. KAHELE. Madam Speaker, mahalo also to my brother and my freshman colleague from New York for allowing me this opportunity to speak about something really important in our country, and that is the American Families Plan.

Today, I rise in support of our Nation's students, the future of America, an engaged generation of young Americans working to create a better future for our country. We must stand with them. The time is now to do that, as they embark on their journey to unlock their potential and achieve their dreams. But that journey starts with a quality education and the opportunity for higher education, the great equalizer in our society.

□ 1915

Now, our children wield tremendous potential and remind us to dream big. However, too many of our students do not have that opportunity because of the high costs of public higher education. Skyrocketing tuition, application fees, student fees, overpriced textbooks, meal plans, dorm plans all contribute to $1.4 trillion in crushing student debt and are barriers preventing all of America's children from pursuing higher education.

The American Families Plan will change that. The American Families

Plan will enable the opportunity for every student across the country to obtain a degree or certificate through a community college for free.

The American Families Plan is built to invest in our children from early childhood through postsecondary education. Most importantly, this plan recognizes the importance of investing in access to community college.

Each year thousands of students in my home State of Hawaii benefit from community colleges across our islands, but unfortunately just 50 percent of those students are able to complete a postsecondary degree of any kind within 6 years of enrolling. As a product of community college myself, and an educator, I know how these public institutions can positively impact our most disadvantaged communities, which is why for so long I have fought to remove barriers to higher education.

The American Families Plan will redefine access to education, taking the long overdue step of ensuring 2 years of free community college for all students. This opportunity will invest in the future of our students, prepare them to compete and succeed in a highly competitive global economy, and level the playing field.

Every child in our country deserves the opportunity to live the American Dream, but in order to achieve that, we must believe, all of us must believe that we all have a stake in each other's prosperity.

President Biden's vision in the American Families Plan is a defining moment in our Nation's history and will give American children head starts and pave the way for the best-educated generation in U.S. history.

America's students have an amazing opportunity to pursue education beyond high school. Let us give them that opportunity.

Mahalo, Madam Speaker, and my colleague from New York.

Mr. BOWMAN. Thank you so much, Mr. KAHELE. I now yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN).

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, it is great to stand here with Representative BOWMAN, with our colleague JAN SCHAKOWSKY, with Mr. KAHELE, with all of our brothers and sisters in Congress to say that we can and we must, and we will do so much better right now for our working parents, our workers, our kids.

As we recover from the pandemic and Build Back Better, we can't forget about the people who make up what we call the care economy—nursing home workers, home caregivers, childcare providers, and others who work every day to better the lives of other people.

Why is care work so important? The care economy has been central to my own life. I started my career helping nursing home workers organize with SEIU, but I think most parents can tell you about the importance of childcare in their own words.

Personally, I think back to the birth of my first son, Koby, and how so much of those early years were spent juggling schedules with my wife to raise our son. I would stay home with the baby during the day so Mary could teach in public school, and then she would rush home and tap in while I took law school classes in the afternoon and evening. Ultimately, we had three kids under 5 in the house and later four kids altogether. It was joyful and exhilarating, but it was challenging and there was just no way we could have done it alone.

Providing quality childcare to every family in this country means providing every parent the opportunity to cherish raising their child or their children without fear of losing their income, of losing their job, of losing their career. Right now, in Michigan a year's worth of childcare for an infant costs well over $10,000 on average. Who can afford that?

A record number of women have dropped out of the workforce during the pandemic. From August to September of last year alone, in one month, 865,000 women left the workforce. They didn't become unemployed. They left the workforce because of their responsibility for caregiving. And job gains in the recovery so far are disproportionately going to men.

In this crisis, we have an opportunity to Build Back Better and right this historic inequity. President Biden's American Families Plan and its investment in childcare won't just save families money by fully or partially covering their childcare costs. It will also create good-paying jobs that will go predominantly to women and people of color.

The poverty rate for early educators in my State of Michigan is 18.9 percent, much higher, almost double compared to the 10.8 percent rate for Michigan workers overall. Nearly half of U.S. childcare workers receive public income support. These statistics are totally unacceptable.

We need to take better care of the people taking care of our children and our seniors, and we can start by raising their wages to $15 an hour by 2025 with no subminimum wages. That would lead to higher quality care and allow workers to provide for their own families.

Let's remember, high quality childcare and preschool don't just benefit working parents and the workers involved. They benefit our kids most of all. The data on the return on investment of investing in early education in childcare is overwhelming in terms of these kids' whole lives, their academic accomplishment, their earnings later in life.

There is so much at stake. We can't afford to let childcare become a bargaining chip in the next round of negotiations. Strengthening families, creating jobs, and giving kids the support they need to thrive should be the centerpiece of our work, not an afterthought. I am thrilled that the President's plan recognizes that.

Our work in this space won't end once we get the American Families Plan signed into law. I believe we need to create a system of free universal childcare and that our caregivers deserve far better pay, benefits, training, and protection across the board. The American Families Plan is a great start and brings us closer to that goal. Let's get it done.

Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. BOWMAN for his leadership in this.

Mr. BOWMAN. I now yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I appreciate Congressman BOWMAN's organizing this on behalf of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, which I am so proud to be a member of, and I really am grateful to him.

Let me just say this in no uncertain terms. Care infrastructure is infrastructure, and it is especially true for women whose opportunities are often limited because we don't really have a working care economy right now.

Every single day nearly 10,000 people turn 65 years old in the United States of America, and yet we do not have in the United States a long-term-care policy. Think about it. The United States of America does not have a real long-term-care policy.

Every family tries to figure out for itself, What are we going to do when grandma and grandpa get older? What are we going to do when I get older? What is the plan? Most people when they retire or have to retire actually don't have enough money to really make the kinds of decisions that they need to and will come up.

Of the people who turn 65, between 50 and 70 percent at that time need some sort of support or care. Where does that come from? Let me be clear; it mostly comes from women.

There is a sociologist who says many countries have a safety net; the United States has women. Paid and unpaid caregivers are women.

Let's talk about the paid caregivers first. People who work in nursing homes, people who work in home care. They make an average of about $12 an hour, with no benefits. You can't live on that. They certainly can't plan for their retirement and to pay for someone to care for them.

And so what do we do? It is pretty clear what has to be done, and actually the Biden administration has actually begun to do it, because everyone should be able to provide and care for their families at any age, for childcare, and certainly for long-term care for the elderly, which is a particular concern of mine.

I am the co-chair of the Democratic Caucus Task Force on Aging and Families, and I am proud of that, coming up with proposals that are going to help our elderly. It is projected that right now we will need about 4 million additional caregivers, people who are either paid or unpaid, by 2028. That is just really around the corner. 4 million. We do not have enough.

First of all, we have to pay the workers a living wage. Now, President Biden

has come up with a plan for $400 billion for home and community-based care. That is a lot of money. It can be a game changer.

The idea is to be able to provide more money, more wages for those who suit up every day and go to work, and during the pandemic often in very dangerous situations where they don't have enough of the PPE, the personal protective equipment, to take care of them and protect them against the virus. They suit up every day and go to work and can barely take care of their own families.

And what about all the women who have had to leave the workforce because they did not have anyone to care for their children or for their parents or both? The sandwich generation has to worry about making sure that they have someone to care for their children and someone who will help them to take care of their elderly relatives. That burden has fallen on women who have ended up having to leave the workforce.

We need to act now. We need to act to fill this gap, to have a real program for long-term care, to have real help for childcare so that women can go to work to care for their families, to have the income that it really takes.

This is not rocket science. It is that we need to pay attention. We need to have the policies in place. We need to have the infrastructure in place, the plan on how we are going to deliver the care that is needed. Without it, we will not be able to move forward economically in this country, and certainly women will pay, especially pay, the price, and often it is women that are low income, women of color that suffer.

□ 1930

So I am happy that we are seeing the Biden administration, we are seeing the Democrats, we are seeing the progressives move forward with that plan that will actually provide the infrastructure we need.

And let me just end by saying that care infrastructure is infrastructure.

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. PRESSLEY), my friend and sister.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York, my friend and colleague, for convening us this evening.

Care work is the backbone of our Nation's economy. Yet, for too long, policymakers have failed to make the critical investments needed to ensure that everyone, at all stages of life, has access to the high-quality care they need and deserve, and that our care workers are compensated for their essential work with livable wages. Their work is essential and so, too, are their lives.

I rise today on behalf of our Nation's care workers, whose labor continues to be undervalued, undermined, and unprotected, despite its essential role in our society.

I rise to lend my voice to the thousands of care workers, disproportionately Black and Brown women, who spend hours upon hours meeting the care needs of others, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities. Caregivers often juggling work while also providing care for their own families and struggling to cover the most basic of needs.

I want to take a moment to speak specifically on the critical role of home and community-based services. During the COVID–19 crisis and long before, these services have been a lifeline, supporting people from all walks of life with critical medical care in their home or community. This is an issue of quality care, of healthcare justice, of disability justice, and of liberty.

Again, throughout the pandemic, home and community-based services were a lifeline for so many, but the infrastructure needs resources. The Biden administration has proposed a historic investment in HCBS to meet the scale of the need and demand. This proposed investment is an investment in healthcare justice, but also an investment in human infrastructure, in our essential workers.

We must make these services readily available and compensate our home care workers, the majority of whom are women of color, with a living wage.

To build back better, we must center the people. We must invest in our communities and affirm that a better world is possible, a more just world, where every person can thrive.

We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to legislate our values and to create a more just and caring America that takes care of everyone who calls this great Nation home.

Passing a robust infrastructure package that affirms care is infrastructure would leave a profound legacy.

Today, on the floor of the House of Representatives, we reaffirm our commitment to building a nation where every person can live and thrive with dignity.

As we craft a legislative response that actualizes that vision, we must make plain that what is needed in this moment of unprecedented economic crisis is bold, intentional legislation that recognizes the dignity and humanity of all workers, and affirms the right to meaningful, dignified work and a livable wage.

Earlier this year, I introduced a congressional resolution calling for a Federal job guarantee, which would provide every person in America with an enforceable legal right to a quality job. Extending beyond a project-based approach, our resolution calls for the creation of Federal jobs on projects that meet long-neglected community, physical and human infrastructure needs, such as delivering high-quality care for children and seniors, building and sustaining 21st century transit systems, strengthening our neighborhoods, and protecting the environment.

That is the type of bold, necessary approach we should bring to this process and beyond.

The COVID–19 pandemic has exacerbated many of these challenges and laid bare the deep inequities and disparities in our Nation.

From paid family and medical leave to home and community-based services, to universal childcare, to a dignified living wage and beyond, the people demand responsive policy that speaks to their lived experiences and struggles. The people are counting on us to deliver.

So let me make it plain: Any infrastructure package must deliver for our care workers, and it must take care of the people, because the care economy is critical infrastructure.

In this moment, as we fight for a strong economic recovery, we must also work to build a better, a more just, and more equitable economy than ever before.

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, the American Families Plan recognizes that childcare is infrastructure, and that it is not enough to settle for any childcare that enables a parent to go to work. This needs to be high-quality childcare that every child can access.

Babies are born learners, and it is well established by brain science that a child's environment and interactions in the first 1,000 days of life, whether positive or negative and long before they enter a kindergarten classroom, are highly formative during this critical period for learning and growth.

When those formative early childhood experiences include inadequate nutrition, homelessness on other adverse childhood experiences, or ACEs, such as those brought on by a global pandemic, we know that a child's brain and body are changed in ways that are linked to poor health and learning outcomes later in life.

Without reliable supports in place to buffer our kids from the stress, that stress can quickly turn toxic.

The good news is that ACEs are preventable on a national scale if we are collectively willing to put in the investment worthy of our kids.

As the Representative for New York's 16th District and a former educator and school leader, I believe our goal for healthy early childhood development needs to be more ambitious than the prevention of ACEs, which aims to protect our kids from the worse effects of stress and trauma. That should be the floor.

We, ourselves, need to move past a scarcity framework and embrace a framework of shared abundance.

That looks like affordable, reliable access to quality childcare where young children, in the context of an intergenerational community, are empowered to explore themselves and their world with pure wonder; where they grow into self-directed learners, collaborative leaders, and adaptive community-centered problem solvers.

Madam Speaker, I now would like to speak a little bit about the child tax

credit. The child tax credit has been in place for years, and it is supposed to help offset the many expenses of raising children. This includes food, childcare, diapers, healthcare, clothing, and taxes.

But before the American Rescue Plan, it wasn't accessible to the families who needed it most because it wasn't fully refundable. Families that didn't earn enough income could not benefit.

The American Rescue Plan changed that when it enacted a much-needed expansion of the child tax credit, making it fully refundable and increasing the maximum credit from $2,000 per child to $3,000 per child up through age 17, and $3,600 per child for children under age 6.

Because of the American Rescue Plan, nearly 66 million children will benefit from the child tax credit, making this the single largest contributor to reducing child poverty.

In my district, which includes the Bronx and Westchester, 124,400 children will gain from the expanded child tax credit.

The average benefit for 41,800 households in my district is $2,800, lifting 9,200 children out of poverty and 4,700 children out of deep poverty.

This is historic, but we can't be satisfied with reducing child poverty. We need to completely end child poverty and eliminate it.

The American Families Plan would extend the child tax credit increases from the American Rescue Plan through 2025. The infrastructure we want for building back better shouldn't tolerate childhood poverty, and the American Families Plan moves us forward on that necessary path.

Before I close, I want to use my time on the House floor to share the experience of a New Yorker who needs home care services and wrote into my office. Her experience seeking care paints a very telling picture about the state of our care economy, and makes the case for the strong investments in the American Families Plan that we have heard tonight.

She shared that seniors and people with disabilities like her struggle to find the home care she needs because the job pays under $13 an hour in most of New York State.

One week into the COVID lockdown, her home health aide contracted the virus from a relative, a nursing home worker who contracted it through their own caregiving job.

The first health aide has been unable to return to work because the virus has caused long-term complications from their immediate family members, for whom they are the primary caregiver.

Just 1 week after her first health aide contracted the virus, a second health aide fell ill.

While the second health aide did recover, the health aide's childcare provider closed permanently.

The second health aide wants to return to work, but, due to the low wages, they are unable to afford childcare.

Not being able to find a full-time health aide to provide her care means she is unable to receive assistance with all of her needs. Some days she only gets help to eat and use the toilet once per day. She cannot shower as frequently as she would like.

She shared: ''I live in constant fear that should something happen to my health aide, that my literal independence will be taken from me overnight. I don't know when this situation will improve, and I have no other resources to lean on should my situation worsen.''

The solution, however, is simple. We need home care jobs to be recognized and treated as quality, dignified jobs with family-sustaining wages. If we pay home care workers a living wage, these jobs will be filled immediately because of the high demand. We need to ensure our home care jobs never become minimum wage jobs again.

I want to thank her for sharing her personal experience and allowing me to share it tonight. It goes to show how connected and interdependent we all are on one another and the care economy.

We need to meet this dire moment with a substantial, transformative investment in the care economy, and we must do that with the American Families Plan.

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

BRIEF SUMMARY OF ISSUES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, we are back here after 3 weeks in our districts, and I think our minds should probably be on the border and the thousands of people—tens of thousands of people streaming across every month, or perhaps on the economic problems caused by higher inflation. But, instead, there was a few brief statements made by one of our prominent TV anchors that causes me to feel I have to speak tonight.

While we were gone, we celebrated both Memorial Day and the hundreds of thousands of American soldiers who have died for our freedoms. We celebrated another anniversary of D-day, the landing in Europe. And when we think about Memorial Day, we can't help but remember other names of battles during World War II: Okinawa, Iwo Jima, the Battle of the Midway, the Battle of the Bulge, as well as all the soldiers who died fighting the communists in Vietnam and Korea.

It is a time for superlatives talking about the heroic efforts of these great men and women.

Unfortunately, on a formerly major network, NBC or MSNBC, Brian Williams decided to compare or supposedly compliment all of our brave troops by comparing them to people who fight under the most evil banner I think that has existed, or one of the two most evil banners that has existed in the last 100 years, and that is the banner of antifa.

□ 1945

Antifa is an organization. If we had their flag here before us, it is virtually identical to the flag used by the communists in the early 1920s in Nazi Germany. The socialist flag at the time, the communist flag, allied with the Soviet Union, which at the time millions of people were dying as they adjusted to life without the czar and life under communism.

The Soviet armies were soon responsible for killing millions and millions of Ukrainians as they guarded the food so the kulaks would starve to death, the communist armies that in Red China caused tens of millions of deaths, the communist armies in Cambodia, these countries with their anti-God philosophy, proud in Red China when the final Christian churches were closed.

Of all things, to compare our troops at D-day with antifa, I cannot imagine a greater insult to give these soldiers. I wish more of them were still alive so they could respond to seeing on television a TV anchor trying to compare them—these brave men to keep the world free—to compare them to antifa, a group whose flag is almost identical to the communist flag.

By the way, it is not surprising that we have a red flag for Nazi Germany and a red flag for the Soviet Union. Red at the time stood for socialism.

Our young children should be educated on the comparisons between the two. During the 1920s, there were times when both ideologies entered into joint strikes because they both wanted to get rid of what existed of a free country in Germany at the time.

We would like to hear from NBC. Shame on you, NBC, the once-proud network. Would you respond to the statements by Brian Williams comparing the men who died at D-day, the men who landed on European soil to free Europe? Will you respond to your anchor implying they were the equivalent of antifa, a group connected with communism? Shame on that once-proud number one network in America. What do you think of what you have done?

The next issue I would like to comment on that I heard about again and again when I was back is an issue that is not surprising. To a certain extent, some of the policies of the past are responsible for this, but recently, we have had a new round of checks go out, a greater increase in the money supply, both M1 and M2.

Not surprising, when the government prints money, we see an increase in the amount of gasoline, an increase in food prices led by an increase in soybeans, an increase in lumber, and massive increases in homebuilding.

I am scared to death for the younger generation as a new economic ideology seems to have taken over in which there is a feeling that you can spend yourself into prosperity. When I look at the degree to which housing costs have skyrocketed within the last year, it is perhaps not surprising, given the degree to which money is being printed. But it is going to be much more difficult for a young couple to buy that first house today compared to 12 years ago.

It is important that everybody in this Chamber sit back and question the idea that is being approved by the Federal Reserve that America can become wealthier just by printing money. America will not become wealthier by printing money. America will have inflation, and that inflation will strike hardest at commodity prices and hardest at housing.

So everybody in this Chamber, before we vote for any more spending bills, ought to look at the rather boring charts of M1 and M2 as we analyze the money supply and look at the cost of all commodities over the last year as this Chamber has decided that the way to create prosperity is to print more money.

I do feel it is also important to address one more time the crisis at the border and the variety of bad things happening because of that crisis and not caring like we did only a few months ago as to who crosses the border.

I don't think we have spent enough time addressing the drug crisis in America. It has been around so long, it becomes boring even to think about it. Except recently, we hit the point at which 90,000 Americans had died of drug overdoses in a 12-month period.

When I talk to people at the border or my local drug enforcement administration, they both agree that this is in part happening because more drugs are coming across the border. In part, it is predictable that more drugs are coming across the border because it is easier to get across the border. More people are crossing the border. But even more so, as marijuana becomes legalized in the country, it is no longer profitable to bring marijuana across the southern border.

I heard an anecdote of a significant amount of marijuana coming across the border, and the people who owned it couldn't sell it. Because the marijuana produced by the now-legalized agriculture operations in the United States—not surprisingly, because we now do genetic engineering, that sort of thing—the marijuana produced in the United States in States like Colorado and Washington is superior to the marijuana brought across the Mexican border.

Well, if the Mexican drug cartels cannot make money selling marijuana or bringing marijuana across the border, how are they going to make it up? They are going to make it up by bringing more and more dangerous drugs—meth, cocaine, heroin, but above all, fentanyl. They are going to bring more and more fentanyl across the southern border. Now, we have 90,000 deaths in this country in 1 year.

A little bit of my district touches Milwaukee County, not a huge county, by nationwide standards, about a million people. Last year, 540 people died of drug overdoses in Milwaukee County. There were about 200 murders, which is the all-time record, and everybody couldn't believe 200 murders. There were over 500 illegal overdoses.

Now, what do we do about that? Well, clearly, one of the things we have to do is we have to prevent these drugs from coming into the country in the first place. It is disappointing that we put the security of the border on the back burner and think of excuses not to deal with it.

But in addition to thinking of all the people running across the border, take a minute to think about the 90,000 people, many very young people, dying primarily of fentanyl but also other illegal drug overdoses, and ask yourself: What is this body going to do to stop it?

Of course, other problems are at the border. We have gone from checking in or touching about 17,000 people a month to 180,000 people a month. As far as got-aways, people who aren't even checked in, our Border Patrol estimates we have gone from about 6,000 this time last year to about 30,000 now—just massive increases.

I would guess between got-aways and people who are checked into the country, we are looking at 60,000 or 70,000 a month instead of under 10,000 a month at this time last year. It is truly a crisis.

Quite frankly, this body ought to be doing nothing else but dealing with that crisis until it is solved. The fact that we had under 10,000 people crossing the border only 4 or 5 months ago shows it is not something we don't know how to solve or that it is impossible to solve. It is that we are willingly allowing a massive increase across the border.

Of course, that massive increase, since the drug cartels charge people to come here, also increases the power of those drug cartels, both in the United States and their country. It, to a degree, results in separation of children from their families, as unaccompanied children come here, as well as a given number of children are probably rented by people to come here because they know supposed intact families have a better chance of being allowed in this country than single people, who are still frequently turned around.

In any event, there is a brief summary of issues. I hope I was enjoyable. And I hope NBC will let us know what they were thinking when Brian Williams decided to say that our soldiers landing on D-day were like antifa.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DEFAZIO (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Thereupon (at 7 o'clock and 58 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, June 16, 2021, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the first quarter of 2021, pursuant to Public Law 95–384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2021.

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

[3] Military air transportation.

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF, May 17, 2021.

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. 290, To amend title 38, United States Code, to render an individual, who transfers certain educational assistance, to which the individual is entitled because of an agreement by such individual to serve in the Armed Forces, to a dependent of that individual, and who fails to complete such agreement, solely liable for the overpayment of such educational assistance, 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. 539, the Preventing Disaster Revictimization Act, as amended, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

ESTIMATE OF PAY-AS-YOU-GO EFFECTS FOR H.R. 539

	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	0	4	0	0	−1	−1	−2	0	0	0	0	2	0

Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.

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. 1443, the LGBTQ Business Equal Credit Enforcement and Investment 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, the attached estimate of the costs of H.R. 1703, the National Children's Museum Act, as amended, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

ESTIMATE OF PAY-AS-YOU-GO EFFECTS FOR H.R. 1703

	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	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	10

Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.

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. 2332, the Debt Bondage Repair 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. 3325, To award four congressional gold medals to the United States Capitol Police and those who protected the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 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. 3642, the Harlem Hellfighters Congressional Gold Medal Act, as amended, would have no significant effect on the deficit, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC–1337. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Terry R. Ferrell, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1338. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General John F. Thompson, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1339. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Privacy Act of 1974; Implementation [Docket ID: DoD-2018-OS-0055] (RIN: 0790-AK41) received June 8, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1340. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Expediting Contract Closeout (DFARS Case 2017-D042) [Docket DARS-2019-0047] (RIN: 0750-AJ52) received June 8, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1341. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Authorities for Minimizing the Use of Materials Containing Hexavalent Chromium (DFARS Case 2020-D031) [Docket DARS-2020-0045] (RIN: 0750-AL17) received June 8, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1342. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Andrew L. Lewis, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1343. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; HHS Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters for 2022 and Pharmacy Benefit Manager Standards [CMS-9914-F2] (RIN: 0938-AU18) received May 19, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–1344. A letter from the Chief, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's Major final rule — Establishing Emergency Connectivity Fund to Close the Homework Gap [WC Docket No.: 21-93] received May 19, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–1345. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 24-93, ''Green Food Purchasing Amendment Act of 2021'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC–1346. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 24-95, ''Commercial Insurance Claim Tolling Temporary Act of 2021'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC–1347. A letter from the Interim Federal Co-Chair, Denali Commission, transmitting the Commission's 2021 Semi-Annual Inspector General report, pursuant to section 5(b) of the Inspector General Act of 1978; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC–1348. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's Inspector General Semiannual Report to Congress for the period October 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC–1349. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report to Congress for the period ending March 31, 2021, pursuant to Public Law 95-452; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC–1350. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's semiannual report from the Office of Inspector General for the period of October 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC–1351. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the semiannual reports to Congress from the Treasury Inspector General and the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration covering the reporting period of October 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC–1352. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report to Congress, covering the period ending March 31, 2021; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC–1353. A letter from the Chairman, Board of Governors, United States Postal Service, transmitting the Board's Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report to Congress for the period October 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC–1354. A letter from the Chief, Regulatory Coordination Division, USCIS, Office of Policy and Strategy, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Exercise of Time-Limited Authority to Increase the Fiscal Year 2021 Numerical Limitation for the H-2B Temporary Nonagricultural Worker Program and Portability Flexibility for H-2B Workers Seeking to Change Employers [CIS No.: 2689-21] (RIN: 1615-AC72) received June 8, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–1355. A letter from the Chairman, Office of Proceedings, Surface Transportation Board, transmitting the Board's final rule — Demurrage Billing Requirements [Docket No.: EP 759] received June 8, 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–1356. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Voluntary Education Programs [Docket ID: DOD-2019-OS-0076] (RIN: 0790-AJ95) received June 8, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1357. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Medicare Program: Comprehensive Care for Joint Replacement Model Three-Year Extension and Changes to Episode Definition and Pricing; Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Policies and Regulatory Revisions in Response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency [CMS-5529-F] (RIN: 0938-AU01) received May 19, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

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 Ms. LOFGREN (for herself and Ms. MATSUI):

H.R. 3886. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to issue Clean Energy Victory Bonds; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and 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 Mr. CURTIS (for himself, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. COHEN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. PORTER, Ms. SALAZAR, Ms. SPANBERGER, and Ms. KAPTUR):

H.R. 3887. A bill to authorize the President to impose sanctions with respect to any foreign person the President determines engages in public or private corruption activities that adversely affect a United States person, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BACON (for himself and Mr. LAMB):

H.R. 3888. A bill to amend the Communities Helping Invest through Property and Improvements Needed for Veterans Act of 2016 to extend the pilot program authorized by such Act; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska:

H.R. 3889. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide an option to claim a delayed retirement credit in a partial lump sum, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. BASS:

H.R. 3890. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to address physician assistant training needs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. BEATTY (for herself and Mrs. WAGNER):

H.R. 3891. A bill to require a study and report on the housing and service needs of survivors of trafficking and individuals at risk for trafficking; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BEYER (for himself and Mr. MAST):

H.R. 3892. A bill to direct the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to provide for ocean-based climate solutions to reduce carbon emissions and global warming; to make coastal communities more resilient; and to provide for the conservation and restoration of ocean and coastal habitats, biodiversity, and marine mammal and fish populations; and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, 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. BLUNT ROCHESTER (for herself and Mr. WENSTRUP):

H.R. 3893. A bill to improve kidney disease research, prevention, surveillance, and treatment in minority populations and rural and underserved communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER (for herself and Mr. BILIRAKIS):

H.R. 3894. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue and disseminate guidance to States to clarify strategies to address social determinants of health under the Medicaid program and the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BOWMAN (for himself, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, and Mrs. TRAHAN):

H.R. 3895. A bill to establish collective bargaining rights for college athletes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia (for himself and Ms. TITUS):

H.R. 3896. A bill to amend the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 to authorize support in high-income economy countries for projects involving development or processing of covered critical materials if such support furthers the national security interests of the United States; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CUELLAR (for himself, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. KEATING, Mr. CHABOT, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. HARRIS):

H.R. 3897. A bill to make improvements to the H-2B nonimmigrant worker program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CURTIS (for himself and Mr. MOULTON):

H.R. 3898. A bill to require the disclosure of a camera or recording capability in certain internet-connected devices; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FOSTER (for himself, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH, and Mr. HUIZENGA):

H.R. 3899. A bill to amend the Financial Stability Act of 2010 to require the Financial Stability Oversight Council to consider alternative approaches before determining that a U.S. nonbank financial company shall be supervised by the Board of Governors of

the Federal Reserve System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GOHMERT:

H.R. 3900. A bill to provide for parental notification and intervention in the case of an unemancipated minor seeking an abortion; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GOHMERT (for himself, Mr. CLOUD, Mrs. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. BABIN, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. GAETZ, and Mr. PERRY):

H.R. 3901. A bill to award four congressional gold medals to the United States Capitol Police and those who protect the U.S. Capitol; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, 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. GRAVES of Louisiana:

H.R. 3902. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to establish a pilot program for intermodal transportation infrastructure grants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GROTHMAN:

H.R. 3903. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain income with respect to partnership interests held in connection with the performance of services as ordinary income; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. HAYES (for herself and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi):

H.R. 3904. A bill to increase the annual funding for the Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Fund, the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, and the Offices of Minority Health within the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the Food and Drug Administration, the Health Resources and Services Administration, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to enable the United States and State departments of public health to better combat disparities that have emerged during the COVID-19 crisis and beyond, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HERN (for himself and Mr. REED):

H.R. 3905. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to waive the 2-year duration of divorce requirement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HUFFMAN (for himself, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. COHEN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. CASE):

H.R. 3906. A bill to establish a Blue Carbon program to conserve and restore marine and coastal blue carbon ecosystems, and other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, 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. JAYAPAL (for herself, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OMAR, and Mr. RUSH):

H.R. 3907. A bill to prohibit biometric surveillance by the Federal Government without explicit statutory authorization and to withhold certain Federal public safety grants from State and local governments that engage in biometric surveillance; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LAMB (for himself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 3908. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to provide for funding for off-system bridges, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. LURIA (for herself and Mr. NEHLS):

H.R. 3909. A bill to increase, effective as of December 1, 2021, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LYNCH:

H.R. 3910. A bill to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to give the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection rulemaking and enforcement authority over the safeguards rule with respect to data aggregators and other financial institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. LYNCH:

H.R. 3911. A bill to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to establish procedures for disclosures by financial institutions of nonpublic personal information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. LYNCH:

H.R. 3912. A bill to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to require consumers to opt in before a financial institution may share the nonpublic personal information of the consumer with a nonaffiliated third party, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MCHENRY (for himself, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. POSEY, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. BARR, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. HILL, Mr. EMMER, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. BUDD, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Mr. ROSE, Mr. STEIL, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. TIMMONS, and Mr. TAYLOR):

H.R. 3913. A bill to provide for expedited payment of emergency rental assistance funds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia (for herself and Mr. BERGMAN):

H.R. 3914. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to permit individuals to select a monthly benefit payment date; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 3915. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to improve social security benefits for widows and widowers in two-income households, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RICE of South Carolina (for himself and Mr. REED):

H.R. 3916. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to strengthen Social Security for long career workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. RODGERS of Washington:

H.R. 3917. A bill to enure that a declaration for a major disaster or emergency is made on a timely basis, rural areas receive assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. RUSH:

H.R. 3918. A bill to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to permit the Federal Trade Commission to enforce such Act against certain tax-exempt organizations; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SCALISE (for himself and Ms. ESHOO):

H.R. 3919. A bill to ensure that the Federal Communications Commission does not approve radio frequency devices that pose a national security risk; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SUOZZI (for himself, Mr. COLE, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. TONKO):

H.R. 3920. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax credit parity for geothermal heat pump property; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. WALORSKI:

H.R. 3921. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the retirement earnings test, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WITTMAN (for himself and Ms. STEFANIK):

H.R. 3922. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to members of the Chinese Communist Party and heads of Chinese health agencies relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Education and Labor, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. AGUILAR:

H. Res. 475. A resolution electing a certain Member to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. OMAR, and Mr. DESAULNIER):

H. Res. 476. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding wasteful Pentagon spending and supporting cuts to the bloated defense budget; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. ISSA, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. COSTA, Mr. VARGAS, and Mr. DESAULNIER):

H. Res. 477. A resolution recognizing the significance of the California Waterfowl Association on its 75th anniversary; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. VELA (for himself, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. TITUS, Mr. TURNER, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina):

H. Res. 478. A resolution commending the men and women of the United States military, our NATO Allies, and our African allies who successfully planned, coordinated, deployed, and trained as part of the DEFENDER-EUROPE 2021 Exercise; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. LOFGREN:
H.R. 3886.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, section 8, clauses 1 and 3.

By Mr. CURTIS:
H.R. 3887.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8

By Mr. BACON:
H.R. 3888.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska:
H.R. 3889.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution, to 'provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States.'

By Ms. BASS:
H.R. 3890.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 1 of the United States Constitution, providing—''All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.''

By Mrs. BEATTY:
H.R. 3891.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. BEYER:
H.R. 3892.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER:
H.R. 3893.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER:
H.R. 3894.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. BOWMAN:
H.R. 3895.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The commerce clause of the Constitution gives Congress the power to regulate labor law.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:
H.R. 8896.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to 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. CUELLAR:
H.R. 3897.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. CURTIS:
H.R. 3898.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. FOSTER:
H.R. 3899.
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, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GOHMERT:
H.R. 3900.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
''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.''
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3
Congress shall have Power . . . ''To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.' '

By Mr. GOHMERT:
H.R. 3901.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana:
H.R. 3902.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GROTHMAN:
H.R. 3903.
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 Mrs. HAYES:
H.R. 3904.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Mr. HERN:
H.R. 3905.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Constitution of the United States of America

By Mr. HUFFMAN:
H.R. 3906.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Ms. JAYAPAL:
H.R. 3907.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. LAMB:
H.R. 3908.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mrs. LURIA:
H.R. 3909.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 5 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. LYNCH:
H.R. 3910.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. LYNCH:
H.R. 3911.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. LYNCH:
H.R. 3912.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. McHENRY:
H.R. 3913.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3:
Authority to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18:
Authority to create laws that are necessary and proper to carry out the laws of the land (Necessary and Proper Clause)

By Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia:
H.R. 3914.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause I

By Mr. REED:
H.R. 3915.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. RICE of South Carolina:
H.R. 3916.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Section 8 Article 1 of the Constitution

By Mrs. RODGERS of Washington:
H.R. 3917.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the U.S. Constitution, which provide as follows:
The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes,
Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States;

By Mr. RUSH:
H.R. 3918.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Mr. SCALISE:
H.R. 3919.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SUOZZI:
H.R. 3920.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8

By Mrs. WALORSKI:
H.R. 3921.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution, to ''provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States.''

By Mr. WITTMAN:
H.R. 3922.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
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.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 18: Mr. VAN DREW and Mr. COMER.
H.R. 40: Mr. CASE.
H.R. 55: Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 82: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky and Mr. AUCHINCLOSS.
H.R. 263: Ms. SÁNCHEZ, MR. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. BEYER, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mrs. MURPHY of Florida.
H.R. 302: Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 332: Mr. BURGESS, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. FEENSTRA, and Mrs. HARSHBARGER.
H.R. 475: Mr. CASTEN.
H.R. 477: Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 521: Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 556: Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 605: Mr. CAWTHORN.
H.R. 606: Mr. EMMER.
H.R. 783: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 812: Mr. STAUBER.
H.R. 835: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H.R. 845: Ms. LETLOW.
H.R. 864: Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.
H.R. 889: Mrs. SPARTZ.
H.R. 933: Mr. ROY.
H.R. 951: Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. BERA, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H.R. 959: Mrs. DINGELL.
H.R. 963: Mr. MFUME, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. SCHNEIDER.
H.R. 978: Mr. CASE.
H.R. 1008: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 1012: Mr. LYNCH, Mr. BACON, and Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H.R. 1025: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 1035: Mr. COLE.
H.R. 1057: Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. VAN DREW, and Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 1140: Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 1145: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. DELGADO, and Mr. COLE.
H.R. 1183: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 1210: Mr. COMER.
H.R. 1235: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 1273: Mr. CASE.
H.R. 1284: Mr. MASSIE.
H.R. 1334: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.
H.R. 1348: Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. PRESSLEY, and Mr. JEFFRIES.
H.R. 1368: Mr. PETERS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Ms. NEWMAN.
H.R. 1381: Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. FITZGERALD, and Mrs. FISCHBACH.
H.R. 1404: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
H.R. 1436: Mr. CASE and Ms. ROSS.
H.R. 1456: Mr. MOULTON and Ms. PRESSLEY.
H.R. 1527: Mr. MCKINLEY and Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.
H.R. 1534: Mr. HARRIS and Mr. SCHWEIKERT.
H.R. 1561: Mr. TIFFANY.
H.R. 1593: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Ms. CHU.
H.R. 1611: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 1623: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 1624: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 1641: Mr. BROWN and Ms. BROWNLEY.
H.R. 1676: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H.R. 1693: Mr. LUCAS and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 1712: Mr. BUCHANAN and Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.
H.R. 1730: Mr. COLE.
H.R. 1745: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. HAGEDORN, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. CALVERT, and Mr. GARCIA of California.
H.R. 1758: Mr. ROY and Mr. HARRIS.
H.R. 1760: Mrs. FISCHBACH.
H.R. 1842: Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. DELGADO, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. MCCARTHY, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. O'HALLERAN, and Mr. KEATING.
H.R. 1861: Ms. CRAIG, Mrs. FISCHBACH, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1904: Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 1909: Mr. CRIST.
H.R. 1916: Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. SCHNEIDER, and Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 1918: Mr. GARBARINO.
H.R. 1924: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr. ARMSTRONG.
H.R. 1933: Mr. COHEN, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, and Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 1959: Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 1974: Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 1986: Mr. CASTEN and Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 1992: Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio and Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 2011: Mrs. HAYES and Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 2028: Mr. EVANS.
H.R. 2029: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 2035: Mr. LAWSON of Florida.
H.R. 2040: Mr. NORMAN.
H.R. 2062: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. NEAL, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. BASS, Ms. SEWELL, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. RUSH, Mr. WELCH, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. BROWN, Mr. SIRES, and Mr. DEUTCH.
H.R. 2085: Mr. TAYLOR.
H.R. 2099: Mr. HUFFMAN and Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 2102: Mr. COHEN and Mr. RASKIN.
H.R. 2119: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. LAWRENCE, and Mrs. AXNE.
H.R. 2120: Ms. CRAIG and Mrs. DEMINGS.
H.R. 2121: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 2141: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H.R. 2143: Mr. BACON, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. KATKO, Mr. STAUBER, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. UPTON, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. MCCAUL, and Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2166: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
H.R. 2168: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK and Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 2169: Mr. BANKS and Mr. HICE of Georgia.
H.R. 2187: Mr. BABIN.
H.R. 2214: Mr. MOORE of Utah and Mr. CARL.
H.R. 2222: Mr. KHANNA, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, and Mr. PALLONE.
H.R. 2234: Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, and Mr. AGUILAR.
H.R. 2256: Mr. YARMUTH.
H.R. 2262: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 2289: Mr. KILDEE and Mr. KIND.
H.R. 2294: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 2316: Mr. GOHMERT.
H.R. 2347: Mrs. TRAHAN and Ms. MENG.
H.R. 2372: Mr. CASTRO of Texas.
H.R. 2376: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 2421: Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 2451: Mr. TORRES of New York.
H.R. 2471: Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. MAST, Ms. SPANBERGER, and Mr. GIMENEZ.
H.R. 2525: Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 2549: Ms. SCANLON and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
H.R. 2586: Ms. LEE of California, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. CRAIG, and Mrs. BUSTOS.
H.R. 2608: Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 2611: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 2646: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 2662: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 2682: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 2691: Mrs. LESKO.
H.R. 2709: Mr. CASTEN.
H.R. 2720: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H.R. 2748: Miss RICE of New York, Mr. NEGUSE, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. KIND, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. CUELLAR, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. BANKS, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. BERA, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. BUCK, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. NADLER, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. DELGADO, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, and Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.
H.R. 2750: Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 2811: Ms. JAYAPAL and Mr. YARMUTH.
H.R. 2828: Mrs. FISCHBACH.
H.R. 2836: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 2840: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2859: Ms. MCCOLLUM and Ms. MANNING.
H.R. 2886: Mr. PALLONE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. CHU, and Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 2903: Ms. DELBENE, Ms. SEWELL, and Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio.
H.R. 2975: Ms. BROWNLEY.
H.R. 3044: Mr. CASE, Mr. RYAN, and Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 3072: Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. SIRES, and Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 3076: Mr. SOTO, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. CASE, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. HARDER of California, and Ms. MACE.
H.R. 3078: Mr. SOTO and Mr. GRIFFITH.
H.R. 3088: Ms. ROSS.
H.R. 3093: Mrs. DEMINGS.
H.R. 3113: Mrs. LEE of Nevada and Mr. OBERNOLTE.
H.R. 3115: Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. NADLER, Ms. BASS, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. POCAN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, and Ms. JAYAPAL.
H.R. 3131: Mr. KATKO.
H.R. 3148: Mr. GOODEN of Texas.
H.R. 3156: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, and Mr. CASE.
H.R. 3187: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 3203: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. WELCH.
H.R. 3235: Mr. CARTER of Texas and Mr. GUEST.
H.R. 3256: Mr. BABIN.
H.R. 3268: Mr. BERGMAN.
H.R. 3269: Mr. BABIN and Mr. WOMACK.
H.R. 3279: Ms. TLAIB and Ms. PRESSLEY.
H.R. 3281: Mr. LATTA and Mr. KUSTOFF.
H.R. 3294: Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mrs. LAWRENCE.
H.R. 3302: Mr. MAST and Mr. MOONEY.
H.R. 3303: Mr. MOONEY.
H.R. 3306: Mr. FULCHER, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 3312: Mr. CASTEN and Mr. CÁRDENAS.
H.R. 3317: Mr. SCHNEIDER.
H.R. 3335: Mr. EVANS and Mr. KATKO.
H.R. 3344: Mr. KELLY of Mississippi.
H.R. 3369: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 3373: Mrs. RADEWAGEN.
H.R. 3374: Mr. CARL.
H.R. 3375: Mr. CARL.
H.R. 3382: Mr. LUCAS.
H.R. 3385: Mr. FOSTER, Mrs. LURIA, and Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H.R. 3400: Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. BURGESS, and Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 3403: Ms. STEFANIK and Mr. RESCHENTHALER.
H.R. 3426: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. RYAN, Ms. TITUS, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. VELA.
H.R. 3440: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 3445: Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 3447: Mr. CAWTHORN.
H.R. 3451: Ms. ESHOO, Ms. WEXTON, and Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 3485: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, and Mr. MEEKS.

H.R. 3488: Ms. BROWNLEY.

H.R. 3489: Mr. DELGADO.

H.R. 3492: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. KELLY of Mississippi.

H.R. 3494: Ms. MACE.

H.R. 3498: Mr. CASE, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, and Mr. RYAN.

H.R. 3513: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.

H.R. 3515: Mr. BOST, Mr. ZELDIN, and Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 3518: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 3519: Mr. VARGAS, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. ESHOO, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 3522: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. SIRES, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. SEWELL, and Mr. JONES.

H.R. 3537: Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. SOTO, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. DUNN, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. EMMER, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Ms. OMAR, Mr. PETERS, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. BERA, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Ms. STRICKLAND.

H.R. 3548: Mr. POCAN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. NADLER, Ms. OMAR, Ms. BASS, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. CICILLINE, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mrs. HAYES, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 3551: Mr. STAUBER and Mrs. KIM of California.

H.R. 3554: Mr. ALLEN and Mr. BUCHANAN.

H.R. 3560: Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 3572: Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 3577: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.

H.R. 3589: Mr. GIBBS.

H.R. 3602: Ms. HOULAHAN.

H.R. 3621: Mr. WELCH and Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 3631: Ms. UNDERWOOD and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 3642: Mr. CASTEN.

H.R. 3648: Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 3672: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.

H.R. 3685: Mrs. LURIA, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. TRONE, Ms. WILD, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. MOONEY, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. CURTIS, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. LAMBORN, and Mr. BUCK.

H.R. 3693: Mr. PAPPAS.

H.R. 3699: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

H.R. 3724: Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 3730: Mr. CASE.

H.R. 3748: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 3755: Mrs. AXNE.

H.R. 3757: Mr. CARSON and Ms. BROWNLEY.

H.R. 3791: Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 3807: Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 3810: Mr. GAETZ.

H.R. 3817: Ms. PINGREE and Mrs. MURPHY of Florida.

H.R. 3820: Mr. BOST.

H.R. 3826: Mr. JONES, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. NEGUSE, Mrs. TRAHAN, and Mr. GAETZ.

H.R. 3833: Ms. SLOTKIN.

H.R. 3835: Mr. LATTA.

H.R. 3853: Mr. KILDEE, Mr. SIRES, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Mr. KHANNA.

H.R. 3860: Mr. GOHMERT.

H.R. 3867: Mr. CRIST.

H.R. 3880: Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H. J. Res. 48: Ms. DELAURO, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. WATERS.

H. Con. Res. 19: Mr. COHEN, Mr. KEATING, and Ms. ADAMS.

H. Con. Res. 32: Mr. RESCHENTHALER.

H. Con. Res. 34: Mr. BOST.

H. Res. 47: Ms. DELAURO.

H. Res. 109: Ms. DELAURO and Mr. LAMB.

H. Res. 289: Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. BOST, and Mr. MEIJER.

H. Res. 397: Mr. CARTER of Texas.

H. Res. 407: Mr. KEATING, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. SAN NICOLAS.

H. Res. 415: Mr. PALAZZO.

H. Res. 437: Ms. SEWELL and Mr. COSTA.

H. Res. 439: Ms. CHU.

H. Res. 456: Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. MOULTON, Mrs. KIM of California, Mrs. WAGNER, Ms. JACOBS of California, and Mr. SUOZZI.

H. Res. 465: Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. KEATING, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H. Res. 471: Ms. MENG.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 167 WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 2021 No. 104

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Holy God, known to us in countless ways, we seek to magnify Your glorious Name.

Lord, You are worthy of our praise, for You have been our help in ages past. You are our hope for all of our tomorrows.

Remind us all that we are temporary creatures who long for a sense of permanence. Inspire our Senators with the knowledge that You are changeless and that they can trust that Your mercies will endure.

May our lawmakers continue to depend on You for the vindication of every just cause and for the forgiveness of every sin.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 15, 2021.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

VOTING RIGHTS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, a few weeks ago, toward the end of the legislative session in Texas, Texas Democrats in the statehouse staged a dramatic walkout, denying a quorum and preventing the Texas Republican majority from passing one of the most restrictive voting laws in this country.

Texas Republicans could come back and reconsider the law in a special session, but the extraordinary measures taken by the State Democrats reflect the extraordinary damage of the voting law.

Texas Republicans were on the verge of passing several alarming restrictions: reducing polling hours, eliminating drive-through voting and 24-hour voting centers. The proposed law would have made it easier for a judge to overturn an election and push back the start of Sunday voting—a measure that seemed designed to interfere with voting drives held by Black churches.

Texas already has some of the strictest voting procedures in the country. The additional effort, in the wake of Donald Trump's Big Lie, directly targets all the ways poorer, younger, non-White, and typically Democratic voters cast their ballots.

Of course, Texas is only the most recent flashpoint in the nationwide effort by Republican legislators to contract Americans' right to vote, as you well know, Mr. President.

The tide of Republican voter suppression laws is a direct assault on our democracy and could disenfranchise tens of millions of Americans.

Today, I am proud to say, at the Democratic caucus lunch we will host the group of Texas Democrats who bravely fought the voter suppression law in their State. The topic of our discussion will be about how to come together to protect voting rights not just in Texas but across the country.

Next week, the Senate will consider major voting rights legislation. Congress must take action to defend our democracy.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on the President's foreign trip, President Biden's first foreign trip has projected a welcome sight to the world: an American President embracing our allies and bringing them together to confront our common adversaries.

Already, the President's visit to G7 has yielded results: a commitment to counter China's rapacious economic policies and unwinding a longstanding dispute over tariffs and trade with the European Union.

Now after meeting with our allies at both the G7 and at the NATO summit in Brussels, the President will meet tomorrow with Vladimir Putin. From the occupation in Crimea to violating political human rights within its own borders, to interfering in democratic elections across the Western world, to imprisoning those who expose his brutal, undemocratic regime, Vladimir Putin has spent the past decade interfering and destabilizing the world order.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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For 4 years, former President Trump turned a blind eye and gave Putin a free pass. In the history of our country, Americans had never seen a President of the United States support an adversary the way Trump supported President Putin on that stage in Helsinki nearly 3 years ago. We all remember President Trump standing next to Vladimir Putin and taking the word of a Russian intelligence officer over America's intelligence agencies.

Trump not only defended Putin repeatedly from accusations of election interference, he actually announced—if you believe this, stranger than fiction—that the United States and Russia would set up a joint cyber security unit. Even Senator GRAHAM said that it wasn't ''the dumbest idea [he'd] ever heard, but it [was] . . . close.''

Now, President Biden must take the exact opposite approach. The United States must approach Vladimir Putin with a firm hand and demand accountability in a way that President Trump never did. I expect President Biden will do exactly that.

One issue I am particularly concerned about is cyber security and the rise of ransomware attacks on the critical infrastructure of the United States. Many of those cyber criminals, unsurprisingly, may be hiding out in Putin's Russia or potentially connected to Putin's intelligence agencies.

Here at home, I have called on Congress to significantly boost funding for our cyber fighting Agencies and asked our Senate committees to study if we need new legislation to help counter the threat of cyber attacks.

Abroad, President Biden has an opportunity to pressure Putin directly to put an end to Russian-supported cyber crime. I expect he will. The President has smartly made these issues a priority among our NATO allies, announcing a host of joint actions to combat cyber crime, harden our cyber security, and condemn Russian aggression in the cyber space. It is time to take the issue directly to Vladimir Putin himself.

For 4 years, former President Trump berated our allies while emboldening and sometimes embracing the world's dictators and autocrats, Vladimir Putin above all. Already, President Biden's first foreign trip is a welcome turn of the page in America's relationship with the world.

DOMESTIC TERRORISM

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, finally, on one final matter, QAnon, last December, I joined with Senator HEINRICH and other Democrats to ask the FBI and DHS to provide a written assessment on the dangers posed by the online conspiracy group QAnon.

They recently responded to our request with a very sobering assessment. The threat of QAnon is likely to persist, and the current environment will likely continue to spur QAnon adherents to see violence as a legitimate course of action. The assessment also expresses that QAnon adherents and domestic violent extremists will likely shift from acting digitally to engaging in real world violence. That is a shot across our bow. That is a warning signal.

QAnon today is perhaps best known for the role it played in inspiring many of the rioters who assaulted the U.S. Capitol on January 6. According to the FBI's assessment, they arrested 20 self-identified adherents who participated in the insurrection. But even before the horrific events on January 6, QAnon supporters spread disinformation that amplified hatred and violence and threatened our democratic institutions.

The past 4 years have seen a notable increase in violent domestic terrorism, fed by a host of lies and conspiracies that flourished under the Trump era. This assessment by the FBI is a stark reminder that we have a lot of work to do to tamp down conspiracy theories and disinformation as well as monitoring and thwarting violent domestic extremists.

And to my Republican Senate colleagues, I would add that this report further strengthens the argument for an independent January 6 Commission.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, 1 week ago today, the personal financial information of several prominent Americans was made public in only the latest leak of sensitive data from the Internal Revenue Service. To put it another way, it appears that an anonymous source committed a felony by releasing the confidential information of American citizens, which a media outlet then published. Now, the way this leak has been covered in the press may not suggest it, but the most alarming part isn't whose information was involved; it is how it was allowed to happen at all—at all.

The American people know that having the personal information they give to the IRS made public isn't just a fear reserved for the highest earners. On multiple occasions in the last decade, individuals and organizations alike have had to watch as their filing details wander far from the IRS's databases. And it goes beyond pay stubs. The IRS holds massive storage of sensitive details, from healthcare expenses, to retirement savings, to charitable contributions. They hold addresses, information about dependents, and associations with organizations that may not be tax-deductible.

Needless to say, there are good arguments for paring back the scope of what information this Agency is allowed to collect in the first place. But here is the bottom line: American taxpayers are required by law to comply with invasive disclosure requirements, and they are doing it with less and less confidence that the Federal Government will honor their trust.

A fundamental piece of our Nation's social contract is fraying, but just how worried you should be about it apparently depends on your personal politics. The precise circumstances of this latest leak have not yet been made clear, but the recent history of IRS negligence and outright political targeting tells conservatives to be especially worried.

As our colleagues remember all too well, years ago, the State of California's database of private donor data for over 1,000 nonprofit organizations was made public illegally. A few years later, confidential IRS donor information from a conservative organization's tax filings was published. To no one's surprise, that information made its way into the hands of liberal groups with opposite views on key issues. Of course, we are talking about the same IRS that made slow-walking requests and filings from conservative organizations a matter of internal policy under the last Democratic administration.

So these situations all have two things in common: first, a blatant political agenda aimed at advancing the cause of the political left, and second, the utter absence of criminal charges against the leakers—no charges against the leakers.

So let's be clear. As soon as sensitive personal information is leaked, the damage is already done. The genie can't be put back in the bottle, and the Federal Government has proven far too often that it is at best, incapable and at worse, unwilling to protect taxpayers' data from misuse by the political left. That is why I have been outspoken in support of efforts to reduce taxpayers' exposure to unnecessary IRS collection in the first place.

But every time a leak goes without serious investigation and criminal prosecution, basic public trust in our tax system suffers, and that fraying trust may eventually be irreparable. That is why I joined Ranking Member GRASSLEY and Ranking Member CRAPO to demand that the Department of Justice and the FBI immediately investigate last week's leak and aggressively pursue criminal charges against those who are responsible—actual consequences as a matter of justice and as a practical deterrent. The Federal Government owes taxpayers nothing less.

Unfortunately, thus far, the Biden administration hasn't just neglected to aggressively prosecute overt discrimination; in some cases, it is actually trying to promote it.

Take the massive spending package Democrats rammed through in the name of COVID relief. The spending bill was billed as urgent, but its authors apparently had time to bake in a provision directing relief funds to restaurants on the basis of race and sex

and another directing funds to farmers on the basis of race. So we are talking about blatantly unconstitutional discrimination.

Fortunately, the independent judiciary has stepped in to stop it. Over the last few weeks, multiple Federal courts have struck down these provisions, including an appeals panel led by Judge Amul Thapar from my home State of Kentucky. But these are hardly the only instances in which Washington Democrats have tried to impose their own radical preferences on ordinary Americans.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, later today, the Senate will vote on the nomination of Kiran Ahuja, President Biden's choice to serve as head of the Office of Personnel Management. This is the position responsible for making hiring, payroll, and training decisions that affect literally millions of Federal employees.

The President's nominee has made statements expressing sympathy for the discredited, ahistorical claims about our Nation's origins that form the backbone of so-called critical race theory. One major organization of Federal employees expressed its concern about the nominee's capacity for ''neutrality, fairness, and impartiality.'' I share those concerns, and I will be voting against this nomination.

Still elsewhere in the Biden administration, efforts to subvert the basic understanding of our founding principles are already well underway. The Department of Education's latest ''proposed priorities'' run roughshod over existing history and civic programs—established with bipartisan support—in order to push critical race theory on public school students and keep pace with ''woke'' sensibilities.

American students deserve a rock-solid civics education grounded in actual facts, not divisive propaganda that tells them they are little more than a product of their racial background. That is the basis of new legislation I was proud to help introduce this week. Schools that choose to trade in fact-based curricula for activist propaganda like the 1619 Project forfeit their right to receive Federal education grant funding for those teachings.

The current administration came to power on the promise to unify a divided nation. It will be judged closely and carefully on how that power is used.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Lina M. Khan, of New York, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the unexpired term of seven years from September 26, 2017.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

GOVERNMENT SPENDING

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, unfortunately, predictions about the negative economic effects of the so-called American Rescue Plan seem to be coming true.

In March, Democrats pushed through this massive partisan spending bill. They claimed it was urgently needed COVID funding. In reality, the bill was filled with unnecessary spending, from a staggering $350 billion slush fund for States, a majority of which didn't need any more government money to weather the rest of the pandemic, to almost $129 billion for schools, even though schools had spent just a tiny fraction of the tens of billions of dollars Congress had already given them.

At the time, Republicans warned about the bill's level of spending. More than just one liberal economist warned about the size of Democrats' spending plan, with former Obama adviser Larry Summers noting that the bill could ''set off inflationary pressures of a kind we have not seen in a generation.''

Well, it turns out he was right to be worried. Last week, the Bureau of Labor Statistics released its report on May's consumer prices, and the news was not good. Inflation reached its highest level in nearly 13 years, with consumer prices up 5 percent from a year ago. Core inflation, a measure of inflation that excludes food and energy prices, soared to its highest level in nearly three decades.

And what does that mean? Well, higher prices for Americans. The price of everything from bikes to bacon has shot up. Auto insurance costs 17 percent more than it did a year ago. Used cars cost 30 percent more. Shoes and whole milk cost 7 percent more. Inflation is starting to look like it could become nontransitory, or what most Americans call a serious problem.

And Democrats' government spending spree is contributing, but, of course, that is not causing Democrats to hit pause on the economic overstimulation. Democrats are looking at more trillion-plus-dollar spending bills.

The President just released a budget proposing to hike government spending by trillions of dollars over the next 10 years. Under the President's plan, the Federal budget would be $6 trillion for fiscal year 2022, rising to $8.2 trillion for fiscal year 2031. Now, to put those numbers in perspective, the entire Federal budget for 2019 came to $4.4 trillion. The President is proposing to nearly double that by 2031.

It is disturbing that the overspending in the American Rescue Plan hasn't made Democrats think twice about future government sprees, but it is not all that surprising because in the Democratic Party these days, dogma tends to triumph over reality—or practicality. Democrats are ever more fanatically committed to expanding government and taxing Americans, and they are not slowed down by little details like damaging the economy.

Take the increased unemployment benefits situation. Congress provided a Federal increase in unemployment benefits early in the pandemic when businesses were closed and workers had few alternatives to keep their families afloat, but as early as last fall, there were signs that our economy was rebounding. And with the arrival of the COVID vaccines, it became clear that America would be able to get fully back to work sooner rather than later.

But Democrats insisted on continuing the increased unemployment benefits until September of 2021, and the effect has been predictable. Despite record-high job openings, many people are declining to return to work because they can make more money staying home and drawing unemployment benefits.

Businesses hit hard by the pandemic are desperate to return to full operating capacity, but they are being slowed down by the fact that they can't find workers. In response to the worker shortage, a number of Governors around the country decided to stop accepting the Federal increase in unemployment benefits. They wanted to help businesses in their States and get their residents back to work.

And how did Democrats respond to that? Well, more than one Democrat responded by suggesting that the Federal Government step in to make sure these payments continue. That is right. Despite evidence that the increased unemployment benefits were discouraging workers from going back to work, some Democrats wanted to prevent Governors from halting these payments.

Nowhere is Democrats' devotion to dogma over reality more notable than in their proposed capital gains tax hike. Now, I don't need to tell anyone that ''tax the rich'' has become the rallying cry of the Democratic Party. And one of the ways that the President plans to tax well-off Americans is by doubling the top capital gains rate to almost 40 percent.

The problem is that a 40-percent capital gains rate substantially exceeds the revenue-maximizing rate. In non-accountant speak, what that means is that Democrats could collect more

government revenue if they raised the capital gains tax less. Let me repeat that. Democrats could collect more government revenue if they raised the capital gains tax less.

Now, you would think that the President would want to maximize the revenue the government could collect, especially with his plans for 10 years of massive government spending, which I alluded to earlier. But in today's Democratic Party, taxing the rich is more important than maximizing government revenue, just like tax hikes on corporations are more important than making sure our economy grows and that American companies can compete on the global stage—or raising taxes is more important than passing legislation to boost American infrastructure.

That is right. The President would have reached an agreement with Republicans on a substantial infrastructure bill, but he tanked negotiations because he was insistent that any bill repeal parts of the 2017 tax reform legislation, the same legislation that had driven up wages and boosted our economy before the pandemic hit.

Democrats are so committed to taxation that they included a provision in the bloated COVID legislation that they passed specifically prohibiting State governments from using COVID relief money to cut taxes. Apparently, Democrats are fine with government payments to Americans, but allowing them to keep more of their own money is off the table.

Democrats have long been interested in higher taxes to pay for more government spending, but to today's Democrats, taxation is rapidly becoming a good in itself. Democrats are no longer just interested in raising taxes to raise revenue. If they were, they wouldn't be planning to jack up the capital gains tax rate to over 40 percent. They are interested in raising taxes because they believe that success should be punished.

In the increasingly socialist Democratic Party, it doesn't matter how hard you work to get where you are, how many people you have created jobs for, or how much good you are doing with your money; if you have been successful, you should be heavily taxed for your efforts, even if those heavy taxes actually cost the government money or hamstring the American economy.

The growing commitment in the Democratic Party to an increasingly rigid, socialist dogma is deeply disturbing, and it is certainly not limited to a fanatical commitment to taxation or spending. It embraces everything from a social agenda that is increasingly hostile to freedom of religion and freedom of speech to a fundamental belief that government knows best when it comes to how Americans run their lives.

But, for today, I am just going to limit myself to taxes and spending. Let's hope that Democrats rethink their planned government spending sprees before inflation really gets out of control and hard-working Americans end up paying the price.

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

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

VOTE ON KHAN NOMINATION

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

Mr. HEINRICH. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

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

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

The result was announced—yeas 69, nays 28, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 233 Ex.]

YEAS—69

Baldwin	Hassan	Ossoff
Bennet	Hawley	Padilla
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Portman
Blunt	Hickenlooper	Reed
Braun	Hirono	Rosen
Brown	Hoeven	Rounds
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Sanders
Cantwell	Johnson	Schatz
Capito	Kaine	Schumer
Cardin	Kelly	Shaheen
Carper	King	Sinema
Casey	Klobuchar	Smith
Cassidy	Leahy	Stabenow
Collins	Luján	Tester
Coons	Manchin	Thune
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Marshall	Warner
Durbin	Menendez	Warnock
Feinstein	Merkley	Warren
Fischer	Moran	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murkowski	Wicker
Graham	Murphy	Wyden
Grassley	Murray	Young

NAYS—28

Barrasso	Hagerty	Sasse
Blackburn	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Boozman	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Shelby
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cramer	Lummis	Tillis
Crapo	McConnell	Toomey
Cruz	Paul	Tuberville
Daines	Risch	
Ernst	Romney	

NOT VOTING—3

Booker	Peters	Rubio

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The majority leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. We have two of our Members who couldn't be here because of serious illnesses in their families, and therefore we are going to delay the vote on Kiran Ahuja.

I ask unanimous consent that the cloture motion with respect to the nomination of Kiran Ahuja to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management be withdrawn.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. We will return to that vote as soon as these Members can return.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for 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.

RECESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I now ask that the Senate recess until 2:15 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:22 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. SINEMA).

MORNING BUSINESS—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, the American people are counting on Congress to act on some of the biggest issues facing our country.

For starters, there is a border crisis. Since January, more than 630,000 migrants have come to our southern border, including more than 65,000 unaccompanied children. In May, Customs and Border Protection had their busiest month in 21 years, with more than 180,000 encounters in May alone, and we are on track to see some of the highest numbers in yearly border crossings in decades.

Well, the alarm bells are sounding, but amid this crisis, the Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing this morning on a partisan bill that has nothing to do with the extant border crisis.

Make no mistake, I believe Congress should absolutely take action to allow current DACA, or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, recipients to remain in the United States, but a partisan bill that would provide a pathway to citizenship for 4.4 million adults and other unrelated issues has simply no chance of passing in the Senate.

Now, Senator DURBIN, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, who has long been an advocate for the Dreamers, if he really were serious about that issue, he now has the authority, as chairman of the Judiciary Committee, to put a bill before the committee to allow Senators to offer and vote on amendments and to mark up a bill. And if he were able to get a majority of the committee to vote for a bill, he could then ask majority Leader SCHUMER to put the bill on the floor. But, so far, most of our discussions on immigration have been just that, all talk and no action.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. CORNYN. At the same time, Madam President, America's roads and bridges are in dire need of attention by Congress. Every year, the American Society of Civil Engineers evaluates the state of our infrastructure and issues a report card to let us know how we are doing. Well, America is barely passing with a ''C-minus.'' Texas is faring slightly better than the rest of the class, with just a ''C.''

I believe Republicans and Democrats alike think that rebuilding our roads and bridges is important. We even share the same goal of expanding the definition of ''infrastructure'' to include broadband because we saw during the current pandemic that broadband is no longer a luxury. It is an absolute necessity, whether it is for telehealth or whether it is for our children learning remotely or for people working remotely from home.

Even as bipartisan negotiations continue, though, the majority leader is eyeing the prospects of a partisan bill that would circumvent the normal legislative process and would be entirely a partisan product. But we know that in a 50–50 Senate, bipartisan work on shared priorities is not impossible. In fact, we did it just last week.

Last week, we saw a great example of what can be accomplished if we will work together to achieve an outcome.

CHINA

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, in recent years, China has emerged as one of the greatest competitors to America. Both Republicans and Democrats recognize the need to take action now to confront the growing threats posed by China, and so that is what we did last week.

Last week, the Senate passed a sweeping bipartisan bill to invest in strategic competition with China, in large part by funding the CHIPS for America Program to shore up this vulnerable supply chain of advanced semiconductors coming primarily from Asia, primarily from Taiwan.

FILIBUSTER

Mr. CORNYN. Now, Madam President, there is a lot of work that we can and should do on a bipartisan basis because, of course, not every issue should be or is a partisan issue. But I will have to tell you that old habits die hard around here.

Despite the clear need for cooperation to move critical legislation through a 50–50 Senate, the majority leader is resisting any progress on issues that we can and should be addressing. Instead, he is trying to drum up a scenario where somehow we decide to eliminate the 60-vote requirement, otherwise known as the filibuster. But it is that 60-vote requirement that requires both parties to roll up their sleeves and do the hard work and build consensus.

In a country of 330 million people, we need to have the continuity and the planning and the stability of bipartisan work products, not just a partisan bill that can be undone after the next election for Congress or after the next Presidential election.

Well, over several months, our Democratic colleagues have been asked about the fate of the filibuster, whether they would be willing to eliminate the filibuster in pursuit of partisan goals. Senator SCHUMER, for one, has repeatedly said that ''all options are on the table''—whatever that means—and a number of our Democratic colleagues have parroted the same line.

Now, they have looked for examples of Republicans filibustering bills, just like they have done over the last 6 years. They assumed this would be the golden ticket to rid themselves of the bipartisan filibuster requirement and escape blame, only things haven't quite worked out that way. The roadblock to bipartisanship isn't on the Republican side but, rather, on the Democrat side.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, after passing five bipartisan COVID–19 relief bills last year to support the American people through the pandemic, our Democratic colleagues kicked off this year with a different approach. They made no attempt to try to negotiate another consensus package, as we had done five times before last year, and insisted on skirting the normal legislative process so they could pass a purely partisan $1.9 trillion spending bill.

Well, the problem with that is it was really mislabeled. One, it vastly overshot the target, and it spent less than 10 percent of the money—which, purportedly, was for COVID–19 relief—on COVID–19, and less than 1 percent of that was related to vaccines, which was clearly the most urgent need.

But the money that we had appropriated last December hadn't even been spent yet, but, apparently, the Biden administration wanted to demonstrate that it could get things through but, in the meantime, appropriated $1.9 trillion, threatening us with something we haven't seen rear its head in a long time, which is inflation.

But the bill, as I said, included a lot of unrelated and unnecessary partisan priorities, ranging from blank checks for mismanaged union pension funds, funding for climate justice, backdoor money for Planned Parenthood, and an exclusive paid leave program for Federal bureaucrats.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, where did that land us? Well, as I said, last week, the Department of Labor announced that inflation had climbed to the highest rate since 2008. Core inflation surged to the highest level in nearly three decades. Families are feeling the pinch of higher prices as they pay higher prices for everything from housing to cars to gasoline to groceries.

This is really sort of a silent and hidden tax on their income, when the dollar that they earn is worth less and less as prices go higher and higher. But, unfortunately, this is the exact scenario economists expected when our Democratic colleagues rolled out this $2 trillion spending bill at the beginning of the year. And they are currently proposing to spend trillions of dollars more.

Even Larry Summers, who once served as Treasury Secretary under Bill Clinton and Director of the National Economic Council under President Obama, warned about inflation. He penned an op-ed in the Washington Post in February, cautioning the administration about the risks of inflation, making himself persona non grata among our Democratic colleagues. But he wrote another one last month saying that ''the inflation risk is real.''

You might think that would serve as a cautionary tale to our Democratic colleagues, that partisan legislation does not give way to sound and stable policies. But that is not the case.

When the majority leader said all options are on the table for eliminating the filibuster, he didn't mention the fact that he would be setting the table and setting the agenda trying to make that case.

Absent Republican obstruction that he and other members of the media forecasted, the majority leader is now teeing up a series of designed-to-fail votes so he could explain or justify—try to justify—why the filibuster should be eliminated.

FOR THE PEOPLE ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, we kicked things off last week with a vote on a bill that would exploit the cause of pay fairness, when that is already clearly the existing law, but, in this case, to line the pockets of trial lawyers.

Senator SCHUMER said this month, the Senate will vote on S. 1, the partisan Federal election takeover bill. So just as our Democratic colleagues went on a spending spree in the name of

COVID–19, this bill hijacks the constitutional authority of the States in the purported name of increasing voting access. But this bill, too, is chock full of unnecessary, unpopular, and unconstitutional election proposals.

It makes it much easier for partisans to affect our elections through fraud, in part, by removing requirements for the most basic safeguard, which is voter identification.

That was one of the main recommendations in 2005 of the Commission on Federal Election Reform, a bipartisan commission cochaired by former President Jimmy Carter, a Democrat, and former Secretary of State, James Baker, a Republican. That Commission, back in 2005, recommended that voters be required to present a photo ID card and the State should provide free cards to voters who, for some reason, didn't have a driver's license or other identification.

In order to vote in person, most States require voters to present some valid form of identification. Matching the name of an eligible voter with the name on a valid form of ID is a commonsense safeguard against fraud, but one our Democratic colleagues apparently want to eliminate.

In fact, their legislation would stop the States—actually it would prohibit the States—from requiring proof of identification in order to vote. Just sign a piece of paper saying you are who you say you are and no further questions can be asked.

On top of that, this bill would require the States to automatically register anyone in their databases for everything from the department of motor vehicles to public assistance. We know these programs aren't limited to eligible voters and could include noncitizens and others who aren't eligible to cast a ballot, not to mention the fact that those who are already registered to vote would be registered again, potentially.

And even if there are duplicate registrations or if someone passes away or moves, States would not be allowed, by this law, to clean up their voter rolls within 6 months of an election.

But just when you think things can't get any crazier, they do. Our Democratic colleagues want to provide taxpayer funding for political campaigns and elections. That is right. They want you to pay for a political candidate's campaign, whether you want to or not, whether you support the policies of that candidate or not.

A lot of companies have matching programs for charitable giving. If an employee donates to the charity of their choice, the company often will match the donation dollar for dollar. Well, that same principle applies here, in part, except instead of the charity getting money, it is now a political candidate. Instead of the company footing the bill, it is—you got it—it is you, the taxpayer.

I could go on and on. This proposal, S. 1, which we will be voting on in the near future, changes the basic structure of the Federal Election Commission, which is currently a bipartisan Commission, which is forced to obtain a bipartisan majority before they can act. It split 3 to 3. But this bill would eliminate that bipartisan requirement and simply allow a partisan Federal election committee to work its will.

This bill also legalizes something called ballot harvesting, which is susceptible to widespread fraud. In other words, it lets a campaign worker go around to nursing homes, neighborhoods, union halls, wherever, and collect your ballot and then to take them down to the clerk's office and cast that ballot. Well, the opportunities for fraud are pretty obvious.

This bill would also implement a new financial disclosure policy that even the American Civil Liberties Union says ''could interfere directly with the ability of many to engage in political speech about causes that they care about.''

But above all this, this bill undermines the trust and accountability that is so important to elections. The Judiciary Committee recently had a hearing where the secretary of state, who happens to be a Democrat, from New Hampshire said the single most important thing in providing a big turnout for elections is public confidence that their ballot will be counted. It is not how many days before election day you can vote, who can vote by mail; it is the public's confidence that their ballot will be counted, no matter how and when cast.

So S. 1 is not a serious attempt at bipartisanship. It is the opposite. It is not an honest effort to pass legislation. Right now, we know that Democrats don't even have 50 votes on their side of the aisle. But the majority leader is trying to prove that partisanship apparently has a death grip on the Senate, but, unfortunately for him, it is not the party he thinks.

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. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

The majority whip.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE INVESTIGATION

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, last Friday, the New York Times reported that during the Trump administration, the Justice Department issued subpoenas involving Members of Congress, their staff, and family members, even a minor family member. It is highly unusual for the Justice Department to investigate Members of Congress. The reason it is unusual is clear: Our Founders created three separate branches of the Federal Government with a separation of powers so that each branch could serve as a check and balance on the other and no branch would have too much power.

When the Justice Department investigates a Member of Congress, typically, it is for corruption charges. That is understandable, but that is not what happened here. This was an investigation into a leak of information. And the use of subpoenas to investigate Members of Congress is extremely strange territory.

These concerns are heightened when the President has publicly attacked those same Members of Congress. That is what former President Trump did when he repeatedly and without any evidence accused Representative ADAM SCHIFF about leaking information about Russian election interference.

These reports and the reports that journalists and even Trump's own White House Counsel were included in the Justice Department's so-called leak investigation raise serious questions about the Justice Department and its former leaders.

The Senate Judiciary Committee has a constitutional responsibility to oversee the Department of Justice on behalf of the American people, so yesterday our committee sent a letter to Attorney General Merrick Garland asking for more information. But yesterday Senator MCCONNELL, the Republican minority leader in the Senate, came to the floor and warned us off. He warned the Judiciary Committee against exercising our statutory oversight responsibility because it could become ''a partisan circus.'' This came on the heels of Senator MCCONNELL's personal veto of a bipartisan Commission to investigate the deadly January 6 mob attack on the U.S. Capitol. But now the minority leader is warning us against even looking into the targeting of Trump's perceived political enemies by the Justice Department. The minority leader claimed that the Senate does not need to look into this matter because—get this—the Department of Justice inspector general has already announced he would investigate. That is a pretty decent argument if you have no memory whatsoever.

For over 13 months during the last Congress, under a Republican majority, the Senate Judiciary Committee conducted an extensive oversight investigation into the FBI's opening of the Crossfire Hurricane investigation even though the Department of Justice inspector general had already investigated it. The Department of Justice inspector general had already completed a 19-month investigation of so-called Crossfire Hurricane involving over 100 witnesses and reviewing over a million documents.

That wasn't good enough for the Republican majority. They persisted in conducting a committee investigation nevertheless even though the inspector general's investigation concluded that Crossfire Hurricane had a proper basis

and that anti-Trump bias did not affect the FBI's work on Crossfire Hurricane. Those are the very issues the Republican majority reexamined in their own investigation. In that instance, the Department of Justice inspector general satisfied all the criteria of an inspection, an investigation, and yet the Republicans rejected it and proceeded forward.

In this case, the Republican leader in the Senate is arguing that the work of the inspector general should be enough—quite a difference.

Throughout the course of that investigation, the Senate Judiciary Committee held extensive hearings, but it wasn't enough.

The Republican-led Senate Judiciary Committee was so focused on investigating a conspiracy theory about Obama that they didn't hold a single hearing on the Trump administration's Department of Justice in 4 years. If they had, maybe they would have discovered this latest revelation rather than the New York Times.

Senator MCCONNELL did not warn the Judiciary Committee that the DOJ inspector general's investigation was sufficient or that its investigation into Crossfire Hurricane would become a partisan circus. He saw it completely differently in those days.

Importantly, it seems the minority leader does not speak for his entire caucus. Yesterday the minority whip said: ''Obviously this warrants further review and investigation,'' and he ''assume[s] the committee will work through that.'' I hope that other Republican Members of the Chamber join the minority whip to call for further investigation. Congress's place in our constitutional order is too important to simply look the other way.

DACA

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, it was 9 years ago today, after a year or more of writing letters to my friend and colleague President Obama, that he finally agreed to an Executive order known as DACA. DACA took the heart of the DREAM Act, which I introduced 20 years ago, and made an Executive order. He said to those who were brought to this country as children, infants, who really had nothing to do with the family decision on coming to America: We are going to give you a chance, since you grew up undocumented, to be a part of this Nation. So every 2 years, you can apply for renewable status, be protected from deportation, and be allowed to legally work. We will do a criminal investigation, national security investigation, and if we believe that you are no threat to this country, we will give you 2 years to prove yourself.

More than 800,000 young people stepped forward and made a life in America and did extraordinary things for this country. They proved that, given a chance to be part of America's future, they would make it a better nation. Two of them testified today. One of them is a doctor from the city of Chicago. I am so proud of him, Dr. Bernal Mejia. He was born in Mexico and grew up in Memphis, TN. He struggled, scrapped, clawed his way into an amazing undergraduate institution, graduated summa cum laude, and hoped that one day he would have a chance to go to medical school.

Before DACA, that was a dream that was way too distant. Then came DACA. He looked around to see if any medical schools in the United States would let someone who was protected by DACA apply for medical school. It turned out there was one. I am proud to say it was Loyola University in Chicago, the Stritch School of Medicine. They didn't create a new category of students; they just said: We will let you compete. If you are good enough, we will admit you as a student.

Over 30 DACA students became medical students at Loyola. Dr. Mejia was one. He is now about to finish, in a few weeks, the third year of his residency in emergency medicine. He has spent the last year and a half, as you can imagine, in emergency rooms saving the lives of so many people, particularly victims of COVID–19.

How many times has each of us thanked the healthcare heroes, and how many times have we thought that one of them might have been an undocumented doctor whose future and fate are still so uncertain in America? That is the case today because the DREAM Act has not become the law of the land.

So we had a hearing and discussed his situation and the bill that was sent to us by the House. I believe there is some bipartisan sentiment in favor of that, and I am trying to work to develop that into legislation that will finally give to Dr. Mejia and so many others across this country the future in America which they have all prayed for. They have worked hard to earn it. They deserve it.

I am glad, at this hearing today, the doctor came and told this story. It is an inspiration to me and all who believe in this country that we should have justice when it comes to immigration.

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.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 1520

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Madam President, I rise for the ninth time to once again call for this entire body to have the opportunity to consider and to cast their votes for the Military Justice Improvement and Increasing Prevention Act.

This commonsense reform would ensure that people in the military who have been subjected to sexual assault and other serious crimes get the justice they deserve.

I have been calling for a full floor vote on this bill since May 24. That was 22 days ago. Since then, an estimated 1,232 servicemembers will have been raped or sexually assaulted.

Two in three of those survivors will not even report it because they know they are more likely to face retaliation than to receive justice.

Tonight, I want to share the story of just one of these countless survivors of sexual assault in our military who bravely shared her story with me.

A husband and a wife both served in the Marine Corps when the wife was assaulted by another marine. Her commander concluded that she deserved ill treatment for wearing running shorts and makeup. Her husband said that when he read the opinions of the command-appointed investigator, he found that he compared rape to prostitution or marrying a rich man. The wife said of the retaliation after she reported the assault that ''[t]he humiliation of the retaliation was worse than the assault because it was sanctioned from those same leaders I once would have risked my life for.''

I ask my colleagues—I ask my colleagues to imagine living through the worst day of your life and knowing that nothing would happen to your assailant. Imagine knowing that there was a bill that could change this system that failed you, knowing that Senators from both sides of the aisle have come together to advocate for it, knowing that if it were allowed to be voted on, it would pass.

Now imagine the vote getting denied night after night after night, watching the government that you volunteered to serve and defend continue to fail you.

We have to do better. We can start by bringing this legislation to the floor.

I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Republican leader, the Senate Armed Services Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 1520 and the Senate proceed to its consideration; that there be 2 hours for debate, equally divided in the usual form, and that upon the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate vote on the bill with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REED. Madam President, reserving my right to object, the legislation that the Senator from New York proposes, particularly with respect to the issue of crimes involving sexual misconduct, is something that I support. But without a thorough, careful review in the Armed Services Committee, which is the traditional means of making these decisions, particularly when

they affect the entire Uniform Code of Military Justice, is something that is necessary, in my view, and will be done—and I hope promptly—so that we can move forward with this legislation, not only to ensure that it passes but that it works for the benefit of the soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen in our Armed Forces.

Passing something that sounds good but has not been thoroughly reviewed and thoroughly vetted and will not be implemented effectively for the benefit of soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen is something I don't think we should do.

I think, rather, we should wait for the committee hearings. I am confident that this legislation, with respect to crimes involving sexual misconduct, will emerge from the committee. There are other issues that we will consider.

With that, I would reaffirm my objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Madam President, I respect the chairman and his need to carefully review this legislation, but we have been reviewing the legislation for 8 years, and we have been having hearings on this legislation and the issue of sexual assault in the military for 8 years.

We have been passing legislation through the committee for 8 years, but this vote has been denied every time.

In fact, when don't ask, don't tell repeal was being filibustered by the Armed Services Committee chairman and other Members of that committee, we ultimately took that vote to the Senate floor. It was an up-or-down vote to repeal don't ask, don't tell.

In this case, the committee has been considering this thoroughly and carefully for 8 years. And even if the chairman believes that he hasn't fully vetted it or reviewed it or had the careful consideration, many of the Members of the committee have. We have been diligently looking at this issue for 8 straight years. It is time to bring this to the floor.

I am confident that if we bring this to the floor, we will be able to reform how we deal with these cases; we will be able to change the system for the better; and that we will be able to finally begin to overcome the scourge of sexual violence in the military.

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

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

UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR OUR COAST GUARD ACT

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I rise today in strong support of our U.S. Coast Guard.

For more than 230 years, the U.S. Coast Guard has watched over our shores, protected against foreign threats, lent a helping hand to those in need of rescue, and enforced the rule of law.

The Coast Guard lives by its motto, ''Always Ready,'' and has earned the trust and admiration of the American people. America could not do without this uniquely capable branch of our military.

The Coast Guard is so effective and so versatile that it is tasked with 11 statutory missions spanning the entire globe.

One of the best known Coast Guard missions is search and rescue. The Coast Guard carries out 45 search and rescue missions on an average day, saving the lives and property of Americans in dire need.

The Coast Guard also protects our ports and inland waterways, facilitating billions of dollars in trade and maintaining the navigation aids that make sea commerce possible. In today's global economy, 80 percent of international trade travels by sea. The Coast Guard plays a crucial role in screening commercial vessels, patrolling maritime infrastructure, and servicing aids to navigation, such as beacons and buoys. Each of these functions contributes to our Nation's prosperity and security.

The Coast Guard is also increasingly involved in homeland security. It is largely the Coast Guard's job to deter potential threats before they arrive in U.S. ports. Coast Guard men and women can be found in every major port in America, conducting security boardings and escorting passenger and cargo vessels into our waterways. The Coast Guard also helps to enforce U.S. migration laws and saves the lives of those who foolishly risk everything to travel on unseaworthy vessels.

Beyond this, the Coast Guard plays a crucial role in blocking narcotics and illegal weapons from entering our country. It is not uncommon for Americans to open their news feeds and read a report about the latest multimillion-dollar drug bust carried out at sea by the Coast Guard. In one recent example, three Coast Guard cutters joined efforts to intercept more than 11,000 pounds of cocaine valued at $220 million. That was a remarkable feat, but not unusual for the U.S. Coast Guard.

As the polar regions attract more interest from Congress, it should be known that the Coast Guard is America's surface presence in both the Arctic and the Antarctic waters. Coast Guard icebreakers carry out a wide range of operations, allowing us to have a sustained presence in Antarctica and conduct research in some of the most remote corners of the Earth.

If all of these roles were not enough, the Coast Guard is taking on greater responsibilities in national security. Partnering side-by-side with the Navy, today's Coast Guard conducts freedom of navigation operations in the South China Sea, provides maritime security in the Middle East, and deters illegal fishing in international waters.

This long list of responsibilities should make two things very clear: First, the Coast Guard is indeed capable and adept; and, secondly, it is being stretched increasingly thin. Today, the Coast Guard is being asked to carry out almost every maritime task imaginable, but Coast Guard funding has not kept up with these increased demands. The fifth branch of our military needs the certainty, predictable funding, and authorities necessary to accomplish all of its missions.

Congress has the ability to meet these needs, and I am asking my colleagues to do so by supporting a new bill, the Unwavering Support for Our Coast Guard Act. This legislation would essentially do five things.

No. 1, it would protect pay and allowances for Coast Guard members during the government shutdown. During the latest government shutdown, the Coast Guard members went without pay yet continued to serve admirably. This should not be allowed to happen again. We need to safeguard Coast Guard pay and allowances from failures here in Washington.

No. 2, the legislation would provide full funding to eliminate the shore-side facility maintenance backlog while building resilience into these facilities.

No. 3, the bill would enhance the diversity of the Coast Guard.

No. 4, it would support needed renovations at the Coast Guard Yard in Maryland.

And, No. 5, the bill would require the Coast Guard to tell us the assets and facilities it needs to complete all of its missions.

For too long, the Coast Guard has been asked to do more with less. Congress needs to understand the true cost of modernizing and recapitalizing our Coast Guard fleet to meet its mission requirements in the increasingly complex maritime domain.

I am proud of my State's role in supporting the Coast Guard's fleet recapitalization efforts. Mississippi is building two of the vessels that will be the vanguard of our Coast Guard for years to come: the National Security Cutter and the cutting-edge Polar Security Cutter.

The National Security Cutters have already proven themselves to be the most capable and versatile ships the Coast Guard has ever used. They can deploy all around the world and integrate seamlessly with our NATO allies, and use next-generation technologies, like unmanned drones, to extend their reach. These cutters are especially effective at countering drug smuggling, illegal fishing, and illegal movement of migrants.

America will also benefit significantly from the new Polar Security Cutters, which will be the first heavy icebreakers built in America since the 1970s. Our current fleet of icebreakers is aging and shrinking. We have fallen

far behind Russia in our icebreaker fleet, and the Arctic is quickly becoming a critical national security domain. A fleet of new Polar Security Cutters will allow us to maintain a heavy presence in polar regions and keep our adversaries at bay.

America needs a capable and growing Coast Guard, and the Coast Guard needs the support of this legislation. I look forward to working with my colleagues to provide the Coast Guard with the resources it needs to continue its exemplary service to our Nation.

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. CRUZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

JUNETEENTH

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the 156th anniversary of Juneteenth. On Saturday, we mark 156 years since June 19, 1865, when MG Gordon Granger announced in Galveston, TX, that the Civil War was over and that enslaved people were now free.

In his announcement, General Granger said:

> The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property.

In commemoration of this momentous day, June 19 became known as Juneteenth. In the years following the Civil War and in the early 20th century, Juneteenth has been celebrated as a holiday of independence.

While Juneteenth has been celebrated in States across the country, it carries a special significance in Texas, where Juneteenth celebrations began. In 1872, four men in Houston, my hometown, purchased the land for Emancipation Park, the oldest park in Texas, as the site for Juneteenth celebrations. In 1980, the State of Texas became the first State to make Juneteenth a State holiday. Today, 47 States recognize Juneteenth.

I am proud to cosponsor the Senate resolution designating June 19, 2021, as Juneteenth Independence Day to honor the historical significance this day has in the United States.

Juneteenth is an important day. It is a somber reminder of the original sin of slavery that our Nation inherited from colonial powers. Still, it is also a celebration of the fact that our country strives each and every day to make good on its promise to protect the inalienable right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all men and all women, who are created equal. Our country was founded on that revolutionary idea, that revolutionary belief that all men are created equal, and that means no matter where we come from or what we started with, any one of us can live freely and achieve great things.

The story of America and the story of Juneteenth is a story of freedom, and while we have had many troubled chapters along the way, I, for one, agree with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., that the arc of history is long and that it bends towards justice, and we have made significant progress on that arc.

On Saturday, as we commemorate the long-overdue announcement of emancipation made in Texas 156 years ago, let us together remember the God-given freedoms we all cherish as Americans.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, on Sunday, June 20, Joe Biden will have been President for exactly 5 months. In these 5 months, we have seen crisis after crisis after crisis. We have experienced a gas crisis, where we had gas lines and skyrocketing energy prices. We are on the verge of an inflation crisis, where everywhere we look, prices are rising on food, on housing, and on lumber. We have already had a war in the Middle East, and we have a border crisis that has been raging so intensely that we are on pace to see 2 million illegal immigrants come through our unsecured border this year.

Just last month, 180,034 illegal immigrants crossed the border. To put that in perspective, that number is a 674-percent increase over the number of illegal immigrants that crossed the border last May—a 674-percent increase—and that number is a 21-year high. The reason for this is simple: The crisis that has unfolded is the direct result of political decisions made by Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS.

No. 1, the first week in office, President Biden immediately halted construction of the border wall.

No. 2, that same week, President Biden reinstated the failed catch and release policy.

No. 3, most inexplicably, the Biden administration ended the ''Remain in Mexico'' international agreement, a historic agreement negotiated by President Trump with the Government of Mexico whereby the Government of Mexico agreed that those who crossed illegally into Mexico would remain in Mexico while their asylum proceedings were pending in the United States.

That agreement was a tremendous success. It produced last year the lowest rate of illegal immigration in 45 years. Let me repeat that. Just 6 months ago, our country had achieved the lowest rate of illegal immigration in 45 years. Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS come into office, they rip to pieces the international agreement that produced that success, and today we have the highest rate of illegal immigration in 20 years.

Meanwhile, as the crisis rages, Joe Biden is nowhere to be found, and KAMALA HARRIS is nowhere to be found. In 5 months in office, Joe Biden couldn't be bothered to go down to the border and see the humanitarian disaster his policies have created. KAMALA HARRIS, who was designated ''in charge of the border,'' seems determined to go anywhere she can but the border.

In the 84 days since she has been tasked with handling the border crisis, do you know how many press conferences she has given? Not even one—not a single press conference in 84 days.

She can't be honest about what is causing the crisis so she hides from questions. The one time she sought questions was with NBC's Lester Holt, where he asked her about going to the border. She responded with that now characteristic and, quite honestly, creepy laugh, where she said: ''We've been to the border.'' I am not sure who the royal ''we'' was, but that ''we'' doesn't include Joe Biden, who hasn't been to the border as President. That ''we'' doesn't include KAMALA HARRIS, who hasn't been to the border as Vice President.

And Lester Holt—to NBC's credit, Lester Holt actually asked a followup question, and it was a very simple question: ''You haven't been to the border?'' To which she responded, oddly: ''Well, I haven't been to Europe either.''

(Mr. VAN HOLLEN assumed the Chair.)

Mr. President, we are not facing a humanitarian crisis, a border crisis, a public crisis, a national security crisis in Europe. We are facing it at our southern border. We are facing it in my home State of Texas. And the Vice President, it seems, cannot be bothered to go and see firsthand the failures that President Biden's policies are causing.

I also want to touch on one issue that greatly affects border communities, and that is our land ports of entry.

While Joe Biden has repeatedly encouraged this crisis of illegal immigration, he is at the same time preventing lawful border crossing.

Border communities are suffering immensely right now because important land ports of entry in El Paso, in Del Rio, in Eagle Pass, in Laredo, in Rio Grande City, in McAllen, in Pharr, in Brownsville remain closed to everyone except those deemed ''essential'' traffic.

Basically, Mexicans who have a visa to enter the United States legally cannot do so through these land ports of entry unless they are going to school, working, or somehow considered essential. Nonessential travel from the United States—into the United States from Mexico for shopping, for visiting family and friends, for casual visits are not allowed by the Biden administration.

Instead, the Biden administration has decided to keep our land ports of entries closed for nonessential travel until at least June 21, ostensibly because of the COVID–19 pandemic. This

decision makes no sense, when Americans have access now to effective vaccines and the Biden administration is just fine with allowing hundreds of thousands of illegal aliens to stream across the border and be released in our communities.

Despite testing positive at a COVID positivity rate of 10 percent, the Biden administration has no problem with that, and they perpetuate the policies that continue that disaster. And yet, at the same time, they shut down trade and legal tourism through our land ports of entry.

For a long time, I have summed up my immigration views very simply in four words: ''legal, good; illegal, bad.'' I think the overwhelming majority of Americans agree with that proposition. And yet, as we look at the first 5 months of the Biden-Harris administration, it seems for President Biden and Vice President Harris, their immigration policy is legal, bad; illegal, good. That makes no sense. It is exactly backward.

We should open up our land ports of entry to legal tourism, which would greatly benefit the border communities, especially in my home State of Texas.

And we need to end this heartless, inhumane policy that is resulting in tens of thousands of children being trafficked in by human traffickers, which is resulting in thousands of children being physically abused and sexually abused, being thrown into the Biden cages, packed in larger and larger numbers.

Ignoring this problem won't go away. Behaving like an ostrich, Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS cannot plunge their heads into the sand and hope the disaster at the border will magically disappear. They don't want to go to the border because they know the TV cameras will follow them to the border, and their only hope is people don't notice the lives that are being destroyed, the crime that is coming in, the vandalism that is coming in, the public health threat that we are seeing.

This is not compassionate. It is not humane. This chaos is wrong, and it is time to end.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

2022 OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, 8 short months from now, the greatest athletes in the world will gather together and compete in the 24th Olympic Winter Games.

Usually, Americans await this awe-inspiring event with enthusiasm and excitement. This year, though, we await it with apprehension and, frankly, disgust. That is because next year's games will be held in the People's Republic of China—a Communist nation that enslaves workers, puts women and children in concentration camps, sterilizes women, and unleashed a global pandemic that killed millions and upended the global economy.

The 2022 Games will be located in Beijing—a 5-hour train ride away from the Wuhan lab where the coronavirus pandemic likely originated and a day away from Xinjiang Province, where the Communist Party is committing genocide against ethnic and religious minorities and has herded more than 1 million innocent souls into concentration camps.

The Chinese Communist Party may believe that extravagant pageantry will distract us from the reality of what they have done, but no amount of rushed urban cleaning can wipe away the moral stain that permeates the capital city of China. No golden torch can redeem the moral bankruptcy of communism. No fireworks display can make us forget that Beijing is the epicenter of evil in the world. It is no exaggeration to state that the Chinese Communist Party is the purist, most powerful, and most pervasive force for evil in the world.

Locating the Games in Beijing will enrich and embolden the Chinese Communist Party and strengthen their hold on their captive people. That is why the International Olympic Committee should immediately—immediately—rebid the 2022 Games and award it to a free democratic nation. I will note that this is entirely feasible.

If the Tokyo Summer Games can be postponed a year due to an event that was no fault of Japan's Government, we can certainly rebid the Winter Games on short notice if China is perpetrating crimes against humanity.

I would observe that the Winter Games are far smaller and easier to move than the Summer Games. The Winter Games include fewer than half the number of sports, nearly 4,700 fewer medals, only one-quarter the number of events, and less than half the competing country.

There are many, many Western democracies that could easily, easily accommodate a relocation of the Games on short notice. Some of our European partners, like France, Switzerland, Sweden, and Italy have more than enough winter sporting venues and hotel capacity and transportation capacity to host these Games with 8 months' notice. Many of them have hosted modern Games before. Many of them host national and international winter sporting competitions.

If the IOC fails to rebid the games, however, the United States should fully embrace an economic and diplomatic boycott. No U.S. official, company, or spectator should participate in and legitimize China's despotic and totalitarian actions. American companies should not profit off of genocide and oppression or help line the pockets of the Communist Party officials perpetrating these crimes against humanity, these grotesque atrocities.

If—and it is a big if—we can keep our athletes safe, they should compete in the spirit of the great Jesse Owens. They should stare tyranny in its eye and defeat China in every field of competition. But the only Americans—and I mean the only Americans—who should step foot on Chinese soil are the athletes, their coaches, their essential support staff, and the necessary personnel to ensure their safety.

If the games remain in China, it will pose unique challenges to the safety, security, and privacy of those limited number of Americans who do attend, though. The U.S. Government must be fully prepared for the dangers to which these athletes and supporting personnel would be exposed.

First, the Chinese Government operates the most extensive, sophisticated, and invasive police state anywhere on Earth. Members of the American delegation should expect the Chinese authorities to bug their hotel rooms, their vehicles, and to hack all of their electronic devices.

Second, China has an ignominious history of arbitrarily detaining American citizens and other Western visitors to gain political and economic concessions, placing exit bans on foreign nationals. Members of the American delegation could be detained during their visit.

Former Assistant Secretary of State David Stilwell apparently shares these concerns, stating that ''spectators have good reason to beware Xi Jinping's Beijing Winter Olympics.''

And I would add especially those, like, say, the Houston Rockets' general manager, Daryl Morey, who have spoken out against the Chinese Communist Party's abuses in Hong Kong, Tibet, Xinjiang, and many other places.

Third, the Chinese Communist Party's infringement of privacy knows no limits, and our Nation's representatives should prepare our athletes and their staff accordingly.

China even considers DNA collection as a vital intelligence-gathering objective, wants to use DNA data to catapult Chinese biotech companies to global market dominance, and has reportedly conducted research on biologically enhancing its soldiers.

During the Olympics, of course, the DNA of thousands of world-class athletes could prove an irresistible target to Communists in Beijing, whose evil sometimes seems to verge on science fiction. So whether through the ruse of COVID testing or testing for performance-enhancing drugs, China will have the opportunity to steal the very DNA of our elite athletes—young men and women, in many cases young boys and girls, who deserve our protection.

For all of these reasons, and many more, President Biden should forcefully call on the International Olympic Committee to rebid the 2022 Winter Games.

We must be ready if they fail to do so. That is why I have sent the President a letter urging him to prepare for the various challenges that our athletes will confront if they compete in

Beijing and asking if the Communist authorities are cooperating with U.S. efforts to protect our athletes.

If the safety, security, and privacy of our athletes cannot be guaranteed, the United States should, and indeed must, adopt a total and complete boycott of the Beijing Winter Olympics.

No American should be put in harm's way for the sake of a sporting event. President Biden ought to make these terms absolutely clear to Communists in Beijing, and we should not compromise on them.

The athletes we send to the Olympics are not Democrats or Republicans. They do not wear donkeys or elephants on their uniform. They have no party insignia. They are Americans, wearing the Stars and Stripes, bearing the standard of our great Nation. It is the responsibility of our government to protect these champions, and I hope this is an area in which our divided government can unite.

FOR THE PEOPLE ACT OF 2021

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, the Democrats want to call their voting bill the For the People Act, but I would suggest you not be fooled by the marketing. This bill has nothing to offer the people of our country. The so-called For the People Act is, in fact, a partisan takeover of our elections that seeks a government of the Democrats, by the Democrats, and for the Democrats. So it is no wonder that it is their very top priority and it is literally the first bill filed in both the House and the Senate this year.

If this bill passes, it will shatter our Nation's faith in the fairness of our democracy, weaken the security of our elections, and attempt to entrench Democratic rule in the swamp, unchallenged, for decades to come.

S. 1 is a Federal takeover of our elections that would usurp the constitutional prerogative of the States in determining what the Constitution calls the ''Times, Places, and Manners of holding elections.'' While our Constitution has always given Congress the power to determine certain aspects of how elections are conducted, the Founders envisioned that this power would be exercised, in the words of Alexander Hamilton, only under ''extraordinary circumstances'' and only as ''the last resort.'' For example, Congress could intervene if States were simply refusing to hold Federal elections in an attempt to deprive Congress of the Members needed to operate under the quorum rules of the Constitution. Of course, we face no such extraordinary circumstances today.

No matter the outrageous claims of hysterical journalists and politicians, almost every story you hear and every Democratic claim you hear about State election law reforms misrepresents those reforms or doesn't put them in proper context.

The Democratic Party—the very head of the Democratic Party, President Joe Biden, referred to Georgia's election reform, for instance, as a ''new Jim Crow,'' even though it has far, far more access to the ballot than Democratic-run States like New York and, yes, Joe Biden's own Delaware.

I might also note that Kentucky passed a fairly sweeping election reform bill earlier this year. It still doesn't go as far as Georgia's bill did in providing early access to the ballot. Yet there is no condemnation of Kentucky's bill. I wonder why. Could it be because Kentucky has a Democratic Governor?

The Democrats want to use these kinds of misrepresentations to pass S. 1, which would give all power over our Nation's elections to Democrats in Congress, who think anyone should be able to vote, at any time, at any place, and in any manner, with remarkably little concern even for the basics of election integrity, such as establishing the identity and the legality of individuals who are casting the ballots.

The bill before the Senate would invalidate voter identification laws in States across the country—laws that simply require individuals to present valid photo identification in order to vote. Now, Democrats like to pretend that voter ID laws are racist, just as they like to pretend that anyone who opposes them is also racist. That would be a surprise to most of the American people, though. According to recent polling, three-quarters of Americans support photo ID requirements, including 70 percent of Black voters, who support photo ID requirements. That is a pretty big claim of false consciousness by the Democrats.

After all, it is no great burden to present a driver's license or photo identification at the polling place in order to vote. It is not some devious tactic to suppress any group of voters. If it was, maybe we would need to ask some of these politically correct airlines, like Delta, why they require passengers to present photo identification before boarding flights. Are they engaged in some nefarious, racist practice of traveler suppression? I don't think so.

I think voter ID laws are a basic means of securing the vote, just like three-quarters of all Americans think. Yet S. 1 would still eliminate them all, allowing anyone to register to vote, under any identity, without presenting proof that they are who they claim to be.

The Democrats' bill would also make permanent many of the vote-by-mail expansions that were rushed through as ill-considered emergency measures during the pandemic last year. The free-for-all of ballot harvesting and mail-in voting during the 2020 elections caused many Americans to doubt the integrity of that vote.

Removing guardrails against fraud will only convince more voters that the electoral process is rigged. Responsible elected officials should be trying to assuage voters' fears by implementing adequate safeguards on our elections. After all, many of these practices were unheard of before the 2020 election.

Now, the Democrats like to say that they have to pass S. 1 in a response to these State election reforms, but I would point out that this bill was introduced in the House 2 years ago, before the States passed any of the election reforms. Oftentimes these State election reforms are being passed by legislatures that were appalled by their Governor's sweeping power grabs. So no matter what the conditions, the Democrats think it is always time to nationalize our elections.

Another provision of the Democrats' election bill would repeal donor privacy laws that keep the IRS from harassing nonprofit organizations about the identities and addresses of their donors. Democrats claim that this change is about dark-money mega donors, but it would apply to any middle-class family who donates a few hundred dollars a year to a cause they care about, like a church or a charity. Yet, if the Democrats have their way, bureaucrats at the IRS would be able to force nonprofits to name their donors or risk losing their tax-exempt status. This should alarm anyone familiar with the IRS's track record of unfairly targeting conservative groups. After all, just last week, we saw a conveniently timed leak of legally protected tax returns that came out right before the Senate Finance Committee had a meeting to justify higher taxes. What a coincidence.

Now, these are just a few of the proposals in the Democrats' election bill. I haven't even talked about the public funding of campaigns. I haven't mentioned transforming the Federal Election Commission into a partisan weapon to be used by the President's party against the opposition. All of these provisions and many more encourage fraud, harassment, and corruption in our campaigns and elections. Not coincidentally, they all seem to work to the advantage of the Democrats or at least to the Democrats' perceived self-advantage. It is little surprise, then, that this partisan bill is supported only by Democrats—not even all Democrats, for that matter, not all the Democrats here in the Senate and not all the Democrats in the House, which passed it earlier this year by the thinnest of margins.

So I am proud to be a part of the bipartisan majority in the Senate that is opposing the Democratic Party's attempted takeover of our States' election processes. Political office in America is not a birthright of any party or any politician, so the Democrats should try winning their elections fair and square instead of taking them over in a centralizing power play.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana is recognized.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I would ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 151, 152, 153, and 154; that those nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Tennessee is recognized.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I reserve the right to object, and I rise to object to this unanimous consent request.

The VA, for years, has made promises that they have year after year failed to meet. For years, veterans and their family members have called my office, whether I was in the State senate or over in the House or here in the Senate. They are distressed by the lack of service they receive from the VA. My caseworkers would work tirelessly with these constituents, only to end up frustrated by a very unresponsive VA. This is unacceptable. It has become the culture of the VA, and this is something that has to change.

Now, for weeks, the committee has been asking for feedback on legislative proposals which have the potential to affect the workflow and the capacity of the VA. The VA has been silent on this even though we have asked for their views and have asked them to weigh in. The reason we have asked them for this is the VA has a backlog of over 180,000 cases. Their wait times this year have continued to escalate. They are not going down.

So, yesterday, I had a call with Secretary McDonough expressing my concerns with the lack of feedback that the committee has received on what is shaping up to be the most consequential legislative effort in the veterans space in an entire generation. The formal response that I received today was incomplete, but it contained a promise that they would have more fulsome feedback by July 30.

I will continue to keep my hold on these pending VA nominees until I receive the official views on the COST of War Act, on the toxic exposures bills. We owe our veterans. We owe it to them to get this right. Therefore, I object to the unanimous consent request, and I will continue my hold on these nominees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Montana is recognized.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—CALENDAR NO. 153

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I will rephrase this one more time.

I would ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 153—for those who want to know, that is Matthew T. Quinn of Montana; that the nomination be confirmed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any other nomination; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana is recognized.

Mr. TESTER. Last month, four well-qualified, noncontroversial nominees were unanimously voted out of the Veterans' Affairs Committee—unanimously voted out of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, which Senator BLACKBURN sits on. Here is who these people are:

Don Remy, a veteran, has been nominated as VA Deputy Secretary—VA Deputy Secretary. That is second in command. If Senator BLACKBURN wants quick reaction from the VA on toxic exposure, maybe Senator BLACKBURN shouldn't hold that nominee of the No. 2 position of the Department, a nominee specifically tasked with coordinating VA's work with the Defense Department, which includes issues like—guess what—toxic exposure. But that is all right. We will leave him sitting at home. We will leave the veterans out in the cold.

Then there is Patricia Ross, who is nominated to be Assistant Secretary for Congressional Affairs. So if Senator BLACKBURN wants more information from the VA on legislation and how much it costs, maybe the Senator shouldn't hold the nominee tasked with getting that information from the VA to Congress, but she is.

Then, there is Maryanne Donaghy, nominated as Assistant Secretary for Accountability and Whistleblower Protection. I want to tell you that whistleblowers regularly come to us with reports of waste, fraud, and abuse.

Folks love to condemn the VA—we heard a lot about it a second ago—when it fails to hold its workforce accountable. I recommend that, if Senator BLACKBURN wants to request accountability at the VA, maybe the Senator shouldn't hold the nominee tasked with employee accountability and whistleblower protection.

Then, there is Matt Quinn—someone that I know very, very well because he comes from the State of Montana—for director of cemetery affairs. So when people die, no one is there in the VA to take care of this issue.

Once again, all four people—critically important people—whom the Senator voted for to get out of committee are now being held by the Senator.

I am going to tell you that, if we want to hold the VA accountable today in a situation where we are coming out of a pandemic, this is not the way to do it. The bottom line is that if you want a VA that can function, then, we have to have that VA staffed up.

Don't talk to me or anybody else in this body about distressed veterans and then say: You know what. We are going to stop the No. 2. We are going to stop the VA person who is supposed to talk to us. We are going to stop the cemetery person. We will stop the whistleblower person. That is really helping veterans.

Quite frankly, it is just the contrary.

I pride myself on running a committee that is very bipartisan, and the VA Committee may be the best, not because of me but because of people like JERRY MORAN, JOHN BOOZMAN, people like PATTY MURRAY. Those people step up to the plate every day, and they do what is right for veterans.

Let's talk about the toxic exposure bill. Let's talk about that bill. In World War I, we had mustard gas. The VA had no capacity to deal with those veterans. In World War II, we had radiation. The VA had no capacity. In the Vietnam war, we had Agent Orange. And, by the way, they died, they died, and they died again because this body refuses to give the VA the tools they need to take care of our veterans, and now we are doing the same thing with burn pits.

I am here to tell you that I had a veteran stand up in my very first year on the VA Committee. A Vietnam veteran stood up in the back of the room in a townhall and said: You are not going to treat this generation of veterans like you treated ours, the Vietnam veterans.

Well, I tell you what: If we want to close the door and we want to delay and we want to push back what is going on with burn pits, then, let's have them die.

You were at the hearing that the lung transplant guy was at. We had to juggle that hearing so he could even be at it because he was on medication.

The bottom line is people are dying every day.

By the way, we are still not done with Agent Orange, hypertension, and MGUS, which are in this bill. They will die. Some more of them will die.

We send our young people off to war. They come back changed, and we don't have the guts to step up and debate the bill. When I give the ranking member the authority to stop that bill from coming to the floor, we are still going to make excuses? Give me a break.

I am going to tell you what. I have been in this body for probably too long. We turn around and we try to do the right things, and we have people who say: You know, send our young people off to war at the drop of the hat. Send them off to war. Send them off to war.

And then they come back, and they are changed, and we say we are not going to take care of them because we need information right now, this very minute, when it is not even on the floor. We need the information—when I have already made a commitment to the ranking member that we are going to have this information. But, no, what we are going to do is we are going to stop the VA from having a slate of candidates so they can do their jobs and service the veterans.

Guess what. I am not a veteran. This doesn't impact me, but it impacts the veterans in my State, some 100,000 of them—1 in 10 Montanans—and, in fact, veterans all across this country.

We can sit here and we can play these games of holding up nominees to fill critical Agency departments, and we can play them and play them and play them again, and we can say we are doing it on behalf of the veterans. That is bull—you got it—total bull.

We have a job to do here, folks. If we don't want to confirm well-qualified folks, then, why don't we just shut down the VA? Why don't we tell McDonough that he is out of luck, that we are not going to send him any help? And then we start making demands.

The bottom line is this, folks: All the things Senator BLACKBURN is concerned about, I made a commitment with the ranking member that we are going to get those questions answered, and we will get them answered with good information. And then if the ranking member consents, we will have a vote and we will have debate, and we will make a determination whether this is the right thing to do.

But just to say, ''No, we are stopping everything right now; no more toxic exposure bill until I get this information because we are not going to send you the staff to do your job,'' doesn't make a lot of sense to me. It doesn't make a lot of sense to me. And in the process our veterans suffer. That veteran who has hypertension dies—one less problem for the VA, because we created the problem right here today.

I would ask Senator BLACKBURN to reconsider her hold so we can get the VA the staff they need so they can do their job.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, you know, it is truly an honor to work with the veterans in Tennessee, and we have hundreds of thousands of veterans in our State.

I know that the chairman says he prides himself in working with the veterans. I will tell you, quite frankly, I consider it a humbling experience to work with these veterans. Whether they are from World War II or Korea or Vietnam or whether they are from any of our recent wars—the Mideast—whether we are dealing with Agent Orange or burn pits, to me it is heartwrenching to hear their stories.

And the VA has not done their job. So what we are doing is standing up for these veterans and saying to the VA: Get your act together. Provide this information. How do you deal with this backlog? Do you have the capability to deal with what we are discussing? Do you have that capability? What is your capacity? How do we best handle these issues?

The VA, for years—decades, decades, decades—has not done their job in a timely manner, in a responsive manner to our Nation's veterans. Therefore, let's say: Let's get this right. Let's get it right.

Excuse me. There is a fly in this Chamber.

Let's get it right now.

CORONAVIRUS

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, last week's conversations about our own government's role in the COVID coverup reflected over a year of refusal on the part of my Democratic colleagues to accept that the novel coronavirus may not have spread via natural transmission from a Chinese wildlife wet market.

As the theories of the pandemic's origins evolved, one remained, until very recently, off limits. This is, of course, the lab leak hypothesis, or the theory that the virus somehow escaped from a lab in Wuhan, China.

Now, this theory didn't come out of nowhere. In early January 2020, alarm bells were already ringing at the CDC, the State Department, and in the scientific community over problems with the natural origin theory of transmission.

Virologists and other public health officials studying the disease were quickly coming to the conclusion that the way the virus was spreading suggested that this theory was flawed. Officials also knew that the Wuhan Institute of Virology was conducting controversial and dangerous ''gain of function'' research with the help of repackaged U.S. Government grants.

Yes, that is correct.

In April of last year, I joined many of my colleagues in publicly demanding a thorough investigation into the lab leak theory. What followed was nothing less than moral panic. Activists, journalists, and even our own Democratic colleagues accused us of racism, xenophobia, and science denial.

Major media organizations refused to report on the hypothesis, except to decry it as a racist attack on Chinese scientists. Facebook banned accounts that posted about it. YouTube deleted videos that dared contradict the World Health Organization.

Rather than scaring us off, though, these attacks left us with another question to answer: Why did the very idea of investigating the Wuhan lab inspire such a bizarre panic? Or, perhaps, the better question is, Why did NIAID Director Dr. Fauci and the rest of the powers that be publicly insist that the idea of a lab leak was completely preposterous?

Even NIH Director Francis Collins hadn't ruled it out. In a March 2020 interview with the Atlantic, he said that while natural transmission was the likely culprit, ''the possibility that such a naturally evolved virus might have also been under study at the Wuhan Institute of Virology and reached residents of Wuhan—and ultimately the rest of the world—as the result of a lab accident has never been adequately excluded.''

We certainly have evidence to show that mistakes happen, even in a professional lab. Who could forget that back in 2015, we saw reports that personnel at a military facility in Utah accidentally shipped active samples of anthrax to labs in nine States—yes, a 2015 lab accident.

NIH has also had problems keeping track of things. According to a memo prepared in 2016 by a minority staff of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, a 2009 Department of Health and Human Services OIG audit found an inventory discrepancy at the NIH caused in part by mislabeled envelopes containing unregistered vials of plague and other antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

In 2012, NIH researchers found vials of anthrax spores in the wrong place. What is worse, the scientists in that particular lab weren't registered to possess them.

In 2014, an FDA researcher working at the NIH campus in Bethesda discovered vials of live smallpox virus stuffed in a cardboard box in an unsecured cold storage room.

Mistakes were clearly made. Lab accidents happen. It is also clear that while a leak from the Wuhan lab could have happened due to human error, this coverup we are now learning about certainly did not happen by error.

We now have an emerging picture of what did happen behind the scenes to create so much resistance to the lab leak theory.

On June 3 of this year, that bastion of rightwing insanity known as Vanity Fair magazine published an investigative report exposing the deranged political gamesmanship that prompted public health officials to paint the lab leak theory as a conspiracy.

The report confirmed just about everything those officials wanted to keep hidden—namely, that the lab leak hypothesis was suppressed at multiple levels of government by officials looking to protect their own interests and to distance themselves from President Donald Trump—so much for following the science. They were following emotions.

The report confirmed conflicts of interest concerning grant awards that supported gain-of-function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The same people who knew that Chinese scientists were performing these dangerous experiments on the taxpayer dime also knew from verified intelligence reports that three Wuhan-based researchers fell ill with COVID-like symptoms in November 2019, well before the first reported outbreak. Still,

State Department officials warned investigators to abandon their inquiries into the origins of COVID–19 because it would ''open a can of worms.''

The internal coverups bled into this year until, finally, 5 days before President Biden took the oath of office, the State Department put out a fact sheet on the Wuhan lab that confirmed the November outbreak and revealed that scientists working there had collaborated with the Chinese military on classified research. The Biden administration has yet to walk any of this back.

We are also finally seeing some interest in the World Health Organization's Beijing-controlled investigation into the Wuhan lab. On March 1 of this year and again on May 24, I laid out my concerns to the White House about the WHO's reliance on the Chinese Communist Party for funding and support. I explained how this reliance drove their initial support for Beijing's response to the outbreaks and ruined the integrity of their investigation. The White House has yet to respond to my concerns, but it is not going to be able to avoid responding because the American people are demanding the answers.

I think it is important to state for the record that what we are seeing in these news reports is not entirely new information. The foundations of the lab leak hypothesis remain much the same as they were a year ago. So why pop open that can of worms right now? Because there is no way to sweep this thing back under the rug.

We have the sudden interest of the media. Imagine that. We also have an entire body of published statements and investigative reporting from inside China. Facebook and YouTube have reversed their content policies, which means they couldn't stop people from sharing this information unless they pulled the plug on the entire internet which, obviously, isn't an option.

We also have the magic of FOIA on our side. We learned from Dr. Fauci's published emails that he knew about the dangerous research happening in China. He was aware. We know he allowed inquiries into the Wuhan lab leak theory to go unanswered. We also know he worked with Mark Zuckerberg to determine what COVID-related information flowed into the public timeline and when that information went out.

Now, I stand by my criticism of Dr. Fauci. His dystopian comments equating attacks on his job performance with attacks on science are unacceptable, but I want to encourage everyone to not make this about one person. We now have evidence that public officials were eating each other alive over political disagreements and that these disagreements derailed investigations into the origins of COVID–19.

This is more than just political failure; it is a moral inversion that empowered one of the globe's most violent authoritarian governments. The Chinese officials who hid the existence of the novel coronavirus from international bodies are the very same Chinese officials who gunned down freedom fighters in Hong Kong, who unleashed political violence in Inner Mongolia and Tibet, and who continue to commit ongoing genocide against Uighur Muslims in Xinjiang.

It is time for Congress to get serious about cleaning up this mess. I reiterate the same demands I made more than a year ago for a full and unbiased inquiry into the lab leak hypothesis and a broader investigation into the origins of the COVID–19 pandemic.

Last week, I joined Senator COTTON in reintroducing the Li Wenliang Global Public Health Accountability Act. This legislation would authorize the President to sanction foreign officials who suppress or distort information about international public health crises, including COVID–19. I encourage my colleagues to sign on to the bill.

Most importantly, I would implore my Democratic colleagues to engage in a little introspection. The officials implicated in this coverup swept science under the rug, orchestrated a relentless smear campaign, throttled the flow of public information, and allowed the Chinese Communist Party to exonerate itself at the expense of truth and accountability.

You don't have to defend this. Please, have the moral courage to make the right choice, and join us in our demands for unbiased investigations into the origin of the pandemic.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the referenced fact sheet and letters. The referenced articles and report can be found online at www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2021/06/francis-collins-nih/619065, www.vanityfair.com/news/2021/06/the-lab-leak-theory-inside-the-fight-to-uncover-covid-19s-origins, and osp.od.nih.gov/wp-content/uploads/BRP-House-EC-Report.pdf.

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

FACT SHEET ACTIVITY AT THE WUHAN INSTITUTE OF VIROLOGY—UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Fact Sheet
January 15, 2021

For more than a year, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has systematically prevented a transparent and thorough investigation of the COVID–19 pandemic's origin, choosing instead to devote enormous resources to deceit and disinformation. Nearly two million people have died. Their families deserve to know the truth. Only through transparency can we learn what caused this pandemic and how to prevent the next one.

The U.S. government does not know exactly where, when, or how the COVID–19 virus-known as SARS—CoV-2—was transmitted initially to humans. We have not determined whether the outbreak began through contact with infected animals or was the result of an accident at a laboratory in Wuhan, China.

The virus could have emerged naturally from human contact with infected animals, spreading in a pattern consistent with a natural epidemic. Alternatively, a laboratory accident could resemble a natural outbreak if the initial exposure included only a few individuals and was compounded by asymptomatic infection. Scientists in China have researched animal-derived coronaviruses under conditions that increased the risk for accidental and potentially unwitting exposure.

The CCP's deadly obsession with secrecy and control comes at the expense of public health in China and around the world. The previously undisclosed information in this fact sheet, combined with open-source reporting, highlights three elements about COVID–19's origin that deserve greater scrutiny:

1. ILLNESSES INSIDE THE WUHAN INSTITUTE OF VIROLOGY (WIV)

The U.S. government has reason to believe that several researchers inside the WIV became sick in autumn 2019, before the first identified case of the outbreak, with symptoms consistent with both COVID–19 and common seasonal illnesses. This raises questions about the credibility of WIV senior researcher Shi Zhengli's public claim that there was ''zero infection'' among the WIV's staff and students of SARS-CoV-2 or SARS-related viruses.

Accidental infections in labs have caused several previous virus outbreaks in China and elsewhere, including a 2004 SARS outbreak in Beijing that infected nine people, killing one.

The CCP has prevented independent journalists, investigators, and global health authorities from interviewing researchers at the WIV, including those who were ill in the fall of 2019. Any credible inquiry into the origin of the virus must include interviews with these researchers and a full accounting of their previously unreported illness.

2. RESEARCH AT THE WIV

Starting in at least 2016—and with no indication of a stop prior to the COVID–19 outbreak—WIV researchers conducted experiments involving RaTG13, the bat coronavirus identified by the WIV in January 2020 as its closest sample to SARS-CoV-2 (96.2% similar). The WIV became a focal point for international coronavirus research after the 2003 SARS outbreak and has since studied animals including mice, bats, and pangolins.

The WIV has a published record of conducting ''gain-of-function'' research to engineer chimeric viruses. But the WIV has not been transparent or consistent about its record of studying viruses most similar to the COVID–19 virus, including ''RaTG13,'' which it sampled from a cave in Yunnan Province in 2013 after several miners died of SARS-like illness.

WHO investigators must have access to the records of the WIV's work on bat and other coronaviruses before the COVID–19 outbreak. As part of a thorough inquiry, they must have a full accounting of why the WIV altered and then removed online records of its work with RaTG13 and other viruses.

3. SECRET MILITARY ACTIVITY AT THE WIV

Secrecy and non-disclosure are standard practice for Beijing. For many years the United States has publicly raised concerns about China's past biological weapons work, which Beijing has neither documented nor demonstrably eliminated, despite its clear obligations under the Biological Weapons Convention.

Despite the WIV presenting itself as a civilian institution, the United States has determined that the WIV has collaborated on publications and secret projects with China's military. The WIV has engaged in classified research, including laboratory animal experiments, on behalf of the Chinese military since at least 2017.

The United States and other donors who funded or collaborated on civilian research

at the WIV have a right and obligation to determine whether any of our research funding was diverted to secret Chinese military projects at the WIV.

Today's revelations just scratch the surface of what is still hidden about COVID–19's origin in China. Any credible investigation into the origin of COVID–19 demands complete, transparent access to the research labs in Wuhan, including their facilities, samples, personnel, and records.

As the world continues to battle this pandemic—and as WHO investigators begin their work, after more than a year of delays—the virus's origin remains uncertain. The United States will continue to do everything it can to support a credible and thorough investigation, including by continuing to demand transparency on the part of Chinese authorities.

MARCH 1, 2021.

Hon. JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.,
President of the United States,
Washington, DC.

DEAR PRESIDENT BIDEN: The COVID–19 pandemic has taken a significant toll on American life as well as the U.S. economy. Test kits, antibody therapies, and vaccine development have occurred in record time due to Operation Warp Speed and the ingenuity of the private sector. However, the investigation into the origins of the pandemic are not complete. Without this knowledge, it will be difficult to prevent a future, similar pandemic. I urge you to use your leadership to ensure investigations by the World Health Organization (WHO) are free from conflicts of interest.

Concerns have been raised about the lack of transparency of the events that took place at the time the outbreak started in Wuhan, China. In addition, concerns have been raised regarding the manner in which World Health Organization investigators were chosen to study the outbreak and some of the conflicts of interest that exist in those investigators.

Following the 2014 breakdown of security measures that resulted in cross contamination with a dangerous bird flu strain and the accidental mailing of live anthrax spores from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to other labs, Tom Frieden, the director of the CDC under president Obama testified ''We also need to encourage a culture of openness and effective reporting of past or future incidents—since a key aspect of effective response is to support rapid reporting of problems.''

On February 13, 2021, National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said, ''We have deep concerns about the way in which the early findings of the COVID–19 investigation were communicated and questions about the process used to reach them. It is imperative that this report be independent, with expert findings free from intervention or alteration by the Chinese government.''

Transparency is an issue upon which we can agree. In light of that, I respectfully request you use your leadership to ensure the ongoing investigation of the COVID–19 pandemic origin be free from conflict of interest. WHO should be required to have independent investigators to conduct this study. WHO should not include researchers with conflicts of interest or with a lack of experience in forensic investigation. We owe this to the over 500,000 Americans who have died from this disease, to their families, and to future Americans who face possible pandemics.

Sincerely,

MARSHA BLACKBURN,
U.S. Senator.

MAY 24, 2021.

Hon. JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.,
President of the United States,
Washington, DC.

DEAR PRESIDENT BIDEN: I write to follow-up on my March 1, 2021 letter with lingering concerns about the validity of the World Health Organization's (WHO) investigation into the origin of the COVID–19 pandemic.

Prior reports appear to confirm that the WHO had ''little power to conduct a thorough, impartial examination.'' On May 13, 2021, in a letter published in Science, a group of 19 prominent scientists called for a deeper investigation of the two primary hypotheses: 1) the virus began to spread after jumping from infected animals to humans; and 2) the virus was accidentally released from China's Wuhan Institute of Virology and began spreading in the human population.

Among other issues, these scientists call into question the China-WHO joint study's consideration of the two main hypotheses stating, ''Only 4 of the 313 pages of the report and its annexes addressed the possibility of a laboratory accident.'' This fact is deeply concerning in light of recent media reports that, ''[t]hree researchers from China's Wuhan Institute of Virology became sick enough in November 2019 that they sought hospital care.''

In light of these reports and my continued concerns, please respond, in writing, to the following questions:

1. According to reports, the WHO asked the U.S. government to recommend three experts for the China-WHO joint investigation team. Although they were not ultimately selected, another U.S. scientist was selected for the team.

a. Please name the three scientists recommended by the U.S., and articulate the WHO's reasoning for not choosing these individuals.

2. Beijing has refused to share critical raw data on the initial cases of COVID–19 in China. Has Beijing provided the U.S. with that data? If not, please explain why.

3. The China-WHO joint investigation stated that they ''lacked expertise and access to investigate a potential lab leak.'' What will the administration do to insure that competent, impartial experts are involved in future investigations?

4. WHO spokesman Tarik Jasarevic said the organization was not mandated to do a forensic audit. Why was this the case? Will your administration insist on a fulsome forensic audit for future outbreaks?

I request the courtesy of a reply by June 14, 2021.

Sincerely,

MARSHA BLACKBURN,
U.S. Senator.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

FOR THE PEOPLE ACT OF 2021

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I would like to speak for a moment about S. 1.

This bill says that politicians and unelected bureaucrats who spend their entire careers in the same few square miles of Washington, DC, know how to run Nebraska's elections better than Nebraskans. I was glad to see the senior Senator from West Virginia come out against S. 1 and provide some much-needed honesty about what some Democrats' true intentions are with this bill.

I think he summed up this issue well when he wrote in his op-ed: ''Today's debate about how to best protect our right to vote and to hold elections, however, is not about finding common ground, but seeking partisan advantage.''

As I said at the Rules Committee's markup for S. 1 a few weeks ago, I simply cannot understand why so many of my Democratic colleagues would like to hand over the control of our elections to the Federal Government.

To take one example, this bill would allow candidates for the Senate to receive Federal funding for their campaigns through a new program supported by Federal dollars. That would include a 6-to-1 match for contributions up to $200, meaning that, if a donor gives $100, Federal dollars coming from taxpayers would match that with $600 more.

During the bill's markup, I offered an amendment to prevent sitting Members of the Senate from benefiting from this windfall, but it was rejected by all of my Democratic colleagues on the committee. This does not help voters make informed decisions. This only helps those of us who are already here in Congress. The changes S. 1 proposes only get more radical from there.

This bill would effectively turn the bipartisan six-member Federal Election Commission—the agency that oversees the financing of Federal elections—into a five-person panel subject to partisan control by giving the sitting President the power to appoint an independent fifth Commissioner to the agency. Because only a slim majority would then be needed to make a decision, this Commissioner could act as the deciding vote on issues that have historically been bipartisan.

If Senate Republicans were still in the majority and I told you that our leader wanted to pass a bill that would tip the balance of the FEC toward our party, those on the other side would object, and they would be right to do so. This Commission must remain truly bipartisan, and that is done by having equal Democratic and Republican membership.

S. 1 would also repeal an appropriations amendment that helps ensure the IRS does not infringe on the First Amendment rights of taxpayers who contribute to nonprofits. Allowing the IRS to possess this information when it is not a campaign finance enforcement agency only empowers bad actors at the agency to target groups that it dislikes. This is especially problematic given the recent leak of sensitive taxpayer information, and the IRS's history of targeting tax-exempt applicants solely based on their political leanings.

Also, this bill would not only allow people to register to vote at a polling place on election day without presenting any form of identification, it would tell the 36 States that have some form of voter ID laws on the books now that those laws would be illegal. This is despite the fact that a majority of Americans supports requiring photo ID

to vote, and it flies in the face of the practices of other democracies, like Germany, the United Kingdom, Norway, and France, which all require voters to verify their identities before casting their ballots.

Despite all of the revolutionary changes this bill proposes, the most disheartening thing might be that it was introduced to solve a problem that doesn't actually exist. More people voted in last year's elections than ever before, including a record 76 percent of voters in my State of Nebraska. In the middle of a pandemic, voters turned out in historic numbers to make their voices heard.

Defenders of this bill can't say that this turnout was an issue, so they have tried to scapegoat States like Georgia and Florida, which have recently passed new election laws. President Biden went as far as to call Georgia's bill ''Jim Crow in the 21st century'' before admitting that he was speaking about a very early draft, not the bill that actually became law.

Reality gets in the way of that narrative, too, as Georgia's bill is less restrictive than the laws of more liberal States like New York and Delaware. Reasonable people can disagree about the best way to conduct elections, but it is disingenuous to say that something is voter suppression or undemocratic just because you may not agree with it.

I hope we can agree that we all want to make sure that all American voters are able to make their voices heard in our elections. To see that in action, you only have to look at States like Nebraska. We have been a ''no excuse'' State for absentee and early voting for years, which means that anyone who has already provided an ID when registering to vote can vote by mail for any reason whatsoever. In fact, a bill that originally allowed for mail-in voting in Nebraska was the first bill I introduced and passed as a State legislator in 2005.

Many other States go out of their way to make it easy to vote, regardless of which party is in power and regardless of whether they are red States or blue States. That is the beauty of the American system. Each State can do as it sees fit and respond to events like the COVID–19 pandemic while still producing positive reforms. By keeping States free from Federal mandates, we are allowing them to innovate and introduce the changes that work best for them.

Washington, DC, isn't what makes America great. Our 50 States, each with its own history and its own needs, are what make this country so unique.

This bill jeopardizes that diversity, and it would do away with a system that works well and replace it with one that would be partisan, divisive, and, frankly, chaotic.

I think we would be making a terrible mistake if we pass S. 1 as it is currently written.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

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

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 123.

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

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Tommy P. Beaudreau, of Alaska, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 123, Tommy P. Beaudreau, of Alaska, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior.

Charles E. Schumer, Jack Reed, Ben Ray Luján, Michael F. Bennet, Jeanne Shaheen, Alex Padilla, Chris Van Hollen, Debbie Stabenow, Christopher A. Coons, Mark R. Warner, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Brian Schatz, Jacky Rosen, Tammy Baldwin, Mark Kelly, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jeff Merkley.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

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

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 157.

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

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of John K. Tien, of Georgia, to be Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 157, John K. Tien, of Georgia, to be Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security.

Charles E. Schumer, Jack Reed, Ben Ray Luján, Michael F. Bennet, Jeanne Shaheen, Alex Padilla, Chris Van Hollen, Debbie Stabenow, Christopher A. Coons, Mark R. Warner, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Brian Schatz, Tammy Baldwin, Mark Kelly, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jeff Merkley.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, finally, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, June 15, be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

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

The motion was agreed to.

JUNETEENTH NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE DAY ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 475 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 475) to amend title 5, United States Code, to designate Juneteenth National Independence Day as a legal public holiday.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 475) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 475

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 ''Juneteenth National Independence Day Act''.

SEC. 2. JUNETEENTH NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE DAY AS A LEGAL PUBLIC HOLIDAY.

Section 6103(a) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to Memorial Day the following:

''Juneteenth National Independence Day, June 19.''.

JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 269, submitted earlier today.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 269) designating June 19, 2021, as ''Juneteenth Independence Day'' in recognition of June 19, 1865, the date on which news of the end of slavery reached the slaves in the Southwestern States.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, 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. 269) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, thank you. That was the Juneteenth resolution, which we will talk about more tomorrow.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

ELECTIONS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about the need for integrity in our elections.

As I stand here, you know, prices are rising at the pump, and prices are rising at the grocery store. Inflation is the highest it has been basically since the financial crisis 13 years ago.

The number of unfilled jobs is at a record high for our Nation. Small businesses, certainly in my home State in Wyoming and all across the country, have ''help wanted'' signs up; they can't find workers. Some are worried they may have to shut down forever.

We also have a crisis at the southern border. There is a lot happening in America today. Half a million illegal immigrants have crossed our border since Joe Biden took the oath of office to become President of the United States. Now, these are just the illegal immigrants whom we know about.

Since Joe Biden became President, we have seized over 3,200 pounds of fentanyl at our southern border. That is enough fentanyl to kill every man, woman, and child living in America today. That is just one category of drugs, and these are the drugs that we know about. Just imagine what has come into the country that we don't know about.

Yet, despite the critics and the crisis—President Biden has created a crisis, and Democrats, certainly in this body, refuse to raise a finger to bring the crisis to an end. Instead, it seems that the Democrats are focused on only one thing and one thing alone, and that is seizing more power.

We are told Democrats are going to bring a bill to the floor next week on election takeover in America. Now, the majority leader already knows that this bill cannot pass the U.S. Senate. It will not pass because he doesn't even have the support for the votes in his own caucus, and that is because the bill is radical, it is extreme, it is dangerous, and it is scary. It is actually a Federal takeover of elections in America.

Under the Constitution, the times, places, and manner of holding elections is generally up to the States. This bill would flip the constitutional order and flip it upside down and put Congress and Washington in charge of elections, not each of our individual States. It would effectively repeal the election laws in all 50 States.

This Democratic takeover attempt is over 800 pages in length, over 800 pages of mandates. Every page of the bill has one thing in common: makes it easier to cheat. Makes it easier to cheat in elections.

For example, the bill would register people to vote automatically, whether they wanted to be registered or not. Automatic registration. Take everyone they have in databases throughout a State and sign them up.

Now, under this bill, anyone who interacted with a State government would then be registered to vote. Well, this includes a lot of people who aren't legally entitled to vote because they are not U.S. citizens. So these are obviously people who would not be eligible to vote. Doesn't matter to Democrats—register them anyway. Maybe it is just a coincidence that Democrats opened our border before pushing this election takeover, where everybody in a database in a State is registered to vote. Maybe it is not a coincidence.

The bill also endorses something called ballot harvesting. That is where paid political operatives can go door to door and collect hundreds, thousands, tens of thousands of ballots—other people's ballots—and then they get to decide which ballots they are going to turn in. No supervision. No accountability. None. These activists could destroy, tamper, or lose ballots. These activists could do just that. No one would ever know.

Additionally, the bill would force taxpayers to pay for political campaigns. For every small political donation, taxpayers would pay and kick in an additional $6—$6 kicked in by the taxpayers for every $1 of small-dollar donations raised. Much of it is raised online. This is an invitation to money laundering. Activists could spread out donations to get free taxpayer money.

One of my colleagues in the Senate on the Republican side of the aisle looked at this and said: ''Gee.'' Based on fundraising that he has done online, he would be entitled to a check from the government for $30 million. Taxpayers don't want to put that kind of taxpayer dollar behind any candidate, whether they are Republican or Democrat.

Democrats sit here and they claim they want less money in politics. Yet every several years—every 2 years, they outspend the Republicans. Now they want taxpayers to add to the money they are spending. Well, political activists have plenty of money already. They don't need additional taxpayer dollars.

Finally, this bill would ban voter ID. That means when you go to vote and you ask for a ballot—this is what voter ID is. You go to vote, you ask for a ballot, and you have to show an identification card that proves you are who you say you are. Democrats have been trying to eliminate that one for a long, long time. Democrats claim that asking for identification is racist.

The idea that people can't get an ID is absurd. It is condescending. ID is required to check into a hotel. It is required to order a beer at a bar. It is required to buy a pack of cigarettes. It is required to get on an airplane—any airline in America. Voting is a lot more important than any of these things. It is the foundation of our entire system of government. We ought to make it safe, and we ought to make it secure.

During the committee process, Democrats had a chance to fix the bill. Senator HYDE-SMITH from Mississippi said that she would like to take a look at this bill and use the campaign funding instead to help rural hospitals, instead of this matching money of 6 to 1 to candidates. Oh, no. Democrats didn't want any part of that. They want the money.

Senator FISCHER and Senator HAGERTY said that we should delay the date the bill would go into effect. That would prevent a conflict of interest for the Democrats who vote for it, because, in a sense, the Democrats who vote for it would be getting the money themselves. Democrats said: No. No. We want the money.

Senator HYDE-SMITH and Senator CRUZ also tried to remove this ban on voter ID from the bill. Democrats said: Nope. People can show up, say whoever they want to say they are, and get a ballot.

Democrats deny the existence of voter fraud. They claim no irregularities ever happen—not in their elections. So then why are they trying to repeal or eliminate or take over every State voting law in the country?

Truth is, there is a problem with our elections today. Yet the Democratic

bill would make these problems even worse.

A majority of the public says they don't want future elections to look like the last one—special situation, a pandemic. They don't want future elections to look like the last one. The American people want security, and they want integrity. We want to trust that our elections are fair.

That is why I have joined Senator SCOTT of Florida, Senator HYDE-SMITH, and Senator LUMMIS to introduce a bill specifically to give people more confidence in our elections. It is called the Save Democracy Act. Our bill bans vote harvesting. It bans automatic registration. It requires at least a Social Security number to register to vote.

Under our bill, States can't just send out ballots in the mail based on old information. People could still vote by mail, as they do in my home State of Wyoming; they would just need to request a ballot. They wouldn't get a ballot automatically in the mail; they would have to request a ballot so that we know their information is up-to-date. These are the kind of commonsense protections that our elections need. Our bill makes it actually harder to cheat, not easier. The Democrat's bill makes it easier to cheat.

At a time like this, when prices are too high, hiring is too low, the U.S. Senate has important work to do, the things that we hear about when we go home on weekends: What does it cost for gas? What does it cost for groceries? What does it cost to fill up your car?

The American people want us to work on these bread-and-butter issues that affect their daily lives. They don't want this partisan power grab that is going to be voted on in the Senate next week. They also don't want the Senate wasting time on bills that cannot pass.

It is time for the Democrats and the Democratic leader to focus on what the American people are asking us to focus on: bring down inflation, stop paying people more to not work than they would make if they were working, secure our southern border, and leave our elections alone. That is what I hear at home, and I know that many of the Members are hearing the exact same thing as we work here to focus on what should be the future of a better, more prosperous America, not a one-sided America, with a domination of elections based on a law to make it easier to cheat.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, it is no secret that this Senator has been a leader in promoting renewable energy sources. Iowa has done even more to lead the Nation in biofuels production. This leads to a cleaner environment and really increases America's energy independence.

Last week, Reuters reported the Biden administration is considering ways to allow U.S. oil refiners to not meet their biofuel blending requirements. This same administration has proposed hundreds of billions of dollars in subsidies for electric vehicles but failed to include any support for biofuels infrastructure, which play a vital role in our Nation's transportation sector as well as our efforts to reduce greenhouse gases.

Need I remind my colleagues, President Biden promised in his campaign to ''promote and advance renewable energy, ethanol, and other biofuels to help rural America and our nation's farmers.'' President Biden is not keeping that promise.

Unfortunately, despite the administration's emphasis on the environment and climate, their recent actions contradict that and undermine their entire credibility. The biofuel industry has proven that ethanol reduces greenhouse gas emissions from motor fuel by almost half.

Almost every vehicle on the road can run on at least E10 ethanol. Many retailers are now selling more E15 ethanol and other higher blends like E85, if you have a vehicle that can use E85. Whether it is 10 percent, 15 percent, or 85 percent, it is cleaner than 100 percent petroleum.

According to the Energy Information Administration, by 2050, 81 percent of new vehicle sales will still be gas-powered or flex fuel.

In my introductory telephone conversation with EPA Administrator Regan, when he was nominated, he told me that biofuels are a major tool in the Biden administration's plan to combat climate change. I stressed to him at that time the importance of the biofuels industry to both agriculture and energy, and Iowa happens to be the No. 1 producer of ethanol.

No matter what the EPA or Big Oil says about the impact of its waivers to oil companies making billions in profits, farmers and biofuel producers know and feel the negative impact. Any attempt to exempt oil refiners from their biofuels obligation is a blatant bailout.

The law is simple: Blend biofuels or buy credits from those who do. By adding more biofuels to our energy mix, we can reduce emissions from dirty oil while keeping transportation costs low for working families.

Unfortunately, despite the administration's emphasis on environment, it seems like biofuels don't appear to be much of a priority and well short of what nominee at that time, now-EPA Director Regan said that it would be. Now it looks like labor unions have been co-opted by Big Oil, and we are doing their bidding in the White House.

President Biden is now faced with a decision. He can lower greenhouse gases with biofuels or he can side with Big Oil to destroy biofuel demand by illegally tampering with the renewable fuel standard, just as we had problems with previous administrations, both Republican and Democratic—referring to what the Obama and Trump administrations did with the small refineries exemption.

Whether it is labor unions or Big Oil, I won't tire in standing up for homegrown clean biofuels. I did that whether we had Democratic or Republican administrations. I will continue to advocate for Iowans and the biofuels because it strengthens U.S. energy independence, makes for a cleaner environment, and creates jobs in rural America.

I encourage President Biden, EPA Administrator Regan, and my colleagues from across the aisle to keep it clean.

Does President Biden want to be known as ''Big Oil'' Biden? I don't think he does.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 134

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, for more than 100 years, throughout times of change, tumult, and uncertainty, there has been a constant: the special relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom.

The UK has been one of our staunchest and most loyal allies. We have stood beside each other through two World Wars and the Cold War. In the 21st century, the United States and the United Kingdom have become even stronger friends and partners, both in the fight against global terrorism and for freedom, peace, and prosperity.

Now an opportunity lies before us to strengthen the relationship more than ever by securing a free-trade agreement between our two nations, which is the purpose of the resolution before us today. The trading relationship between our countries is already really strong. For hundreds of years, it has been a force for economic prosperity and security for us both.

In just 2019, the total trade in goods and services between our two countries totaled $273 billion, and the United Kingdom was the seventh largest trading partner of the United States in goods. Figures from that same year show that U.S. trade with the United Kingdom resulted in a $21.8 billion trade surplus.

The United States and the United Kingdom, in fact, share the single largest bilateral trade and investment relationship in the world. And now, with the UK's newfound ability to negotiate independent free-trade deals, we have the opportunity to grow that relationship even more.

A free-trade agreement would allow even more goods and services to flow even more easily between our two countries. It would allow for expanded commercial partnerships and greater investments in emerging industries. It would serve as an even greater engine of prosperity and economic liberty on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean.

This is a no-brainer, and it would be a tremendous asset in the midst of the economic and geopolitical challenges we face today. The pandemic and supply chain turmoil have proven that friends are invaluable in a pinch. While many global relationships have been unsteady and many governments don't know what their future trading relationships will look like, the United Kingdom has been a stalwart and secure partner with the United States.

Furthermore, it could not be a better move in the age of great power competition with China. We will not beat China by trying to be like China in imposing centralized command-and-control grips on the economy that will strangle trade and trample free enterprise. Instead, we should do what we have always done best: prioritize free, open, and fair commerce with friendly nations, as the G7 this past weekend confirmed.

At the conclusion of the summit, the group, as a whole, agreed to ''secure our future prosperity by championing freer, fairer trade within a reformed trading system.'' And the United States and the United Kingdom signed a New Atlantic Charter in which both countries committed to take actions ''enabling open and fair trade between nations.''

Securing a mutually beneficial trade agreement with one of our oldest and closest allies would be in the best interest of us all. As President Biden himself recently said: ''America's alliances are our greatest asset, and leading with diplomacy means standing shoulder-to-shoulder with our allies and key partners once again.''

On this point, I could not agree with President Biden more. Congress can seize this opportunity by supporting the resolution before us today. It is a simple, straightforward resolution declaring the sense of the Senate that the United States has and should have a close and mutually beneficial trade relationship with the United Kingdom without interruption and that the President, with the support of Congress, should lay the groundwork for a future trade agreement between the United States and the United Kingdom.

Borrowing a phrase from Prime Minister Boris Johnson, after his first face-to-face meeting with President Biden at the summit this past weekend, the United States-United Kingdom relationship is ''indestructible.'' No two nations have worked more closely together. No two peoples have done more to expand and defend liberty or to achieve peace and prosperity.

Throughout history, this partnership has steadied the world through some of its greatest perils. It can continue to do so today if only we let it. The American and British peoples have the opportunity to once again join forces and emerge from the challenges we face stronger than ever for the benefit of our countries and nations across the globe. To that end, I urge each of my colleagues to support this resolution.

And I ask unanimous consent that the Finance Committee be discharged from further consideration, and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 134. I further ask 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, first, this resolution—and I am just going to make a few key points here—is on the trade agreement with the UK, and it is a question of international trade, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Finance Committee.

The committee has not been consulted on the resolution so Senators have not had adequate time to consider it. Needless to say, the prospect of reshaping the American economy with sweeping trade deals is not something that should just rocket past the committee of jurisdiction.

Second, I have serious concerns about blessing a potential trade agreement with the United Kingdom when the contents of such an agreement are still unknown. I stated a number of times that there are serious issues that need consideration with respect to our economic relationship with the United Kingdom. That cannot happen if the debates play out in a slapdash process on the floor of the Senate.

For example, the United Kingdom has not only proposed but implemented a discriminatory digital service tax since entering negotiations with the United States. What they are doing is opportunistically looting American technology companies before these measures are shut down by an FTA or another agreement. The UK is also considering other discriminatory policies.

The UK must commit to abandoning these unfair policies, which are serious barriers to trade, a detriment to the special relationship, harmful to American workers, as a precondition of honest and worthwhile negotiations.

Otherwise, if Senators are going to rush to hand out big promises on trade talks, they risk surrendering America's negotiating position on these key issues without getting anything in return.

So I don't see the wisdom in undermining good-paying American jobs and American businesses with a trading partner that has thus far seen no reason to back away from discriminatory measures. For those reasons, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I appreciate the comments and the insight provided by my friend and colleague, the distinguished Senator from Oregon.

As to the point regarding our relative negotiating power and the wisdom of approaching this task right now, it is important to remember this resolution doesn't purport to offer the details of any such deal. It calls for a free-trade agreement. There is nothing surrendered by that. There is, however, a lot to be gained by that in signaling that we want to continue to have an open, free, and fair relationship with the United Kingdom.

As to the process concerns articulated by my friend and colleague, while he has expressed some concerns about the process, I must provide some evidence to the contrary.

Over the past year, my staff has communicated with the Senate Finance Committee staff, staff on both sides of the aisle, upward of half a dozen times. They have also pitched changes to assuage concerns about language multiple times but never received any definitive responses.

Furthermore, I have worked with colleagues on the other side of the aisle to craft almost identical draft language on United States-United Kingdom trade that was included in S. Res. 117, on the Good Friday Agreement, which passed before this body without objection. There is no reason why we can't reach a similar compromise on this legislation, and I stand ready and willing to work with my colleague from Oregon to do so.

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, due to a family medical emergency, I was unable to attend today's vote on confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 119, Lina M. Khan, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner. Had I been able to attend, I would have voted yea on confirmation.•

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL BRIAN S. EIFLER

Mr. REED. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and Mr. INHOFE, as the chair and ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and the co-chairs of the Senate Army Caucus, it is our honor to pay tribute to a great leader and an exceptional officer of the U.S. Army MG Brian S. Eifler, the chief of legislative liaison for the Office of the Secretary of the Army, as he prepares to leave this position for a new post in the Army of even greater importance to our Nation. Major General Eifler provides outstanding leadership, advice, and sound professional judgment on numerous critical issues of enduring importance to the Army, Congress, and this Nation.

Major General Eifler has served our Army and our Nation for more than 30 years. A native of Michigan, Major General Eifler was commissioned in 1990 as an infantry officer from Central Michigan University. He has been a true professional, dedicated soldier, leader, and officer. Throughout his career, he has commanded our great soldiers at many levels and deployed to

combat numerous times in defense of the Nation. He has served in various command and staff positions over deployments to Haiti, Iraq, and Afghanistan. He was a platoon leader and civil-military officer in Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti, served multiple combat tours to Afghanistan as a battalion commander during Operation Enduring Freedom, and a battalion operations and executive officer, battalion commander, as well as a division deputy commanding general in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Inherent Resolve.

Major General Eifler's other assignments include service in the 1st Armored Division, 2d Infantry Division, 4th Infantry Division, 10th Mountain Division, 25th Infantry Division, 38th Infantry Division, 82nd Airborne Division, and the 75th Ranger Regiment. In addition to Infantry training, he is a graduate of the United States Command and General Staff College and the United States Army War College.

For the past 30 months, Major General Eifler has implemented and enhanced strategic partnerships with Congress. Through his leadership, the Army significantly advanced relationships with both legislative chambers and improved and broadened congressional support for Army priorities. Major General Eifler managed complex issues through multiple legislative cycles, enabling the Army to receive the necessary resources to take care of its most precious recourse, its people, improve readiness, and accelerate modernization to support combat operations, sustain the All-Volunteer Force, and improve the quality of life for soldiers, Army civilians, and their families.

On behalf of Congress and the United States of America, we thank Major General Eifler, his wife Sherry, and their entire family for their continued commitment, sacrifice, and contributions to this great Nation. We join our colleagues in wishing him future successes as he continues to serve our great Army and Nation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO UNDERSHERIFF GEORGE SKULETICH

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the distinct honor of recognizing Undersheriff George Skuletich of Butte-Silver Bow County as Montanan of the Month for his steadfast service to the Butte community for more than 40 years.

George started as a detention officer at the Butte jail on June 5, 1981, and later was appointed as a Butte police officer in June of 1985. Since that time, he has served as a patrol officer, patrol sergeant, patrol lieutenant, DARE officer, school resource officer, SWAT officer, and patrol captain. He was instrumental in the design and building of the Law Enforcement Center as well as the Butte-Silver Bow Detention Center. George has served as Butte-Silver undersheriff since January of 2013.

George embodies the heart of a Montanan and the public service and dedication of a Montana law enforcement officer. Butte-Silver Bow Sheriff Ed Lester has said if he had to go through a door, not knowing what was on the other side, he would take George with him because he would never leave a fellow officer behind, no matter how bad things got. There is no higher compliment.

George has responded to nearly any type of incident you can think of, from aircraft crashes to bomb threats, and his calm and respectful demeanor has proven him to be a valuable leader. George truly cares about the Montanans he has served. On behalf of a grateful Butte community, I want to thank George for his service to the great State of Montana, and I wish him a peaceful and relaxing retirement.•

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF OREGON TRAIL DAYS

• Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I would like to recognize the 100th anniversary of Oregon Trail Days. This Nebraska tradition honors our State's history as one of the first stops on the Oregon Trail. Settlers would start their journey on the banks of the Missouri River, passing through Kansas before turning north into Nebraska. Their journey took them through hundreds of miles of central and western Nebraska, including past Chimney Rock, the most noted landmark on the Oregon Trail's nearly 2,200 miles.

Oregon Trail Days has commemorated this pioneer history every year since 1921, when it started as a small, 1-day parade. Today, this festival has grown into a 4-day celebration that takes over the town of Gering in the Nebraska Panhandle for 1 weekend each July. Oregon Trail Days has something for everyone: Visitors can enjoy concerts, parades, an arts and crafts fair, sporting events, food shows, car exhibitions, and even a chili cook-off. This is a wonderful opportunity to get together and remember the adventurous spirit of the pioneers who settled our land, and who built strong communities for their families across Nebraska.

Mr. President, I am honored to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Oregon Trail Days here in the Senate. Here is to 100 more years of this beloved tradition.•

TRIBUTE TO JOHN PAYIAVLAS

• Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the achievements of a friend of mine and a great Ohioan, John Payiavlas, who recently celebrated his 90th birthday.

John was born in 1931 to Greek immigrants Anthony and Paraskevi Payiavlas in Warren, Oh. At the age of 20, he was drafted into the U.S. Army and underwent basic training at Fort Riley in Kansas. In 1952, he was deployed to South Korea, where he joined U.N. forces in supporting South Korea as part of Fox Company, 7th Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division. He later transferred to the Greek Expeditionary Force Batallion—one of four Greek Americans to serve in this batallion—and was awarded the Commander's Silver Cross of Valour for his exemplary service. He was honorably discharged in 1953 as sergeant first class.

John and his wife Marisa, who this year will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary, were married 3 years after John returned home to Ohio from the service. In 1960, John purchased a small company called Automatic Vendors, which later became a multimillion-dollar corporation known as AVI Foodsystems. Since its inception, AVI has served customers in more than 6,500 locations across the United States and has become the largest independently owned and operated contract food service company in the Nation. Currently, the company provides vending, institutional dining, and coffee service operations to companies across America.

Today, John Payiavlas runs the company alongside his children, Anthony and Patrice Kouvas. The Payiavlas family has made tremendous contributions to their community, including a generous gift of $500,000 to Youngstown State University for their new sports media center. In 2006, John and his wife were honored with the Cleveland Clinic's Distinguished Fellow Award for their support of the clinic's initiatives, such as the Heart and Vascular Institute, the Taussig Cancer Center, and the Glickman Urological Institute.

John Payiavlas has received numerous accolades for his accomplishments. In 2000, John was inducted into the Business Hall of Fame of Northeast Ohio's Inside Business Magazine. In 2016, he was honored for his service in the Korean war with the Washington Oxi Day Foundation's Jaharis Service Award. In addition, John holds the highest honor in all Christendom for a lay person as an Archon Depoutatos of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, which dates back to the fourth century in the Greek Orthodox Church. The service and achievements of John Payiavlas extend well beyond the State of Ohio, and I applaud the lasting impact his success will have on our future generations.•

REMEMBERING KATHERINE AND ROBERT GARFF

• Mr. ROMNEY. Mr. President, today I rise to pay tribute to the esteemed legacy of Katherine and Bob Garff, two maveriks whose towering achievements in business, politics, religion, and education will continue to benefit Utahns for generations. The Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce has recognized them with the presitigious and well-earned 42nd Giant in our City award.

Bob and Kathi's lifetime commitment to service is aspirational for all and worthy of the highest praise. Their community engagement efforts over many decades have transformed the automobile industry, expanded educational opportunities for young people with the Keys to Success and Road to Success programs, and their support to the University of Utah gave rise to new buildings for business education and athletics. Bob and Kathi's legacy is deeply woven into Utah's fabric of cherished values—prioritizing family, service, education, and the welfare of our future generations.

The Garff family's vast impact on our State is, in part, due to their willingness to serve in positions of leadership and public trust. Kathi served as chair of the Utah State Board of Education and was a board member for the Utah Board of Regents. She also guided education policy on the University of Utah's National Advisory Council, served on the board of the Crimson Club, and was chair of their President's Club.

Bob, too, donated his time to elevating health initiatives as a member of the American Cancer Society and Intermountain Healthcare and boosted Utah's athletic profile on the world stage as chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Salt Lake Organizing Committee for the 2002 Olympic Winter Games. There, I witnessed firsthand Bob's talent for complex problem solving and his compassionate and ethical leadership. His accomplishments also include serving as chairman of the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce and the Deseret Book Company, a board member of First Security Bank, a member of the Salt Lake Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the Utah Commission on Volunteers. As the former speaker of the House of Representatives for the State of Utah, Bob has cemented his legacy of consequential public service for all time.

A celebration of Bob and Kathi Garff would be incomplete without highlighting the significant role of faith in their lives, including their shared commitment to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Over the years, Bob was called to serve as bishop, president of the England Coventry Mission, stake president at the Univeristy of Utah, and president of the Bountiful Temple. May his strong faith guide Bob as we remember and cherish his time with us.

Kathi and Bob's selfless contributions to the welfare of our State will endure through the ages, and Utahns will remember them for their lifetime commitment to public service. Their 5 children, 21 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren carry on the honorable tradition of their beloved Bob and Kathi Garff.●

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL A. SPRAYBERRY

● Mr. TILLIS. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Michael A. Sprayberry, who is retiring as director of the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management, NCEM, and the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency, NCORR. Mr. Sprayberry has served North Carolina for over 42 years and has exemplified the highest standard of leadership, effectiveness, and professionalism, and I thank him for his valued service to our State.

Mr. Sprayberry was born in Atlanta, GA and moved to North Carolina in high school. He went on to serve our Nation in the U.S. Marine Corps and in the North Carolina National Guard for 11 years. In 1979, Mike received his bachelor of science in business administration from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He continued his education and received his master of arts degree in history.

Mike's entire career has been in service to his country and the Sate. During his years of service with the National Guard, he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal with three bronze oak leaf clusters and the North Carolina National Guard Distinguished Service Medal. He received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine in 1998 and was inducted into the North Carolina National Guard's Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame in August of 2011.

In 2005, Director Sprayberry began his career in emergency management as the deputy director and logistics chief. He served in this capacity until 2013, when he was appointed to serve as director under Governor Pat McCrory.

Mr. Sprayberry is the longest serving emergency management director in North Carolina's history. During his tenure, he successfully oversaw the State's response to 19 State declared disasters and 11 federally declared disasters. He has led North Carolina through hurricanes, earthquakes, winter storms, and a pandemic.

Mr. Sprayberry is nationally respected and has served as president of the National Emergency Management Association and is a member of the FEMA National Advisory Council.

Mr. President, thanks to Mike's leadership, North Carolina is better prepared to deal with both natural and man-made disasters. Please join me in thanking Director Mike Sprayberry, his wife, and his daughters for his career in public service and wishing him a joyful retirement.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

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

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

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–1161. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting the report of eighteen (18) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general or major general, as indicated, in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1162. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Cellulose, ethyl ether; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance'' (FRL No. 10023–34–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2021; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–1163. A communication from the General Counsel of the National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a violation of the Antideficiency Act (ADA) and the Administration's disagreement that any ADA violations occurred; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC–1164. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13219 of June 26, 2001, with respect to the Western Balkans; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1165. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13405 of June 16, 2006, with respect to Belarus; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1166. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, a report relative to the issuance of an Executive Order in order to expand the scope of the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13219 of June 26, 2001 with respect to the Western Balkans; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1167. A communication from the Regulatory Specialist, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Role of Supervisory Guidance'' (RIN1557–AE80) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2021; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1168. A communication from the Regulatory Specialist, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Net Stable Funding Ratio: Liquidity Risk Measurement Standards and Disclosure Requirements'' (RIN1557–AD97) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2021; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1169. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,

Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Maine; Infrastructure State Implementation Plan Requirements for the 2015 Ozone Standard and Negative Declaration for the Oil and Gas Industry for the 2008 and 2015 Ozone Standards; Correction'' (FRL No. 10024–76–Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1170. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Pennsylvania; 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards Second Maintenance Plan for the Tioga County Area'' (FRL No. 10023–81–Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1171. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; North Dakota; Revisions to Air Pollution Control Rules; Regional Haze'' (FRL No. 10024–54–Region 8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1172. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.189 Rev 4, 'Fire Protection for Nuclear Power Plants' '' received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1173. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.205 Rev 2, 'Risk-Informed, Performance-Based Fire Protection for Existing Light-Water Nuclear Power Plants' '' received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1174. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.101 Rev 6, 'Emergency Response Planning and Preparedness for Nuclear Power Reactors' '' received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1175. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Indiana; Two Revised Sulfur Dioxide Rules for Lake County'' (FRL No. 10024–65–Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1176. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Florida; Maintenance Plan Update for the Hillsborough County Lead Area'' (FRL No. 10024–49–Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1177. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; California; Eastern Kern Ozone Nonattainment Area; Reclassification to Severe'' (FRL No. 10024–58–Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1178. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Modification of Significant New Uses of Certain Chemical Substances (20–2.M)'' (FRL No. 10022–76–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1179. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revised Cross-State Air Pollution Rule Update for the 2008 Ozone NAAQS; Correction'' (FRL No. 10024–45–OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1180. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (20–5.B)'' (FRL No. 10018–77–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1181. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (20–6.B)'' (FRL No. 10021–77–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1182. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (20–7.B)'' (FRL No. 10021–85–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1183. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Maine; Removal of Reliance on Reformulated Gasoline in the Southern Counties of Maine'' (FRL No. 10024–50–Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1184. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Pennsylvania; 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard Second Maintenance Plan for the Erie Area'' (FRL No. 10023–65–Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1185. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''California: Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions; Final Correction'' (FRL No. 10023–58–Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1186. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; California; San Diego County Ozone Nonattainment Area; Reclassification to Severe'' (FRL No. 10024–30–Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1187. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Implementing Statutory Addition of Certain Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) to the Toxics Release Inventory Beginning with Reporting Year 2021'' (FRL No. 10022–25–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1188. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revised Air Quality Designations for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards'' (FRL No. 10019–90–OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1189. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Strengthening Transparency in Pivotal Science Underlying Significant Regulatory Actions and Influential Scientific Information; Implementation of Vacatur'' (FRL No. 10024–32–ORD) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

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. BROWN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 2048. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to count a period of receipt of outpatient observation services in a hospital toward satisfying the 3-day inpatient hospital requirement for coverage of skilled nursing facility services under Medicare; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. BLUNT, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2049. A bill to require a study and report on the housing and service needs of survivors of trafficking and individuals at risk for trafficking; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Ms. ERNST, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MORAN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 2050. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to remove silencers from the definition of firearms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BROWN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2051. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage for custom fabricated breast prostheses following a mastectomy; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2052. A bill to prohibit biometric surveillance by the Federal Government without explicit statutory authorization and to withhold certain Federal public safety grants from State and local governments that engage in biometric surveillance; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 2053. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to permit the use of incentive payments to expedite certain Federally financed airport development projects; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2054. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to strengthen Federal-State partnerships in postsecondary education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2055. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify and reform rules relating to investigations and whistleblowers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. ERNST:

S. 2056. A bill to require agencies to notify the Director of the Office of Management and Budget when the agency suspends or terminates a Federal award, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. KELLY):

S. 2057. A bill to appropriately limit the size of the population required for urban areas of metropolitan statistical areas; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 2058. A bill to improve the safety and security of members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. FISCHER:

S. 2059. A bill to extend the pilot program of the Department of Veterans Affairs on acceptance by the Department of donated facilities and related improvements; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 2060. A bill to amend disclosure requirements of foreign gifts and contracts under the Higher Education Act of 1965; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. THUNE):

S. 2061. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure coverage of mental health services furnished through telehealth; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 2062. A bill to increase the security of United States rail infrastructure along the North American Interchange Service to the direct and indirect supply of U.S. military and related institutions, to facilitate cross-border trade among the United States, Mexico, or Canada, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. BLUNT):

S. 2063. A bill to award four congressional gold medals to the United States Capitol Police and those who protected the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. 2064. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to issue Clean Energy Victory Bonds; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CASEY, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 2065. A bill to amend title XVI of the Social Security Act to update eligibility for the supplemental security income program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 2066. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to establish an energy efficiency revolving loan fund capitalization grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. COONS, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 2067. A bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to provide procedures for national security exclusion from the United States of articles or components of articles that contain, were produced using, benefits from, or use trade secrets misappropriated or acquired through improper means by a foreign agent or foreign instrumentality, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 2068. 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; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DAINES, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. ERNST, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 2069. A bill to expand the Medicaid certified community behavioral health clinic demonstration program and to authorize funding for additional grants to certified community behavioral health clinics; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 2070. A bill to clarify that noncommercial species found entirely within the borders of a single State are not in interstate commerce or subject to regulation under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 or any other provision of law enacted as an exercise of the power of Congress to regulate interstate commerce; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. KING, and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 2071. A bill to provide grants to States, territories, Puerto Rico , the District of Columbia, and eligible Tribal entities to promote access to affordable, high-speed broadband and digital equity; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. WICKER, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEE, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. THUNE, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. KAINE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. REED, and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. Res. 269. A resolution designating June 19, 2021, as ''Juneteenth Independence Day'' in recognition of June 19, 1865, the date on which news of the end of slavery reached the slaves in the Southwestern States; considered and agreed to.

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

S. Res. 270. A resolution honoring the memory of the fallen heroes of the Granite Mountain Interagency Hotshot Crew; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. Res. 271. A resolution affirming that the United States supports the Eastern Mediterranean Gas Forum and the Eastern Mediterranean gas pipeline; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 96

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) 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 Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 127, a bill to support library infrastructure.

S. 194

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 194, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide treatment for eating disorders for dependents of members of the uniformed services.

S. 282

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 282, a bill to designate a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness.

S. 406

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr.

ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 406, a bill to preserve and protect the free choice of individual employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, or to refrain from such activities.

S. 450

At the request of Mr. BURR, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. 450, a bill to award posthumously the Congressional Gold Medal to Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley.

S. 610

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 610, a bill to address behavioral health and well-being among health care professionals.

S. 652

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 652, a bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish the Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Challenge Grant Program to promote technological innovation in our Nation's communities.

S. 657

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) 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. 692

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) were added as cosponsors of S. 692, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the female telephone operators of the Army Signal Corps, known as the ''Hello Girls''.

S. 766

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 766, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an above-the-line deduction for attorney fees and costs in connection with consumer claim awards.

S. 792

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) were added as cosponsors of S. 792, a bill to amend the Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act of 1999 to modify certain agricultural exemptions for hours of service requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 904

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 904, a bill to require the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works to digitize and make publicly available geographic information system mapping data relating to public access to Federal land and waters for outdoor recreation, and for other purposes.

S. 927

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) 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. 1175

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1175, a bill to categorize public safety telecommunicators as a protective service occupation under the Standard Occupational Classification System.

S. 1362

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 1362, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the Medicare program of pharmacist services.

S. 1388

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1388, a bill to require the Federal Trade Commission to study the role of intermediaries in the pharmaceutical supply chain and provide Congress with appropriate policy recommendations, and for other purposes.

S. 1451

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1451, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to implement policies to end preventable maternal, newborn, and child deaths globally.

S. 1452

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1452, a bill to require a standard financial aid offer form, and for other purposes.

S. 1488

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1488, a bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to establish a basic needs allowance for low-income regular members of the Armed Forces.

S. 1489

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1489, a bill to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to establish an Inspector General of the Office of the United States Trade Representative, and for other purposes.

S. 1512

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1512, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand access to telehealth services, and for other purposes.

S. 1539

At the request of Mr. OSSOFF, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1539, a bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to ensure access to water and food for voters waiting in line at polling stations in Federal elections.

S. 1669

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1669, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to direct the forgiveness or offset of an overpayment of retired pay paid to a joint account for a period after the death of the retired member of the Armed Forces.

S. 1707

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1707, a bill to ensure that the Department of Defense achieves a clean audit opinion on its financial statements.

S. 1848

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1848, a bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of religion, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), and marital status in the administration and provision of child welfare services, to improve safety, well-being, and permanency for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer or questioning foster youth, and for other purposes.

S. 1859

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1859, a bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to require the Secretary concerned to pay a member in the reserve component of an Armed Force a special bonus or incentive pay in the same amount as a member in the regular component of that Armed Force.

S. 1872

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the names of the Senator from Maryland

(Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1872, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States Army Rangers Veterans of World War II in recognition of their extraordinary service during World War II.

S. 1907

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1907, a bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to develop effluent limitations guidelines and standards and water quality criteria for PFAS under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, to provide Federal grants to publicly owned treatment works to implement such guidelines and standards, and for other purposes.

S. 1909

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1909, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to reform requirements with respect to direct and indirect remuneration under Medicare part D, and for other purposes.

S. 2013

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2013, a bill to provide for the coverage of medically necessary food and vitamins and individual amino acids for digestive and inherited metabolic disorder under Federal health programs and private health insurance, to ensure State and Federal protection for existing coverage, and for other purposes.

S. 2047

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2047, a bill to ban the use of intentionally added perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances in cosmetics.

S.J. RES. 10

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 10, a joint resolution to repeal the authorizations for use of military force against Iraq, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION

By Mr. REED (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2054. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to strengthen Federal-State partnerships in postsecondary education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

THE PARTNERSHIPS FOR AFFORDABILITY AND STUDENT SUCCESS ACT

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today, most jobs require some kind of postsecondary credential, whether a certificate, an associate's or bachelor's degree, an advanced or professional degree, or an apprenticeship. Moreover, the workplace is changing with automation, artificial intelligence, and the so-called gig economy transforming the nature of work. These trends have only accelerated in the wake of the pandemic and its economic fallout. That is why I am proud to be introducing the bipartisan Partnerships for Affordability and Student Success (PASS) Act with my colleague, Senator COLLINS.

The pandemic has upended educational opportunities for this generation of students. Unlike previous economic downturns when college enrollment climbed, the National Student Clearinghouse is reporting the largest decline in college enrollment in over a decade, with low-income and community college students experiencing the sharpest declines. For too many Americans, postsecondary education seems increasingly risky or out of reach.

The Federal government cannot solve the crisis on its own. States are critical partners in making college accessible, affordable, equitable, and accountable. However, State funding for higher education is lower today than it was before the onset of the Great Recession. According to the latest State Higher Education Finance report published by the State Higher Education Executive Officers, public colleges and universities have become more reliant on tuition dollars for their operations. Today, in half of the States, tuition accounts for more than half of all higher education revenue. Moreover, the only Federal-State partnership program for need-based financial aid—the Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership (LEAP) program—has not received appropriations since Fiscal Year 2010

It is time to renew the Federal-State partnership for higher education, first enacted in 1972 on a bipartisan basis. The PASS Act will revitalize the Federal-State partnership through a formula grant to States with a focus on need-based aid, grants to institutions to improve student outcomes and reduce college costs, and public accountability.

In exchange for this new Federal investment, States must make a commitment to maintain their investment in higher education and have a comprehensive plan for higher education with measurable goals for access, affordability, and student outcomes. At least half of the funding must be dedicated to need-based student financial aid. States also have the option of awarding grants to colleges and universities or partnerships between institutions of higher education and non-profit organizations to improve student outcomes, including enrollment, completion, and employment, and to develop innovative methods for reducing college costs. I am pleased to have the support of the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs, the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, the Association of Community College Trustees, and the Bipartisan Policy Center.

This generation is facing a crisis in college affordability and student loan debt. With the PASS Act, we seek to provide the resources and incentives for States to take more responsibility to address college affordability and student loan debt and improve student outcomes. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation and look forward to working with them to include these and other key reforms in the upcoming reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. KELLY):

S. 2057. A bill to appropriately limit the size of the population required for urban areas of metropolitan statistical areas; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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

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

S. 2057

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 ''Metropolitan Statistical Area Preservation Act''.

SEC. 2. POPULATION OF URBAN AREAS.

Section 3504 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(1) In implementing subsection (e)(3), the Director—

''(1) shall not establish, for purposes of designating areas as metropolitan statistical areas, or any successor thereto, a minimum population for the urban area of such a metropolitan statistical area that is more than 50,000; and

''(2) may, only for statistical purposes, and in addition to the minimum population for urban areas described in paragraph (1), establish other statistical area designations with minimum population requirements for urban

areas that are higher than the minimum population for an urban area described in paragraph (1).''.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 2058. A bill to improve the safety and security of members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to print my bill for introduction in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. The bill's purpose is to improve the safety and security of members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 2058

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 ''Servicemember Safety and Security Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF MISSING PERSONS REPORTING.—The Secretary of Defense shall instruct the Secretary of each military department to undertake a comprehensive review of the department's policies and procedures for reporting members of the Armed Forces absent without leave, on unauthorized absence, or missing.

(b) REVIEW OF INSTALLATION-LEVEL PROCEDURES.—The head of each military installation command shall—

(1) direct each military installation under its command to review its policies and procedures for carrying out the reporting activities described under subsection (a); and

(2) update such installation-level policies and procedures with a view towards force protection, enhanced security for members of the Armed Forces living on base, and prioritizing reporting at the earliest reasonable time to local law enforcement at all levels, and Federal law enforcement field offices with overlapping jurisdictions with military installations, when members are determined to be missing.

(c) INSTALLATION-SPECIFIC REPORTING PROTOCOLS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.— The commander of each military installation shall establish a protocol for sharing information with local and Federal law enforcement agencies about members of the Armed Forces that are absent without leave, on unauthorized absence, or missing. The protocol shall provide, by memorandum of understanding (MOU) or otherwise, for the commander to immediately notify all local and Federal law enforcement agencies with jurisdictions in the immediate area of the military installation when the status of a member assigned to such installation has been changed to absent without leave, on unauthorized absence, or missing.

(2) REPORTING TO MILITARY INSTALLATION COMMAND.—The commander of each military installation shall submit the protocol established pursuant to paragraph (1) to the relevant military installation command.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 269—DESIGNATING JUNE 19, 2021, AS ''JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY'' IN RECOGNITION OF JUNE 19, 1865, THE DATE ON WHICH NEWS OF THE END OF SLAVERY REACHED THE SLAVES IN THE SOUTHWESTERN STATES

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. WICKER, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEE, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. THUNE, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. KAINE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. REED, and Mr. WARNOCK) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 269

Whereas news of the end of slavery did not reach the frontier areas of the United States, in particular the State of Texas and the other Southwestern States, until months after the conclusion of the Civil War, more than 2½ years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863;

Whereas, on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War had ended and the enslaved were free;

Whereas African Americans who had been slaves in the Southwest celebrated June 19, commonly known as ''Juneteenth Independence Day'', as inspiration and encouragement for future generations;

Whereas African Americans from the Southwest have continued the tradition of observing Juneteenth Independence Day for more than 150 years;

Whereas Juneteenth Independence Day began as a holiday in the State of Texas and is now celebrated in 48 States and the District of Columbia as a special day of observance in recognition of the emancipation of all slaves in the United States;

Whereas Juneteenth Independence Day celebrations have been held to honor African-American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures;

Whereas the faith and strength of character demonstrated by former slaves and the descendants of former slaves remain an example for all people of the United States, regardless of background, religion, or race;

Whereas slavery was not officially abolished until the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States in December 1865; and

Whereas, over the course of its history, the United States has grown into a symbol of democracy and freedom around the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 19, 2021, as ''Juneteenth Independence Day'';

(2) recognizes the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day to the United States;

(3) supports the continued nationwide celebration of Juneteenth Independence Day to provide an opportunity for the people of the United States to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped the United States; and

(4) recognizes that the observance of the end of slavery is part of the history and heritage of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 270—HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE FALLEN HEROES OF THE GRANITE MOUNTAIN INTERAGENCY HOTSHOT CREW

Mr. KELLY (for himself and Ms. SINEMA) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 270

Whereas the Granite Mountain Interagency Hotshot Crew (referred to in this preamble as the ''Granite Mountain Hotshots'') was organized within the Prescott, Arizona, Fire Department;

Whereas the Granite Mountain Hotshots was originally formed in 2002 as a fuels mitigation crew, but later transitioned to a hotshot crew in 2008, becoming the first municipal hotshot crew in the United States;

Whereas the mission of the Granite Mountain Hotshots was to perform physically demanding fireline work in hazardous conditions, on difficult terrain, and in extreme heat;

Whereas, on June 28, 2013, lightening ignited the Yarnell Hill Fire on a ridge west of the community of Yarnell, Arizona;

Whereas, on June 30, 2013, 19 firefighters of the Granite Mountain Hotshots gave their lives battling the Yarnell Hill Fire in Yavapai County, Arizona, including—

(1) Eric Marsh, 43, who served as the superintendent of the Granite Mountain Hotshots;

(2) Jesse Steed, 36;

(3) Clayton Whitted, 28;

(4) Robert Caldwell, 23;

(5) Travis Carter, 31;

(6) Christopher MacKenzie, 30;

(7) Travis Turbyfill, 27;

(8) Andrew Ashcraft, 29;

(9) Joe Thurston, 32;

(10) Wade Parker, 22;

(11) Anthony Rose, 23;

(12) Garret Zuppiger, 27;

(13) Scott Norris, 28;

(14) Dustin DeFord, 24;

(15) William ''Billy'' Warneke, 25;

(16) Kevin Woyjeck, 21;

(17) John Percin, Jr., 24;

(18) Grant McKee, 21; and

(19) Sean Misner, 26;

Whereas the Yarnell Hill Fire resulted in—

(1) the largest wildland firefighter loss of life in 80 years;

(2) the sixth deadliest firefighter tragedy in the history of the United States; and

(3) the greatest loss of life for fire services in the United States since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001;

Whereas, on July 9, 2013, thousands of people attended a memorial service held in Prescott Valley, Arizona, including then-Vice President Joseph R. Biden and representatives from more than 100 hotshot crews from across the United States; and

Whereas the memory of each fallen firefighter is honored at the Granite Mountain Hotshots Memorial State Park, which was dedicated in 2016: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the memory of the fallen heroes of the Granite Mountain Interagency Hotshot Crew of the Prescott, Arizona, Fire Department;

(2) extends its deepest condolences and sympathy to the surviving families of the 19 firefighters lost in the line of duty; and

(3) commends the bravery and sacrifice made by these fallen wildland firefighters in the service of their communities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 271—AFFIRMING THAT THE UNITED STATES SUPPORTS THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN GAS FORUM AND THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN GAS PIPELINE

Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. BARRASSO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 271

Whereas, on January 14, 2019, the representatives from Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, and the Palestinian Authority convened in Cairo, Egypt to discuss establishing the Eastern Mediterranean Gas Forum (EMGF);

Whereas, on December 20, 2019, the United States Congress passed the Eastern Mediterranean Security and Energy Partnership Act of 2019 (title II of division J of Public Law 116–94) , which states it is the policy of the United States to promote and deepen energy security cooperation and development between Greece, Cyprus, and Israel and to support the Eastern Mediterranean Pipeline;

Whereas, on January 2, 2020, Israel, Greece, and Cyprus signed an agreement to build an Eastern Mediterranean pipeline to connect the Eastern Mediterranean energy market to southern Europe;

Whereas, on January 16, 2020, Egypt hosted a forum with representatives of Cyprus, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, and the Palestinian Authority to finalize the framework for launching the EMGF;

Whereas, on September 23, 2020, the six member states of the EMGF held a signing ceremony that formally transformed the forum into a regional intergovernmental organization based in Cairo, Egypt;

Whereas, on December 16, 2020, the United Arab Emirates joined the EMGF and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi said ''the UAE will contribute to the forum's activities to serve strategic interests and enhance cooperation and partnership between the forum countries'';

Whereas, on March 1, 2021, the EMGF Statute entered into force;

Whereas, on March 9, 2021, the EMGF accepted France as a member;

Whereas the United States and the European Union are permanent observers of the EMGF;

Whereas a vibrant regional gas market will promote prosperity and provide a sustainable path for economic development;

Whereas the EMGF promotes technical and market collaboration in energy, including by ensuring a competitive price for natural gas, the development of new energy technologies, and increased cooperation on cyber security;

Whereas the EMGF and the Eastern Mediterranean Pipeline will provide European nations with robust energy alternatives and decrease reliance on the Russian Federation;

Whereas the United States has been a steadfast supporter of the creation of the EMGF as well as the agreement between Israel, Greece, and Cyprus to support the completion of the Eastern Mediterranean pipeline;

Whereas Dan Brouillette, then-United States Secretary of Energy, notes the ''immense benefits that natural gas will bring to the region, but to growing markets around the world'';

Whereas Frank Fannon, then-United States Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Resources, echoes that ''energy resources are a catalyst for cooperation'';

Whereas George Lakkotrypis, then-Minister of Energy, Commerce, Industry and Tourism of the Republic of Cyprus, said that ''U.S. support in creating an Eastern Mediterranean corridor is profound and solid'';

Whereas Tarek El-Molla, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources of the Arab Republic of Egypt, stated, ''The EMGF will be acknowledged throughout history as a unique and bold endeavor, since it aspires to become an exemption to the historic norm of perceiving our current and prospective energy wealth as a motivation for conflict'';

Whereas Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Prime Minister of Greece, stated that the Eastern Mediterranean Pipeline ''is a pipeline for peace and cooperation between the peoples of the region'';

Whereas Yuval Steinitz, Minister of Energy of the State of Israel, said the EMGF ''brings regional cooperation with Arab and European countries, the first of its kind in history'';

Whereas Hala Zawati, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, stated, ''Within the Eastern Mediterranean and utilizing our gas resources and infrastructure—cooperating and working together, given all the challenges, became a must. We believe that this platform will serve to enhance dialogue between countries to reach a clear regional vision, a vision that translates into policies for a sustainable regional gas market in the Eastern Mediterranean.''; and

Whereas the EMGF is part of a growing network of regional agreements and frameworks that provide the basis for long-term peace and cooperation on vital issues related to diplomatic engagement, collective security, economic growth, and energy development, including the Abraham Accords, signed on September 15, 2020, by the United States, Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) celebrates the establishment of the Eastern Mediterranean Gas Forum and congratulates the members for their success in building an international forum to advance Eastern Mediterranean energy;

(2) commends the members for demonstrating a commitment to multilateral cooperation leading to mutual economic and energy security;

(3) recognizes the historical significance of Jewish, Arab, and Christian peoples working together to advance prosperity and security within the region;

(4) notes the strategic importance of the Eastern Mediterranean pipeline in enhancing European energy security and decreasing reliance on Russian energy exports; and

(5) calls on all states to support the Eastern Mediterranean Gas Forum and the Eastern Mediterranean Pipeline.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I have 10 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

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

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AIRLAND

The Subcommittee on Airland of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ANTITRUST, COMPETITION POLICY AND CONSUMER RIGHTS

The Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights of the Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OUTDOOR TOURISM, RECREATION & ECOTOURISM

The Subcommittee on Outdoor Tourism, Recreation & Ecotourism of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Lt. Samuel Krakower, a U.S. Coast Guard fellow with my staff, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of this Congress.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 2021

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, June 16; 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 proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Fox nomination; further, that the cloture vote on the Griggsby nomination occur immediately following the cloture vote on the Fox nomination, and that if cloture is invoked on either nomination, the confirmation votes occur at 3:15 p.m. in the order that cloture was invoked; finally, that if any of the nominations are confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. WYDEN. 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 5:43 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, June 16, 2021, at 10:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BUILDING SCIENCES

WILLIAM E. HOLLOWAY, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BUILDING SCIENCES FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 7, 2021, VICE MARY B. VERNER, TERM EXPIRED.

WILLIAM E. HOLLOWAY, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BUILDING SCIENCES FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 7, 2024. (REAPPOINTMENT)

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

AMANDA HOWE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, VICE CRAIG HOOKS, RESIGNED.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PALOMA ADAMS–ALLEN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, VICE BONNIE GLICK.

ISOBEL COLEMAN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, VICE JENNY A. MCGEE.

FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION SERVICES

JAVIER RAMIREZ, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION DIRECTOR, VICE RICHARD GIACOLONE.

THE JUDICIARY

TOVAH R. CALDERON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE KATHRYN A. OBERLY, RETIRED.

KENIA SEOANE LOPEZ, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE RONNA LEE BECK, RETIRED.

JIA M. COBB, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, VICE EMMET G. SULLIVAN, RETIRED.

SARAH A.L. MERRIAM, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT, VICE JANET C. HALL, RETIRED.

SARALA VIDYA NAGALA, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT, VICE VANESSA LYNNE BRYANT, RETIRED.

FLORENCE Y. PAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, VICE KETANJI BROWN JACKSON, RESIGNING.

MYRNA PEREZ, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT, VICE DENNY CHIN, RETIRED.

OMAR ANTONIO WILLIAMS, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT, VICE ALVIN W. THOMPSON, RETIRED.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. PAUL T. CALVERT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. PAUL A. CHAMBERLAIN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. DONNA W. MARTIN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. HALDANE B. LAMBERTON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. JOSEPH A. DINONNO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL N. ADAME
BRIG. GEN. JOSEPH R. BALDWIN
BRIG. GEN. RONALD W. BURKETT II
BRIG. GEN. HENRY S. DIXON
BRIG. GEN. JOHN J. DRISCOLL
BRIG. GEN. KEVIN W. GALLAGHER
BRIG. GEN. JOHN D. HAAS
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL K. HANIFAN
BRIG. GEN. SHAWN A. HARRIS
BRIG. GEN. JON M. HARRISON
BRIG. GEN. DAVID M. JENKINS
BRIG. GEN. KIPLING V. KAHLER
BRIG. GEN. MOSES KAOIWI, JR.
BRIG. GEN. STEVEN T. KING
BRIG. GEN. RICHARD J. LEBEL
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL J. LEENEY
BRIG. GEN. MARK A. MERLINO
BRIG. GEN. STEPHEN E. OSBORN
BRIG. GEN. ROGER A. PRESLEY, JR.
BRIG. GEN. JERRY F. PROCHASKA
BRIG. GEN. JAVIER A. REINA
BRIG. GEN. ADAM R. SILVERS
BRIG. GEN. TIMOTHY J. WINSLOW

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. ROBERT A. BOYETTE
BRIG. GEN. JIMMIE L. COLE, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL J. GARSHARK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. DAMIAN K. WADDELL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. MARK G. ALESSIA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. ROSE P. KERAVUORI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. MARK T. SIMERLY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. CHRISTOPHER A. HOLLAND
COL. KEVIN W. LOCHTEFELD
COL. CRISTINA M. MOORE
COL. BRIAN H. PFARR
COL. WARNER A. ROSS II
COL. CHAD E. STONE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. DEREK L. ADAMS
COL. ANDREW C. ANDERSON
COL. TROY E. ARMSTRONG
COL. FREDERICK W. BATES V
COL. LAVETTA L. BENNETT
COL. JAMES W. BIBB
COL. JOHN B. BOWLIN
COL. SEAN T. BOYETTE
COL. FELICIA BROKAW
COL. STEPHEN M. BURGGRAFF
COL. JELORA J. COMAN
COL. DAVID A. DAILEY
COL. MARLENA A. DECELLE
COL. JONATHAN S. EBBERT
COL. JONATHAN J. ERICKSON
COL. MICHAEL D. EVANS
COL. TOD M. FENNER
COL. RICHARD D. FERGUSON
COL. ROBERT J. FERRY, JR.
COL. JAMES R. FIDLER
COL. GLENN H. FINCH
COL. GREGORY D. FIX
COL. RODNEY K. GINTER
COL. JOSEPH W. GREEN
COL. JEFFREY S. HACKETT
COL. KEVIN T. HAMM
COL. SCOTT J. HARTMAN
COL. DENNIS R. HAWTHORNE
COL. JAMISON A. HERRERA
COL. CRAIG A. HOLAN
COL. MICHAEL A. HONEYCUTT
COL. JOSEPH A. HOPKINS III
COL. ROBERT W. HUGHES, JR.
COL. JOSEPH M. HUSS
COL. MICHAEL A. IZZO
COL. STEPHEN P. JONES
COL. MICHAEL J. KARWATKA
COL. CLAYTON E. KUETEMEYER
COL. JOHN D. LAING
COL. JOSEPH D. LEAR
COL. TOMMY C. LEEPER
COL. DEBRA K. LIEN
COL. JUSTIN L. MANN
COL. DAVID D. MCGRAW, JR.
COL. CHRIS A. MCKINNEY
COL. ELIZABETH B. MCLAUGHLIN
COL. ALEXANDER V. MCLEMORE
COL. KEVIN D. MCMAHAN
COL. RICHARD F. MIFSUD II
COL. JOE H. MILLER II
COL. LOUIS B. MILLIKAN
COL. ROBERT A. MITCHELL
COL. PATRICK R. MONAHAN
COL. JOHN D. MORGEN
COL. JASON P. NELSON
COL. JEFFREY A. NORRIS
COL. ROBERT W. O'CONNELL
COL. PAUL S. PETERS
COL. MICHAEL S. PEYERL
COL. DAVID M. PIDONE
COL. JOHN R. PIPPY
COL. JAMES A. REED
COL. MILLARD G. REEDY IV
COL. MOSES P. ROBINSON II
COL. ROBERT J. RODGERS
COL. GARY A. ROPERS
COL. WALTER R. ROSS, JR.
COL. STEVEN M. ROWE
COL. EDITH C. SAILOR
COL. PAUL W. SCHNEIDER
COL. LELAND T. SHEPHERD
COL. DOUGLAS L. SIMON
COL. JEFFERY M. SMITH
COL. PATRICK D. STAPLETON
COL. MATTHEW J. STRUB
COL. JONATHAN M. STUBBS
COL. TYSON Y. TAHARA

COL. TIMOTHY J. TOMCHO
COL. JAMES H. TREECE
COL. BENJAMIN S. VALENTINE
COL. JEFFREY WATKINS
COL. DENISE L. WILKINSON
COL. GERARD B. WILLIAMS II
COL. TERI D. WILLIAMS
COL. TIMOTHY A. WOOD
COL. MATTHEW S. WOODRUFF

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. MAX G. MCCOY, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

VICE ADM. WILLIAM R. MERZ

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL OF THE NAVY AND APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 8088:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. DARSE E. CRANDALL, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. FRANCIS D. MORLEY

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

JEANNETTE M. WATTERSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be colonel

JASON O. ALLEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be colonel

CONNIE IRENE ARMSTRONG
JOSHUA DAVID ARMSTRONG
IGNACIO ALFREDO ASSAF
ROXELLEN ANTOINETT AULETTO
NEILS C. BARNER
DANIELLE J. BARRASS
BRETT MATTHEW BATICK
DARREN PAUL BEMIS
KEITH ROBERT BENKO
MICHAEL J. BERENS
LEE RYAN BOUMA
ELIZABETH ANNE K. BRIENZA
MICHELLE MARIE BUONOME
ROSE CALARRUDO
JEFFREY DONALD CANNET
ADAM MICHAEL CARLSON
JAN R. CARLSON
FRANK VICTOR CASAVANT
EDUARDO CASTANEDA, JR.
CARISSA LYNN CHRISTENSEN
GEORGE ANDREW CHRISTOPH
JENNIFER BETH CINQMARS
CHRISTOPHER ALLEN CLOUTIER
COLLIN PATRICK COATNEY
DAVID P. COOPER
KENT J. CRANE
CHRISTOPHER P. CULLEN
LESLIE S. DAVIDSON
ANTHONY S. DAVIS
KRISTIN TERESE DEJARLAIS
CHRISTOPHER M. DOMITROVICH
ARTIS AARON DOUGLASS
BENJAMIN ALEXANDER DOYLE
MICHAEL PAUL DUNYAK
BRENT D. DUPPER
JOHN CHARLES EASLEY
NICHOLAS EMILE FERNANDO
STEPHANIE STINE FIGUEROA
PHILIP O. FORLENZA
CHAD DOUGLAS FORREST
JASON PRYCE FOSTER
K JUSTIN JACK GALLI
CHRISTOPHER ANDREW GAMBLE
ASHELEIGH OTTOBONI GELLNER
MATTHEW JUSTIN GOETTEN
TIMOTHY W. GRADY
BRIAN JOEL GUNDERSON
MICHELLE I. HAGEL
JESSICA L. HASTINGS
EMILE HUGO HAWKINS, SR.
JASON M. HORN
RYAN COWAN HURT
JAY PHILLIP JACKSON
JOHN D. JIMENEZ
JAMES EDWARD JONES
THOMAS MICHAEL KELLY
GLENN ALLYN KING
MATTHEW WESTON KOPP
GARY T. LAUBACH
JAMES THOMAS LAYTON, JR.
JOSEPH WILLIAM LEONARD
BRIAN DANIEL LEPINE
MITCH ALLEN LONG
STEVEN M. LOWENSTEIN
ANTHONY KEITH MAREK
CHARLES C. MERKEL
SELICIA M. MITCHELL
EUGENE RUPERT MOZZONI
AMY ZIEGLER MUNDELL
TERI D. NEELY
JAMES MONTI OAKSFORD
THOMAS ALBERT OBROCHTA
RONALD WILLIAM OLIVER
TREVOR JUSTIN ORSINGER
DONALD RAYMOND OSHELL, JR.
KARL OSCAR PALMBERG
MICHAELA ANN PARSEL
DILLON R. PATTERSON
MARGARET PICCOLO
JHONNY A. POLANCO
MARK RALPH PRETE
THOMAS A. PRIES
RYAN W. RICHARDSON
KIMBERLY D. RIZO
JAMES P ROTH II
THOMAS LAWRENCE SALSBURY
LYNN KATE SAMMS
JOSEPH DONALD SANDUK
JOEL DONALD SATTAZAHN
CHRISTINA M. SCHMOKER
JOHN CHARLES SCOTT
DAVID JASON SHATTLS
JEFFREY B. SHAW
WILLIAM J. SHNOWSKE
JENNIFER L. SILBERNAGEL
RICHARD S. SMITH
SUZANNE R. SMITH
WILLIAM NATHANTERR SMITH
JEREMY ALAN SPARKS
THOMAS PATRICK STAUFFER
SANDRA DENISE STOQUERT
NATASHA SMITH TAYLOR
NEIL MICHAEL THEISEN
KIPP N. THOMPSON
ERIC ALLEN UNDERHILL
ADAM JAMES VERNADAKIS
BRIAN ANTHONY VITETTA
LEAH VIOLET VOELKER
JOSEPH PAUL WALTER
LISA G. WEAVER
TANYA ANNE WEHRLI
SAMUEL S. WILSON
KEVIN S. YOKLEY

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

DAVID R. EVANS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

NICOLLETTE A. DENNIS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

WALDO D. GALAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

ROGER W. DODSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C. SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

CHASE D. CRABTREE
TRAVIS H. OWEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

DONALD A. VACHA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

MICHAEL E. LANE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

TIMOTHY J. REDHAIR

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C. SECTION 624:

To be major

BRYCE E. LVINGSTON
GREGORY K. PERSLEY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY NURSE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

To be colonel

MARIA I. BRUTON
JOVITTA CHANDLER
ROBERT L. CORSON
PAMELA A. DIPATRIZIO
GEOFFREY W. DUNCKLEE
KEVIN A. GOKE
KENNETH R. GORE
JAMES B. HACKER
TODDY F. INGRAM
JAMES C. KESLER
MARY M. MARAN
PATRICK R. MARLOW
JOSHUA D. PAUL
DANIELLE K. RODONDI
GERRY P. SHARP
PAUL J. SINQUEFIELD
GUY G. STLOUIS
CATHERINE C. TO
CHRISTOPHER A. VANFOSSON
LATONYA R. WALKER
JESSICA J. WHALEY
YOUNG J. YAUGER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

To be colonel

RYAN S. BIBLE
FRANK C. BLAKE
KYLE P. BOURQUE
AARON J. BRAXTON II
CHRISTINA M. BUCHNER
PAUL B. CARBY
KATHLEEN M. CHUNG
CHARLES L. DOUGLAS
LIQUORI L. ETHERIDGE
SCOTT M. FARLEY
JASON B. FAULKENBERRY
SAMUEL L. FRICKS
MATTHEW C. GEIMAN
ELIZABETH R. GUM
TERESA S. HINNERICHS
JASON W. HUGHES
ALISHA F. HUTSON
ALBERT E. KINKEAD
MARA KREISHMANDEITRICK
PAUL D. LANG
ANTHONY J. MARINOS
JASON R. MATHRE
JAY A. MCFARLAND
DARRYL M. METCALF
JOHN T. NUCKOLS
MARY I. RIVERACOLON
KARA E. SCHMID
DONALD W. SEXTON
JOHN W. TAYLOR
RYAN D. TRUMBO
JAMA D. VANHORNESEALY
APRIL R. VERLO
JASON C. WILLIAMS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SPECIALIST CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

To be colonel

AVERY J. CARNEY
RANDOLPH S. HARRISON
NICHELLE A. JOHNSON
LISA N. KONITZER
KANE D. MORGAN
CHRISTOPHER C. PASE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY VETERINARY CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

To be colonel

ROBIN L. BURKE
MATTHEW A. LEVINE
JUSTIN R. SCHLANSER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY NURSE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

To be major

BRENTON A. ARIHOOD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

TRACY R. NORMAN

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

JACLYN N. URSO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

PAUL J. GOGUEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

BENJAMIN E. BARR

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

KELLY L. BYRNE
SEAN P. CAULFIELD
WESTON R. COBY
STEPHEN M. FLEET
THOMAS M. FREISMUTH, JR.
JESSICA A. GARRETT
DAVID J. LORFELD
CHRISTOPHER J. MERRIAM
AARON M. MORRONE
THOMAS P. NEWMAN
RICHARD B. RAINER
NICOLAAS A. VERHOEVEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

JOHN A. ALLEN
LANCE A. ALT
MILES G. ALVAREZ
JOSHUA M. ANGICHIODO
PETER D. BARKLEY
MARK J. BERGEM
DAVID W. COURTNEY
BRIAN C. DEMBINSKI
JOSHUA J. DUGAN
ADAM M. FARBER
NATHANIEL J. HAYES
NICHOLAS F. JENSEN
KYLE E. MILLER
NATHANIEL S. NEWSOM
STEPHANIE R. PENDINO
ALEXIS M. POSPISCHIL
SHELLEY D. PULLIAM
RICHARD H. PYFROM
DANIEL S. RHAME, JR.
ALEXANDER RIOS
MICHAEL A. SCHMIDT
ROBERT S. STEWART
CAMERON R. THOMAS
TIMBERON C. VANZANT
BRADLEY J. WILLIFORD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

JORDAN M. ADLER
FRANK P. AGCAOILI
LAQUIDA R. BARNETT
GILBERT R. BAUGHN
RHETT Z. BEGLEY
QUINZELL T. BROWN
RICHARD H. BURTON
CHARLES M. CASTEVENS
JOSHUA C. DENNIS
CHARLES S. E. ELLIOTT
BRIAN C. FIELDS
VANESSA I. FORREST
STEPHEN N. GAETKE
BRYAN K. HARRIS
JOSEPH K. HELKER
BRUCE W. HILL
BRUCE L. HUNT
ELIZABETH E. HUNTOON
BRIAN J. LEE
JEREMY V. LIVINGSTON
SCOTT A. LUDWIG
GREGORY S. MILLER
DANIEL S. MINTZER
JIMMY J. PAVELKA
JACK L. SHIS
JOHN R. VANASSCHE
RYAN T. WADINGTON
CHRISTOPHER D. WEDDELL
BRIAN P. WORDEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

KYLE C. BACHMAN
CANDACE M. BRUEGGEMAN
JUSTINE A. CACCAMO
KENNY L. CASWELL
RHIANNON L. CROTHERS
WESLEY R. CURTIS
JAMES A. FOX, JR.
MICHAEL C. GARTNER
REBEKAH D. GERBER
JASON K. GREGOIRE
KEVIN A. HOADLEY
ADAM P. HUDSON
RICHARD F. JENSEN
DANE E. JOHNSON
DANIEL G. KERN
KEVIN N. LAMPING
KURTIS A. LOBAUGH
ABBY K. LORFELD
DANIEL W. MCILVAINE
TOLULOPE E. OBRIEN
AMY E. PEEBLES
DAVID J. RIVERA
SAMUEL M. ROBERTS
CAROLINE M. SEIDER
GREGORY R. STORWICK
ANTONIO R. SWAIN
GEORGE T. WHITTLE
ROSS E. WOLTJER
MICHAEL B. ZIMET

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

ASHLEY S. M. MCABEE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

ANTONIO BARCELOS, JR.
WILLIAM M. BARKSDALE
JASON L. BLICKENS
ADAM D. CHAMBERS
QUENTIN M. COOPER
MICHAEL W. EFIRD
TODD M. GRAHEK
JEFFERY D. HANSON
MICHAEL J. HARMON
JASON R. HINKLEY
TODD A. KAMINS
ART K. PALALAY
RICARDO M. TOVAR
ALFRED J. WILLIAMS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

CHRISTOPHER M. ANCTIL
ERIC D. BROOKS
JAMES B. GALLAGHER
ROGER L. HEGGS, JR.
MATTHEW G. LAWRENCE
ANTHONY W. OXENDINE, JR.
JEFFREY T. SMITH
MARVIN L. WILSON
ALAN W. YOUNG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

JEMAR R. BALLESTEROS
GALO A. CAVALCANTI
CLINTON T. CERALDE
RYAN T. DAILEY
MICHAEL R. DICKENSON
JAMIE P. DRAGE
DAVID A. HOOPER
SUZANNE L. HOPKINS
RICHARD A. JARCHOW, JR.
EMILY A. LAPP
KYRA D. LASSITER
CHRISTOPHER Z. MATTHEWS
ERIK E. MOSS
RYAN C. ROELING
EVITA M. SALLES
TIMOTHY S. SHAFFER
JEROD A. TABER
ADAM P. WALSKI
EMILY K. WILSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

MARCO A. ACOSTA
BRANDON J. ADAMS
THOMAS M. ADAMS
RAYMOND J. AHAUS
RICHARD A. ALI
STANLEY E. ALLEN, JR.
JONATHAN R. ALLMOND
JOSEPH J. AMES
VERONICA A. ANDERSON
AARON M. ANDERSON
JONANDREW D. ANDERSON
TOY W. ANDREWS
JAMES A. ANGEL
CHRISTINA C. APPLEMAN
ANTHONY S. ARDITO
RAYMOND B. AUBUCHON
MICHAEL J. AUSTIN
DEREK L. BADER
RAYMOND T. BALL, JR.
JAMES R. BARBER III
VICTOR A. BARGER
TIMOTHY S. BARRY
JOHN J. BARTIS
BRUCE BATTESON
JASON R. BAUMANN
CALVIN S. BEADS
TODD M. BEATTY
ROBERT T. BENEDICT
MATTHEW P. BENNETT
ANDREA L. BENVENUTO
STEVEN B. BETTIS
KEITH A. BIERMAN
BRIAN T. BITTNER
MATHIEW K. BLANDIN
DAVID S. A. BLAS
CARL R. BLAZEK
PAIGE M. BLOK
TIMOTHY J. BOSTON
VINCENT A. BOVE
QUINCY L. BOWLES
TYRCHRA A. J. BOWMAN
RYAN J. BRACK
MATTHEW R. BRADEN
PATRICK J. BRAY
TIMOTHY E. BREEN
ANDREW M. BRETT
WILLIAM R. BRIDGES
MATHEW BRIDWELL
JOSEPH M. BRISCO, JR.
BRANT J. BROCK
BENJAMIN A. BROOKS
JANET M. BROOME
BERRY T. BROWN
MICHAEL R. BROWN
THOMAS M. BROWN
ANTHONY T. BRYANT
JORDAN A. BRYE
MICHAEL BUBULKA
AMANDA K. BURD
CAMERON J. BURNETTE
SCOTT B. BURRILL
JASON M. BURROUGHS
ERIC BURTNERABT
JOHNATHON S. BUSS
LISA M. BYDAIRK
JOHN A. CALDECUTT
JOSHUA C. CALHOUN
SHAWN R. CALLIHAN
BRETT S. CAMERON
JESSICA CAMERON
DAVID M. CAMP
ASHLEY H. CARLINE
ANDREW D. CARLSON
TODD W. S. CARLSON
JEREMY K. CARROLL
DAVID H. CARTER
KASEY W. CARTER
KEVIN J. CARTER
MICHAEL W. CARTER
PATRICK C. CASHIN
ROBERT J. CASTOR, JR.
AARON J. CASTRO
MICHAEL M. CATALANO
JOHN J. CHESTER, JR.
MICHAEL D. CHRISTOPH
JASON CHUMA
ANDRE D. CLEVELAND
JOHN W. COLEMAN III
DEIRDRE E. COLLINS
DAVID A. COOK
RUSSELL J. COOK
AMANDO S. COPE, JR.
BENJAMIN J. CORDLE
BETTINA J. CORY
WILLIAM D. COUTS
JOSHUA W. DAFFRON
JEREMIAH M. DALEY
ROBERT J. DALTON
JOHN D. DAMON
WILLIAM E. DANN
ANDREW C. DARJANY
DANIEL E. DAVIS
SCOTT T. DEARDEN
MICHAEL E. DEBOER
MICHAEL K. DELOACH
LOUIS E. DEMARCO
BRIAN R. DEMELL
HEATHER S. DENT
ERIK A. DENTE
RENATO A. DEPAOLIS
BENJAMIN A. DESMOND
ROBERT J. DIBBERN
ANDREW J. DIETZEL
TREY J. DITTBERNER
RYAN A. DORN
LANE R. DRUMMOND
PATRICK L. DUNN
DAVID P. ECKARDT
BRETT N. ECKERT
SEAN A. EDWARDS
MARK D. EISBRENNER II
DOUGLAS S. ELKINS
DEREK W. ESCALANTE
FREDERICK K. ESPY
ASHLEY J. FAIRES
TARA A. FEHER
JONATHAN C. FEINS
DANIAL L. FICKLING
COLIN P. FINNEGAN
TIMOTHY FITZGERALD, JR.
JENNIFER S. FLEMING
GRAHAM D. FLETTERICH
MICHAEL W. FLICK
ROBERT J. FLOYD II
ROBERT L. FOSTER
MASON B. FOX
MICHAEL W. FRITTS
TODD M. GALVIN
MATTHEW R. GARCIABRAGIEL
DANIEL E. GARDNER
DALLAS C. GATES
DANIEL M. GAUVIN
ANDREW T. GAY

JAMES W. GELSINON
SEAN A. GENIS
EKON A. GEORGE
MARK A. GEORGE
ANDREW P. GIACOMUCCI
NAOTOMO K. GIBSON
JAMES E. GILES
PAUL A. GILLETT
JOHN W. GILLIGAN
ALEXANDER D. GLASS
JASON A. GOELLER
MARK R. GORDON
JAMES J. GORMLEY III
MICHAEL J. GOSSETT
TOMAS A. GRADO
MEGHAN C. GRAY
JONATHAN B. GREENWALD
GRANT D. J. GREENWELL
STEVEN E. GREY, JR.
RYAN M. GRUNDT
BRIAN A. GUEST
CHAD J. GUILLERAULT
JOHN M. GUTIERREZ
PATRICK T. GUTIERREZ
ALEX HALBERSTADT
MATHEW J. HALFERTY
CHARLES R. HALL
JEREMY S. HALL
RICHARD M. HALL
BRUCE D. HALLETT
KYLE D. HANFORD
HURSEL B. HANKS
JIMMY A. HARMON
JASON S. HARREL
BRIAN M. HARRINGTON
ANTHONY M. HARRIS
NICHOLAS R. J. HAUBRICH
ALEX W. HAUPT
MITCHELL J. HAYS
MATTHEW A. HEADLEY
JASON H. HEATH
STEPHEN W. HEDRICK
TIMOTHY P. HENKEN
MATTHEW M. HENRICH
MATTHEW A. HEPFINGER
ERIC R. HERNANDEZ
AUDREY L. HERRINGTON
JONATHAN W. HIGHTOWER
JESSICA L. HILL
JAMES F. HINDS
CHRISTOPHER M. HIRONAGA
JONATHAN L. HIRSCH
JASON P. HOCH
THOMAS J. HOFFMAN
JEFFREY R. HOGAN
BRYCE C. HOLDEN
BRENT J. HOLLOWAY
BRADLEY C. HOLMES
MARCUS A. HOOGEWIND
DAVID A. HOOPENGARDNER, JR.
CHRISTOPHER L. HORNUNG
GUILLERMO H. HOWELL
ANDREW HOWERTON
MICHAEL J. HUMARA
DAVID P. HUSCHER
CHRISTOPHER D. IVEY
ANDREW N. JAEGER
JEREMY R. JANNEY
AARON JEFFERSON III
RONALD JENKINS
MICHAEL T. JENNINGS
ALAN J. JOHNSON
DAMIEAN M. JOHNSON
JEREMIAH A. JOHNSON
KYLE A. JOHNSON
ROBERT A. JOHNSON
MARVIN L. JOSEPH
JESSE A. JOYCE
SEAN M. JURGENSEN
BRITTANY B. KALUSCAK
JONATHAN R. KANE
FARROKH K. KAPADIA
KENNETH E. KAPP
MAGDALENA M. KEEL
JOHN G. KEITH
THOMAS L. KELLNER
PETER J. KELLY
RYAN P. KELLY
JOSH R. KEMPINSKI
SHANECE L. KENDALL
JOHN P. KENNEDY
JEFFREY R. KINGSLAND
SEAN M. KINNEY
MARK S. KLEIN
JAMES P. KOBYRA
JAMESROBERT C. KOFFI
JOHN E. KOHUT
ANNA M. KOPP
RUSSELL A. KRATOVILLE, JR.
CHARLES R. KREUZ
KEITH R. KROUCHICK
JOSHUA K. LAIL
PATRICK J. LAKUSTA
ANDREW J. LAWRENCE
MOLLY L. LAWTON
BRETT H. LEARNER
ROBERT V. LEE
MATTHEW B. LEES
BRIAN LEGARE
FRANKLIN LEMENE
SCOTT M. LESCENSKI
LUIS A. LEVINE
MATTHEW R. LEWIS
JOSEPH T. LILES
MYRON E. LIND
CAMERON M. LINDSAY
LEIGH K. LOESEL
CATHERINE S. LONG
AUSTIN M. LONG IV
STEWART C. LONG
WILLIAM P. LOONEY
JEREMY A. LORD
NOLAN D. LUCAS
TODD M. J. LUCHT
BERNARD W. LUTZ
SARAH K. LYNCH
BENJAMIN S. MACNEIL
JACOB M. MADDOX
LOUIS S. MAJERCHIN
DAVID MANGES
HERU K. MANSELL
SETH J. MARCUSA
WILLIAM L. MARDEN
TIMOTHY S. MARSHALL
ANDREW J. MARTIN
JONATHAN R. MARTIN
MARK MARTIN
LUIS G. MARTINEZ
MICHELLE M. MARTINEZ
KYLE C. MASON
CAMERON H. MASSEY
MARK J. MATKOVICH
BENJAMIN A. MATTES
MICHELLE A. MATTHEWS
ZACHARY A. MATTHEWS
CHARLES E. MATYKIEWICZ
ROBERT W. MAUL
JONATHON R. MAURUS
JAMES M. MAXWELL
MICHAEL T. MCARAW
FRANK A. MCBRIDE
RYAN W. MCBRIDE
MICHAEL J. MCBRYAR
NOAH L. MCBURNETT
VINCENT M. MCCALL
BRENT W. MCCAMMON
PATRICK M. MCCASKEY
JAMESON D. MCCORT
DAMON C. MCCULLAR
ANDREW F. MCDONALD
RYAN O. MCGOLDRICK
BRENDAN J. MCGUNIGLE
TYLER P. MCKNIGHT
JAMES S. MCNAMEE
PRECIOUS S. W. MCQUADE
FRANK K. MCQUIDDY
RUBEN A. MEDALLA, JR.
RENE J. MEDRANO
MICHAEL A. MELENDEZ
JOSHUA W. MERDES
WILLIAM A. MEYER
JOSHUA A. MEYERS
ANTONIA E. MIGGINS
BENJAMIN O. MILLER
JOSHUA B. MILLER
SCOTT R. MILLER
JEFFERY A. MILOTA
GREGORY A. MISCHLER
NATHAN W. MITICH
DANIEL E. MITZNER
ROBERT W. MIZE
SAMUEL A. MOFFETT
WILLIAM H. MOHR
ROBERT J. MOLINARO
JACOB M. MONTOYA
PATRICK J. MOORE
JAIME A. MORENO
DAVID H. MORGAN
ADAM P. MOSLEY
NICHOLAS E. MUNN
WILLIAM P. MURPHY
DOUGLAS V. NASSIF
ADAM H. NEBENZAHL
ADAM H. NELSON
JONATHAN NELSON
JOSEPH V. NEPOMUCENO
MICHAEL G. NIEMI
JONATHAN T. NODA
JOEL C. NOGLE
MACK T. NOLEN, JR.
JAKUB NOWAKOWSKI
PRESTON J. OCHOA
MATTHEW J. OCONNELL
MATTHEW S. OLOUGHLIN
BRYAN M. ORLOWSKI
TIMOTHY J. ORTH
BRANDON M. OSWALD
JOSHUA A. OVERN
MATTHEW D. PAINTER
JASON C. PALLOTTA
TRAVIS W. PANTALEO
JASON D. PARADIS
JASON R. PATTON
GREGORY A. PAULUS
RYAN K. PECK
BRAD E. PENLEY
SCOTT C. PENNOYER
LUKE W. PENROSE
ROBERT W. PERRIS
KENNETH J. PETKUNAS
RYAN D. PETTEPHER
JOSEPH D. PHILLIPS
GREGORY J. PIORUN, JR.
RONALD M. PIRAMIDE
MCKENZIE S. PLANK
ANDREW J. PLUMB
WALTER G. POINT
SETH K. POWELL
KENNETH J. PRINDLE
MICHAEL L. PTACEK
JOHN J. PUCKETT
CHRISTOPHER T. RAGSDALE
JAKE L. RANKINEN
TERRA A. REBER
MIGUEL E. RECALDE
ANDREW J. RECAME
GARY A. REDMAN
DANA E. REEVES
ANDREW REGALADO
PATRICK J. REILLY
BENJAMIN L. REUST
JOSE J. REYES
PAUL R. REYES
JERARDO J. REYNA
SEAN P. RICE
ROBERT F. RICHARDS
STEPHEN P. RICHTER
KEVIN L. RINGELSTEIN
PAUL C. RITTER
RICHARD R. RIVAS
BRETT P. ROBBLEE, JR.
ALEXANDER B. RODECK
DANIEL E. ROGERS
DANIEL R. ROGERS
BRENDAN K. ROK
JORGE E. ROLDAN
DYLAN B. ROSS
JEFREY A. ROSS
MARK G. ROSTEDT
BENJAMIN ROTHENBURG
MATTHEW N. RYAN
JOHN M. SADLER
JASON M. SAKASH
MARTIN A. SALAZAR
CHRISTOPHER M. SALLIOTTE
SHANE A. SALVATORE
JOSEPH W. A. SAMMUR
ANDREW B. SAMPLE
JOSE SANCHEZ, JR.
LAURA B. SANTIAGO
KARL Q. SAULT
JUSTIN J. SCHADE
RANDALL G. SCHIMPF
BRANT H. SCHMALL
ROBERT S. SCHMIDT
JARED A. SCHMITT
CHRISTOPHER M. SCHNAPPINGER
JOHN C. SCHNEPPER
JASON A. SCHRIMP
KARL A. SCHROEDER
PETER C. SCHUNK
LUCAS R. SCRUBY
CRAIG K. SEARLES
CHRISTOPHER D. SEDLAK
JOHN H. SEEBODE
MATTHEW C. SEIBERT
JOHN G. SHAFFO
PATRICK D. SHOUVLIN
PHILIP B. SHRADER
DAVID K. SHULTZ
JEREMIAH S. SHUMWAY
JOSHUA J. SILVA
RICHARD P. SILVA, JR.
RONALD R. SIMMONS, JR.
JOSEPH B. SIMS
STEPHEN J. SKAHEN, JR.
ELLIOTT P. SKILES
MICHAEL D. SLEDGE
ERIK T. SMITH
JOSHUA M. SMITH
KELLEN L. SMITH
LEX A. SMITH
LYNNWOOD C. SMITH
MICHAEL F. SMITH
SARAH M. SMITH
DEVIN T. SNIDER
RYAN L. SOLOMON
CHARLES C. SONNTAG
MATTHEW W. SPENCE
JEFFREY W. SPENCER
JASON W. SPRAY
KATRINA L. STEGNER
NATHAN A. STEIN
DARIN L. STOCKMAN
ALBERT J. STORRS
ANDREW T. STREENAN
KALE B. STREETER
MICHAEL G. STRITTMATTER
DAVID S. SWIMM
AARON N. SZECHTMAN
EARVIN M. TAYLOR
KEVIN F. TAYLOR
SCOTT J. TEDRICK
KARI J. TEREICK
KYLE L. TERWILLIGER
JAMES G. THOMAS
ANDREW E. TIMPNER
ANDREW W. TOM
BRENDAN T. TOWER
JOSEPH R. TRAGER
CLINTON K. TURNER
KYLE R. VANDEGRIFF
TROY H. VANTREASE
BRIAN M. VIETHS
VAUGHN A. VILLARREAL
JOSHUA R. VIRGADAMO
JONATHAN M. VOLKLE
DANIEL E. VROMAN
ADAM R. WAGLER
JOHN W. WALKER
LEIF E. WALROTH
BLAKE M. WANIER
TIMOTHY R. WARBURTON
MATTHEW P. WARNECKE
JOHN F. WARNER III
JUSTIN M. WASH
TIMOTHY C. WASHBURN
BRAD C. WEILAND
GRETCHEN M. WENDT
CHRISTOPHER A. WENZEL
JAROD B. WHEELER

JEREMY W. WHEELIS
CURTIS W. WHITE
ROOSEVELT B. WHITE, JR.
JEREMIAH W. WIESNER
NATHAN W. WILKINSON
JONATHAN C. WILLIAMS
MATTHEW R. WILLIAMSON
FRANK D. WILLIS, JR.
CALEB P. WINES
EVAN R. WOLFE
JEREMY D. WOODALL
CHARLES D. WORKMAN II
BRYON T. YAMAJI
CHRISTOPHER H. YATES
CHARLES W. YEARGIN
JENNIFER M. YEDONI
ROGER L. YOUNG
JONATHAN M. ZANG
DAVID E. ZIEROTH
JOHN G. ZILAI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

SUNG H. AHN
WARREN H. C. BONG
KERRY N. BOSCHE
STEPHAN C. BROCK
BRENTON N. CAMPBELL
CHRISTINA D. CARINO
GREGORY A. CASKEY
CHRISTOPHER R. DEIGEL
SJAAK A. DEVLAMING
TIMOTHY J. EMGE II
MARK A. EWACHIW, JR.
SAVANNAH L. GILL
BENJAMIN L. HALL
JOHN M. HALLWORTH
KRISTINE Y. C. HIME
MARISSA C. HOBBS
DANIEL D. C. HUYNH
ARTURO JACINTO II
PUYAN A. KHESHTI
TIMOTHY D. KUBISAK
ADRIAN S. LANEY
CHRISTOPHER G. MACLEAN
REBECCA I. MACUS
WILLIAM J. MARPLE
DILLAN A. MASELLAS
ALEXANDER L. MCGINNIS
ANDREW J. METZCUS
MICAH D. MUNDEN
ADAM M. OSBORN
BRANDON H. PONTIUS
DAVID C. REINHARDT
BRIAN E. SCOTT
ERIC D. SHUEY
REID W. SMYTHE
WILLIAM T. TAFT
JON M. WASHKO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

DREW R. BARKER
ROBERT G. BEAUCHAMP
ISAAC A. KEEVER
JOCELYN K. LIBERG
BLAKE A. LYON
DANIEL E. MORAN
MARK L. MORRISON
KARL S. ORTHNER
KATHLEEN E. PAULS
ALEXANDER M. SANDRONI
TIMOTHY W. SHILLING
THEODORE J. STOW
CHRISTOPHER E. WELLS
KRISTEN S. WHITESELL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

MIGUEL A. BERNAL, JR.
JOSHUA I. CAMPBELL
ANTHONY M. ELLERBE
JOHN B. KRAFT
THOMAS D. MIYANO
WAYNE A. SHIPMAN III
CLEMENT L. SMITH
PHILIP D. TOREM
AMANDA J. WELLS
DARRIN L. WILLIAMS
PHILLIP A. ZAMARRIPA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

RICHARD S. CHERNITZER
MEGAN E. ISAAC
ROBERT G. MYERS
JACQUELINE E. PAU
LAURA K. STEGHERR
STEPHANIE A. H. TURO
RUSSELL P. WOLFKIEL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

JASON K. BRUCE
FRANCIS B. CARNABY
ERIC M. COTE
JOSHUA P. ESTEVAN
LYNDSEY D. FATZ
COLLIN R. FOX
WINDSOR S. H. FRINELL
JEFFREY R. FROST
TIMOTHY N. JENSEN
DANIEL L. JUSTICE
TIMOTHY B. LINDSAY
CHRISTOPHER J. R. MCCOOK
JASON Y. OSUGA
BRIAN M. SHECKELLS
JIMMY J. SUH
TROY M. WILLMAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

SYLVESTER C. ADAMAH
GREGGORY A. BENTON
TROY M. BROWN
CATHERINE U. EYRICH
STEPHEN J. FICHTER
JARED A. JASINSKI
JASON H. LOCKHART
DAVID M. MATVAY, JR.
MICHAEL W. MCCAIN
ANCELMO J. MCCARTHY
STEPHEN T. PADHI
JEFFREY A. RICHER
ROBERT D. STILES
JULIANA M. STRIETER
PRESTON D. TAYLOR
MATTHEW T. WILLIAMS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

PATRICK L. GERMAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

ANDREW S. FOOR

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

KEVIN M. BACON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

ABDESLAM BOUSALHAM
JESSICA R. CHRISTIANSEN
CHARLES M. CRANSTON, JR.
BRANDON T. DEHAAN
BRIAN M. FINGER
ANGEL O. OLIVERA
WILLIAM E. SNIDER III
KATHERINE VESTER
LYNN M. WALL
CHARLES S. WHITE, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

CHABONNIE R. ALEXANDER
DAVID L. BADMAN, JR.
MICHAEL M. CAFFEY
ODARIOUS L. CHAMBERS
PAUL K. COOPER, JR.
MICHAEL J. DASCH
MARK E. DEMAREE
NEIL HALSTEAD
ROBERT F. KERSEY III
JOSEPH M. LANEY
JOHN PETERS
SHARIVA A. ROBINSON
JOEY SANDERS
ALEXA SANDIFER
LAWRENCE E. SCHAFFER
KARL C. THOMSEN
JERRY R. TOFTE, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

MICHAEL J. ARNOLD
STEVEN R. BANKS
MICHAEL J. BARRY
CAROL L. BUDZIK
KEVIN A. BYRD
MARIO J. CARDOSO
MAX A. CLARK II
ERIN B. COAN
JAMES G. DEMITRACK
JOY U. DIERKS
TAI A. DO
BENJAMIN J. DRINKWINE
JONATHAN N. ELLIOT
DANIEL P. ELLIOTT
SAMUEL G. ESPIRITU
IAN M. FOWLER
MARCIA L. FRYE
JASON A. GORDON
THANH D. HOANG
ALEXANDER M. HOLSTON
ASHLEY E. HUMPHRIES
DONALD W. HURST
NICOLE D. HURST
GRANT A. KIDD
THAD D. KLIMPEL
BRIAN S. KNIPP
ROBERT J. KRAUSE
JOHN T. LANDERS
IAN M. LAUGHLIN
SEAN P. LEONARD
MARK F. LUND
MONICA A. LUTGENDORF
ROBERT M. MARKS
JACQUELINE C. MCDOWELL
NANCY L. MILLER
ALICEA M. MINGO
TODD J. MONDZELEWSKI
NICOLAS B. MOYADELPINO
WILLIAM B. NGUYEN
EAMON B. OREILLY
JASON H. ROCKWOOD
TAMMY E. SERVIES
ROBERT G. SHEU
LINDA C. D. SMITH
JAMES B. SOLOMON
MELISSA R. STEGNERWILSON
DRAKE H. TILLEY
RALPH E. TUTTLE
TORRIN W. VELAZQUEZ
TAMARA J. WORLTON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

CASEY J. BURNS
MITCHELL R. CHECCHI
CAREY H. COLLINSDEISLEY
MATTHEW C. DART
JOSEPH J. FRANZKE
FREDERIC GIAUQUE
BRIAN J. GUERRIERI
KEVIN W. HAVEMAN
JOSHUA F. HENSON
JEFFREY W. HILLEY
MONSERRAT JORDEN
DAVID Z. LIU
CALEB J. NOORDMANS
SCOTT A. PASIETA
ROBERT D. PAVEL
BRYAN P. RASMUSSEN
JENNIFER L. SMITH
RAYMOND F. TINUCCI
NICOLE G. WARD
KIRSTIN C. WIER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

TIMOTHY D. BARNES
LAKESHA A. CHIEVES
TIFFANY F. CLINE
CHRISTOPHER L. COOPER
ESKINDER DAGNACHEW
ERICH J. DIETRICH
ADRIAN D. GASKIN
ROBERT D. GOAD
CARY J. ISAACSON
KYLE E. KEE
DAVID G. LANG
STEPHEN A. MARTY
NICHOLE A. OLSON
JEREMY S. PYLES
CHADWICK E. RAY
WILLIAM R. SCHEELER
ROBERT P. SENKO
ELIZABETH SMITH
JACQUELINE P. VANMOERKERQUE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

DEREK BUTLER
TREVOR J. GRANT
DANIELLE M. HIGSON
HAYES C. LARSEN
GERALDO PADILLA
SEAN M. SULLIVAN
BRENT E. TROYAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

ACCURSIA A. BALDASSANO
ARIC V. BAUDEK
RACHEL R. BAUDEK
RAYMOND L. BONDS
GLENN A. BRADFORD
TIMOTHY P. BRENDER
CARMEN M. BROSINSKI
WENDY A. COOK
TYMESIA V. CORTEZ
CHERYL L. COTTRELL
NEVA R. FUENTES
ANNE S. H. HOLLIS
LALON M. KASUSKE
CATHERINE A. LUNA

JILL M. MALDARELLIDREY
CRAIG T. MALLOY
KATHRYN M. R. STEWART
TARAIL VERNON
JERROL B. WALLACE
EDWARDO C. WELDON
JACQUELINE R. WILLIAMS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

ANTHONY P. BANNISTER
WILLIAM T. BENHAM
ANDRES DIAZ
JERETTA R. DILLON
JOSH A. ELSTON
TIMOTHY R. FREEMAN
TERRI L. GABRIEL
ANDREW E. HENWOOD
JOSHUA R. HILL
ROBERT J. JAMES
BARI J. JONES
DAVID K. JONES, JR.
PATRICK J. KELLY
FRANK D. KIM
ROBERT G. KOVACK, JR.
JOSHUA T. LANCASTER
EVELYN C. LEE
KEVIN S. MCNULTY
BRUCE M. REILLY II
PAMELA R. SAUCEDO
HORACIO G. TAN
MONICA R. TATE
JOHN H. TIPTON
DANIEL J. VETSCH
LARRY S. WALLACE
RACHELE A. WHARTON
MICHAEL R. WILSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

JENNIFER D. BOWDEN
RANDALL D. EKSTROM
JAISEN E. FUSON
ROBERT W. HALL
WILLIAM A. HLAVIN
JAY J. KERSTEN
KURT A. MICHAELIS
JAMES M. PEUGH
JEFFREY QUINN
CLIFFORD P. RUTLEDGE
WILLIAM N. SOLOMON
DAVID A. STROUD

IN THE SPACE FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE REGULAR SPACE FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 716:

To be colonel

EDWARD G. FERGUSON
GREGORY S. HOFFMAN
JAMES T. HORNE
BRYAN M. TITUS
DANIEL J. VISOSKY

To be lieutenant colonel

AARON M. AYERS
AMMY C. CARDONA
ROSS A. CONRAD
CHAD M. FREY
JERED N. FRY
LEODANNY GARCIA
BRIAN W. ILES
MICHAEL J. LASORDA
CHRISTIAN H. MORGAN
JESSICA E. MORGAN
DARREN NG
KATHLEEN C. OCONNOR
JASON M. PAUSEWANG
MARCUS A. SITTERLY
KIMBERLY A. TEMPLER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE REGULAR SPACE FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 716:

To be colonel

JAMES J. WATSON

To be lieutenant colonel

RYAN C. LEY

To be major

LINCOLN K. MILLER

CONFIRMATION

Executive Nomination Confirmed by the Senate June 15, 2021:

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

LINA M. KHAN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSIONER FOR THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF SEVEN YEARS FROM SEPTEMBER 26, 2017.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FATHER EDWARD FLAHERTY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Reverend Edward Flaherty, Veteran of the United States Army, for his service to our country.

Father Flaherty served in the U.S. Army from 1941 to 1945, serving two years, eleven months, and two days throughout the Pacific theater of World War II, including time in New Caledonia, the Solomon Islands, and Papua New Guinea. While serving in the Army, Father Flaherty was a Medical Technician with the 131st Engineer Regiment Medical Detachment, in which he played an essential role in treating his fellow soldiers' wounds and injuries while also assisting with evacuations for casualties.

During his time in the Army, Father Flaherty earned the American Defense Service Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one star but he was never awarded the physical medals. After inquiring on his behalf, our office discovered additional medals he earned but never received.

After his discharge from the U.S. Army, Father Flaherty returned to his hometown of Kansas City and worked for Folger's as a bookkeeper and accountant. He formally entered the Jesuit order in 1959 at 40 years of age and was ordained as a priest in 1965. He then moved to Colorado in 1967 and taught at Regis University. He became a staple in the Colorado Jesuit community for the next several decades, most recently pastoring at the Shrine of St. Anne Parish in Arvada, Colo.

Father Flaherty's courageous service helped to defend our nation's democracy and ideals abroad at a crucial moment in world history. His heroism has charted the path for future generations of men and women who serve in the military. We are proud to have Father Flaherty call Colorado home for so many years, and forever indebted to him for his bravery and sacrifice on behalf of our country.

I extend my deepest appreciation to Father Flaherty for his dedication, integrity and outstanding service to the United States of America.

TRIBUTE TO BRUCE DOYLE VARNER

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Bruce Doyle Varner, who passed away on Saturday, May 8, 2021. Bruce was a dedicated leader in the Inland Empire region of California, and he will be deeply missed.

Bruce was born in Los Angeles, California in 1936. His family would later move up the coast to San Luis Obispo, where he would spend the bulk of his youth. After high school, Bruce decided to attend the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he would go on to be a star football and baseball player. Despite being recruited by a few professional football teams, Bruce was focused on a future legal career. Before entering law school, Bruce served briefly in the U.S. Army. At UC Hastings Law School, he became Editor in Chief of the Law Review and graduated Order of the Coif. After passing the California Bar Examination in 1962, Bruce moved to the Inland Empire and launched his legal career at a prominent law firm.

In 1975, Bruce married his wife, Nancy, at the Mission Inn Chapel in Riverside, California. He quickly became one of the region's top corporate and business transactional attorneys. Bruce was especially proud of his work in collaboration with former Stater Bros. Markets' President Jack Brown during the 1986 proxy battle over control of the company. Bruce and Jack were successful, and Stater Bros. would emerge as one of the leading supermarket chains in our region. In another landmark effort, Bruce was instrumental in the conversion of a portion of Norton Air Force Base into the Stater Bros. corporate headquarters, warehouse and distribution center after the base was closed. In addition to his legal practice, Bruce was nominated to serve on the University of California Board of Regents in 2006 by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Bruce was predeceased by his beloved wife, Nancy, and survived by his brother Ron; sons Kevin, Sean, Brett, and daughter, Nicole; grandchildren Zoey, Peyton, Marcus, Devin, Ancel, Finley, Fiona and Bruce; daughters-in-law, Tracy and Kristin; and son-in-law Brian. I extend my heartfelt condolences to the Varner family, his friends, and everyone fortunate enough to know Bruce. Although he may be gone, the many contributions Bruce made to his community and family will have a lasting impact.

HONORING GARLAND LIFE

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Garland Life, who died on June 2, 2021 at the age of 78. Mr. Life was a longtime educator in the Roanoke Valley who made a tremendous positive impact on his students.

Mr. Life was born on June 15, 1942 in McGaheysville, Virginia to Cecil and Mary Burner Life. He grew up on a farm and graduated from Montevideo High School. Subsequently, he earned degrees from Bridgewater College and the University of Virginia.

During his career as an educator, he worked as a teacher, a principal at Andrew Lewis High School in Salem and Cave Spring High School, and an administrator of Roanoke County Schools. His students benefited from the lessons he taught and the learning environment he created. I recognized this firsthand as one of the students at Andrew Lewis High School when he was principal. When the Salem School Board signaled intentions to remove Andrew Lewis from the high school's name and I wanted to keep it, he let me pursue what would become my first public campaign in the community. He could have stopped this student-led movement, but he didn't. I have always appreciated the indulgence he showed his students on this occasion.

Mr. Life is survived by his wife, Kimberly Hale; son and daughter-in-law, Jason and Amy Life, daughter and son-in-law, Sarah and Paul Tesoriere; grandchildren, Benjamin and Megan Life and Bella and Luca Tesoriere; stepdaughter, Gretchen Roberts; stepson Andrew Roberts; and sister, Janet Wayland. I offer them my condolences on their loss.

TRIBUTE TO COURTNEY HALE, CALIFORNIA'S 24TH CONGRESSIONAL WOMEN OF THE YEAR

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Mr. CARBAJAL. Madam Speaker, each year, through the Women of the Year Award, my office extends special recognition to women on the Central Coast who have made a difference in our community. I would like to recognize one outstanding Woman of the Year Award recipient, Courtney Haile of San Luis Obispo, California.

Courtney brings a bold and honest voice to community advocacy and her work on equity, justice, and belonging. As a student, Courtney explored media representation, race, and gender, and examined Black identity development in predominantly white communities. She dreams of a more equitable and inclusive world for people of color to live in, and she is measurably helping to create such a world on the Central Coast. In response to the death of Philando Castile and others, she co-founded R.A.C.E. Matters, a grassroots organization amplifying racial justice and centering Black voices through art and culture. As Executive Director, Courtney is a driving force for the organization's creative endeavors, cultural programs, and organization of local racial justice events. Courtney executes and stands by her vision with class, grace, and intelligence.

Courtney participates in a range of community activities and most enjoys collaborating with community partners to create bold, beautiful, and engaging experiences. In her mission to help people honor and better understand the needs and contributions of the Black members of our community, Courtney spearheads the visionary art series, BELONGING, and

produced two original documentary films, Restrictions Apply, about San Luis Obispo's history of housing discrimination and Kut To Be the Best: The Last Black Barbershop in San Luis Obispo, as a tribute to Black owned businesses and the importance of the cultural spaces created by them.

Courtney's work through R.A.C.E. Matters has opened the eyes of the community to the talents, contributions, and value of our Black citizens. Given that our county is but 2.2 percent Black, this is a tall order, but Courtney has been able to shine her light and lead the way toward this vision. San Luis Obispo County is better off because Courtney Haile lives here.

I am honored to recognize Courtney for her continued commitment to improving our community and the residents of San Luis Obispo County. I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 24th Congressional District, Courtney Haile, for her incredible service to her community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FORMER TONAWANDA SUPERVISOR RONALD H. MOLINE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of the late Tonawanda Town Supervisor Ronald H. Moline, a native of Western New York. Ron was well-liked and well-respected as an educator, and served as a member of the Tonawanda Town Board for more than a quarter-century.

A graduate of Sweet Home High School and the State University of New York at Buffalo, Ron began a career as a high school history teacher with Buffalo Public Schools in 1964. In 1981, he embarked upon a political career in the town of Tonawanda, winning a grueling race for a seat on the Town Board. After the incumbent Supervisor passed away two years later, Mr. Moline accepted appointment to the position, and subsequently won election to the seat in his own right. Ron would move back to a seat as Councilman in 1993 and would again become Supervisor in 2000.

As Supervisor, Ron worked to grow industrial parks in Tonawanda, and worked closely with companies including General Motors, Dunlop, DuPont, and Praxair to both maintain current jobs in Tonawanda and grow opportunities for both corporations and local workers. Ron was an innovator in local government as well, establishing a Yahoo chat room in 2001 for concerned citizens to communicate directly with elected Town leaders, allowing them to be, as he said, more ''close, available, and responsive to our constituents.''

Madam Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to remember the life and accomplishments of Supervisor Ron Moline, and I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring his legacy and extending our condolences to his family and friends.

APPRECIATING PRIME MINISTER BENJAMIN NETANYAHU

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, the statement issued on change of governance in Israel, by Jack Rosen, President of American Jewish Congress, was heartfelt on the service of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel. ''We also want to thank outgoing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for his long-time service and leadership. Mr. Netanyahu has greatly contributed to Israel's progress, especially in strengthening the country's security, transforming it into an economic powerhouse, and advancing its standing in the international arena. Under Prime Minister Netanyahu's watch, Israel underwent an extraordinary rapprochement with the Arab world, as attested to by the historic normalization agreements achieved with several Arab countries. We wish him well.''

A highlight of my service in Congress has been for me and my wife, Roxanne, to meet with Prime Minister Netanyahu in Jerusalem and Washington. As co-chair of the Israel Caucus, I know firsthand of his extraordinary dedication for the people of Israel.

I agree with Mr. Rosen. ''We look forward to engaging with the new Israeli government to help take American-Israeli relations to new heights, to addressing critical regional challenges together, and to achieving sustainable peace and prosperity for all.''

In conclusion, God Bless our Troops, and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

IN HONOR OF PAUL PLOTKIN

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th birthday of Paul Plotkin. Born on June 19, 1921, in Bridgeport, Connecticut, Mr. Plotkin is a veteran and a resident of Derry, New Hampshire. During World War II, he answered the call of his nation and joined the U.S. Army, serving with the 66th Infantry Division in Europe.

Mr. Plotkin endured great hardship during his military service. He was among the more than 2,000 American soldiers being transported from Southampton, England, to Cherbourg, France, aboard the troopship SS Léopoldville when the ship was struck by a torpedo from a German submarine on the evening of December 24, 1944. 763 American soldiers tragically lost their lives in the initial blast and the resulting sinking of the ship in the frigid waters of the English Channel, but Mr. Plotkin survived and made it to France. Although discussion of the Léopoldville disaster was censored in the aftermath of the tragedy, Mr. Plotkin preserved the memory of what he experienced and carried it on to today. Now, as a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1617, Mr. Plotkin continues to honor the memory of his comrades and their sacrifice by supporting fellow veterans and speaking out about his experiences during the war.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I want to wish Mr. Plotkin a happy 100th birthday and thank him for his service to our nation. I hope that he has a wonderful celebration with his loved ones and fellow veterans. His sacrifice will not be forgotten.

IN RECOGNITION OF MAYOR MIKE DONNELLY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exceptional career of Mayor Mike Donnelly of Double Oak, Texas. Mayor Donnelly's almost two decades of service in public office is a model of civic duty. As he retires following his fifth term in mayoral office, it is my distinct honor to recognize his service to our community.

Since he became a resident of Double Oak in 2002, Mike Donnelly has served his community faithfully as a volunteer and public servant. He was initially elected to the Double Oak Town Council in 2004 and served in that position for three terms before running unopposed for his first term of Mayor in 2009. Following his first mayoral term, he stepped away to care for his mother. He was re-elected to the Town Council in 2012 and his council colleagues appointed him as Mayor Pro Tem. Following the death of Mayor Tom Pidcock in July 2012, he was appointed to fill the Mayor's seat, a position to which he has been re-elected each succeeding term. During his public service, Mayor Donnelly has maintained a full-time professional career with American Airlines for over thirty years.

The Town of Double Oak has prospered under Mayor Donnelly's leadership. This North Texas municipality continues to boast one of the lowest income tax rates in the State of Texas, thanks in large part to the efficiency and skill of Mayor Donnelly's administration. Last year, Mayor Donnelly and the Town Council's successful infrastructure, police, and education initiatives culminated in Double Oak being named the ''Safest City in Texas.'' Mayor Donnelly's outstanding civic achievements and personal philanthropic contributions are to be applauded.

On behalf of the 26th District, I am privileged to congratulate and thank Mayor Mike Donnelly as he steps down after a long career of estimable public service. Best wishes to Mayor Donnelly as he returns to private life. His positive impact on Double Oak will continue to benefit its citizens for years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE TENURE OF ORANGE COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN DAVID JOHN SHAWVER

HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tenure of the City of Stanton Mayor David John Shawver as Chairman of the Orange County Sanitation District

(OC San) Board of Directors, and his dedication and service to the residents of Orange County in this capacity.

Throughout his tenure on the OC San board from December 2018 through June 2021, Chairman Shawver has remained steadfast in his commitment to providing an affordable service to the community, while understanding the importance of keeping with OC San's mission of protecting the public health and the environment.

Under his leadership, Chairman Shawver and the Board of Directors understood the financial hardship COVID–19 created for many of our ratepayers. As a result, the Board of Directors forwent the board approved regional sewer service fee increase for the 2020–21 fiscal year, keeping it at $339 for the year, which is less than $1 a day.

Chairman Shawver's commitment to affordable water and water use has allowed OC San to move in the direction to recycle 100 percent of its reclaimable flow through the Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS), a joint project between OC San and the Orange County Water District.

Upon completion of this project in 2023, GWRS will produce 130 million gallons of high-quality water every day, which will be enough water for 1 million residents in north and central Orange County.

As a former educator myself, I would also like to recognize Chairman Shawver for his more than 40 years of service as an educator in the Long Beach Unified School District, at Long Beach City College, and at Hope International University in Fullerton.

On behalf of the residents of the 47th District, I want to thank Chairman Shawver for his years of service and dedication to OC San and to the community he has committed himself to serving.

HONORING DR. ALA STANFORD AS A VIRTUAL GUEST FOR PRESIDENT BIDEN'S ADDRESS TO JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS

HON. MARY GAY SCANLON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Ala Stanford from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

On Wednesday, April 28, 2021, President Biden delivered his first address to a Joint Session of Congress, 100 days into his first term.

When President Biden took the oath of office, he pledged that help was on the way. Thanks to our work together to enact the American Rescue Plan, help is here.

Hardworking people in Pennsylvania and all across the country have been the heroes of the pandemic, and now they are leading our recovery. Dr. Stanford is one of those heroes.

The Black Doctors COVID–19 Consortium was founded by Dr. Stanford in 2020 to educate and advocate for the Black community in order to reduce the incidence of disease and death from coronavirus.

The group originally focused on bringing testing to underserved communities, and now they also run vaccination clinics in these same areas. Dr. Stanford and her team are intentional about targeting their resources to the Black community because Black Americans have been disproportionately impacted by the coronavirus and are still underrepresented in the number of people who have received the COVID–19 vaccine.

After more than a year of having our lives consumed by COVID–19, I could think of no better person to represent our region at President Biden's Joint Address to Congress than Dr. Stanford. When the pandemic hit, she figured out what needed to be done, and then she did it. She has dedicated herself to the work of serving her community and reducing racial disparities in access to testing and vaccines.

In a typical year, I would have invited Dr. Stanford to join me in the House Chamber for the Joint Address. COVID–19 safety protocols limited this year's in-person attendance, and I—along with many other Members of Congress—instead watched the address from home.

However, I couldn't miss this important opportunity to honor Dr. Stanford and people like her all across Pennsylvania.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF JAY SIMSON

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jay Simson, the President of The American Council of Engineering Companies of New York, on his retirement after 29 years of dedicated service.

ACEC New York represents the business interests of nearly 300 engineering and related firms in New York State. These are the companies that design our built environment. Without them, our transportation infrastructure, our public buildings, private office towers, hospitals, and so much more would simply not exist.

Jay Simson was a leader in his industry and a driving force for the interests of his member firms in Albany and before Congress. I know many of my colleagues from the New York delegation know Jay and have worked with him on a wide range of issues over the years.

What many of my colleagues might not know about Jay is that he is also an Olympic judge. He served on the U.S. Freestyle Ski Team board and was their delegate to the International Ski Federation. He was also the Head Judge for Freestyle Skiing at the 1998 Olympic Winter Games in Nagano, Japan.

I thank Jay Simson for his commitment to the engineering industry and congratulate him on his retirement.

HONORING WILIAM GILLISON

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. William Gillison. Born in Beaufort, South Carolina, Pastor William Gillison attended Lackawanna, New York schools and enrolled in the United States Army in 1965. Sixteen years later—in 1981—Reverend Gillison became the pastor of Mount Olive Baptist Church. During his time at Mt. Olive, the church's capacity increased tenfold, from 150 to 1,500.

Early in his career, Reverend Gillison founded the Mt. Olive Development Corporation, which continues to provide subsidized apartments for low income residents. Mt. Olive also operates as a distribution center for food and other essentials in Western New York. During the Covid–19 pandemic, it served as a testing and vaccination site. Interviewed by WGRZ, Pastor Gillison said that ''The pandemic has really magnified and exposed in many cases the deficiencies in especially black and brown communities.'' Mt. Olive helped to lessen the racial disparities in vaccine distribution, furthering its mission and serving thousands of local community members.

Mt. Olive serves in every season. During the summer, the Church hosts a cookout and fireworks show for families. In the fall, it provides Thanksgiving dinners to 1,500 families. In the winter, through its Angel Tree Ministry program, it gives Christmas gifts to children of incarcerated men and women. Before he became president, George W. Bush visited Mt. Olive and was impressed with its work.

Pastor Gillison's experience with the government has not always been cordial. Working closely with attorney Johnnie Cochrane, Pastor Gillison fought to overturn a ban on bus routes to the Galleria Mall. This discriminatory practice prevented many people of color from shopping at the Mall, and even led to the killing of a worker who was forced to walk to her job at the Galleria Mall.

Pastor Gillison has served two terms as the President of the Baptist Ministers Conference and the Baptist Great Lakes Conference. He is the recipient of honorary doctorate degrees and has been recognized by national organizations for his ministry and service. He is particularly known for his interfaith communication; Pastor Gillison has traveled to Israel multiple times and formed relationships with both government and religious officials. None of this would have been accomplished without the help of his loving and devoted wife of 58 years, Antonia Gillison. She has been his greatest supporter. While being a pastor he has also maintained his strong fatherly presence with his children.

Pastor Gillison has advanced our community spiritually, politically, and economically. He has been a tireless advocate for those with no hope and no voice. His leadership has transformed Mt. Olive into an indispensable beacon of light for our community and his work has touched lives across the country and world. During his fortieth anniversary as pastor, we celebrate how much Mt. Olive has accomplished, and we pray for the community it serves. Though he has accomplished much, Pastor Gillison is just grateful for the opportunity to serve. As he would say, ''To God be the Glory.''

CONGRATULATING AL ARGUELLO ON A CAREER OF SERVICE TO HIS COMMUNITY

HON. PETE AGUILAR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Mr. AGUILAR. Madam Speaker, today I want to honor Al Arguello, who is retiring after a 53-year career with Bank of America and will leave as President of Bank of America, Inland Empire.

A Rancho Cucamonga resident, Al has worked tirelessly throughout his career to give back to our community. When the great recession devastated the Inland Empire, it was Al's leadership that helped form the Housing Opportunities Collaborative to support the thousands of families facing foreclosure in our region. Al has also been a strong supporter of the Inland Empire's local economy, working to encourage the development of micro-businesses and finding ways to help entrepreneurs gain access to the start-up funds they need to succeed.

While he will continue to be involved as a key leader in our community, his friends and colleagues will surely miss him as he begins this new chapter. The lasting effects of Al Arguello' s leadership and philanthropic efforts can be felt throughout the Inland Empire, and I know our community is better off because of Al's decades of service.

CONGRATULATING THE BARBERS HILL HIGH SCHOOL EAGLES ON THEIR FIRST BASEBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Barbers Hill High School Eagles Baseball Team for winning the 2021 Texas University Interscholastic League (UIL) 5A High School Baseball State Championship. The Eagles Baseball team joins the Lady Eagles Softball team in clinching their first State Championship in school history. Barbers Hill is the first 5A High School, and only the seventh overall, in Texas history to win both State titles in the same season.

The Eagles finished the 2020–2021 season, with a record of 35 wins and eight losses. In the playoffs, Barbers Hill faced Manvel, Foster, Santa Fe, Lake Creek, and Friendswood before facing Hallsville for the State Championship. On June 12, 2021, the Eagles beat the Hallsville Bobcats by a score of two to one winning their first state title.

Raithen Malone, a senior Pitcher, was named the State Tournament Most Valuable Player. Six Eagles were selected by the Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association to play on the Conference 5A All-Tournament Team: Raithen Malone, Brodey Williams, Simon Larranaga, Braden Jacobs, Jace Martinez, and Carson Garrett.

I would like to personally recognize each individual that contributed to this team's winning season. Players: Luke Sims, Carson Garrett, Trevor Bates, Cameron Cauley, Jace Martinez, Raithen Malone, Braden Jacobs, Will Buntin, Brent Holdren, Colin Schmadl, McKade Massengale, Kyle Isaacks, Kasyn Franco, Ernest Sanders, Josh Campbell, Brodey Williams, Logan Knichel, Hunter Mercer, Blaine Huntley, Colt Erickson, Alden Brookshire, Maddox Malone, Carson Dunham, Simon Larranaga, and Kaden Garcia. Head Coach: David Denny. Assistant Coaches: Darren Seymour, Chris Cauley, Josh Presnall, and Noel Garcia. Athletic Trainers: Gina Pace, Adam Carroll, and Ha Nguyen. Student Trainer: MJ Stevens. Manager: Brennan McDonald. Statistician: Maddi Clary. Superintendent: Dr. Greg Poole. Athletic Director: Tom Westerberg. Principal: Rick Kana.

I wish each of these young men continued success in the classroom and athletics. Go Eagles.

TRIBUTE TO DONNA MARIE ROBINSON

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Donna Marie Robinson, who passed away on May 31, 2021.

Donna Marie was born in 1957 in Chicago and received both her undergraduate and master's in business degrees from the University of Chicago. After an illustrious career in commercial banking, she retired in 2013 as Vice President/Client Manager for Bank of America.

Throughout her life, Donna Marie was committed to service. She served on the San Diego Foundation's Board of Governors for seven years and was the bedrock of the Foundation's scholarship program. The Foundation is establishing the Donna Marie Robinson Memorial Scholarship Fund in her honor.

Donna Marie fought tirelessly for women's health as a member of the Executive Leadership Team for the American Heart Association Go Red for Women. She was President of the Encinitas Coastal Rotary and was a member of countless other community organizations. She was a world traveler who could bring a smile to every face.

Donna Marie Robinson lived an incredible and full life. She was a crucial member of the Encinitas community and she will be missed by her family, friends, and everyone she touched.

CONGRATULATING ELLA SENSENIG

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank and congratulate Ella Sensenig of Millersville, who, at 85, has recently retired as a school bus driver for Penn Manor School District after 41 years of dedicated and safe service.

Those 41 years must have added up to countless miles, but each trip presented the children on her school bus the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive. She started in a part-time position, driving students to sports activities or to the Lancaster Career & Technology Center Campuses before she started serving two generations of students at Central Manor Elementary as passengers on her bus for over 20 years.

Ella also drove the bus for her church's Bible School program for many years. She also served as a crossing guard, as a part-time police officer with Millersville, and as a nurse's aide throughout her career.

In a recent interview, Ella said: "Not a lot of people can say this, but there are no jobs I had that I didn't like." As she looks forward to retirement, she's looking forward to spending time with her family: two children, five grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren.

I thank Ella for her many years of service to students and I congratulate her on her retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND DEDICATION OF THE BUFFALO BLUES ORGANIZATION

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary accomplishments of the Western New York-based non-profit organization known as "Buffalo Blues" and their remarkable service and dedication to the Veteran community.

Buffalo Blues is a non-profit dedicated to using the power and reach of music to help Western New York Veterans and military families through fundraising and charitable donations. Founded by Bob James, Buffalo Blues forms an impactful partnership between the music community and Veteran groups. Musicians that partner with Buffalo Blues experience professional growth while also helping to raise funds and advocating for the needs of the Veteran community.

On May 6, 2021, Buffalo Blues announced that—with the help of over 200 musicians—they were able to donate over $100,000 to 18 Erie County charities serving WNY Veterans and military families. Through live musical performances, merchandise sales, and online livestreamed concerts, these 200 musicians used their talents to both raise funds for these local charities and bring attention to the issues that often face the Veteran community.

In addition to raising funds, Buffalo Blues has been gathering data on the needs of Veterans and Military Families. This research helps to ensure that the money they raise goes to where it is most needed in the veteran community.

When the COVID–19 pandemic shuttered opportunities for live, in-person performances, Buffalo Blues adapted with the changing times. Knowing that the difficulties that Veterans and military families face weren't going anywhere, they found an innovative solution by livestreaming musical performances online until it was safe to return to the stages of Western New York.

Madam Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to speak today, and ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the persistence and dedication of Buffalo Blues and their affiliated musicians. Their continual advocacy for

and service to Veterans and military families is commendable, and we thank them for their efforts.

RECOGNIZING STEVE ANTONOPULOS

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Mr. BUCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hard work and dedication of Steve ''Greek'' Antonopulos who announced that he will be retiring after 45 seasons with the Denver Broncos. Mr. Antonopulos is the only individual to have worked for the Broncos during all eight of their Super Bowl appearances, as well as under three owners, and ten head coaches.

From Hugo, Colorado, Mr. Antonopulos grew up watching Broncos games with his father. After graduating from the University of Northern Colorado, he worked as the head trainer at Fort Hays State University in Kansas, and in 1976, he joined the Broncos as an assistant trainer. Mr. Antonopulos ends his career with the team as the director of sports medicine, a position he has held since 2016. Throughout his time with the team, he treated 983 players and worked a total of 941 games. The dedication that Mr. Antonopulos has shown in his many years with the Broncos has undoubtedly been instrumental to the team and benefitted Broncos fans across Colorado and beyond.

On behalf of the 4th District of Colorado, I extend my best wishes to Mr. Antonopulos and his family. Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize Steve Antonopulos for his accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF WARRIOR RUN, PENNSYLVANIA ON ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF INCORPORATION

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Borough of Warrior Run, Pennsylvania on its 125th anniversary. Warrior Run was incorporated on January 25, 1895 after it split with neighboring mining village, Sugar Notch. The occasion will be marked by a festival and parade in late July after a year-long delay due to the pandemic.

The hills and valleys of Warrior Run were once densely forested Native American hunting grounds, inhabited by the Delaware, the Shawnee, and the Nanticokes. The Nattanhutter Path, a trail across the land to a gap in the mountains, became known as Warrior's Path, and the nearby spring was called Warrior Run or Warrior Spring. In 1778, more than one hundred men, women, and children followed the trail to safety in the aftermath of the Battle of Wyoming.

In 1791, Connecticut Yankees Elisha and Anna Blackman and their children were the first settlers on the land that would become Warrior Run. For generations, the Blackman family cultivated the land on the site of the original homestead and witnessed the changes brought by time, industry, and immigration.

As the American Industrial Revolution boomed, the formerly agrarian community saw the rise of anthracite coal mining. In 1864, the Warrior Run Mining Company opened the Holland and Hillman mine and, by 1867, constructed a breaker at the foot of the mountain to sort coal. With regional railroads completing lines that ran through the area, the coal industry thrived, and the demand for workers increased, attracting immigrants from Europe. Coal mining was dangerous work, so Warrior Run miners joined the United Mine Workers to seek fairer wages and a shorter workday, and they participated in the successful 1902 Anthracite Coal Strike. Mining continued to be the dominant industry well into the 20th century until its decline in the 1950s.

Despite the challenges of life in the shadows of the culm banks, there was evidence of prosperity and growth. Electric streetcars connected nearby towns and villages to the City of Wilkes-Barre, and the Borough was home to many local businesses and establishments. Sport thrived in Warrior Run and brought the community together. The Warrior Run Indians was one of the region's leading baseball teams; the local football team was the undefeated league champion in 1929; and basketball was a popular sport at the local high school.

As the century marched on, the citizens of Warrior Run continued to foster a deep sense of community. They joined local social and charitable organizations to support their fellow residents and celebrate their heritage. Residents gathered at local bazaars and at events hosted by the American Legion, the Fireman's Association, and the Little League, which featured ethnic food and music. They marched through the streets each Memorial Day to honor those who served our country, and they visited the popular Sans Souci Amusement Park.

Through periods of prosperity and hardship, Warrior Run has remained a resilient and vibrant community, and I am honored to join Mayor Tom Shypulefski and all the residents as they celebrate the Borough's 125th anniversary.

HONORING CAPTAIN MIGUEL PEKO UPON 35 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a true Samoan warrior, Captain Miguel L. Peko, who will retire later this year from the United States Navy after a remarkable 35-year career as a Midshipman and Aviator.

In American Samoa, military service is more than just a job—it is a calling to serve not only our country, but our fellow countrymen. Contributing to the defense of this great nation day in and day out is a singular honor, and I am proud to represent a place that so values this service that it is continually recognized as one of the top recruiting stations anywhere in America for the U.S. military.

Few people know more about that kind of honor through service and duty than Captain Peko. This son of Utulei and Fagatogo flew combat missions in support of Fleet and Joint Operational commanders, coordinated maritime homeland defense efforts across the unified combatant commands, and had a direct impact on the formation of senior military leaders during his most recent post as Director of the Joint Advanced Warfighting School.

Captain Peko's career has garnered numerous decorations for excellence and leadership, including a Legion of Merit, four Air Medals, a Meritorious Service Medal, and a Joint Commendation Medal.

Finally, I would also like to recognize those who stood with him in these years, Captain Peko's family. Behind this successful military career is a wife who went months without her husband, daughters who spent hours of their young lives speaking to their father through a phone or on a video screen, and worried parents who prayed daily for their son's safety.

I thank Mrs. Kerrith Ann Peko and daughters Brenna and Alyssa, for their patience and for all the sacrifices that they have made over the past years. I congratulate Lolesio and Belinda Peko on the immense pride that they must feel for their son's exemplary service. God bless Captain Peko.

HONORING 100 YEARS OF WOMEN AT WILLIAM JEWELL COLLEGE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to commemorate the 100-year anniversary of female admittance into William Jewell College. Through its history, the progressive institution has prioritized individual expression and creative thinking. Today, William Jewell is recognized for producing innovative thought-leaders making an impact in Missouri communities and beyond.

Founded in 1849 in Liberty, Missouri, William Jewell College prides itself in fostering an environment for students of diverse backgrounds to thrive. Jewell holds true to its founding vision as an institution that develops high-achieving leaders who shape a changing world. After four-years, Jewell graduates leave with an arsenal of knowledge, creativity, and fundamental leadership skills.

Since the 1920–1921 academic school year, William Jewell has encouraged women to pursue a co-education at the same level as men. More than 12,000 women have walked the halls of William Jewell in pursuit of a world class education. Not only does this milestone recognize the talented pool of William Jewell alumna, but the future female leaders eager to follow in their footsteps.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing 100 Years of Women at William Jewell College. William Jewell's century-long investment in women is reflected in the people of Missouri's Sixth Congressional District's commitment to educational prosperity.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FORMER KANSAS ATTORNEY GENERAL VERN MILLER

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Mr. ESTES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of a quintessential Kansas lawman, Vern Miller, who passed away at the age of 92. Mr. Miller's career in law enforcement spanned over 50 years with terms as Sedgwick County Sheriff, Sedgwick County District Attorney, and Kansas State Attorney General.

A U.S. army veteran born and raised in Wichita, Mr. Miller's career in law enforcement began in 1948 when he started as a deputy for the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office, eventually serving three terms as Sheriff of Sedgwick County.

While serving as Sheriff, Mr. Miller drove the 155 miles to Oklahoma City University to attend night classes, earning his law degree in 1966. After passing the bar exam, Mr. Miller was elected as Kansas Attorney General in 1970 and again in 1972, winning all 105 counties in the state. As Attorney General, Mr. Miller vigorously enforced the laws of Kansas, focusing on drug rings and illegal gambling cartels throughout the state.

Mr. Miller was a dedicated public servant whose work ethic and devotion to the law and to his fellow Kansans will be deeply missed. My heartfelt condolences go out to his family during this most difficult time.

CONGRATULATING KATORI HALL

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Memphis playwright, Katori Hall, who was awarded a Pulitzer Prize for Drama on Friday for her play ''The Hot Wing King,'' which is set in a kitchen in Memphis. Ms. Hall won the prestigious national recognition as a nominee for a Tony Award for ''Tina: The Tina Turner Musical,'' a Broadway musical about the singer from Nutbush, Tennessee. In its citation, the Pulitzer Board ''The Hot Wing King'' a ''funny, deeply felt consideration of Black masculinity and how it is perceived, filtered through the experiences of a loving gay couple and their extended family as they prepare for a culinary competition.'' Ms. Hall, a graduate of Craigmont High School, first gained national acclaim for her 2006 play ''The Mountaintop,'' set in Room 306 of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spent his last night in 1968. That play, which debuted in London, won the Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Play. Hall is the creator of the cable television blockbuster ''P-Valley,'' set in a Mississippi Delta strip club. I wish her well in what is already a very promising career.

TRIBUTE TO ROSELEE NICHOLS ROBERTS

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to my good friend and former House staff member Roselee Roberts, who passed away on April 22, 2020 in McDaniel, MD, on Maryland's Eastern shore. Roselee was a tireless advocate for America's space program and she will be deeply missed by many.

Roselee was born on April 24, 1942 in Baltimore, Maryland. After high school, she attended the University of Miami in 1960 and graduated with honors and a degree in math and economics in 1964. While in college, Roselee ran the campus speaker's bureau, where she met her future husband, William ''Art'' Roberts. After graduating, she was recruited and hired into a management position with AT&T's Southern Bell Co. at their Jacksonville, Florida office. About a year later, she and Art wed and moved to Reston, Virginia. A few years later, Roselee was selected to serve as a Junior Economist on President Lyndon Johnson's Council of Economic Advisers.

Following positions with the Office of Management and Budget and as Rep. Bill Nelson's (D-Florida) chief aide on the House Budget Committee, Roselee launched her space career by serving as a staff member on the House Science and Technology Committee's Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee. In 1985, she left Capitol Hill for a position in the McDonnell Douglas legislative affairs office, which later merged with the Boeing Corporation. In that era, the space and aeronautics industry was predominantly comprised of men with military backgrounds. To support and encourage women in the industry, Roselee helped establish Women in Aerospace. The group now includes more than 2,000 individual and corporate members.

In 2005, I was truly blessed to have Roselee head back to the House and serve as the staff director for the House Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee while I held the gavel as Chairman. With the space shuttle program and International Space Station facing significant challenges, the space industry was at an inflection point at that time. Thanks in large part to Roselee's determination and leadership, we were able to successfully pass and have a NASA authorization bill signed into law for the first time in five years. After serving in the House again, Roselee moved over to NASA headquarters for her final government post as the Special Assistant to the agency's Deputy Administrator.

Roselee is survived by her husband, Art, of 54 years; their children, Elizabeth (Libby) Roberts Holah and husband, Greg; and granddaughters Olivia Holah and Violet Holah, and Leigh Roberts Melton and husband, John; granddaughter Harper Melton and grandson Hunter Melton. I extend my heartfelt condolences to the Roberts family, her friends, and everyone fortunate enough to have known Roselee. Although she may be gone, the many contributions Roselee made to our country will have a lasting impact.

REMEMBERING NIKHIL BADLANI FOR HIS TALENTS, PASSIONS, KINDNESS, AND LASTING MEMORY IN NEW JERSEY'S 11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. MIKIE SHERRILL

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Nikhil Badlani, a talented and compassionate 11-year old boy from West Orange, NJ whose enthusiasm and laughter brought joy to all who met him.

Nikhil was an excellent student. He received straight A's and had an advanced understanding of science and math. From the time he was three years old, Nikhil knew all there was to know about dinosaurs and he brought his passion and curiosity for understanding the world into the classroom.

Beyond his studies, Nikhil was a talented musician and at the age of 11 he was already excelling at both the piano and trumpet. His talent was undeniable and he was accepted to play trumpet with the Youth Orchestras of Essex County. Nikhil also loved the theater and he was a captivating actor.

It is impossible to fathom that on June 11, 2011 Nikhil was tragically killed when a distracted driver failed to stop at a stop sign. Nikhil is fondly remembered by his friends and family for his talent, energy, and kindness. Nikhil's life inspired his family to create the Nikhil Badlani Foundation in his honor, which provides lessons for musicians, scholarships for graduating seniors and brings traffic safety awareness and advocacy to our community.

In the years since his passing, community members have come together to celebrate his life and promote traffic safety in his honor. As this year marks ten years since that tragic day, South Orange Township will commemorate this milestone with a moment of silence at the crash site before unveiling its new name, ''Nikhil's Way.'' Nikhil will never be forgotten.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CARE ECONOMY AND IMPORTANCE OF SUPPORTING HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of the care economy and the need for significant investment in home and community-based services to meet the needs of seniors, people with disabilities, and caregivers who serve them.

The vast majority of America's seniors and people with disabilities prefer to receive long-term services and supports in the home or in the community. However, there are currently significant roadblocks to quality, accessible home and community-based services. Many HCBS are provided through Medicaid, which has restrictive eligibility criteria and often has long waitlists for these services. Additionally, the direct care workforce that provides HCBS face low pay and few if any benefits, resulting in high turnover that impacts the services they

provide. As a result, far too many Americans are unable to access to quality, affordable home and community-based services. While the American Rescue Plan provided important resources for Medicaid HCBS to meet the immediate needs of the pandemic, more comprehensive reforms are needed to ensure that all Americans can live with dignity in the setting of their choosing.

The Biden American Jobs Plan will help meet this need by providing $400 billion for quality home and community-based services for seniors and people with disabilities. This investment will transform the care economy by investing in the HCBS workforce, allowing them to receive pay and benefits commensurate with the work they provide. It will allow seniors and people with disabilities to receive the high-quality care they need in the setting of their choosing. More importantly, it will provide dignity for all who participate in the care economy.

I urge my colleagues to support the American Jobs Plan and this historic investment in the care economy.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S4523–S4555

Measures Introduced: Twenty-four bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2048–2071, and S. Res. 269–271. **Pages S4544–45**

Measures Passed:

Juneteenth National Independence Day Act: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. 475, to amend title 5, United States Code, to designate Juneteenth National Independence Day as a legal public holiday, and the bill was then passed. **Pages S4538–39**

Juneteenth Independence Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 269, designating June 19, 2021, as "Juneteenth Independence Day" in recognition of June 19, 1865, the date on which news of the end of slavery reached the slaves in the Southwestern States. **Page S4539**

Ahuja Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the motion to invoke cloture with respect to the nomination of Kiran Arjandas Ahuja, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management, be withdrawn. **Page S4526**

Beaudreau Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Tommy P. Beaudreau, of Alaska, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior. **Page S4538**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Lydia Kay Griggsby, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland. **Page S4538**

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

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S4538**

Tien Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of John K. Tien, of Georgia, to be Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security. **Page S4538**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Tommy P. Beaudreau, of Alaska, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior **Page S4538**

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

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S4538**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S4538**

Fox and Griggsby Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 10:30 a.m., on Wednesday, June 16, 2021, Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Radhika Fox, of California, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency; that the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Lydia Kay Griggsby, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland, occur immediately following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Radhika Fox, and that if cloture is invoked on either of the nominations, the confirmation votes occur at 3:15 p.m., in the order that cloture was invoked. **Page S4550**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 69 yeas to 28 nays (Vote No. EX. 233), Lina M. Khan, of New York, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the unexpired term of seven years from September 26, 2017. **Pages S4525–26**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

William E. Holloway, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Institute of Building Sciences for a term expiring September 7, 2021.

William E. Holloway, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National

Institute of Building Sciences for a term expiring September 7, 2024.

Amanda Howe, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Paloma Adams-Allen, of the District of Columbia, to be a Deputy Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

Isobel Coleman, of New York, to be a Deputy Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

Javier Ramirez, of Illinois, to be Federal Mediation and Conciliation Director.

Tovah R. Calderon, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals for the term of fifteen years.

Kenia Seoane Lopez, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

Jia M. Cobb, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

Sarah A.L. Merriam, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut.

Sarala Vidya Nagala, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut.

Florence Y. Pan, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

Myrna Perez, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

Omar Antonio Williams, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut.

127 Army nominations in the rank of general.

4 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Space Force. **Pages S4550–55**

Executive Communications: **Pages S4543–44**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S4545–47**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S4547–49**

Additional Statements: **Pages S4542–43**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S4549**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S4549**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—233) **Page S4526**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 5:43 p.m., until 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 16, 2021. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S4550.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the Department of Agriculture, after receiving testimony from Tom Vilsack, Secretary, and John Rapp, Acting Director, Office of Budget and Program Analysis, both of the Department of Agriculture.

APPROPRIATIONS: NASA

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, after receiving testimony from Bill Nelson, Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY POSTURE

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the posture of the Department of the Army in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2022 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Christine E. Wormuth, Secretary of the Army, and General James P. McConville, USA, Chief of Staff of the Army, both of the Department of Defense.

ARMY MODERNIZATION

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Airland concluded a hearing to examine Army modernization in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2022, after receiving testimony from Douglas R. Bush, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, General John M. Murray, USA, Commanding General, Army Futures Command, and Lieutenant General Erik C. Peterson, USA, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army, G–8, all of the Department of Defense.

21ST CENTURY COMMUNITIES

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine 21st century communities, focusing on local leaders and the infrastructure needs facing America's states, cities, and towns, including S. 1991, to authorize a new type of housing choice voucher to help achieve the goals of ending homelessness among families with children, increasing housing opportunities, and

improving life outcomes of poor children, and S. 1431, to prohibit the Director of the Office of Management and Budget from raising the minimum urban area population to qualify a metropolitan statistical area from 50,000, after receiving testimony from Mayor Daniel Horrigan, Akron, Ohio; Mayor Cyndy Andrus, Bozeman, Montana; Mayor Corey Woods, Tempe, Arizona; Josh Parsons, Lancaster County Board of County Commissioners, Lancaster, Pennsylvania; and Brian Riedl, the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research, New York, New York.

OUTDOOR TOURISM, RECREATION, AND ECOTOURISM

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Tourism, Trade, and Export Promotion concluded a hearing to examine the state of outdoor tourism, recreation, and ecotourism, after receiving testimony from Colin Robertson, Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Reno; Glenn Hughes, American Sportfishing Association, Alexandria, Virginia; Joe Henry, Lake of the Woods Tourism, St. Cloud, Minnesota; and Zachary Hartman, Ducks Unlimited, Memphis, Tennessee.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY BUDGET

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2022 for the Department of Energy, after receiving testimony from Jennifer M. Granholm, Secretary of Energy.

MENTAL HEALTH CARE

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine mental health care in America, focusing on addressing root causes and identifying policy solutions, Benjamin F. Miller, Well Being Trust, Oakland, California; Chantay Jett, Wallowa Valley Center for Wellness, Enterprise, Oregon; Michelle P. Durham, Boston Medical Center Department of Psychiatry, Boston, Massachusetts; and Thomas Betlach, Speire Healthcare Strategies, Phoenix, Arizona.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Todd D. Robinson, of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary (International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs), Brett M. Holmgren, of Minnesota, to be an Assistant Secretary (Intelligence and Research), and Daniel J. Kritenbrink, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary (East Asian and Pacific Affairs), all of the Department of State, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

AMERICAN DREAM AND PROMISE ACT

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine H.R. 6, to authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain aliens, after receiving testimony from Rony Ponthieux, Family Action Network Movement, Miami Gardens, Florida; Leon Rodriguez, Seyfarth Shaw, LLP, and Joseph B. Edlow, The Edlow Group, LLC, both of Washington, D.C.; Manuel Bernal Mejia, Chicago, Illinois; and Michelle Root, Modale, Iowa.

PROTECTING COMPETITION AND INNOVATION

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights concluded a hearing to examine protecting competition and innovation in home technologies, after receiving testimony from Ryan McCrate, Amazon, Seattle, Washington; Wilson White, Google LLC, Mountain View, California; Eddie Lazarus, Sonos, Inc., Santa Barbara, California; Matthew B. Crawford, University of Virginia Institute For Advanced Studies In Culture, San Jose, California; and Jonathan L. Zittrain, Harvard University Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 37 public bills, H.R. 3886–3922; and 4 resolutions, H. Res. 475–478 were introduced. **Pages H2815–16**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H2818–19**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Cuellar to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H2749**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:34 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H2753**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Preventing Disaster Revictimization Act: H.R. 539, to amend the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to waive certain debts owed to the United States related to covered assistance provided to an individual or household; **Pages H2767–68**

Expedited Delivery of Airport Infrastructure Act of 2021: H.R. 468, to amend title 49, United States Code, to permit the use of incentive payments to expedite certain federally financed airport development projects; **Pages H2768–69**

Federal Disaster Assistance Coordination Act: H.R. 2016, to amend the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 to develop a study regarding streamlining and consolidating information collection and preliminary damage assessments; **Pages H2769–71**

Notice to Airmen Improvement Act of 2021: H.R. 1262, amended, to establish a task force on improvements for certain notices to airmen; **Pages H2771–72**

Veterans and Family Information Act: H.R. 2093, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make all fact sheets of the Department of Veterans Affairs available in English, Spanish, and Tagalog, and other commonly spoken languages; **Pages H2773–74**

Homeless Veterans Credit Repair, Enhancement, and Debt Improvement for Tomorrow Act: H.R. 1257, amended, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the effect of financial and credit counseling for homeless veterans and veterans experiencing housing instability; **Pages H2775–77**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: ''To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the effect of financial and credit counseling for homeless veterans and veterans experiencing housing instability, and for other purposes.''; **Page H2777**

VA Police Improvement and Accountability Act: H.R. 2429, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the staffing, transparency, and accountability of the law enforcement operations of the Department of Veterans Affairs; **Pages H2777–78**

VA FOIA Reform Act of 2021: H.R. 2726, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a plan to reduce the backlog of requests for information made to the Department of Veterans Affairs pursuant to section 552 of title 5, United States Code; **Pages H2778–79**

Amending title 38, United States Code, to render an individual, who transfers certain educational assistance, to which the individual is entitled because of an agreement by such individual to serve in the Armed Forces, to a dependent of that individual, and who fails to complete such agreement, solely liable for the overpayment of such educational assistance: H.R. 290, to amend title 38, United States Code, to render an individual, who transfers certain educational assistance, to which the individual is entitled because of an agreement by such individual to serve in the Armed Forces, to a dependent of that individual, and who fails to complete such agreement, solely liable for the overpayment of such educational assistance; and **Pages H2781–82**

Awarding four congressional gold medals to the United States Capitol Police and those who protected the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021: H.R. 3325, amended, to award four congressional gold medals to the United States Capitol Police and those who protected the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 406 yeas to 21 nays, Roll No. 161. **Pages H2789–92, H2800**

West Los Angeles VA Campus Improvement Act of 2021: The House agreed to take from the Speaker's table and concur in the Senate amendment to 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. **Pages H2772–73**

Suspending the Rules and passing bills en bloc: Pursuant to section 8 of H. Res. 473, Representative McGovern made a motion to suspend the rules and pass the following bills en bloc, and therefore the ordering of the yeas and nays on postponed motions would be vacated to the end that all such motions would be considered as withdrawn: H.R. 293, H.R. 587, H.R. 610, H.R. 1144, H.R. 1703, H.R. 1921, H.R. 2008, H.R. 2332, H.R. 2545, and H.R. 3642, which was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 287 yeas to 140 nays, Roll No. 159. **Pages H2756–67, H2779–81, H2785–87, H2792–99**

Suspensions: The House failed to agree to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act: H.R. 239, to amend title 38, United States Code, to

provide for limitations on copayments for contraception furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 240 yeas to 188 nays, Roll No. 160; and **Pages H2774, H2799**

LGBTQ Business Equal Credit Enforcement and Investment Act: H.R. 1443, amended, to amend the Equal Credit Opportunity Act to require the collection of small business loan data related to LGBTQ-owned businesses, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 248 yeas to 177 nays, Roll No. 162. **Pages H2787–89, H2800–01**

Committee Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Matsui wherein she resigned from the Committee on Natural Resources. **Page H2801**

Committee Election: The House agreed to H. Res. 475, electing a certain Member to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives. **Page H2801**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Four yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H2798–99, H2799, H2800, and H2800–01.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Committee Meetings

EXAMINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH AND INVESTMENT IN RURAL AMERICA

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit held a hearing entitled ''Examining Opportunities for Growth and Investment in Rural America''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET REQUEST

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Department of the Navy Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Request''. Testimony was heard from Thomas W. Harker, Acting Secretary of the Navy; Admiral Michael M. Gilday, Chief of Naval Operations; and General David H. Berger, Commandant of the Marine Corps.

FY22 BUDGET REQUEST FOR MISSILE DEFENSE AND MISSILE DEFEAT PROGRAMS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces held a hearing entitled ''FY22 Budget Request for Missile Defense and Missile Defeat Programs''. Testimony was heard from Leonor Tomero, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Missile Defense Policy, Department of Defense; General Glen D. VanHerck, Commander, U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM); Vice Admiral Jon Hill, Director, Missile Defense Agency; Lieutenant General, Daniel Karbler, Commanding General, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command; and Lieutenant General John Shaw, Deputy Commander, U.S. Space Command (USSPACECOM).

WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT REAUTHORIZATION: EXAMINING SUCCESSFUL MODELS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR JUSTICE-INVOLVED INDIVIDUALS

Committee on Education and Labor: Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment held a hearing entitled ''Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Reauthorization: Examining Successful Models of Employment for Justice-Involved Individuals''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

BOOSTER SHOT: ENHANCING PUBLIC HEALTH THROUGH VACCINE LEGISLATION

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled ''Booster Shot: Enhancing Public Health through Vaccine Legislation''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

DIGITIZING THE DOLLAR: INVESTIGATING THE TECHNOLOGICAL INFRASTRUCTURE, PRIVACY, AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS OF CENTRAL BANK DIGITAL CURRENCIES

Committee on Financial Services: Task Force on Financial Technology held a hearing entitled ''Digitizing the Dollar: Investigating the Technological Infrastructure, Privacy, and Financial Inclusion Implications of Central Bank Digital Currencies''. Testimony was heard from Jenny Gesley, Foreign Law Specialist, Law Library of Congress; and public witnesses.

CYBER THREATS IN THE PIPELINE: LESSONS FROM THE FEDERAL RESPONSE TO THE COLONIAL PIPELINE RANSOMWARE ATTACK

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Innovation; and Subcommittee on Transportation and Maritime Security held a joint hearing entitled ''Cyber

Threats in the Pipeline: Lessons from the Federal Response to the Colonial Pipeline Ransomware Attack''. Testimony was heard from Eric Goldstein, Executive Assistant Director for Cybersecurity, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Department of Homeland Security; and Sonya Proctor, Assistant Administrator for Surface Operations, Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security.

OVERSIGHT OF THE JANUARY 6TH ATTACK: UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE CONTAINMENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM AND FIRST RESPONDERS UNIT

Committee on House Administration: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Oversight of the January 6th Attack: United States Capitol Police Containment Emergency Response Team and First Responders Unit''. Testimony was heard from Michael A. Bolton, Inspector General, U.S. Capitol Police; and Gretta L. Goodwin, Director, Justice and Law Enforcement Issues, Government Accountability Office.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOR COAL COUNTRY: SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE ENERGY TRANSITION

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resource held a hearing entitled ''Environmental Justice for Coal Country: Supporting Communities Through the Energy Transition''. Testimony was heard from Kyle Wendtland, Administrator, Land Quality Division, Department of Environmental Quality, Wyoming; and public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands held a hearing on H.R. 1154, the ''Great Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area Act''; H.R. 1286, the ''Southern Campaign of the Revolution National Heritage Corridor Act of 2021''; H.R. 1316, the ''National Heritage Area Act of 2021''; H.R. 1424, the ''St. Croix National Heritage Area Act''; H.R. 1908, the ''Ka'ena Point National Heritage Area Act''; H.R. 1925, the ''South Kona National Heritage Area''; H.R. 2024, the ''Southern Maryland National Heritage Area Act''; H.R. 2107, the ''Nation's Oldest Port National Heritage Area Act''; H.R. 2359, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain lands as the Los Caminos del Rio National Heritage Corridor, and for other purposes; H.R. 2899, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating areas within the island of Guam as a National Heritage Area, and for other purposes; H.R. 3222, the ''Alabama Black Belt National Heritage Area Act''; and H.R. 3616, the ''Bear River National Heritage Area Study Act''. Testimony was heard from Representatives Clyburn, Tonko, Plaskett, Case, Kahele, Rutherford, Cuellar, San Nicolas, and Moore of Utah; Joy Beasley, Associate Director, Cultural Resources, Partnerships, and Science, National Park Service, Department of the Interior; Suzanne D. Case, Chair, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Hawaii; and public witnesses.

THE CAPITOL INSURRECTION: UNEXPLAINED DELAYS AND UNANSWERED QUESTIONS (PART II)

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''The Capitol Insurrection: Unexplained Delays and Unanswered Questions (Part II)''. Testimony was heard from General Charles E. Flynn, Commanding General, U.S. Army Pacific; Lieutenant General Walter E. Piatt, Director of the Army Staff, U.S. Army; and Christopher Wray, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 2225, the ''National Science Foundation for the Future Act''; and H.R. 3593, the ''Department of Energy Science for the Future Act''. H.R. 2225 and H.R. 3593 were ordered reported, as amended.

REVERSING THE DECLINE IN WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP: OPPORTUNITIES FOR REBUILDING THE ECONOMY

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access held a hearing entitled ''Reversing the Decline in Women Entrepreneurship: Opportunities for Rebuilding the Economy''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

IMPACTS OF SHIPPING CONTAINER SHORTAGES, DELAYS, AND INCREASED DEMAND ON THE NORTH AMERICAN SUPPLY CHAIN

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation held a hearing entitled ''Impacts of Shipping Container Shortages, Delays, and Increased Demand on the North American Supply Chain''. Testimony was heard from Daniel B. Maffei, Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission; Rebecca Dye, Commissioner, Federal Maritime Commission; Eugene D. Seroka, Executive Director, Port of Los Angeles, California; and public witnesses.

EQUITY IN SOCIAL SECURITY: IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Social Security held a hearing entitled ''Equity in Social Security: In Their Own Words''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE PROGRAM (NIP) BUDGET OVERVIEW HEARING

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''National Intelligence Program (NIP) Budget Overview Hearing''. Testimony was heard from Avril Haines, Director of National Intelligence. This hearing was closed.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 2021

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the Department of the Interior, 10 a.m., SD–124.

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 Department of Education, 10 a.m., SD–138.

Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for military construction and family housing, 10 a.m., SD–192.

Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the Department of Transportation, 2:30 p.m., SD–192.

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Caroline Diane Krass, of the District of Columbia, to be General Counsel, Gina Maria Ortiz Jones, of Texas, to be Under Secretary of the Air Force, Ely Stefansky Ratner, of Massachusetts, and Shawn Graham Skelly, of Virginia, both to be an Assistant Secretary, and Meredith Berger, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy, all of the Department of Defense, 10 a.m., SH–216.

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, to hold hearings to examine United States nuclear deterrence policy and strategy, 4:30 p.m., SR–222.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: business meeting to consider S. 66, to require the Inter-Agency Task Force on Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia to develop a plan for reducing, mitigating, and controlling harmful algal blooms and hypoxia in South Florida, S. 1747, to provide for an equitable management of summer flounder based on geographic, scientific, and economic data, S. 1890, to require the Federal Trade Commission to conduct a study on scams that target travelers during the COVID–19 pandemic, S. 1995, to amend the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act with respect to sport fish restoration and recreational boating safety, S. 1894, to designate Regional Ocean Partnerships of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, S. 2016, to authorize elements of the Department of Transportation, 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, and routine lists in the Coast Guard, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining, to hold hearings to examine S. 173, to provide for the designation of certain wilderness areas, recreation management areas, and conservation areas in the State of Colorado, S. 177, to amend the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act to establish the Cerro de la Olla Wilderness in the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument and to modify the boundary of the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument, S. 182, to withdraw certain Federal land in the Pecos Watershed area of the State of New Mexico from mineral entry, S. 455, to designate and expand wilderness areas in Olympic National Forest in the State of Washington, and to designate certain rivers in Olympic National Forest and Olympic National Park as wild and scenic rivers, S. 554, to require the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a study on the establishment of, and the potential land that could be included in, a unit of the National Forest System in the State of Hawaii, S. 567, to provide for conservation and economic development in the State of Nevada, S. 569, to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to transfer certain National Forest System land to the State of South Dakota, S. 609, to withdraw the National Forest System land in the Ruby Mountains subdistrict of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest and the National Wildlife Refuge System land in Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Elko and White Pine Counties, Nevada, from operation under the mineral leasing laws, S. 904, to require the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works to digitize and make publicly available geographic information system mapping data relating to public access to Federal land and waters for outdoor recreation, S. 1008, to require the Secretary of the Interior to develop a modeling tool, conduct a study, and issue reports relating to the tax equivalent amount of payments under the payment in lieu of taxes program, S. 1076, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to require the Secretary of the Interior to establish a program to plug, remediate, and reclaim orphaned oil and gas wells and surrounding land, to provide funds to State and Tribal government to plug, remediate, and reclaim orphaned oil and gas wells and surrounding land, S. 1128, to provide for the continuation of higher education through the conveyance to the University of Alaska of certain public land in the State of Alaska, S. 1222, to designate and adjust certain lands in the State of Utah as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System, and S. 1686, to amend the

Wilderness Act to allow local Federal officials to determine the manner in which nonmotorized uses may be permitted in wilderness areas, 3 p.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Jeffrey M. Prieto, of California, and Jane Toshiko Nishida, of Maryland, both to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and Alejandra Y. Castillo, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, 10 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine the President's fiscal year 2022 budget, 10 a.m., WEBEX.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: business meeting to consider the nominations of Gwen Graham, of Florida, to be Assistant Secretary for Legislation and Congressional Affairs, Department of Education, Rajesh D. Nayak, of Maryland, Taryn Mackenzie Williams, of the District of Columbia, and Douglas L. Parker, of West Virginia, each to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor, and Dawn Myers O'Connell, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, and Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon, of Connecticut, to be Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, both of the Department of Health and Human Services, Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: business meeting to consider the nominations of Robin Carnahan, of Missouri, to be Administrator of General Services, Jen Easterly, of New York, to be Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Department of Homeland Security, and Chris Inglis, of Maryland, to be National Cyber Director, 9:30 a.m., SD–342.

Government Operations and Border Management, to hold hearings to examine improving security, trade, and travel at land ports of entry at the southwest border, 2:30 p.m., VTC.

Committee on Judiciary: Subcommittee on the Constitution, to hold hearings to examine the Women's Health Protection Act, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

Committee on Rules and Administration: to hold an oversight hearing to examine the U.S. Capitol Police following the January 6th attack on the Capitol, 2:15 p.m., SR–301.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: business meeting to consider the nomination of Dilawar Syed, of California, to be Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration, 3:30 p.m., S–216, Capitol.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2022 and 2023 advance appropriations requests for the Department of Veterans Affairs, 3 p.m., SR–418.

Select Committee on Intelligence: closed business meeting to consider pending intelligence matters; to be immediately followed by a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Full Committee, business meeting to consider a committee print to provide for the availability of amounts for customer education initiatives and non-awards expenses of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission Whistleblower Program, and for other purposes, 9:30 a.m., 1300 Longworth and Zoom.

Committee on Agriculture, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''1890 Land Grant Institutions: Investing for Agricultural Resiliency, Equity, and Global Impact'', 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth and Zoom.

Committee on Armed Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Department of the Air Force Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Request'', 11 a.m., 2118 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Education and Labor, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Examining the Policies and Priorities of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services'', 9 a.m., Zoom.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change, markup on H.R. 3291, the ''Assistance, Quality, and Affordability Act of 2021''; H.R. 3293, the ''Low-Income Water Customer Assistance Programs Act of 2021''; and H.R. 2467, the ''PFAS Action Act of 2021'', 10:30 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Housing, Community Development and Insurance, hearing entitled ''Flexible Federal Funding: Examining the Community Development Block Grant Program and Its Impact on Addressing Local Challenges'', 10 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on National Security, International Development and Monetary Policy, hearing entitled ''Schemes and Subversion: How Bad Actors and Foreign Governments Undermine and Evade Sanctions Regimes'', 2 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''The Biden Administration's Priorities for Engagement with the United Nations'', 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Natural Resources, Office of Insular Affairs Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 2070, the ''Puerto Rico Self-Determination Act of 2021''; and H.R. 1522, the ''Puerto Rico Statehood Admission Act'', 1 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, Subcommittee on Environment, hearing entitled ''Jumpstarting Main Street: Bringing Jobs and Wealth Back to Forgotten America'', 1 p.m., 2154 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Underserved, Agricultural, and Rural Development, hearing entitled ''Supporting Small Entities through Investments in the National Infrastructure: Broadband'', 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Aviation, hearing entitled ''Starships and Stripes Forever—An Examination of the FAA's Role in the Future of Spaceflight'', 2 p.m., 2167 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, hearing entitled ''Veteran Homelessness in the Wake of COVID–19'', 10 a.m., Zoom.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10:30 a.m., Wednesday, June 16

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Radhika Fox, of California, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 11:30 a.m.

Following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Radhika Fox, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Lydia Kay Griggsby, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.

If cloture is invoked on either of these nominations, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 3:15 p.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, June 16

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Complete consideration of H.R. 1187—ESG Disclosure Simplification Act of 2021.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Aguilar, Pete, Calif., E646
Babin, Brian, Tex., E646
Buck, Ken, Colo., E647
Burgess, Michael C., Tex., E644
Calvert, Ken, Calif., E643, E648
Carbajal, Salud O., Calif., E643
Cartwright, Matt, Pa., E647
Cohen, Steve, Tenn., E648
Dingell, Debbie, Mich., E648
Estes, Ron, Kans., E648
Graves, Sam, Mo., E647
Griffith, H. Morgan, Va., E643
Higgins, Brian, N.Y., E644, E645, E646
Katko, John, N.Y., E645
Levin, Mike, Calif., E646
Lowenthal, Alan S., Calif., E644
Pappas, Chris, N.H., E644
Perlmutter, Ed, Colo., E643
Radewagen, Aumua Amata Coleman, American Samoa, E647
Scanlon, Mary Gay, Pa., E645
Sherrill, Mikie, N.J., E648
Smucker, Lloyd, Pa., E646
Wilson, Joe, S.C., E644

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