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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 16, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MADELEINE DEAN 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.

HONORING DR. BETSY OUDENHOVEN

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

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize the career of Dr. Betsy Oudenhoven, president of the Community College of Aurora, and congratulate her on her upcoming retirement.

Dr. Oudenhoven joined CCA in 2011, as the vice president for student affairs. She possessed an extensive leadership background, serving students at institutions in Wisconsin, Minnesota, New York, and Illinois.

CCA recognized her commitment and exceptional service when they appointed her president in December 2013.

In her time at CCA, Dr. Oudenhoven is recognized for advancing the institution's commitment to diversity and inclusion, prioritizing equity, and supporting student success.

During her tenure, CCA also reaffirmed its role in the community by expanding enrollment in high school equivalency and English as a second language programs.

Dr. Oudenhoven faithfully served students across the country for 42 years and helped transform CCA over the last decade.

I congratulate Dr. Betsy Oudenhoven on her retirement and thank her for her commitment to our community.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. FELIX GILBERT

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize the life of Dr. Felix Gilbert following his passing on April 27 of this year, 2021.

Dr. Gilbert was a pastor, an Air Force veteran, a professor, a mentor, a father, a brother, and a grandfather. He built his ministry, Restoration Christian Fellowship, and the community development corporation, Restoration Christian Ministries, in Aurora, with his wife, Pastor Kotane Gilbert.

Through these organizations, Dr. Gilbert built collaborative partnerships with members of the community to meet their needs where they live, learn, work, play thrive, and worship.

These efforts include establishing Restoration Christian Academy and working with the Food Bank of the Rockies and the city of Aurora to feed hundreds of families per month.

During the pandemic, Dr. Gilbert devoted his time to public health and housing. He worked with the city of Aurora and UC-Health on testing and vaccination efforts, and with Interfaith Alliance of Colorado and other local agencies to support his ministry's Affordable Housing and Unhoused Residents Village Initiatives.

Dr. Gilbert was an inspiration to his community and worked to mentor local pastors. To honor his legacy, may we strive to build people up and love them just as they are.

CONGRATULATING DEPUTY CITY MANAGER NANCY FREED

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Deputy City Manager Nancy Freed and congratulate her on her retirement following 28 years of service to the city of Aurora.

During Nancy's career, she oversaw nearly every department in the city. Nancy's impact can be felt across every part of Aurora, as she was integral in the planning, construction, and operation of many community services across the municipality, including libraries and recreation centers.

Nancy saw Aurora through incredible challenges, through drought, unprecedented population growth, and tragedy. She rose to each occasion, creating the Prairie Waters Project, one of the country's first reuse water projects; helping plan Colorado's light rail system, including bringing the RTD's R Line to Aurora; and founding the Aurora Strong Resilience Center and the 7/20 Memorial Garden project following the 2012 Aurora Theater shooting.

In 2018, Nancy was named an Unsung Hero of Aurora by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce.

A powerhouse of knowledge and creativity, I thank Nancy for her dedicated service and leadership.

RECOGNIZING ARAPAHOE RESCUE PATROL

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize the lifesaving work of the Arapahoe Rescue Patrol.

Formed in 1957, in Arapahoe County, Colorado, the search and rescue operations by this team are managed by local high school students. These students dedicate hundreds of hours to

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field search and rescue training, wilderness survival, winter operations, aircraft crash rescue, and more. They live their high school career on call prepared to save lives.

When a person is lost in the Colorado mountains, the patrol's teenage volunteers handle dispatch, patrolling, active search and rescue, emergency medical care, and command of the operation.

In towns like Littleton, Englewood, and Aurora, they manage block searches and neighborhood canvassing to find lost children and elderly neighbors. Patrol members are also on scene for disasters like blizzards, floods, chemical spills, and commercial plane crashes, providing assistance to local police, fire, and the sheriff department.

I am proud to take a moment to honor the hundreds of young heroes who served admirably in the Arapahoe Rescue Patrol over the last 60 years, balancing their high school careers with the commitment to saving lives. We owe a debt of gratitude to these dedicated, service-minded young folks.

THE SIREN SONG OF EARMARKS

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, ever since the Magna Carta, it has been a settled principle of good governance that the power that appropriates public funds should not be the same power that spends them. This is at the heart of our Constitution, the separation of powers.

Simply speaking, it is mother's rule writ large. Mother has one slice of pie left and two hungry sons. How does she cut the pie so that both brothers are satisfied? One slices, the other chooses. One brother cannot abuse his powers precisely because of the powers accorded to the other.

And it is the same with our Constitution. One brother makes law, but cannot enforce it; the other enforces law, but cannot make it. One brother appropriates money, but cannot spend it; the other spends money, but cannot appropriate it.

Now, imagine how differently mother's rule would work if the same brother who sliced the pie also chose his piece.

Yet that is exactly the principle of congressional earmarks: Choosing the same slice of pie you have just cut or, more precisely, spending the same money that you have just appropriated. Nearly 1,500 earmarks, totaling $5.7 billion, have been dropped into the so-called infrastructure bill alone since a bipartisan spending frenzy revived this corrupt practice this year.

This monumentally bad idea rests on two arguments. The first is that elected Members of Congress, and not unelected bureaucrats, should spend the people's money. The problem, of course, is that Representatives aren't elected by all the people, only by their distinct constituencies. Representatives are inherently biased toward their own districts. That is why Congress is designed to act collectively.

Only the executive answers to the entire Nation and can resist the manifest excesses of a body controlled by 535 demanding constituencies and their district-focused Representatives. That is why appropriating money is a congressional function, and spending it is an executive one.

The second argument is that earmarks can grease legislation by buying off the votes of individual Members whose judgment would otherwise oppose a measure. Add a few local projects for that Member, and suddenly a bill he would never vote for on its merits becomes a local imperative overriding his sound judgment.

Please explain to me how that is a good thing.

And if earmarks are to be handed out as a reward for voting legislation, Members will prudently keep a list of earmarks handy as the demand for vote for any bill, whether or not they already plan to vote for it.

And this is not a theoretical discussion. We have learned the hard way what comes from breaching the Constitution's checks and balances.

The first problem is the corrupting nature of earmarks. When we place the power to appropriate and the power to spend in the same hands, we bypass the most important check that we have against corruption.

A local company produces a product the Pentagon neither needs nor wants.

Well, what to do?

Ingratiate yourself with the local Congressman; have him tell the Pentagon what it needs and who will provide it; and then reward him lavishly at election time and repeat. It should come as no surprise that many of the congressional scandals of the 1990s and 2000s arose from earmarks.

Second, earmarks bypass the normal process in which projects compete on their merits. Worthy projects don't need earmarks if appropriations are spent by the executive branch, according to well-established competitive, open-bid procedures. Earmarks are only required to protect unworthy projects from merit-driven competition. And even if there is such a thing as a good earmark, the price invariably is logrolling all the bad ones.

Third, earmarks harm the central tenet of federalism: That local projects should be financed by local communities, and Federal expenditures reserved for the Nation's general welfare.

When a local government proposes an earmark, what is it saying?

It is saying the project is so low on its priority list, it won't spend its own local taxpayers funds; but it is perfectly happy to have taxpayers in other communities foot the bill. The result is a grab bag of dubious projects that rob St. Petersburg to pay St. Paul for projects St. Petersburg doesn't deem worthy enough to spend its own funds on, and that St. Paul pays for but receives no benefit from.

We have sung this old song many times before and it has never ended well.

REPEAL AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF MILITARY FORCE AGAINST IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge all my colleagues to join me in voting for H.R. 256, Congresswoman LEE's legislation to repeal the 2002 Authorization for Use of Military Force against Iraq.

In 2002, Congress voted to authorize the use of force against Iraq based on what would later prove to be false, baseless, and misleading intelligence provided by the Bush administration. A year later, Saddam Hussein was overthrown; a democratic government was established; and, finally, in 2011, a formal declaration of the end of our mission was announced.

But 10 years later, this authorization for the use of force remains on the books.

We must repeal this 19-year-old authorization that has been used and abused to justify expansive military actions across the globe. If we are serious about preventing forever wars, we must repeal the AUMF and exercise Congress' constitutional authority to declare war and peace.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on this important legislation.

INCREASING CORPORATE BOARD DIVERSITY

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I also rise in support of H.R. 1187, the Corporate Governance Improvement and Investor Protection Act, and, specifically, the Meeks-Maloney amendment that we will consider today.

We show our priorities by our actions; and, today, we are not just talking about diversity, we are acting to improve diversity in the corporate boardroom.

I want to thank Mr. MEEKS, the sponsor of this amendment. He and I have worked on this issue a long time together, and I thank him for his leadership.

The goal of our amendment, the Improving Corporate Governance Through Diversity Act, is extremely important, increasing diversity on corporate boards. This is something I believe in passionately; and while we have made great progress, we still have a long way to go.

Getting more women, minorities, and individuals from historically underrepresented communities into corporate leadership positions is extremely important. Leaders set the tone, and they set the priorities.

Back in 2015, I asked the Government Accountability Office to look at the gender makeup of corporate boards, and the results were discouraging, and they convinced me that we need to do more.

Women make up roughly 47 percent of the workforce, yet they hold roughly 29 percent of corporate board seats. The GAO found that even if we assume that equal proportions of women and men started joining boards starting right now, it would take more than 40 years for there to be an equal number of women and men in the corporate boardrooms.

We can't wait 40 years for parity. Something needs to change.

But let's also be clear: Increasing diversity on corporate boards is not just a moral issue; it is good for business, too. Study after study has shown that companies with greater diversity on their boards perform better financially, which is why investors want the companies they invest in to make diversity a priority.

In fact, I started working on this bill at the request of investors and investor organizations that wanted to more easily be able to track diversity on boards.

This legislation would help investors accomplish this by requiring public companies to report the voluntary, self-identified racial, ethnic, gender identity, and sexual orientation composition of their board members and executive officers in their annual proxy statement.

□ 1015

By putting this information in one place for investors, the bill would help investors to quickly sort the companies that do and do not have diverse boards.

The legislation would also establish a diversity advisory group at the SEC, which would study strategies to increase diversity on corporate boards because the truth is that making meaningful progress on board diversity is going to require a range of different policies in addition to the improved disclosures in this legislation.

The diversity advisory group at the SEC would continue to study these issues and would continue to make recommendations of best policies for the future.

I urge my colleagues to support this effort, support this bill, support our amendment, and vote ''yes'' on H.R. 1187.

HONORING MICKEY STEPHENS

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Georgia Representative Mickey Stephens for his remarkable career in the Georgia General Assembly.

Mr. Stephens is a native of Savannah and a proud graduate of Savannah State College. He served one term in 2002 and was reelected in 2014 to the Georgia House, representing the 165th District.

As an educator, he was a great asset to Savannah High School, Shuman Middle School, and John W. Hubert Middle School. Additionally, he served on the Savannah-Chatham County Board of Public Education and the Savannah Zoning Board of Appeals.

Mr. Stephens is known throughout Georgia for his civic service, including his commitment to the community and his efforts in supporting the education of youth and adults.

Thank you, Mr. Stephens, for all of your hard work to make Savannah a better place to live. You are an inspiration to us all about giving back to your community.

REMEMBERING MICHAEL MAMALAKIS

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to remember and honor Michael Mamalakis of Savannah, Georgia, who passed away on May 16 at the age of 37.

Michael was a lifelong resident of Savannah and a graduate of Jenkins High School.

He had many passions in his life, but one of his greatest passions was the Savannah Country Day School sports teams.

Michael spent 20 years inspiring athletes with his incredible spirit and unsurpassed devotion. He taught players and coaches alike that passion, effort, and dedication are far more important in sports than wins and losses.

In 2014, Michael was honored as Savannah Country Day School's Best of Preps Unsung Hero.

He touched many lives in the Savannah community, and his irreplaceable presence will be missed by all.

My thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, and all who knew him, during this most difficult time.

CONGRATULATING DAVION MITCHELL

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Davion Mitchell for winning the 2021 NCAA men's basketball national championship with Baylor University.

Davion has never been a stranger to achieving success and making an impact on his team.

During his time at Liberty County High School in Hinesville, in the First Congressional District of Georgia, Davion led his team to their first State title in school history.

As a junior at Baylor University, Davion led Baylor in an impressive season that resulted in a win over Gonzaga in the national championship game.

Some of Davion's impressive accolades include the AP All-American Team, the All-Big 12 First Team, the 2021 All-Tournament Team, and the National Defensive Player of the Year.

Davion's long list of accomplishments stems from his countless hours of work and his determination to win.

I, along with the rest of the First Congressional District, congratulate you, Davion, on your achievements and know that you will continue to make us proud.

HONORING CARL HAMILTON ALEXANDER

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor retired Chief of Police Carl Hamilton Alexander of Brunswick, Georgia, who peacefully passed away at the age of 72.

Chief Alexander was a man of strong character and deep devotion to his lifelong profession of public service.

He began his career in public service with the Glynn County Fire-Rescue in 1970, and he would eventually rise through the ranks of the police department to become chief of police.

Under his leadership, the Glynn County Police Department became the 14th nationally accredited agency in the State in 1994.

Chief Alexander modernized the county emergency radio system and brought computer technology into police vehicles.

Through every position he had, he worked to better his community and every life he touched. His commitment to Glynn County has changed countless lives, and we are forever grateful.

My thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, and all who knew him during this most difficult time.

HONORING MARCOS MUNOZ

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to honor my friend and activist Marcos Munoz, who lived a life of service and commitment to workers' rights.

Marcos migrated to the United States from Coahuila, Mexico, when he was 13 years old. He was looking to make money to help his mother and his siblings after his father left them.

He worked for a Texas rancher, who had him deported when Marcos asked for money he was owed after 5 months of backbreaking work.

When Marcos returned to the U.S. in his twenties, the abuse he experienced turned him into an activist, fighting for basic labor rights for farmworkers.

The late Cesar Chavez, leader of the United Farm Workers, recognized Marcos' leadership skills and asked him to lead efforts across the United States on behalf of the United Farm Workers union.

I met Marcos when he came to Chicago seeking support for the second grape boycott. I was a student at the University of Illinois at Chicago and learned a lot about labor organizing from him.

Marcos later made Chicago his home, settling in our neighborhood of Little Village, where he organized block clubs to create unity and elect representatives from the community.

He later became a steelworker, joined the United Steelworkers union, and spent his last years before retirement as manager of supplies and linen at Cook County Hospital.

Marcos passed away on May 15. I was lucky to call Marcos a mentor and a

friend. My wife, Evelyn, and I are thinking about his family during these difficult times.

May you be in glory, my brother.

SUPPORTING UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE

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

Mr. GARCÍA of California. Madam Speaker, mankind has existed on this beautiful blue marble that we call Earth for nearly 200,000 years. Yet, just 118 years ago, we learned to fly in our own planet's atmosphere.

As a nation, we are thirsty for something to rally behind, something that unifies us, something that we can all be invested in, be intrigued by, be impassioned about, and something to be positive about.

There isn't a better movement to get behind than our Nation's modern space program. Some question the value of spending precious taxpayer dollars to overcome our planet's gravity to go to space, but those people aren't seeing the big picture.

In the early 1900s, many questioned the value of spending so much capital and risking so many lives in hopes of conquering flight, and now we can't imagine a world in which we don't have the luxury of modern aviation.

We had no idea that a little canvas glider flown on a beach in North Carolina would evolve into the modern fighter jet.

We have no choice but to think outside the box, think outside of our own solar system even, to make sure that we not only understand the answers to our most profound questions but also discover new questions for tomorrow that we can't even fathom asking today.

We have no choice but to better understand the extensions of God's creations, to know if we are alone in the universe, to know if there is a second home somewhere out there beyond our sights and imaginations.

Failing to press on is a disservice to previous generations who have sacrificed so much and worked so hard to get us here today. Failing to press on is a disservice to current and future generations who benefit from our progress today.

You see, space is a domain where we, as a nation, can thrive, but it is also a domain where we can be vulnerable and susceptible to the malicious intent of foes such as China, Russia, and Iran. There are existential threats right now in space.

Any decision on our part to divest from this adventure will not dissuade our foes from advancing their own space programs. It would only serve to highlight a massive strategic vulnerability and potentially create capability gaps that will be impossible to fill in the future.

A path of divestment is an unforgiving one and the damages irreparable. While we as a nation currently hold an advantage in space, our lead, like the nearly 118 years that separates today from the Wright brothers' first flight in 1903, can vanish in the blink of an eye.

In this new frontier, time is as precious as money. Now is not the time to slow down.

As big as space is, we must, as a nation, be bigger, be bigger as a united team. As a nation, we must recognize that this investment in our future is more than science and curiosity; it is more than resolve and perseverance; and it is more than just discovery and challenges. It is about survival, excellence, and inspiration; it is about national security; and it is about planetary security against threats that are not slowing down. It is about a new golden era for the American space program.

As a result of the construction of the International Space Station, we have not had all humans together on this planet for over 20 years. That is remarkable to think about.

In 2020, SpaceX, a critical commercial partner in our quest for low-cost and frequent space travel, averaged one rocket launch every 2 weeks. That is 26 launches in a year or almost three times the number of flights that the space shuttle did in its best year.

Earlier this year, NASA successfully landed a JPL Mars rover on the Martian surface for the fifth time. We were the first and only nation to have done this until recently when the UAE and China just landed on Mars.

In April, we flew a helicopter in the Martian atmosphere. No other nation has done that, but the United States now has.

In 2024, we plan to once again land Americans on the Moon and further make history with the first woman on the Moon. Still, to this day, no other nation has done that.

During our lifetimes, we will land Americans on Mars. No other nation has done that. The U.S. will be the first.

As Americans, we are, in fact, exceptional. Our successes in space are testimonies to this. We should take pride in those successes, take pride in our exceptionalism, especially in the space domain.

In 1962, JFK had to inspire us with his moonshot speech. Today, we have no excuses not to be inspired. We in Congress have no excuses to not support these exceptional programs in earnest and with pride. We have no choice.

URGING SENATE TO PASS FOR THE PEOPLE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. UNDERWOOD) for 5 minutes.

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge the Senate to pass the For the People Act, or H.R. 1.

This urgently needed legislation would fight corruption and the overwhelming influence of money in politics by strengthening ethics rules and reforming our campaign finance system.

It would protect the foundation of our democracy, the right to vote, at a time when it is under attack in many States.

I am proud that my home State of Illinois is not one of them. In fact, our legislature recently voted to expand ballot access. But for those who aren't lucky enough to live in Illinois, H.R. 1 is a much-needed defense against widespread voter suppression.

As the Senate considers these long-overdue reforms, I rise today, here in the House of Representatives, to insist that representation matters.

That is Congress' role in our representative democracy: to represent the American people. If the Members elected to this Chamber don't represent the diversity of the American people's backgrounds and their experiences, we can't do a good job of representing their perspectives and advocating for their needs.

Consider that women make up just over a quarter of the 117th Congress, and that is the highest percentage it has ever been. We see the effects of this lack of diversity in the way our government works for women, or, rather, the fact that it doesn't work for women.

Women have been hit harder than men by job loss during the pandemic. This is partly because women still do more childcare than men, and the pandemic triggered a childcare crisis. But this doesn't come out of nowhere. It is a result of chronic failure to address areas that disproportionately impact women.

Because women haven't had a seat at the table, our needs have been sidelined. As a result, everybody loses, not just women. All Americans are part of an economy that depends on childcare to function.

It is no coincidence that the Biden-Harris administration's bold plan to invest in human infrastructure comes just months after our first female Vice President was sworn in. This is just one of many instances in which everybody benefits when different perspectives and life experiences are represented in our elected leadership.

When we talk about candidate diversity, we are talking about growing our economy, improving childcare, and strengthening our infrastructure. Good policy starts with good representation.

H.R. 1 will give Americans the government we deserve by enabling us to elect people who truly represent us.

One of the most important provisions in the bill for improving representation is the creation of a small-donor public financing program.

□ 1030

In the States and cities where it is already in use, public financing is popular because it empowers candidates to get their message out to voters, even if

they don't have deep pockets or corporate connections.

But the Brennan Center for Justice found that public financing doesn't just increase the socioeconomic diversity of candidates for public office, it also boosts racial and gender diversity.

That is why I introduced an amendment to H.R. 1 to include an assessment of the impact on candidate diversity in the required report to Congress on the new public financing program, and I am grateful that my colleagues voted to pass my amendment.

This is personal for me because I firmly believe that we can have a Congress that looks like America if we just give people a fair shot.

I became the first woman and the first person of color to represent my district because I refused to be counted out as unelectable in my own community. I know that women and people of color are electable everywhere. No seat in Congress should be deemed out of reach for certain types of candidates.

When everybody has a fair shot, all candidates are electable, and small donor public financing gives people that fair shot. Small donor public financing and the other crucial reforms in H.R. 1 would make our representative democracy both more representative and more democratic. In other words, it would make America more American, aligning our system of government with our highest national values.

So I urge my colleagues in the Senate to pass the For the People Act with the small donor public financing program intact and help America live up to our values.

REMEMBERING MARINE CORPORAL JEFFREY STANDFEST

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

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Marine Corporal Jeffrey Robert Standfest, a St. Clair County native who was killed while serving his country 11 years ago today.

Corporal Standfest was only 23 years old when an IED struck and killed him and his K–9 partner, Sergeant Rupert, in Afghanistan.

Like all of our fallen heroes, Jeff was not just a soldier in war. He was a son, a brother, a nephew, a grandson, and a friend. A star runner at St. Clair High School, Jeff was an all-American kid who loved his country and followed in the footsteps of his grandfather by serving in the Marine Corps. This is who he was, and this is how he will be remembered.

I recently introduced bipartisan legislation to rename the St. Clair County Post Office after Corporal Standfest. Renaming this post office would serve as a permanent reminder of his selfless service to our country. To his friends, family, and loved ones, it will demonstrate that the United States will never forget his bravery and ultimate sacrifice.

It is the courage of Corporal Standfest and all of those who have worn the uniform that protects the freedoms we hold so dear.

Today, on the anniversary of his tragic death, I hope all of those who knew and loved him find comfort knowing that Corporal Jeffrey Robert Standfest will forever be remembered in history as a patriotic American hero. I am hopeful my colleagues in Congress will join me in honoring this courageous American.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FOR GEORGIANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. BOURDEAUX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BOURDEAUX. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address a serious problem facing our country, one that many of us have been dealing with firsthand since the beginning of the COVID–19 crisis. As I do so, I also want to acknowledge that while we are headed in the right direction, earlier this week we crossed the solemn milestone of more than 600,000 American lives lost in the pandemic.

Today, I speak for millions of Americans from across the country who lost their jobs as a result of COVID–19. They then did exactly what they had been told to do and filed for unemployment insurance, and then they waited. But in Georgia, for many, that unemployment check never came.

Many of us have received a flood of calls and emails regarding this issue. Currently, my office is processing nearly 150 cases dealing with unemployment insurance, our second highest of any issue area, and the stories are truly frustrating.

There is a substitute teacher in my district who couldn't find work due to the COVID pandemic. When Georgia schools reopened to in-person instruction, she was unable to go back, as she lives with a high-risk family member. In April of 2020, she applied for unemployment benefits and received them for just a short amount of time before they mysteriously stopped, even though she is still eligible. She contacted my office in February, and we have sent five inquiries on her behalf, and not a word of response from the Georgia Department of Labor.

We have another person who was approved for benefits in July and began filing claims weekly but has never received a single cent. That person contacted our office in March. We sent four inquiries. Not a word in response from the Georgia Department of Labor.

Let me be clear: This isn't just the slow gears of government bureaucracy. Every day delayed means a human being has to decide between putting food on the table or keeping a roof over their heads. One such person my office has talked to had their car repossessed and are on the verge of eviction because their government can't get it together.

Along with the rest of the Georgia Democratic congressional delegation, I sent a letter in March asking the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of the Inspector General to conduct an audit of the Georgia Department of Labor, and they recently replied.

What they found was that they couldn't figure out what was going on because Georgia couldn't even supply basic data on a number of key issues, including the timeliness of benefit distribution and the number of Georgians who requested the federally funded unemployment insurance supplement.

There are two other States which were unable to provide data on the timeliness of claims through all three Federal enhanced unemployment insurance programs. There were four other States which apparently did not report the required claims volume data. Georgia is the only State that was unable to provide data on either.

In other words, the Georgia Department of Labor stands out as uniquely unable, by either choice or competence, to report on its administration of enhanced unemployment benefits.

While factors such as initial understaffing and limited technology may have prevented the Georgia Department of Labor from processing claims, after over a year and after over 67 million in Federal dollars to help the State, extensive questions remain about how the agency plans to identify solutions to address the serious backlog that currently exists.

Georgians are lawfully entitled to the benefits they applied for. They are also entitled to transparency and accountability from their government. It is time for answers and for solutions.

CLARENCE CUMMINGS, JR. IS OLYMPIC BOUND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I rise today with great honor and pride to announce that Clarence Cummings, Jr., a 21-year-old constituent of mine from Beaufort, South Carolina, will be an important part of the 2021 Olympic weightlifting team and their effort to bring home the first gold in over 60 years for the red, white, and blue.

Mr. Cummings' record is extensive, to say the least. He holds 23 American records in weightlifting. In his weight class, he holds the Junior World Record in the snatch, clean and jerk, and total.

He is world respected and well regarded for his feat in the clean and jerk.

He was the IWF Junior World Champion in 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019. In 2016 and 2017 he was the IWF Youth World Champion. He is also the Pan-American Champion for 2019 and 2020. I also

want to point out that Mr. Cummings accomplished all of these records before he turned 21.

I am immensely proud, as I know everyone in the Lowcountry is, of Mr. Cummings for all of the hard work and determination and dedication he has given to his sport and to his country.

I cannot wait to watch him win the gold medal for the United States in the Olympic Games in Tokyo. His journey is truly an inspiration to weightlifters, to athletes of all types, and to all Americans. I cannot be more proud.

God bless Mr. Cummings, the great State of South Carolina, and the United States of America.

REPEAL THE 2002 IRAQ AUMF

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

Mr. MASSIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to end the war in Iraq. That is right, it is still going on. The 2002 AUMF that authorized military force in the Iraq war is still active, but today we will be voting on it, and it is long past due for us to vote on it. The original text of the 2002 AUMF was disturbingly broad and authorizes the United States military to enforce United Nations Security Council resolutions.

We have wasted $750 million on the world's largest embassy in Iraq. When we get out of Iraq, it is time to put a for sale sign on that embassy. We may get only pennies on the dollar for that embassy, but that is better than sacrificing lives. We don't want another Libya; we don't want another Benghazi to happen in Iraq. It is time to scale down the embassy, put what is there for sale, and bring our troops and our diplomats home.

Saddam Hussein's regime was defeated in 2003. That is 18 years ago. Obama declared the Iraq war ended in 2011. But the AUMF was never repealed, and it gives a blank check to any current or subsequent administration to keep American soldiers in Iraq indefinitely and puts us at risk of getting into another war if things escalate.

By 2013, a majority of Americans believed that the Iraq war was a mistake. Approximately 4,586 U.S. soldiers have died in Iraq, lost their lives since the beginning of the war, and 32,000 have been seriously wounded or injured in Iraq since the start of the war.

Although it is hard to know the estimated number of civilian casualties during this period of time in Iraq, it is somewhere between 800,000 and 1.3 million civilians. Think about that. A million civilians have died in this conflict.

It is time for us to leave. We owe it to our soldiers. They signed up to protect our country. They didn't sign up to be the world's policemen.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this repeal of the 2002 Iraq AUMF today.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARY DUFFY SHEAFFER BURTON

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

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Mary Duffy Sheaffer Burton, who passed away earlier this year. I certainly appreciated Mary's friendship and support over the last several decades. She was an incredible lady.

Mary made an indelible mark through her works and service to the Lancaster County community. She was a lifelong entrepreneur, a pioneer of the manufacturing industry in Lancaster, starting her first business in her garage, HDJ Company, in 1960, which became a leader in the design and manufacture of precision machining parts and would later become specialized medical devices and implants.

Her businesses would employ many individuals over the years, building lasting relationships with many, positively impacting their lives.

Mary received the Golden Micrometer Award from the Precision Machined Products Association of America, which is the highest honor of the industry in 2008 and was a recognition of her outstanding efforts and achievement.

She was just as devoted to improving her community, generously supporting, with her time and talents, many organizations which built Lancaster's thriving arts community, historical organizations, and organizations supporting women and children.

Mary is survived by her three children, who we express our sincerest condolences to, Duffy, Mary, and Edward, and by her grandchildren and her great-grandchildren.

We are sad at Mary's passing, but she brought happiness to the lives of so many, and for that we give thanks.

TAXING THE MIDDLE CLASS

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, President Biden is raising taxes on the middle class. Make no mistake about it. Middle-class Americans are feeling the squeeze of inflation as well—at the gas pump, at the grocery store, at the hardware store, and everywhere in between—as a result of the President's reckless Big Government spending plans.

This irresponsible $6 trillion budget doubles down on taxing the middle class, breaking his pledge to only tax the wealthy. And we know he wants to tax the middle class because the President's budget would let the working- and middle-class tax hikes from the Tax Cut and Jobs Act expire.

□ 1045

By the way, from 2017 to 2019, the TCJA raised the median household income by over $5,000. This was a real positive impact for families across the district that I represent, for families across the country. And it also led to the lowest poverty rate in history, lifting more people out of poverty than ever before and historically slow unemployment.

But, apparently, Biden wants to throw away those policies that built the strongest economy that we have seen in generations and, instead, will force greater dependence on the Federal Government.

Even with all of the radical socialist policies included in the President's budget, their own projections indicate the worst economic growth of any decade since the Great Depression, at the cost of more than $17 trillion added to the national debt.

Madam Speaker, the President says he wants to build back better, but I fear that he will end up building back bankrupt.

America can simply not afford his middle-class tax hikes and socialist spending wish list.

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 46 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

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

O Lord, our God, we pause amidst the business and the busyness of this week and call on You. We are impatient to hear Your word. Hurry to our assistance.

May our prayers be like incense before You.

May the effort of our hands be as a sacrifice to You.

Set a guard over our mouths, O Lord. Watch over the words that come from our lips. Do not let the thoughts that emerge into speech be shaped with evil intent.

And do not allow our hearts to be inclined to compete in wrongdoing with those who wrong us.

But may our eyes be ever on You, for in You do we find shelter. And to You we entrust our whole selves.

We pray this in the strength of Your name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. NEGUSE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 16, 2021.

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on June 16, 2021, at 10:58 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 475.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

ACT ON UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

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

Ms. DEAN. Madam Speaker, last Saturday, we remembered the murder of 49 people at the Pulse massacre 5 years ago. Tomorrow, we will mourn 6 years since nine people were killed in their place of worship at Mother Emanuel AME Church.

It sits with me every single day that in this country we lose friends and family to the tragic and avoidable scourge of gun violence.

As of this weekend, we have reached 272 mass shootings in this country. It is madness. These acts of violence, sometimes motivated by hate, continue.

Yet, we—and the Senate in particular—have failed to enact commonsense gun violence prevention legislation that would stem bloodshed and end this loss. I implore the Senate to hear the cries of those in their communities, our constituents, and pass the two universal background check bills that the House sent over to the Senate in March.

Families should no longer have to bury their loved ones when we have the ability and the responsibility to close deadly loopholes in our system.

Gun ownership is an important part of our American culture and our Constitution, and now is our chance to come together in a way that preserves this part of our heritage while protecting our constituents and saving lives.

HONORING ROBYN RICHARDSON

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

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a milestone in the life of one of Russellville, Arkansas' most admired citizens, Robyn Richardson.

He is a beloved fixture in the community and one of the River Valley's biggest sports fans. I first got to know Richardson when playing football for my alma mater, Russellville High School, and, later, Arkansas Tech University. Robyn never missed a game.

I will always remember him in the end zone of football games, ready to catch field goals and extra points, then promptly returning the football to the game officials. He was as much a part of the game as the players on the field.

But, Mr. Speaker, the milestone I speak of is the fact that he is now the longest-serving employee of Pope County, Arkansas, celebrating his 50th anniversary of employment.

I had the pleasure of joining the city and county last week in a tribute to Robyn's service. Not surprisingly, he told me he feels great and has no intention of retiring anytime soon.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of Robyn Richardson, and I want the Nation to hear of his amazing record of service.

Congratulations to my friend.

CONGRESS SHOULD MAKE DECISIONS TO DECLARE WAR

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

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, the most solemn decision a country can make is to send its sons and daughters to war. The most solemn responsibility Congress has is to make that decision. Yet, Congress has delegated that authority too often and too long to the executive.

It resulted from an AUMF vote, Authorization for Use of Military Force, for a lie-based war in Iraq, resulting in the loss of life of over 4,500 of our fellow citizens, 200,000 Iraqis killed, and destruction and instability in the Middle East.

That authorization will be repealed by a vote of Congress, and I will vote to repeal that authorization and restore to the Congress its responsibility to make that solemn decision about whether and when we send our sons and daughters to defend us abroad.

IN SUPPORT OF THE HELP WANTED ACT

(Mr. JACOBS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JACOBS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my legislation, the Help Wanted Act, which would reinstate work search requirements for unemployment benefits and end disincentives to work.

We have now gotten two job reports that fell short of projections. Meanwhile, it was reported that there were a record 9.3 million job openings in the United States.

In my home of western New York, there are reports that restaurants are turning customers away when they need them most because they are short-staffed.

In February, the Congressional Budget Office published a report stating our economy would return to pre-pandemic strength without additional government spending. Yet, the President and Democrats forced through a highly partisan and unrelated $2 trillion package.

The result is it has now become more lucrative to stay at home than to seek employment, a detriment to our overall economic recovery.

Vaccines are rolling out; the CDC has updated their guidance; and positivity rates are dropping. It is time to get back to work.

CONGRATULATING BOULDER COUNTY, COLORADO, ON JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

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

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Boulder County on their inaugural Juneteenth celebration this year.

In 1863, President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing millions of enslaved people. Two years later, on June 19, 1865, the impact of this proclamation reached Texas, where the last enslaved people were liberated when Union soldiers marched into Galveston to deliver the news.

Over 150 years have since passed, and while there is still much work to be done in the fight for racial justice and equality, we celebrate the resilience of Black Americans and the long struggle for freedom and justice that they have led.

I am incredibly proud that Boulder County is holding an inaugural Juneteenth event. By exposing more people to the importance of this day and educating our community, we have the power to make a difference in Boulder County.

Thank you to everyone for putting the work in to organize this event, and I look forward to celebrating the event with you.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF BRYCEN GRAY

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

Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the

life of Brycen Gray, a talented and bright young man who was sadly taken away from us this past April.

A native of Strongsville, in my district, Brycen was a student-athlete at St. Edward High School. Dubbed a comedian by his friends and family, he had the power to bring a smile and joy to everyone he encountered.

Unfortunately, we lost Brycen in April. Following a battle with COVID–19, Brycen began to exhibit symptoms associated with COVID psychosis. Though he fought to the bitter end, he tragically passed after taking his own life.

Mr. Speaker, when I hear these stories and when I talk to the family, it is impossible not to get emotional. We lost a gifted, talented young man. And the hurt and pain that is inflicted upon those left behind is something no one should ever have to endure.

This is a moment where we should turn grief into action and actively find solutions. To start, we should work with the scientific community to gain a better understanding of the mental health implications of COVID–19 on Americans and other root causes of suicide, in particular amongst young Americans. This will help us look for further warning signs and make sure that young Americans get the help that they need.

We must not let Brycen's memory be forgotten. I pray for his parents, Shawn and Tara, and his two brothers, Ricky and Patrick, and the rest of the Gray family that has had to battle this horrible loss.

INVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I couldn't be prouder of this House for passing the American Rescue Plan, an aggressive response to the pandemic, to pull us out of the doldrums in this country.

As a result, millions and millions of Americans are back in jobs; millions and millions of American kids are back in schools; and so many people are vaccinated. We are back on the road to recovery.

But we can't stop there. We have infrastructure to address. I have been waiting for close to 10 years for us to pass an aggressive infrastructure program. We have 7,500 miles of substandard roads in Pennsylvania alone to fix.

China is investing in itself: its roads, its bridges, its rail systems, its transit systems. What would make us think we don't have to compete with China? What would make us think that our companies don't need every advantage to compete on the world stage?

Let's get infrastructure done, and let's do it boldly and aggressively to build up and invest in our own country.

TAKE ACTION ON SOUTHERN BORDER CRISIS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, America's southern border is in crisis, and this issue has been solely facilitated by the destructive policies of President Joe Biden.

Illegal aliens attack the border, while dangerous drug cartels take advantage of weak policies, putting children at risk. This is truly a disaster, and it is time that the border czar, Vice President KAMALA HARRIS, take action to protect American families.

The numbers speak for themselves. Encounters at the border reached a 21-year high in May of 180,034 persons. The U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency seized 934 pounds of fentanyl at the border in May, which is a 300 percent increase in a year capable of killing every American citizen. Criminal crossings have almost tripled since the previous fiscal year to 6,918 convicted criminals. Drug trafficking and human smuggling have also increased, putting children's lives in danger.

Biden named the Vice President with overseeing the crisis. It has been 84 days, and she still has not visited to see the children at risk.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we should never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Congratulations to Julianne and Hunter Wilson on the upcoming December blessed event.

□ 1215

EL PASO IS A 2021 ALL-AMERICA CITY

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

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, for the fourth time since 2010, the city of El Paso is honored to be named an All-America City for our resiliency, response to tragedy, and vaccination efforts against COVID–19 this year.

The National Civic League awards the All-America City award to communities where residents, organizations, and government work together to address challenges and improve quality of life. When President Biden announced his goal to vaccinate 70 percent of our Nation, El Paso not only met the goal a month early, but we have surpassed it and currently lead the country by 10 percent.

The All-America City award reaffirms our resiliency and outstanding civic accomplishments in the face of the tragic August 3 domestic terror attack and the devastating COVID–19 pandemic as well as our continued goodwill toward migrants seeking refuge at our Nation's front door.

El Pasoans are no strangers to challenges, and our strength is tested over and over. Each time we grow stronger because we are and always will be El Paso Strong.

It is an honor to represent this extraordinary community here today, and I congratulate the city of El Paso.

INVESTIGATING COVID'S ORIGINS

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address an incredibly important national security issue.

We all know that Wuhan, China, where the COVID–19 virus originated, is the home to the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The WIV is China's only cellular level 4 biosafety super laboratory that researches human infectious diseases. This lab is in very close proximity to the wet market that is reputed to be the origin of COVID–19.

Last year, Senator TOM COTTON was thoroughly dismissed for questioning the true origins of this virus, citing the Chinese Communist Party's duplicity and dishonesty from the very beginning.

We all know that the Chinese Communist Party lied to the world about the severity of COVID–19, how it is transmitted, and the dangers associated. There needs to be a thorough and serious investigation into the origins of COVID–19, what the Chinese Communist Party knew, and when, and what the World Health Organization knew and when.

Uncovering the true origins of COVID–19 will be incredibly helpful in helping us prepare for the next pandemic, which I think is something we can all agree on.

OPEN THE UNITED STATES-CANADA BORDER

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, it was recently announced that the European Union is lifting travel restrictions to allow Americans to visit once again.

Over a year under the crush of a devastating global pandemic, highly effective vaccines have made this game-changing moment possible.

Still, our border between the United States and Canada remains closed, leaving people unable to access their property and keeping loved ones separated for over 15 heartbreaking months.

This move by the EU would allow my Buffalo neighbors to take a 9-hour flight to Paris, France, but they can't take a 90-minute drive to Paris, Ontario.

The administration has set a goal of returning to a pre-pandemic sense of normalcy by July 4. For many living along the northern border, normalcy includes the ability to cross to check

on their property and to see their family again.

It is time to open the U.S.-Canadian border.

CRISIS AT THE BORDER MUST BE ADDRESSED

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

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year I had the opportunity to join with my other Republican colleagues to visit the southwest border. This was not a gesture, as the Vice President has referred to these visits. It was, instead, a learning opportunity.

The conditions we saw and the stories we heard conveyed a situation far worse than we had previously imagined. We learned that border encounters are at a 20-year high. We spoke directly to Border Patrol and law enforcement officers who told us that they are so overwhelmed with the care of migrants that they are unable to execute essential core roles of their job. We learned how drug cartels are taking advantage of the overwhelmed system and saw the routes they use to smuggle drugs and people across the border.

What we witnessed could only be defined as a crisis. This is why I encourage all of my colleagues and the Vice President to set aside political gamesmanship, visit the border, and see the crisis firsthand.

PROJECT ENLIGHTENMENT

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

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a pioneering institution in the field of early childhood education located in my district, Project Enlightenment.

Project Enlightenment provides extraordinary services to families and children, and I was privileged to visit with them last week.

In the late 1960s, insightful staff from the Raleigh city schools, Wake County Mental Health and Dorothea Dix Child Psychiatry recognized that strengthening a child's social and emotional development in the early years would have long-term benefits. They were right, and the American Families Plan recognizes this fact.

Project Enlightenment has offered prevention and early intervention services to young children by providing services to the primary caregivers in their lives. Over the years, they have helped people all over the State of North Carolina and all over the country.

I am grateful for the attentive staff that includes a variety of professionals. Because of their commitment to our children, they truly make our county and State a better place.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINGATE UNIVERSITY BULLDOGS

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

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I chose this photo—I could have picked a formal team photo—because I thought this captured the joy of the moment I am bringing to the Nation's attention.

Today, I rise to honor the Wingate University Bulldogs and Coach Jeff Gregory for a spectacular victory in the Division II College World Series. When Bulldogs fans filled the bleachers at the USA Baseball National Training Complex in Cary last Saturday, they witnessed history. Playing in their first ever College World Series final, the Wingate Bulldogs defeated Central Missouri, the number two ranked team in the Nation, 5–3.

In reaching the championship, Wingate joined the ranks of only two other North Carolina Division II schools, and despite losing their opening game, the Bulldogs won four straight to become the first team in 16 years to overcome an opening round loss to win it all.

Bulldogs, through your tenacity and persistence, you have won an incredible victory. I am proud today and always to represent Wingate University.

Congratulations, Bulldogs.

REMEMBERING JERROD WITHROW

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

Mr. LAMB. Mr. Speaker, on June 11, 2021, western Pennsylvania lost Officer Jerrod Withrow of the Mount Lebanon police, who passed away after a heroic battle with cancer.

Officer Withrow had a long and distinguished career in law enforcement, but one moment stood out. In October 2018, he responded to the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh where a mass murderer attacked a peaceful religious gathering with an assault rifle and killed 11 members of our community.

It is hard for most of us to understand the bravery and the raw physical courage that it takes to run toward gunfire rather than away from it, but that was the kind of person that Officer Withrow was. It was who he trained himself to be, and we thank him and honor him for his courage.

On behalf of the people of western Pennsylvania and on behalf of our national government, I wish to extend our condolences to Officer Withrow's wife, Lisa; his sons: James, Brayden, and Ben; and all of his family.

I am proud to remember Jerrod Withrow today in our Nation's Capitol and hopeful that our service here will be worthy of all those Americans like him who every day put their community and their country first.

MICHIGAN SHERIFF OF THE YEAR KIM COLE

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

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, Sheriff Kim Cole of Mason County in Michigan. He was named Michigan Sheriffs' Association Sheriff of the Year this past week.

This award recognizes the sheriff who has made outstanding contributions to law enforcement and the criminal justice profession, demonstrates exceptional service to their community, and has contributed to the betterment of the Michigan Sheriffs' Association.

Kim Cole was first elected sheriff in 2012 and is currently serving in his third term. He started at the Mason County Sheriff's Office as a reserve deputy, and then was hired by the Mason County Sheriff's Office as a full-time deputy in 1985. He was then promoted to sergeant in 1993.

What is interesting, Mr. Speaker, is that Cole's great-great grandfather, Henry Cole, served as one of Mason County's first sheriffs.

Now, Kim will be the first one to tell you that you are only as good as the people you surround yourself with, and he is extremely proud of all of those who he serves with.

Kim leads with integrity, courage, fortitude, and compassion, and has a passion to serve his community.

Kim Cole, I want to say thank you. Mason County is a better place to work, live, and raise a family because of you.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN HELPS FAMILIES

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

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the significant struggles facing working families across America, struggles that have been exposed and exacerbated by the COVID pandemic.

That is why, through the American Rescue Plan, we took action to expand the child tax credit, helping to uplift families and reduce poverty. In my community, more than 40,000 households will receive an average benefit of nearly $3,000 that will begin being disbursed in just a few short weeks. This is projected to lift 8,200 children out of poverty in my district alone.

When we talk about transformative investment to support working families, this is exactly what we mean, and it is why we need to make the expanded child tax credit permanent, to put kids and parents on the path to success, because when we ease the financial burden on families, they have the security and flexibility to contribute to the workforce, strengthen our economy, and set our children up for a stable and successful future.

LIFESCAPE HELPS FAMILIES

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

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of efforts to build back our care economy. I recently toured a place called Lifescape in Rockford, Illinois, where I met a woman named Miss Selma.

Miss Selma lives with her daughter and her granddaughter, and she has three generations under one roof. Three generations where she was the major caretaker for many years.

About a decade ago she had a stroke, and so now her daughter has to take care of her. But she has to go to work also. So it is places like Lifescape that help families get back to work so they can make sure that their loved ones are cared for while they also make a living.

The global pandemic put a spotlight on the need to invest in our care economy and places like Lifescape. Because of the CARES Act, Lifescape expanded their home meal delivery service by 800 meals every single day and allowed for the care of people like Miss Selma.

As we continue to negotiate an infrastructure package, we need to invest in our care economy in order to get our national economy back in place.

THE TERRITORIES HEALTH EQUITY ACT

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 3434, the Territories Health Equity Act of 2021.

This bill will address the existing inequalities the territories face under Medicaid, Medicare, and other Federal health programs. Importantly, regarding Medicaid, it would provide us with the equitable share of Federal funding for Medicaid beyond the upcoming fiscal cliff when much of the existing funding for the territories is scheduled to expire at the end of September 2021.

In the midst of a global pandemic, with more Federal attention on how healthcare funding disparities have had a deleterious impact on the finances of local governments and hospitals throughout the country, we believe this is an opportune time to press for equity in Medicaid and Medicare.

The inequities in Federal funding provided to the territories for Medicaid and Medicare have put access to affordable healthcare out of reach for too many in the Virgin Islands and the other territories, making our hospitals' emergency rooms the primary healthcare provider for one-third of our population without health insurance, which contributes to unmanageable costs. Please support H.R. 3434.

□ 1230

CONGRESS MUST INVEST IN AN INCLUSIVE CARE ECONOMY

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to invest in an inclusive care economy to help our families recover from the devastating effects of this pandemic.

As the price of childcare and eldercare increases, many mothers and women in my district had to leave the workforce. In a country like ours, this is totally unacceptable. Mothers are the backbone of our society and the pillar of my district.

This is why, during our week of action last week, I visited a childcare center run by a constituent in Deer Park servicing children with special needs; and I also visited an eldercare center in Pasadena, in my district.

I witnessed firsthand the lifesaving, life-changing benefits out of an inclusive care economy for our children and our seniors.

Investing in an inclusive care economy could benefit my district and communities of color that lack resources to overcome the impacts of this pandemic.

Let's invest in our most vulnerable with the American Families Plan.

We can recover. ''We can do it,'' ''Si se puede.''

ESG DISCLOSURE SIMPLIFICATION ACT OF 2021

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 473, I call up the bill (H.R. 1187) to provide for disclosure of additional material information about public companies and establish a Sustainable Finance Advisory Committee, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). Pursuant to House Resolution 473, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117–5 is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

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 ''Corporate Governance Improvement and Investor Protection Act''.

TITLE I—ESG DISCLOSURE SIMPLIFICATION

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''ESG Disclosure Simplification Act of 2021''.

SEC. 102. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Securities and Exchange Commission has broad authority to require the disclosure of information if such information is in the interest of, or is material to investors.

(2) The Commission does not require companies to disclose information related to environmental, social, and governance (''ESG'') matters, and does not require companies to adhere to standards for disclosing such information.

(3) Investors have reported that voluntary disclosures of ESG metrics are inadequate.

(4) A rule requiring reporting and standardization of ESG disclosures is in the interest of investors.

(5) ESG matters are material to investors, and the Commission must establish standards for disclosure of such matters.

SEC. 103. ESG DISCLOSURES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 14 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78n) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(k) ESG DISCLOSURES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Each issuer the securities of which are registered under section 12 or that is required to file annual reports under section 15(d) shall disclose in any proxy or consent solicitation material for an annual meeting of the shareholders—

''(A) a clear description of the views of the issuer about the link between ESG metrics and the long-term business strategy of the issuer; and

''(B) a description of any process the issuer uses to determine the impact of ESG metrics on the long-term business strategy of the issuer.

''(2) ESG METRICS DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'ESG metrics' has the meaning given the term in part 210 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations as amended pursuant to section 3(b) of the ESG Disclosure Simplification Act of 2021.''.

(b) RULEMAKING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Securities and Exchange Commission (in this Act referred to as the ''Commission'') shall amend part 210 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor thereto) to—

(A) require each issuer, in any filing of the issuer described in such part that requires audited financial statements, to disclose environmental, social, and governance metrics (in this title referred to as ESG metrics); and

(B) define ESG metrics.

(2) SUSTAINABLE FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The Sustainable Finance Advisory Committee established pursuant to section 4(k) of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934 shall, not later than 180 days after the date of the first meeting of such Committee, submit to the Commission recommendations about what ESG metrics the Commission should require issuers to disclose.

(3) MATERIALITY.—It is the sense of Congress that ESG metrics, as such term is defined by the Commission pursuant to paragraph (1), are de facto material for the purposes of disclosures under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Securities Act of 1933.

(4) INCORPORATION OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS.—When amending part 210 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor thereto) pursuant to paragraph (1), the Commission may, as the Commission determines appropriate, incorporate any internationally recognized, independent, multi-stakeholder environmental, social, and governance disclosure standards.

(5) LOCATION OF DISCLOSURE.—Any disclosure required by paragraph (1) may be included in a notes section of the filing.

(6) DELAY FOR SMALL ISSUERS.—The Commission may use a phased approach when applying any amendments made pursuant to paragraph (1) to small issuers and may determine the criteria by which an issuer qualifies as a small issuer for purposes of such phased approach.

SEC. 104. SUSTAINABLE FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Section 4 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78d) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(k) SUSTAINABLE FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Commission shall establish a permanent advisory committee to be called the 'Sustainable Finance Advisory Committee' (in this subsection referred to as the 'Committee').

''(2) DUTIES OF COMMITTEE.—The Committee shall—

''(A) submit a report to the Commission not later than 18 months after the date of the first meeting of the Committee that—

''(i) identifies the challenges and opportunities for investors associated with sustainable finance; and

''(ii) recommends policy changes to facilitate the flow of capital towards sustainable investments, in particular environmentally sustainable investments;

''(B) when solicited, advise the Commission on sustainable finance; and

''(C) communicate with individuals and entities with an interest in sustainable finance.

''(3) MEMBERSHIP.—

''(A) MEMBERS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall consist of no more than 20 members who shall each serve for one four-year term.

''(ii) REPRESENTATION.—Each member shall represent individuals and entities with an interest in sustainable finance, such as—

''(I) experts on sustainable finance;

''(II) operators of financial infrastructure;

''(III) entities that provide analysis, data, or methodologies that facilitate sustainable finance;

''(IV) insurance companies, pension funds, asset managers, depository institutions, or credit unions; or

''(V) other financial institutions that intermediate investments in sustainable finance or manage risks related to sustainable development.

''(iii) REPRESENTATION OF INTERESTS.—A member may not represent a single individual or entity and shall represent types of individuals and entities with similar interests in sustainable finance.

''(B) SELECTION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall—

''(I) publish criteria for selection of members on the website of the Commission and in the Federal Register; and

''(II) solicit applications for membership on the website of the Commission and in the Federal Register.

''(ii) EQUAL SHARE.—From the individuals who submit applications for membership, each Commissioner of the Commission shall select an equal number of the members of the Committee.

''(C) PAY.—Members may not receive pay by reason of their service on the Committee but may receive travel or transportation expenses in accordance with applicable provisions under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code.

''(D) MEMBER TRANSPARENCY.—The name of each member and the types of individuals and entities that such member represents shall be published on the website of the Commission.

''(E) STAFF.—The Committee shall be supported by staff from the Office of the Investor Advocate of the Commission that are dedicated to environmental, social and governance (in this subsection referred to as 'ESG') issues.

''(F) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to finance costs associated with staff dedicated to ESG issues in the Office of the Investor Advocate of the Commission.

''(4) SUSTAINABLE FINANCE.—For the purposes of this subsection, the term 'sustainable finance' means the provision of finance with respect to investments taking into account environmental, social, and governance considerations.

''(5) SEC RESPONSE.—The Commission shall, not later than 6 months after the date on which the Committee submits a report to the Commission pursuant to paragraph (2)(A), publish a response to such report.''.

TITLE II—SHAREHOLDER POLITICAL TRANSPARENCY

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Shareholder Political Transparency Act of 2021''.

SEC. 202. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) corporations make significant political contributions and expenditures that directly or indirectly influence the election of candidates and support or oppose political causes;

(2) decisions to use corporate funds for political contributions and expenditures are usually made by corporate boards and executives, rather than shareholders;

(3) corporations, acting through boards and executives, are obligated to conduct business for the best interests of their owners, the shareholders;

(4) historically, shareholders have not had a way to know, or to influence, the political activities of corporations they own;

(5) shareholders and the public have a right to know how corporate managers are spending company funds to make political contributions and expenditures benefitting candidates, political parties, and political causes; and

(6) corporations should be accountable to shareholders in making political contributions or expenditures affecting Federal governance and public policy.

SEC. 203. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

Section 13 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(s) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO CERTAIN POLITICAL EXPENDITURES.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) EXPENDITURE FOR POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.—The term 'expenditure for political activities'—

''(i) means—

''(I) an independent expenditure (as defined in section 301(17) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30101(17)));

''(II) an electioneering communication (as defined in section 304(f)(3) of that Act (52 U.S.C. 30104(f)(3))) and any other public communication (as defined in section 301(22) of that Act (52 U.S.C. 30101(22))) that would be an electioneering communication if it were a broadcast, cable, or satellite communication; or

''(III) dues or other payments to trade associations or organizations described in section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of that Code that are, or could reasonably be anticipated to be, used or transferred to another association or organization for the purposes described in subclause (I) or (II); and

''(ii) does not include—

''(I) direct lobbying efforts through registered lobbyists employed or hired by the issuer;

''(II) communications by an issuer to its shareholders and executive or administrative personnel and their families; or

''(III) the establishment and administration of contributions to a separate segregated fund to be utilized for political purposes by a corporation.

''(B) ISSUER.—The term 'issuer' does not include an investment company registered under section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a–8).

''(2) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—

''(A) REPORTS REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Commission shall amend the reporting rules under this section to require each issuer with a class of equity securities registered under section 12 of this title to submit to the Commission and the shareholders of the issuer a quarterly report containing—

''(i) a description of any expenditure for political activities made during the preceding quarter;

''(ii) the date of each expenditure for political activities;

''(iii) the amount of each expenditure for political activities;

''(iv) if the expenditure for political activities was made in support of or in opposition to a candidate, the name of the candidate and the office sought by, and the political party affiliation of, the candidate; and

''(v) the name or identity of trade associations or organizations described in section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code which receive dues or other payments as described in paragraph (1)(A)(i)(III).

''(B) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Commission shall ensure that the quarterly reports required under this paragraph are publicly available through the Internet website of the Commission and through the EDGAR system in a manner that is searchable, sortable, and downloadable, consistent with the requirements under section 24.

''(3) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Commission shall, by rule, require each issuer to include in the annual report of the issuer to shareholders—

''(A) a summary of each expenditure for political activities made during the preceding year in excess of $10,000, and each expenditure for political activities for a particular election if the total amount of such expenditures for that election is in excess of $10,000;

''(B) a description of the specific nature of any expenditure for political activities the issuer intends to make for the forthcoming fiscal year, to the extent the specific nature is known to the issuer; and

''(C) the total amount of expenditures for political activities intended to be made by the issuer for the forthcoming fiscal year.''.

SEC. 204. REPORTS.

(a) SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION.—The Securities and Exchange Commission shall—

(1) conduct an annual assessment of the compliance of issuers with section 13(s) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as added by section 203; and

(2) submit to Congress an annual report containing the results of the assessment under paragraph (1).

(b) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall periodically evaluate and report to Congress on the effectiveness of the oversight by the Securities and Exchange Commission of the reporting and disclosure requirements under section 13(s) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as added by section 203.

TITLE III—GREATER ACCOUNTABILITY IN PAY

SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Greater Accountability in Pay Act of 2021''.

SEC. 302. PAY RAISE DISCLOSURES.

Section 13 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m), as amended by section 203, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(t) PAY RAISE DISCLOSURES.—An issuer required to file an annual report under this section or section 15(d), that is not an emerging growth company, shall include in such report—

''(1) the percentage increase in the median of the annual total compensation of all executive officers (as such term is defined in section 240.3b–7 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations) of the issuer over the last completed fiscal year;

''(2) the percentage increase in the median of the annual total compensation of all employees of the issuer, excluding executive officers, over the last completed fiscal year;

''(3) the ratio of the percentage described in paragraph (1) to the percentage described in paragraph (2);

''(4) a comparison of the percentage described in paragraph (1) to the percentage change over the same period in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor; and

''(5) a comparison of the percentage described in paragraph (2) to the percentage change over the same period in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor.''.

TITLE IV—CLIMATE RISK DISCLOSURE

SEC. 401. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Climate Risk Disclosure Act of 2021''.

SEC. 402. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) climate change poses a significant and increasing threat to the growth and stability of the economy of the United States;

(2) many sectors of the economy of the United States and many American businesses are exposed to climate-related risk, which may include exposure to—

(A) the physical impacts of climate change, including the rise of the average global temperature, accelerating sea-level rise, desertification, ocean acidification, intensification of storms, increase in heavy precipitation, more frequent and intense temperature extremes, more severe droughts, and longer wildfire seasons;

(B) the economic disruptions and security threats that result from the physical impacts described in subparagraph (A) including conflicts over scarce resources, conditions conducive to violent extremism, the spread of infectious diseases, and forced migration;

(C) the transition impacts that result as the global economy transitions to a clean and renewable energy, low-emissions economy, including financial impacts as climate change fossil fuel assets becoming stranded and it becomes uneconomic for companies to develop fossil fuel assets as policymakers act to limit the worst impacts of climate change by keeping the rise in average global temperature to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels; and

(D) actions by Federal, State, Tribal, territorial, and local governments to limit the worst effects of climate change by enacting policies that keep the global average surface temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels;

(3) assessing the potential impact of climate-related risks on national and international financial systems is an urgent concern;

(4) companies have a duty to disclose financial risks that climate change presents to their investors, lenders, and insurers;

(5) the Securities and Exchange Commission has a duty to promote a risk-informed securities market that is worthy of the trust of the public as families invest for their futures;

(6) investors, lenders, and insurers are increasingly demanding climate risk information that is consistent, comparable, reliable, and clear;

(7) including standardized, material climate change risk and opportunity disclosure that is useful for decision makers in annual reports to the Commission will increase transparency with respect to risk accumulation and exposure in financial markets;

(8) requiring companies to disclose climate-related risk exposure and risk management strategies will encourage a smoother transition to a clean and renewable energy, low-emissions economy and guide capital allocation to mitigate, and adapt to, the effects of climate change and limit damages associated with climate-related events and disasters; and

(9) a critical component in fighting climate change is a transparent accounting of the risks that climate change presents and the implications of continued inaction with respect to climate change.

SEC. 403. DISCLOSURES RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE.

Section 13 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m), as amended by section 302, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(u) DISCLOSURES RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) 1.5 DEGREE SCENARIO.—The term '1.5 degree scenario' means a scenario that aligns with greenhouse gas emissions pathways that aim to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

''(B) APPROPRIATE CLIMATE PRINCIPALS.—The term 'appropriate climate principals' means—

''(i) the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency;

''(ii) the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;

''(iii) the Director of the Office of Management and Budget;

''(iv) the Secretary of the Interior;

''(v) the Secretary of Energy; and

''(vi) the head of any other Federal agency, as determined appropriate by the Commission.

''(C) BASELINE SCENARIO.—The term 'baseline scenario' means a widely-recognized analysis scenario in which levels of greenhouse gas emissions, as of the date on which the analysis is performed, continue to grow, resulting in an increase in the global average temperature of 1.5 degrees Celsius or more above pre-industrial levels.

''(D) CARBON DIOXIDE EQUIVALENT.—The term 'carbon dioxide equivalent' means the number of metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions with the same global warming potential as one metric ton of another greenhouse gas, as determined under table A–1 of subpart A of part 98 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the date of enactment of this subsection.

''(E) CLIMATE CHANGE.—The term 'climate change' means a change of climate that is—

''(i) attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere; and

''(ii) in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.

''(F) COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF FOSSIL FUELS.—The term 'commercial development of fossil fuels' includes—

''(i) exploration, extraction, processing, exporting, transporting, refining, and any other significant action with respect to oil, natural gas, coal, or any byproduct thereof or any other solid or liquid hydrocarbons that are commercially produced; and

''(ii) acquiring a license for any activity described in clause (i).

''(G) COVERED ISSUER.—The term 'covered issuer' means an issuer that is required to file an annual report under subsection (a) or section 15(d).

''(H) DIRECT AND INDIRECT GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.—The term 'direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions' includes, with respect to a covered issuer—

''(i) all direct greenhouse gas emissions released by the covered issuer;

''(ii) all indirect greenhouse gas emissions with respect to electricity, heat, or steam purchased by the covered issuer;

''(iii) significant indirect emissions, other than the emissions described in clause (ii), emitted in the value chain of the covered issuer; and

''(iv) all indirect greenhouse gas emissions that are attributable to assets owned or managed, including assets that are partially owned or managed, by the covered issuer.

''(I) FOSSIL FUEL RESERVES.—The term 'fossil fuel reserves' has the meaning given the term 'reserves' under the final rule of the Commission titled 'Modernization of Oil and Gas Reporting' (74 Fed. Reg. 2158; published January 14, 2009).

''(J) GREENHOUSE GAS.—The term 'greenhouse gas'—

''(i) means carbon dioxide, hydrofluorocarbons, methane, nitrous oxide, perfluorocarbons, sulfur hexafluoride, nitrogen triflouride, and chlorofluorocarbons;

''(ii) includes any other anthropogenically-emitted gas that the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency determines, after notice and comment, to contribute to climate change; and

''(iii) includes any other anthropogenically-emitted gas that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change determines to contribute to climate change.

''(K) GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.—The term 'greenhouse gas emissions' means the emissions of greenhouse gas, expressed in terms of metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent.

''(L) PHYSICAL RISKS.—The term 'physical risks' means financial risks to long-lived fixed assets, locations, operations, or value chains that result from exposure to physical climate-related effects, including—

''(i) increased average global temperatures and increased frequency of temperature extremes;

''(ii) increased severity and frequency of extreme weather events;

''(iii) increased flooding;

''(iv) sea level rise;

''(v) ocean acidification;

''(vi) increased frequency of wildfires;

''(vii) decreased arability of farmland;

''(viii) decreased availability of fresh water; and

''(ix) any other financial risks to long-lived fixed assets, locations, operations, or value chains determined appropriate by the Commission, in consultation with appropriate climate principals.

''(M) SOCIAL COST OF CARBON.—The term 'social cost of carbon' means the social cost of carbon, as described in the technical support document entitled 'Technical Support Document: Technical Update of the Social Cost of Carbon for Regulatory Impact Analysis Under Executive Order 12866', published by the Interagency Working Group on Social Cost of Greenhouse Gases, United States Government, in August 2016 or any successor or substantially related estimate of the monetized damages associated with an incremental increase in carbon dioxide emissions in a given year.

''(N) TRANSITION RISKS.—The term 'transition risks' means financial risks that are attributable to climate change mitigation and adaptation, including efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen resilience to the impacts of climate change, including—

''(i) costs relating to—

''(I) international treaties and agreements;

''(II) Federal, State, and local policy;

''(III) new technologies;

''(IV) changing markets;

''(V) reputational impacts relevant to changing consumer behavior; and

''(VI) litigation; and

''(ii) assets that may lose value or become stranded due to any of the costs described in subclauses (I) through (VI) of clause (i).

''(O) VALUE CHAIN.—The term 'value chain'—

''(i) means the total lifecycle of a product or service, both before and after production of the product or service, as applicable; and

''(ii) may include the sourcing of materials, production, transportation, and disposal with respect to the product or service described in clause (i).

''(2) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

''(A) short-, medium-, and long-term financial and economic risks and opportunities relating to climate change, and the national and global reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, constitute information that issuers—

''(i) may reasonably expect to affect shareholder decision making; and

''(ii) should regularly identify, evaluate, and disclose; and

''(B) the disclosure of information described in subparagraph (A) should—

''(i) identify, and evaluate—

''(I) material physical and transition risks posed by climate change; and

''(II) the potential financial impact of such risks;

''(ii) detail any implications such risks have on corporate strategy;

''(iii) detail any board-level oversight of material climate related risks and opportunities;

''(iv) allow for intra- and cross-industry comparison, to the extent practicable, of climate-related risk exposure through the inclusion of standardized industry-specific and sector-specific disclosure metrics, as identified by the Commission, in consultation with the appropriate climate principals;

''(v) allow for tracking of performance over time with respect to mitigating climate risk exposure; and

''(vi) incorporate a price on greenhouse gas emissions in financial analyses that reflects, at minimum, the social cost of carbon that is attributable to issuers.

''(3) DISCLOSURE.—Each covered issuer, in any annual report filed by the covered issuer under subsection (a) or section 15(d), shall, in accordance with any rules issued by the Commission pursuant to this subsection, include in each such report information regarding—

''(A) the identification of, the evaluation of potential financial impacts of, and any risk-management strategies relating to—

''(i) physical risks posed to the covered issuer by climate change; and

''(ii) transition risks posed to the covered issuer by climate change;

''(B) a description of any established corporate governance processes and structures to identify, assess, and manage climate-related risks;

''(C) a description of specific actions that the covered issuer is taking to mitigate identified risks;

''(D) a description of the resilience of any strategy the covered issuer has for addressing climate risks when differing climate scenarios are taken into consideration; and

''(E) a description of how climate risk is incorporated into the overall risk management strategy of the covered issuer.

''(4) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in paragraph (3) may be construed as precluding a covered issuer from including, in an annual report submitted under subsection (a) or section 15(d), any information not explicitly referenced in such paragraph.

''(5) RULEMAKING.—The Commission, in consultation with the appropriate climate principals, shall, not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this subsection, issue rules with respect to the information that a covered issuer is required to disclose pursuant to this subsection and such rules shall—

''(A) establish climate-related risk disclosure rules, which shall—

''(i) be, to the extent practicable, specialized for industries within specific sectors of the economy, which shall include—

''(I) the sectors of finance, insurance, transportation, electric power, mining, and non-renewable energy; and

''(II) any other sector determined appropriate by the Commission, in consultation with the appropriate climate principals;

''(ii) include reporting standards for estimating and disclosing direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions by a covered issuer, and any affiliates of the covered issuer, which shall—

''(I) disaggregate, to the extent practicable, total emissions of each specified greenhouse gas by the covered issuer; and

''(II) include greenhouse gas emissions by the covered issuer during the period covered by the disclosure;

''(iii) include reporting standards for disclosing, with respect to a covered issuer—

''(I) the total amount of fossil fuel-related assets owned or managed by the covered issuer; and

''(II) the percentage of fossil fuel-related assets as a percentage of total assets owned or managed by the covered issuer;

''(iv) specify requirements for, and the disclosure of, input parameters, assumptions, and analytical choices to be used in climate scenario analyses required under subparagraph (B)(i), including—

''(I) present value discount rates; and

''(II) time frames to consider, including 5, 10, and 20 year time frames; and

''(v) include reporting standards and guidance with respect to the information required under subparagraph (B)(iii);

''(B) require that a covered issuer, with respect to a disclosure required under this subsection—

''(i) incorporate into such disclosure—

''(I) quantitative analysis to support any qualitative statement made by the covered issuer;

''(II) the rules established under subparagraph (A);

''(III) industry-specific metrics that comply with the requirements under subparagraph (A)(i);

''(IV) specific risk management actions that the covered issuer is taking to address identified risks;

''(V) a discussion of the short-, medium-, and long-term resilience of any risk management strategy, and the evolution of applicable risk metrics, of the covered issuer under each scenario described in clause (ii); and

''(VI) the total cost attributable to the direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions of the covered issuer, using, at minimum, the social cost of carbon;

''(ii) consider, when preparing any qualitative or quantitative risk analysis statement contained in the disclosure—

''(I) a baseline scenario that includes physical impacts of climate change;

''(II) a 1.5 degrees scenario; and

''(III) any additional climate analysis scenario considered appropriate by the Commission, in consultation with the appropriate climate principals;

''(iii) if the covered issuer engages in the commercial development of fossil fuels, include in the disclosure—

''(I) an estimate of the total and a disaggregated amount of direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions of the covered issuer that are attributable to—

''(aa) combustion;

''(bb) flared hydrocarbons;

''(cc) process emissions;

''(dd) directly vented emissions;

''(ee) fugitive emissions or leaks; and

''(ff) land use changes;

''(II) a description of—

''(aa) the sensitivity of fossil fuel reserve levels to future price projection scenarios that incorporate the social cost of carbon;

''(bb) the percentage of the reserves of the covered issuer that will be developed under the scenarios established in clause (ii), as well as a forecast for the development prospects of each reserve under the scenarios established in clause (ii);

''(cc) the potential amount of direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions that are embedded in proved and probable reserves, with each such calculation presented as a total and in subdivided categories by the type of reserve;

''(dd) the methodology of the covered issuer for detecting and mitigating fugitive methane emissions, which shall include the frequency with which applicable assets of the covered issuer are observed for methane leaks, the processes and technology that the covered issuer uses to detect methane leaks, the percentage of assets of the covered issuer that the covered issuer inspects under that methodology, and quantitative and time-bound reduction goals of the issuer with respect to methane leaks;

''(ee) the amount of water that the covered issuer withdraws from freshwater sources for use and consumption in operations of the covered issuer; and

''(ff) the percentage of the water described in item (ee) that comes from regions of water stress or that face wastewater management challenges; and

''(III) any other information that the Commission determines is—

''(aa) necessary;

''(bb) appropriate to safeguard the public interest; or

''(cc) directed at ensuring that investors are informed in accordance with the findings described in paragraph (2);

''(C) with respect to a disclosure required under section 13(s) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, require that a covered issuer include in such disclosure any other information, or use any climate-related or greenhouse gas emissions metric, that the Commission, in consultation with the appropriate climate principals, determines is—

''(i) necessary;

''(ii) appropriate to safeguard the public interest; or

''(iii) directed at ensuring that investors are informed in accordance with the findings described in paragraph (2); and

''(D) with respect to a disclosure required under section 13(s) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, establish how and where the required disclosures shall be addressed in the covered issuer's annual financial filing.

''(6) FORMATTING.—The Commission shall require issuers to disclose information in an interactive data format and shall develop standards for such format, which shall include electronic tags for information that the Commission determines is—

''(A) necessary;

''(B) appropriate to safeguard the public interest; or

''(C) directed at ensuring that investors are informed in accordance with the findings described in paragraph (2).

''(7) PERIODIC UPDATE OF RULES.—The Commission shall periodically update the rules issued under this subsection.

''(8) COMPILATION OF INFORMATION DISCLOSED.—The Commission shall, to the maximum extent practicable make a compilation of the information disclosed by issuers under this subsection publicly available on the website of the Commission and update such compilation at least once each year.

''(9) REPORTS.—

''(A) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Commission shall—

''(i) conduct an annual assessment regarding the compliance of covered issuers with the requirements of this subsection;

''(ii) submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that contains the results of each assessment conducted under clause (i); and

''(iii) make each report submitted under clause (ii) accessible to the public.

''(B) GAO REPORT.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall periodically evaluate, and report to the appropriate congressional committees on, the effectiveness of the Commission in carrying out and enforcing this subsection.''.

SEC. 404. BACKSTOP.

If, 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Securities and Exchange Commission has not issued the rules required under section 13(u) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and until such rules are issued, a covered

issuer (as defined in such section 13(u)) shall be deemed in compliance with such section 13(u) if disclosures set forth in the annual report of such issuer satisfy the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures of the Financial Stability Board as reported in June, 2017, or any successor report, and as supplemented or adjusted by such rules, guidance, or other comments from the Commission.

SEC. 405. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Securities and Exchange Commission such sums as may be necessary to carry out this title and the amendments made by this title.

TITLE V—DISCLOSURE OF TAX HAVENS AND OFFSHORING

SEC. 501. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Disclosure of Tax Havens and Offshoring Act''.

SEC. 502. COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY REPORTING.

(a) COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY REPORTING.—Section 13 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m), as amended by section 403, is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(v) DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE ON A COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY BASIS.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

''(A) the term 'constituent entity' means, with respect to a covered issuer, any separate business entity of the covered issuer;

''(B) the term 'covered issuer' means an issuer who—

''(i) is a member of a multinational enterprise group; and

''(ii) the multinational enterprise group of which the issuer is a member has annual revenue for the preceding calendar year of not less than an amount determined by the Commission to conform to United States or international standards for country-by-country reporting; and

''(C) the term 'tax jurisdiction'—

''(i) means a country or a jurisdiction that is not a country but that has fiscal autonomy; and

''(ii) includes a territory or possession of the United States that has fiscal autonomy.

''(2) DISCLOSURE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Each covered issuer shall file a report with the Commission that includes information described in subparagraph (B), and any other information required by the Commission, with respect to the reporting period described in subparagraph (C).

''(B) INFORMATION REQUIRED.—The information described in this subparagraph is as follows:

''(i) CONSTITUENT ENTITY INFORMATION.—Information on the constituent entity, including the following:

''(I) The complete legal name of the constituent entity.

''(II) The tax jurisdiction, if any, in which the constituent entity is resident for tax purposes.

''(III) The tax jurisdiction in which the constituent entity is organized or incorporated (if different from the tax jurisdiction of residence).

''(IV) The tax identification number, if any, used for the constituent entity by the tax administration of the constituent entity's tax jurisdiction of residence.

''(V) The main business activity or activities of the constituent entity.

''(ii) TAX JURISDICTION.—Information on each tax jurisdiction in which one or more constituent entities is resident, presented as an aggregated or consolidated form of the information for the constituent entities resident in each tax jurisdiction, including the following:

''(I) Revenues generated from transactions with other constituent entities.

''(II) Revenues not generated from transactions with other constituent entities.

''(III) Profit or loss before income tax.

''(IV) Total income tax paid on a cash basis to all tax jurisdictions.

''(V) Total accrued tax expense recorded on taxable profits or losses.

''(VI) Stated capital.

''(VII) Total accumulated earnings.

''(VIII) Total number of employees on a full-time equivalent basis.

''(IX) Net book value of tangible assets, which, for purposes of this section, does not include cash or cash equivalents, intangibles, or financial assets.

''(iii) SPECIAL RULES.—The information listed in clause (ii) shall be provided, in aggregated or consolidated form, for any constituent entity or entities that have no tax jurisdiction of residence. In addition, if a constituent entity is an owner of a constituent entity that does not have a jurisdiction of tax residence, then the owner's share of such entity's revenues and profits will be aggregated or consolidated with the information for the owner's tax jurisdiction of residence.

''(C) REPORTING PERIOD.—The reporting period covered by this paragraph is the period of the covered entity's applicable financial statement prepared for the 12-month period that ends with or within the taxable year of the covered issuer. If the covered issuer does not prepare an annual applicable financial statement, then the reporting period covered by this paragraph is the 12-month period that ends on the last day of the taxable year of the covered issuer.

''(D) FILING DEADLINE.—Each covered issuer shall submit to the Commission a report required under this section on or before the due date (including extensions) for filing that covered issuer's tax return in the tax jurisdiction in which the covered issuer's multinational enterprise group is resident.

''(E) REGULATION.—The Commission shall, in consultation with the Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service and Secretary of the Treasury—

''(i) promulgate regulations carrying out this subsection that conform to United States or international standards for country-by-country reporting, including regulations promulgated by the Internal Revenue Service; and

''(ii) require disclosure of the accounting methods used in calculating the information contained in each report filed pursuant to this subsection.''.

(b) RULEMAKING.—

(1) DEADLINES.—The Securities and Exchange Commission (in this section referred to as the ''Commission'') shall—

(A) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, issue a proposed rule to carry out this section and the amendment made by this section; and

(B) not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, issue a final rule to carry out this section and the amendment made by this section.

(2) DATA FORMAT.—The information required to be provided by this section shall be provided by the issuer in a report in a machine readable format prescribed by the Commission, and such report shall be made available to the public online, in such machine readable format as the Commission shall prescribe.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (v) of section 13 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as added by this section, shall become effective 1 year after the date on which the Commission issues a final rule under this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill, as amended, is debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services.

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Member may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1187 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. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1187, the Corporate Governance Improvement and Investor Protection Act.

H.R. 1187 is a package of bills designed to strengthen investor protections and require companies to provide environmental, social, and governance disclosures, known as ESG. I thank my colleague, Representative JUAN VARGAS, for his leadership on this package.

This bill provides investors with critical information on ESG matters by requiring public companies to disclose key information to shareholders regarding corporate political spending, worker pay, CEO compensation, climate risk, and country-by-country tax reporting; and provides issuers with clear, consistent standards to disclose this information.

This is key information that investors have been demanding in order to make the best decisions on the short- and long-term viability of the companies they are investing in.

It is surprising that, to this day, there are no explicit ESG requirements and investors are left to piece together the story of a company's material risk with insufficient information. This is unacceptable.

So I am pleased that this package of bills will improve investor protections by holding public companies accountable and providing greater transparency.

This package includes a number of bills authored by several hardworking members of the Financial Services Committee, specifically: Representative JUAN VARGAS, Representative BILL FOSTER, Representative Nydia Velazquez, Representative SEAN CASTEN, and Representative CINDY AXNE.

Specifically, Mr. VARGAS' bill, the ESG Disclosure Simplification Act, requires public companies to disclose certain ESG information to shareholders, as well as the impact of the ESG policies on their strategies.

Mr. FOSTER's bill, the Shareholder Political Transparency Act, requires public companies to submit quarterly reports to the SEC on any and all political expenditures, including dark money.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ's bill, the Greater Accountability in Pay Act, sheds light on pay disparities, helping to close the gender and racial pay gap.

Ms. AXNE's bill, the Disclosure of Tax Havens and Offshoring Act, requires disclosures that discourage companies'

use of tax havens and encourages repatriation of taxes to the United States.

Mr. CASTEN's bill, the Climate Risk Disclosure Act, requires disclosures that encourages companies to plan for the impact of climate change on their company.

Each of these bills passed the Financial Services Committee with unanimous Democratic support. I thank all these Members for their work on these bills, their contributions to the legislative package, and their leadership on these important reforms to protect investors and hold corporations accountable.

This package is the right thing to do for investors and our markets. It is past time that Congress make ESG requirements explicit. For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

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

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

I am opposed to this bill, and I rise in opposition to H.R. 1187.

Mr. Speaker, today, my Democrat colleagues, once again, are seeking to hijack our securities laws to push leftwing political and social agendas, despite dressing it up as investor protection.

Make no mistake, this bill will increase costs on publicly owned companies, discourage private companies from going public; and, frankly, could encourage not only private companies to stay private, but even have and entice public companies to go back to being private companies.

This is going to result in fewer investment opportunities for everyday American investors, also known as our constituents, who are saving for retirement, a college education or simply looking to just build a better life.

In short, this bill will increase the number of government-directed, mandatory disclosure requirements on publicly traded companies, which will increase compliance costs on companies and divert company resources that could have been used to create more jobs.

Now, to be fair, this is a job-creation bill. However, the only jobs created by this bill will be for a special tranche of attorneys, corporate compliance coordinators, and the occasional scientist; not exactly what an economist would call productive-types of jobs.

Under this bill, public companies would be required to disclose:

Environmental, social, and governance issues, as well as climate risk. These metrics would be set by the Securities and Exchange Commission, not Congress;

Descriptions of any expenditure for political activities and donations to political candidates or trade organizations by executives, these are duplicative of existing requirements, for example;

The ratio between the pay raise percentage of the company's executives and the pay raise percentage of the company's median employee. This is, in some ways, duplicative of the mandatory CEO pay ratio disclosure that Democrats put into the Dodd-Frank Act, which itself is an especially useless metric; country-by-country tax and financial reports from multinational enterprises. This will upend the current country-by-country tax reporting rules overseen by the IRS.

Mr. Speaker, let's be clear. My friends across the aisle are using the Federal securities laws to implement their partisan wish list of social policy priorities. They are doing it through mandatory disclosure regimes that are, at best, tangentially related to actual investment decisions.

To be clear, if information presents a material investment risk to a publicly traded company, the company is—wait for this—already required to disclose it. That information is out there for those companies that have material risk.

Materiality has been, and continues to be, the touchstone of our public company disclosure regime for more than eight decades and has actually even been affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court. It has held the test of time, and we simply cannot just discard it to appeal to the Democrats' progressive agenda.

Our capital markets are the best in the world in no small part because materiality is the basis of our disclosure regime here in the United States, yet my Democrat friends, apparently, want to throw it all away for the sake of appealing to leftwing stakeholders.

Additionally, H.R. 1187 will greatly expand the SEC's jurisdiction by requiring the SEC to promulgate disclosures on environmental, climate change, political spending, tax reporting, and foreign policy issues, among others.

This is not the sweet spot for the SEC. It does not have the experience in any of these issues, and is not the appropriate entity for determining these metrics or industry standards, nor is the Securities and Exchange Commission the appropriate entity to review and enforce such disclosures.

The SEC knows how to regulate materiality. That is their expertise. They are not climatologists or climate scientists. They are not election law experts. And they most certainly do not know international tax law. That is the purview of the EPA, NOAA, the FEC, and the IRS.

Furthermore, smaller public companies will bear the burden of additional compliance costs. This bill fails to account for the impact it will have on smaller businesses and companies, especially those who are looking to go public. Or maybe I should say, were looking to go public. They certainly do not have the infrastructure or resources to spend on fixed costs of compliance like this.

H.R. 1187 will result in fewer investment opportunities for American investors. It will discourage private companies from going public and encourage public companies to go private to avoid these burdensome new nonmaterial and useless disclosure requirements.

Sadly, this will hurt the everyday investors, our constituents, that the Democrats claim they want to help. In other words, this bill stands to harm everyone saving for retirement, a college education, or just looking to build a better life.

This is just a bad bill, and I urge a ''no'' vote on H.R. 1187.

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

□ 1245

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. VARGAS), our leader and the real sponsor on this legislation.

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the Corporate Governance Improvement and Investor Protection Act. I particularly thank Chairwoman WATERS for her support of the environmental, social, and governance metrics. Her efforts have been heroic, and I appreciate it very, very much.

Mr. Speaker, when we talk about investors, we are not only talking about large, wealthy institutions. We are talking about teachers. We are talking about people who are working hard for their money. We are also talking about nonprofessional investors who have found in the stock market a way to build their savings toward, for example, homeownership, college tuition, and retirement. When we are talking about investors, we are also talking about pension funds that hold many hardworking Americans' retirement savings.

When a company engages in practices that put its business at risk, it also risks the funds these investors have entrusted with it.

That is why the SEC requires public companies to disclose material information, meaning information that a reasonable investor needs in order to make a voting decision or decide whether to continue investing in that company. Mandated and standard disclosures of environmental, social, and governance, or ESG, metrics would provide improved insight into long-term business performance and areas of potential future risks.

These metrics are material to investors and central to their protection. Together, I and my colleagues have worked to write legislation that would ensure such protection. My bill—the first in the package—requires the SEC to mandate standard ESG disclosures.

My colleagues' bills require reporting on specific ESG metrics that investors have been advocating for over many years. I applaud Representatives FOSTER, VELAZQUEZ, CASTEN, and AXNE for their legislation.

Additionally, I thank Chair Gensler for his advocacy that investors' voices are central to materiality.

I have to say, climate change is real, and we have to take it seriously. It is not a Member of this House or the other House taking a snowball, throwing it, and saying: See, there is no climate change.

Climate change is real. Look at what happened in Texas this summer. They were begging for energy because they were not prepared because of climate change. They were melting snow in their bathtubs so they could flush their toilets.

If you take a look at what is happening out in the West today: drought, the unfortunate reality that we face the risk of catastrophic fires.

All of this is climate change, and it is about time that we take this very, very seriously as a country.

Some companies already do this. They already disclose the ESG metrics. That is why it is important to have an equal playing field where all companies disclose.

Again, I thank Chairwoman WATERS for her heroic efforts here. I also thank my colleagues.

I urge my colleagues on the other side: Take climate change for real. Accept that it is happening. It is real, and it is catastrophic. And we must take it seriously.

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL), a leader on this issue.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member HUIZENGA for the time on the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I would say to my friends on the other side of the aisle: We are not debating climate change here. We are debating the proper way to financially disclose risks on financial statements of companies that may or may not experience impact from climate change.

No one is over here denying about climate. We are here talking about what the right way is to do this. And H.R. 1187 is not the right way to do climate disclosure on behalf of taxpayers, shareholders, and employees of public companies.

I have spent the better part of four decades in leadership in both public and private companies, and I have been engaged throughout those years in calling for quality corporate governance practices. I can say with absolute authority that mandating these disclosures as outlined in H.R. 1187 is not only not necessary but would be expensive and lead to increased litigation costs.

As my colleagues have already said, the information is already to be disclosed if it meets the materiality standard. The idea of materiality has been refined over many decades, and it is what makes our capital markets the envy of the world.

As Justice Marshall stated in the Supreme Court opinion from 1976: ''Some information is of such dubious significance that insistence on its disclosure may accomplish more harm than good. . . . If the standard of materiality is unnecessarily low . . . management's fear of exposing itself to substantial liability may cause it simply to bury the shareholders in an avalanche of trivial information, a result that is hardly conducive to informed decision-making.''

We articulated this in a letter to the SEC that my colleagues and I sent regarding their plans for financial disclosure. In that letter, signed by 22 of my Republican colleagues in the House, we outline our concerns about the SEC going far afield of its statutory mission to protect investors; maintain fair, orderly, and efficient markets; and facilitate capital formation.

We also warn that the nature and scope of climate change disclosure rightfully depends on a particular company's business line and their carbon footprint. One-size-fits-all, uniform mandates would be deeply misguided for an issue as complex as the impact of the climate over many, many years on individual businesses.

This rings more true here in Congress. Congress does not know what is best for a public company. These decisions are best left up to the board that already has a fiduciary obligation to its shareholders to manage this kind of issue.

Our publicly traded companies are responsive to shareholder engagement. Over the last two decades, they have dramatically improved their governance practices by increasing diverse, independent directors and increasing their boards' attention to the business judgment rule and fiduciary duty of care.

Look at Procter & Gamble as just one U.S. iconic company. In 2000, their annual proxy statement was 56 pages. Today, it is 111 pages.

Like the vast majority of public companies in the S&P 500, P&G has significant disclosures of ESG initiatives, their political contributions, and their sales around the world.

Let's not make it more difficult for public companies. As policymakers, we should be promoting policies that bolster investment options for Americans, not limit them. This bill limits that.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to vote against the legislation.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CASTEN).

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my legislation, the Climate Risk Disclosure Act, H.R. 1187.

I would like us all to imagine for a moment that you had all of your wealth tied up in a single company, and you knew that that company was on track to lose nearly 20 percent of its value thanks to a known and avoidable threat. You call the CEO, and the CEO responded by saying: We have it taken care of, but I am not going to explain how.

That is the reality that the climate crisis is creating for our global economy.

Swiss Re recently found that global GDP will decrease by 4 percent if we meet the Paris climate accords, and if we stay with business as usual, 18 percent.

Domestically, the CFTC has come to roughly the same conclusion, estimating that for every 1 degree Celsius rise in temperature, we can expect a 1.2 percent reduction in annual GDP growth.

Mr. Speaker, I say to my friends that that is material. It is a big deal.

Those economic losses are due to the wildfires, droughts, blackouts, and superstorms that have already caused $500 billion of damages in the past 4 years, and investors understand this.

The fossil fuel industry has spent 10 years slashing prices. And do you know what? They are still losing market share to lower-cost renewables and efficiency.

ExxonMobil didn't write down $20 billion because they are woke. They wrote down $20 billion because the free market is beating them.

Investors want to know how to reallocate their capital in response to that risk. They want to know how to allocate it to more productive uses. That is why there were over 140 climate-related shareholder proposals at U.S. companies during the 2020 proxy season. But we, in this body, have not done our job to protect those investors.

Let us be very clear. When we talk about investor protection, every company in the world would like to have asymmetry of information. Our job is to make sure that if you love free markets as much as I do, as much as those of us on this side of the aisle do, then you have to make sure that they have full transparency of information. Right now, public companies have no obligation to disclose their exposure to climate-related risks, nor is there a consistent format for those disclosures. This bill would fix that.

It directs the SEC to issue a rule requiring every public company to disclose its direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions, the total amount of fossil fuel-related assets that it owns or manages, how its valuation would be affected if climate change continues at its current pace or if policymakers successfully restrict greenhouse gas emissions to meet the Paris goals, and its risk management strategies related to the physical and transitional risks of the climate crisis.

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to reassure my friend from Arkansas that the bill does direct the SEC to tailor those disclosure requirements to different industries to make sure that the burden is borne most heavily by those companies with the greatest contribution to that risk.

When it comes to making this transition, markets are some of the most

powerful tools we have, but efficient markets depend on transparent information. It is on us to provide that efficiency, to unleash the power of our entrepreneurs and our capitalists to create jobs and economic growth, and to leave a better planet than the one we inherited—but only if we act.

This is a win for capitalism, a win for consumers, and a win for the planet that we will pass on to our grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in support of this legislation.

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR), who has been an outstanding voice on these particular issues.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 1187, with all due respect to my good friends from California and Illinois. We have enjoyed a robust discussion and debate on this, which I would argue is a very important topic.

Mr. Speaker, the statutory mission of the Securities and Exchange Commission is to protect investors; maintain fair, orderly, and efficient markets; and facilitate capital formation. Its mission, though, is not to reduce carbon emissions. Its mission is not to solve climate change.

Now, those may be laudable public policy objectives, but they are best handled by the Congress or other Federal agencies. This is simply not the job of the SEC.

This bill is, unfortunately, the next episode in the Democrats' saga to weaponize financial regulation to achieve partisan social and environmental goals. Congressional Democrats and the Biden administration know that they cannot pass the Green New Deal and other extreme far-left policy priorities through a Democrat-majority Congress, so they are corrupting an independent Federal financial regulator to do their bidding.

The majority claims that this bill is an effort to improve corporate governance when, in reality, it is a thinly veiled attempt to open a back door to achieve their socialist wish list and cut off financing to legal but politically unfashionable industries that they despise.

The result will be higher energy costs for the American people, a regressive energy tax on the people in this country who can the least afford it.

As always, the Democrats think that the government knows best and is better equipped than the private market to meet demand. They give no consideration to the impacts of significant cost increases, the bill's effect on retail investors, or the actual utility of the information they are requesting and its materiality for informing investment decisions.

My friend from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) made this point. But the seminal Supreme Court case that defines the materiality standard was TSC Industries v. Northway. In that majority opinion, Justice Thurgood Marshall wrote, and it bears repeating: ''If the standard of materiality is unnecessarily low, not only may the corporation and its management be subjected to liability for insignificant omissions or misstatements, but also management's fear of exposing itself to substantial liability may cause it simply to bury the shareholders in an avalanche of trivial information, a result that is hardly conducive to informed decision-making.''

So, this is not about investor protection. This is about weaponizing Federal securities law to discriminate against law-abiding American energy companies. This is an effort to pick winners and losers in the marketplace by the government. It is an effort for central planning of our economy. It is not about markets. This is about market distortion by the Federal Government.

In committee, I tried to make a commonsense change to ensure the bill covers only material information so that investors aren't buried by that avalanche. The majority rejected my amendment. This shows they are more interested in naming and shaming companies than providing useful information to investors.

□ 1300

Mr. Speaker, my last point is this: the job of the SEC is to protect investors, but this bill would compromise investor returns by elevating nonpecuniary factors above and ahead of financial performance.

How do we know this? Because fees of ESG funds are 43 percent higher than non-ESG funds. And many low-ranked ESG stocks not only outperformed top-ranked ESG stocks, they outperformed the market overall.

We must not harm American investors. We must not harm American retirement savers by subordinating investor returns to promote nonpecuniary policy objectives like social justice, diversity quotas, and lower carbon emissions.

Financial regulations should not be a tool for social change.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. AXNE).

Mrs. AXNE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairwoman WATERS for putting together such an important set of corporate governance reforms, one that absolutely supports investors in this country, like our teachers who are involved in institutional investment for their safety and a dignified retirement.

Mr. Speaker, this package will absolutely give everyone more information about how companies are investing for the long term, and that includes my bill, the Disclosure of Tax Havens and Offshoring Act.

Last year, 55 profitable U.S. corporations paid no Federal corporate income taxes. Let me repeat that. Last year, 55 profitable U.S. corporations paid no corporate income taxes—I can tell you, that is not what happened on Main Street back in my district in Iowa. They paid their taxes—and many more paid far below the statutory rate of 21 percent.

It is not hard to see why this happens. In 2018, U.S. multinationals booked hundreds of billions of dollars of tax havens where they basically paid no taxes, including $100 billion alone in Bermuda.

This costs the U.S. more than $50 billion per year in taxes. And beyond the damage that that does, which is extensive, it hurts all of the businesses who are doing the right thing, those that are on Main Street in all of our communities, including many small businesses across this country who don't have a subsidiary in Barbados just to avoid taxes.

That is why last weekend, seven of the world's largest economies agreed to end the race to the bottom and require a global minimum tax rate of 15 percent for our corporations. That is going to have a big impact on the corporations who have been using tax havens, but the investors and the public don't know which corporations are using these loopholes and where they are booking their profits.

My bill will fix that, by requiring disclosure of very basic information about a company's operations on a country-by-country basis, including revenue, profit, taxes paid, and number of employees they have. This would take information large multinational corporations already have and give us much–needed transparency into the international tax avoidance strategies companies use if they are shipping jobs overseas. It gives us the information that we need, and I urge a ''yes'' vote.

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following letters, a June 14 letter from the National Association of Manufacturers, a June 15 letter from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and a June 16 letter from the American Securities Association, all in opposition to this bill.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MANUFACTURERS,
June 14, 2021

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the National Association of Manufacturers, I write to express opposition to H.R. 1187, the Corporate Governance Improvement and Investor Protection Act.

Manufacturers are taking the lead in innovating solutions to climate change, ensuring clean air and water, and enhancing diversity and inclusion—and, importantly, in providing information about this critical work to their investors. Public company reporting related to climate change and other environmental, social, and governance topics should allow for principles-based disclosure of financially material information relevant to these efforts. The NAM is concerned that the ESG Disclosure Simplification Act, the Shareholder Political Transparency Act, the Greater Accountability in Pay Act, and the Climate Risk Disclosure Act would impose disclosure mandates that focus on costly one-size-fits-all metrics rather than material, decision-useful information for investors.

Similarly, the Disclosure of Tax Havens and Offshoring Act would impose a significant compliance burden—while also risking exposure of valuable and proprietary data—by requiring public reporting of country-by-country tax information by U.S. companies. The United States' support for Action 13 of the OECD/G20's BEPS country-by-country reporting initiative was based on the requirement that these reports, which are exchanged between the IRS and other tax authorities, would remain confidential.

The NAM is engaging with the Securities and Exchange Commission as it considers ways to enhance the comparability of climate and ESG information disclosed by publicly traded companies. Manufacturers are hopeful that any new climate or ESG reporting framework will be flexible, principles-based, and materiality-driven while providing clarity to publicly traded companies and supporting their efforts to furnish material information to investors in a comparable manner. We encourage Congress to provide appropriate oversight of the SEC's ongoing work without mandating a one-size-fits-all approach.

Sincerely,

CHRIS NETRAM,
Vice President, Tax and Domestic Economic Policy.

U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, June 15, 2021.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce strongly opposes H.R. 1187, the ''Corporate Governance Improvement and Investor Protection Act.'' While some of the underlying goals of H.R. 1187 are laudable, the bill would likely result in significant costs for Main Street investors and it would fail to achieve its stated objectives. The Chamber will consider including votes on this legislation in our ''How They Voted'' scorecard.

Over the last several years, the Chamber has worked closely with stakeholders to promote a corporate disclosure framework for environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors. This framework acknowledges the inherently complex nature of these issues and allows companies to disclose industry specific information. We believe this approach would help ensure investors receive material, decision-useful information while eliminating the cost of burdensome and impractical mandates.

By contrast, H.R. 1187 would result in an unworkable, one-size-fits-all disclosure regime for public companies on ESG issues including climate change, executive compensation, and pay practices. This misguided approach would impose enormous compliance costs on public companies. It would be especially harmful to small issuers and emerging growth companies (EGCs) without the same compliance resources as large companies. H.R. 1187 would create yet another barrier to going public in the United States, thus removing opportunities for retail investors to build wealth and contribute to the economy.

Pursuant to the Supreme Court's landmark decision on materiality in 1976 (TSC Industries, Inc. v. Northway, Inc.), companies today are already required to disclose material information related to climate change and ESG. H.R. 1187 could veer away from this traditional standard for disclosure that has served as a centerpiece of America's well-functioning capital markets for decades. In that decision, the Court rejected the idea that a fact is material if it ''might'' be important to an investor, and explained that in formulating a materiality standard, it sought to avoid a scenario in which investors would be overwhelmed ''in an avalanche of trivial information—a result that is hardly conducive to informed decision making.'' This legislation is incompatible with Justice Marshall's opinion on materiality—a standard that is recognized by SEC Chair Gary Gensler.

In addition, the Chamber has supported previous versions of legislation introduced by Representative Gregory Meeks on disclosure of corporate board diversity, which have garnered bipartisan support. The Chamber believes this legislation should be considered separately. It is regrettable that Representative Meek's thoughtful legislation has been included in this flawed H.R. 1187.

The Chamber opposes H.R. 1187, the ''Corporate Governance Improvement and Investor Protection Act,'' and urges you to vote against this legislation.

Sincerely,

JACK HOWARD.

AMERICAN SECURITIES ASSOCIATION,
Washington, DC, June 16, 2021.

Re H.R. 1187, the Corporate Governance Improvement and Investor Protection Act of 2021.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI, LEADER MCCARTHY, AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: The American Securities Association (ASA) provides this letter regarding H.R. 1187, the ''Corporate Governance Improvement and Investor Protection Act of 2021,'' which is scheduled to be considered by the House of Representatives this week. For multiple reasons set forth below, ASA must oppose H.R. 1187 and we urge members to vote against the bill.

POLITICAL SPENDING

H.R. 1187 includes a section that would force corporations to disclose their political activities. Moving forward with a policy intended to stifle protected speech suggests this bill is less about providing investors with useful information, and more about silencing political opponents. Enacting policies to erect barriers for companies to engage in the political process on policy issues that are fundamental to their business violates the First Amendment.

The ASA strongly opposes this legislation.

Given that companies are already required to disclose their political contributions and lobbying activity, we fail to see what value duplicative regulation in this instance would add. We also question how the information required by this bill could possibly meet the test of ''materiality'' when comparing the actual dollar amounts associated with a public company's political activities to the total revenue of the company.

We note that a study found the market's perception of a company's value based on its stock prices is not related to a corporation's decision to either engage in or refrain from corporate political speech. Shareholders of public companies also seem to understand this as large majorities have consistently rejected activist shareholder proposals in this area. In short, the owners of the company do not believe management's political spending impacts a company's value or its financial performance. While these facts may be inconvenient, they should not be dismissed lightly.

As important, this section of the bill seems to run afoul of the First Amendment because some provisions could have a chilling effect on free speech. Certain politicians have already made it clear that this disclosure will be used to target companies who engage in the political process or choose to support certain organizations. This would allow the securities laws to be used as a public relations tool to silence political opposition. Congress should respect the First Amendment rights of all Americans and vote this bill down.

IMPROVING CORPORATE GOVERNANCE THROUGH DIVERSITY AMENDMENT

The ASA appreciates that Congress will be considering, as an amendment to H.R. 1187, this bipartisan legislation to inform investors about the diversity of public company directors. ASA members have long recognized the benefits of workforce inclusion and have taken actionable steps to hire and train individuals of all backgrounds. The boards and workforce of ASA members reflect this view. We believe the best way to build a sustainable economy is though inclusion.

While ASA supports the Improving Corporate Governance Through Diversity Act, in April we recommended a number of changes to strengthen the bill prior to its markup by the Financial Services Committee. We continue to believe the diversity criteria should be expanded to include individuals of diverse viewpoints and diverse professional/educational backgrounds. The inclusion of individuals of different genders, races, ethnicities, viewpoints, and experiences is necessary to achieve the policy goals Congress rightly seeks to achieve.

Congress should refrain from adopting policies that would promote boards composed of a club of individuals whose experience tracks a certain managerial/educational path or requires adherence to a particular point of view. Today, more than ever, public companies need the benefit of hearing from individuals with different experiences who will question and engage with executives about the appropriate direction and decision-making of public companies. Unfortunately, changes to reflect this important priority have not been made to the underlying legislation.

REP. HILL AMENDMENT—SEC STUDY

The ASA supports the approach taken by Representative Hill's amendment, which would require the SEC to study the inconsistencies and differences between ESG reporting frameworks prior to mandating new disclosures for public companies.

To date, the SEC has failed to conduct such a study. As a result, the Commission has no way to know how current ESG disclosure practices already inform investors, or what specific areas could be improved upon to ensure companies only disclose material information. This study would lead to a more targeted approach that would mitigate unnecessary compliance costs and protect investors from unworkable mandates.

MANDATORY ESG DISCLOSURES

The ASA letter to the Financial Services Committee in April outlined a number of recommendations and concerns we had with a series of ESG-related bills that were marked up by the Committee. Unfortunately, none of those concerns or questions have been answered.

In that letter, we noted the following:

ESG disclosure mandates would create an unequal and unfair playing field for American businesses vis-à-vis Chinese companies;

Businesses would spend an enormous amount of time and resources reorienting their compliance systems to comply with ESG mandates at a time when policymakers should want companies to be focused on hiring to help the American economy recover;

Company management should be permitted to determine what is 'material' to its business using its own business judgment—just as management is now permitted to do for other risks that companies face;

Judgements about material disclosure can be challenged by investors or the SEC in court, which provides an important check that incentivizes companies to provide accurate and full disclosure. This process is not broken, and we see no reason to change it in this instance;

The costs of one-size-fits-all disclosure cannot be justified;

The beneficiaries of a prescriptive one-size-fits-all ESG disclosure regime would be an entrenched professional class on Wall Street of well-heeled corporate attorneys, auditors, mega-asset managers, proxy advisors, index providers, standard setters and investment banks. This begs the question: why is Congress using climate change as a reason to adopt policies that will transfer money from the public companies owned by America's mom-and-pop investors directly to the Wall Street-industrial-complex? Retirees, working families, and those investing for a better future should have an answer to that question before the bill moves forward;

The bill imposes a significant cost burden on small companies and undermines capital formation, which is one part of the SEC's three-part mission. Imposing these costs on small, emerging growth, and mid-sized companies will only serve to further entrench the large and mega-cap companies in our markets who can easily absorb them. We question why Congress would adopt a policy that tips the scales in favor of the same companies that many in this body believe are using their market power to harm consumers and distort our political economy; and

An unintended loophole will exempt Chinese companies in indexes from this disclosure. This will unfairly disadvantage American companies and deprive mom-and-pop investors of disclosure about Communist China's emission of greenhouse gases, or whether any CCP-controlled Chinese company is involved in commission of crimes against humanity and genocide that Congress.

CONCLUSION

While ASA opposes this bill, we will continue to engage with members and the SEC to preserve our current disclosure system which ensures investors are provided with material information, including information that falls into the bucket of ESG. H.R. 1187 frustrates this goal, and therefore, we urge members to oppose it.

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER A. IACOVELLA,
Chief Executive Officer,
American Securities Association.

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DONALDS), who is a new Member to this House Chamber and an outstanding Member.

Mr. DONALDS. Mr. Speaker, full disclosure, I actually do not sit on the Financial Services Committee, but my career has actually been in financial services. I spent the last 17 years of my life working in banking, insurance, and financial services.

I understand the importance of protecting investors and ensuring fairness in the market, which is part of the mission of the SEC. In fact, it was so important to me that during my time in the Florida legislature, I introduced legislation that was designed to protect vulnerable investors, and that legislation has actually become law in the State of Florida.

H.R. 1187 is inconsistent with the mission of the SEC. It does not protect investors; it is not fair or efficient. It is the exact opposite. It is nothing more than a government-run litmus test that politicizes the SEC and contradicts the very important mission of the SEC.

Mandating public companies to disclose details that are not financially relevant or material is an abuse of power. Not to mention, we see companies who are willing to disclose this information on their own, and they are taking steps to address some of the issues that my friends on the other side of the aisle might want to mandate. Just the other day, Ralph Lauren came out and they said they were going to publicly disclose this information. It is good for them to do, if they choose to do so, but this puts companies in a position to compete for capital based off of virtue signaling rather than the metrics that are relevant in capital markets.

I ask my friends on the other side of the aisle: How does this move the needle for everyday Americans? Does disclosing diversity quotas and carbon emissions impacts, does that promote efficiency in the market? I know it does not. And it also doesn't promote capital formation in these markets.

This mandate only promotes what we have seen from this Congress and the administration, an out-of-touch and misguided political agenda. This is nothing more than liberal fascism, yet another way to push a social agenda in our capital markets. This bill will essentially create good companies and bad companies, and have their future be based off the opinions of the mob and not their business success.

Just last year, we saw a company like Goya Foods come under fire for its president's affiliation with the Republican Party.

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

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DONALDS).

Mr. DONALDS. Mr. Speaker, the attempt to cancel Goya Foods failed, but it exposed the underbelly of the left's attempt to coerce companies into bending the knee to the extremists in the court of public opinion.

In short, Mr. Speaker, this is a bad bill. It does not promote efficient markets, it destroys them. And it sends our financial markets into a place where we should not go in the United States of America.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. HIMES).

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues, Mr. VARGAS and Chairwoman WATERS, for leading on these important issues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill and my amendment that we will be considering later today.

My colleague from Florida just accused us of being out of touch. I wonder if he remembers that 2 weeks ago the Nation was out of gas. We were out of gas because of a successful cyberattack on Colonial Pipeline. And it is a daily thing, JBS Foods, ferry services, metropolitan transit authority, and the list goes on and on and on and on. So we were out of gas, not out of touch.

And my amendment is simple, it just requires a straightforward, relatively moderate, disclosure of corporations. Do you have a board member that understands cybersecurity? And if you don't, tell us how you are thinking about it. Tell us what your plan is.

I am hearing a lot about pecuniary interest. Let's ask Colonial Pipeline whether there was a pecuniary interest in not having what happened to them happen. If you care about addressing this problem, we are giving companies a choice, either tell us where your expertise lies or how you are going to deal with it.

Mr. Speaker, if you care about it, vote in favor of this amendment and vote in favor of this legislation.

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an article from The Wall Street Journal dated from 2018, ''California Public Employees Vote Against Pension-Fund Activism.''

[From the Wall Street Journal, Oct. 18, 2018]

CALIFORNIA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES VOTE AGAINST PENSION-FUND ACTIVISM

(By Paul S. Atkins)

Playing politics with other people's savings is never popular.

The California Public Employees' Retirement System this month said no thank you to pension-fund activism. Government workers unseated Priya Mathur, the sitting Calpers president. She was defeated by Jason Perez, a police-union official who criticized Ms. Mathur's focus on environmental, social and governance investing, or ESG. Mr. Perez emphasizes the agency's fiduciary duty to maximize investor returns.

Calpers represents almost two million California public employees, retirees and families. Yet it mostly makes headlines for its activism, such as divestiture from the tobacco industry. ''It's been used more as a political-action committee than a retirement fund,'' said Mr. Perez. ''I think the public agency [employees] are just sick of the shenanigans.''

Americans have always invested to achieve personal goals, such as saving for a house or their kids' college tuition. Some find that an ESG or issue-specific approach to investing accords with their personal philosophies. There is nothing wrong with people investing their own money however they like. But Calpers has a fiduciary duty to California public employees, who rely on it for retirement security.

Hester Peirce, a commissioner of the Securities and Exchange Commission, recently observed, ''When a pension-fund manager is making the decision to pursue her moral goals at the risk of financial return, the manager is putting other people's retirements at risk.'' The danger for Calpers is real: In 2016 a consultant found that the fund's beneficiaries missed up to $3 billion in investment gains from 2001–14. The reason? A divestiture from tobacco holdings for political purposes.

All this happens as Calpers remain underfunded. Worse, its beneficiaries are stuck. They are locked into the system and cannot vote with their feet.

While Calpers beneficiaries are demanding a renewed focus on returns, activists continue to work other channels to impose

agenda-driven requirements on public companies. Sen. Elizabeth Warren last month unveiled a bill that would direct the SEC to mandate that all public companies disclose fossil-fuel use and greenhouse-gas emissions. This month a petition signed by 17 law professors and institutional investors, including Calpers, asked the SEC to develop mandatory rules for public companies to disclose ESG information.

The petition argues that since there are already so many requests to the SEC for issue-specific disclosures human-capital management, climate, tax, human rights, pay ratios by sex, and political spending—the agency should impose a broader ESG disclosure framework. The laundry list of possible disclosures underscores the problem. Requiring companies to account for an ever-changing list of hard-to-quantify social issues distracts from disclosure's real, statutory purpose: giving the reasonable investor material information he needs to make investing decisions.

These proposals always tout purported benefits to investors, but mandatory disclosure of additional immaterial information would be harmful. In a 2013 speech, former SEC Chairman Mary Jo White decried the ''information overload'' in already bloated annual reports that obscures pertinent disclosures for investors amid a sea of extraneous information. She summarized: ''What some investors might want may not be what reasonable investors need.'' Translation: More information is not necessarily better information.

Mandating politicized corporate disclosures doesn't align with the SEC's mission to protect investors and facilitate capital formation. Instead, it would divert resources away from business operations and growth. It is simply an attempt to shame public companies into compliance with activists' demands.

As Mr. Perez put it, criticizing a proposal to divest from some gun retailers earlier this year: ''This is nothing more than a political ploy.'' His push to prioritize performance over politics clearly resonated with California public employees; lawmakers and pension-fund managers should take note.

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE), and I thank him for his work on the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1187. This legislation is just the latest attempt by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to implement a far-left social agenda, this time through our securities laws.

Contrary to the principles-based disclosure standard that is typical of most material risk disclosures, President Biden and the Democrat-led Securities and Exchange Commission have advocated for a separate standardized set of disclosure requirements related to climate risk and environmental, social, and governance or ESG, concerns. This legislation would impose disclosure mandates that focus on costly one-size-fits-all metrics rather than material, decision-useful information for investors.

During the markup process, several of my colleagues submitted commonsense amendments that would have added an important materiality standard. These amendments would have required disclosure of ESG, climate change, or compensation metrics where there is a substantial likelihood that a reasonable shareholder would consider such a disclosure important with respect to making an investment decision. However, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle refuse to support them, including this simple standard.

By adding these additional disclosure requirements to the already substantial list of mandatory disclosures for public companies, H.R. 1187 would also increase the cost of compliance for public companies, thereby discouraging private companies from going public.

Further, I think it is important to point out that this legislation misses an opportunity to address China and its daily human rights atrocities. If we were serious about disclosure, not just a political agenda, we would be looking at security and democracy threats like those that the Chinese Communist Party and their state-owned enterprises pose.

Bottom line, this legislation would add even more costly and confusing disclosure requirements, hurting everyday investors, and discouraging initial public offerings, all while failing to include important national security protections.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a ''no'' vote on the legislation.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. UNDERWOOD).

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation and my amendment with Representatives FRANKEL, NADLER, SPEIER, and BLUNT ROCHESTER, which would require public companies to report on workplace harassment settlements in their SEC filings.

The amendment is pulled from the EMPOWER Act, a bipartisan bill I am proud to co-lead alongside Congresswoman FRANKEL and my Republican and Democratic colleagues.

For too long, many employers have tolerated, and even encouraged, a culture of secrecy surrounding workplace harassment, writing settlements off as a cost of doing business.

This amendment would shine a light on major employers that fail to protect their employees, improve transparency for shareholders, and encourage companies to ensure a safe, healthy, and productive workplace.

This is an important bipartisan policy, and I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on the amendment and the underlying bill.

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, could I inquire as to the remaining time on each side?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan has 11½ minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from California has 16½ minutes remaining.

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. FITZGERALD).

Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 1187. This legislation would impose unnecessary and expensive compliance costs on publicly traded companies.

Publicly traded companies are already subject to extensive disclosures regarding various risk factors under Federal law. These existing disclosures must already reflect material climate change information, such as compliance with greenhouse gas emissions and carbon offsets.

I am concerned this bill would do little to provide information on how climate change would affect a particular investment, but would instead be used by activist shareholders with no real duty to a company or its shareholders to impose progressive political views on that company.

The burden of these costs would fall largely on smaller public companies with fewer resources. The burden of these costs would, again, I think, put this entire issue off in a different direction than where it should be.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a ''no'' vote on the bill. It would only benefit large incumbent corporations while others may avoid going public altogether, limiting their growth.

□ 1315

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD letters from California Public Employees' Retirement System, Public Citizen, the North American Securities Administrators Association, and Principles for Responsible Investment.

CALIFORNIA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM, EXECUTIVE OFFICE,

June 14, 2021.

Subject: H.R. 1187, The Corporate Governance Improvement and Investor Protection Act.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.
Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI AND MINORITY LEADER MCCARTHY: On behalf of the California Public Employees' Retirement System, I write to express support for the overall direction of H.R. 1187, the ''Corporate Governance Improvement and Investor Protection Act,'' which would require public companies to disclose material information on the link between environmental, social, and governance (ESG) metrics and their long-term business strategy, as well as political expenditures, compensation practices, climate-related risk and tax expenditures, among other issues. This bill will improve and enhance corporate disclosures essential to maintaining the competitiveness of U.S. financial markets.

As the largest public defined benefit pension fund in the United States, we manage approximately $465 billion in global assets on behalf of more than two million members. Our fiduciary duty requires that we take a long-term view in assessing whether the companies that we hold in our portfolio are effectively managed and able to provide the sustainable, risk-adjusted returns that allow us to meet our commitments to pay benefits earned by these dedicated active and retired public servants for decades to come.

We fundamentally depend on the integrity and efficiency of financial markets to meet these commitments and rely upon financial reporting to provide transparent and relevant information about the economic performance, conditions, and operations of the

companies in which we invest. We believe corporate disclosure of material financial information is a precondition to maintaining effective and consistent corporate accountability and sustainable economic growth. As the Securities and Exchange Commission (''SEC'') has said in the past:

''Only through the steady flow of timely, comprehensive, and accurate information can people make sound investment decisions. The result of this information flow is a far more active, efficient, and transparent capital market that facilitates the capital formation so important to our nation's economy.''

Critically, CalPERS and other pension funds are inhibited from adequately exercising their fiduciary duty without such disclosures. Disclosure of material financial information is necessary to close the information gap that occurs when management of a company is aware or should be aware of certain risks, yet such information is not available to shareowners. We believe H.R. 1187 will address critical areas in which more high-quality, consistent, and comparable disclosures by public issuers are necessary, and build a more robust reporting regime that enhances shareowner value over the long-term. We are pleased that the following measures, which CalPERS has been on the record in supporting, are included in the Corporate Governance Improvement and Investor Protection Act:

H.R. 1187, the ESG Disclosure Simplification Act, which would, among other things, require issuers to disclose certain ESG metrics to shareholders, the connection between those metrics and the issuer's long-term business strategy, and the method by which the issuer determines how ESG metrics impact its long-term strategy. We believe the current quality and quantity of relevant ESG reporting does not meet investors' needs and support the SEC playing a prominent role in standardizing and assuring the accuracy of ESG data reporting, and that it is reflected in company financials.

H.R. 1087, the Shareholder Political Transparency Act, which would require public companies to disclose detailed information about their political spending to the SEC and shareholders in specified quarterly and annual reports. The CalPERS Governance & Sustainability Principles call for responsible board oversight, including disclosures of corporate charitable and political activity to ensure alignment with business strategy and to protect assets on behalf of shareowners. As fiduciaries, we need to know how our capital is being used, including if and when political expenditures are made. SEC rulemaking would bring clarity and consistency in the format and scope of disclosures and provide a cost-effective alternative to private ordering. Furthermore, political expenditure disclosure is consistent with the SEC's requirement for public companies to disclose meaningful financial information and would encourage prudent use of corporate shareowner resources for political activities.

H.R. 2570, the Climate Risk Disclosure Act, which would require public companies to report financial risks posed to them by climate change, the processes they use to identify those risks, and the actions they take to mitigate those risks. Our investment strategy is to make sure our portfolio is resilient to short-term and long-term risks, both of which include some dimension of climate change. We seek to find the investment opportunities that the energy transition brings, and to bring down emissions that contribute to global warming. We believe it is vital that companies identify, manage, and disclose material environmental risks and opportunities relevant to their short-term and long-term success. We support the establishment of a uniform reporting regime for climate change risk disclosures that would address key issues that impact shareowner value, including minimizing risk, maximizing returns, and ensuring accountability from all those involved.

H.R. 3007, the Disclosure of Tax Havens and Offshoring Act, which would require public companies to annually disclose information on their subsidiaries and specified country-by-country financial information including total pre-tax profits, total amounts paid in State, Federal, and foreign taxes, employees, and tangible assets. As an investor in many of the largest public companies in the world, we are acutely aware of the complexities of international taxes, and the increasingly important role that taxes play in corporate profitability. However, current tax disclosures in the United States do not provide investors with sufficient tax-related information to adequately assess companies' valuations and risks. We believe increasing transparency and requiring the disclosure of overly aggressive international tax planning arrangements helps to reduce systemic risk that threatens global markets and ensure stronger long-term outcomes.

In addition, we are supportive of including additional provisions in the Corporate Governance Improvement and Investor Protection Act, such as the following disclosures related to human capital management, board diversity, and cybersecurity:

H.R. 3471, the Workforce Investment Disclosure Act, which would require public companies to disclose information about their Human Capital Management (HCM) policies, practices, and performance in their annual reports. CalPERS expects fair, accurate, and timely reporting on how companies identify and manage risks related to the three forms of capital: financial, physical, and human. The fact that there are few standards for measuring and reporting on human capital topics makes it difficult for investors to truly understand related risks and opportunities when assessing individual companies. We believe that rules-based disclosures with numeric metrics provide crucial information to long-term investors, like CalPERS, who are concerned about sustainability over time. We have made recommendations in our comment letter on the SEC's proposed rulemaking under Regulation S-K for metrics that should be disclosed by all registrants, including the number of full-time, part-time, and contingent workers; employee turnover rates; health and safety, employee engagement and diversity statistics.

H.R. 1277, the Improving Corporate Governance Through Diversity Act, which would require public companies to annually disclose the voluntary, self-identified racial, ethnic, gender, and veteran status of their board of directors, nominees, and senior executives, and establishes an advisory group to recommend strategies to increase diversity in these leadership positions. We support initiatives that promote talent diversity—including a broad range of education, experience, thoughts, perspectives, and competencies—to help enable effective board leadership. We view board diversity in terms of skill sets, sex, age, nationality, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, and historically underrepresented groups, and believe requiring public companies to annually disclose the self-identified racial, ethnic, gender, and veteran status of their board of directors, nominees, and senior executives is an important step toward challenging ''group think'' in corporate boardrooms and C-suites, which can severely limit companies' ability to innovate and effectively engage with shareowners and other stakeholders.

H.R. ___, the Cybersecurity Disclosure Act, which would require companies to disclose in their annual reports to the SEC, or in their annual proxy statements, whether any member of their board of directors, or similar governing body, has expertise or experience in cybersecurity and the nature of such expertise or experience. If there are no members of a company's governing body that have experience or expertise in cybersecurity, it would require the company to describe what other cybersecurity aspects were taken into account by persons responsible for identifying and evaluating nominees for the company's governing body. We believe requiring the disclosure of cybersecurity expertise—or lack thereof—on corporate boards will increase transparency for investors and help to ensure that public companies are appropriately prioritizing cybersecurity and data privacy matters. It represents a reasonable and timely response to the increasing prominence of cybersecurity threats in our financial markets and the broader economy.

In sum, CalPERS believes that clear, consistent, and substantive disclosures of climate risk, charitable and political expenditures, human capital management, and board diversity are critical to the long-term success of capital markets and, more critically, of investors. Disclosures of such information will help investors allocate capital and exercise stewardship at companies to ensure long term sustainable value creation. Such disclosures will also encourage corporations to be more mindful of these risks that could impact their financial success over the long term, and will provide for greater transparency regarding cash flow, corporate expenditures, and public policy engagement.

Thank you for considering our views. We look forward to working with Congress to advance initiatives that will improve corporate disclosures in both the public and private markets. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly, or your staff can contact Danny Brown, Chief of our Legislative Affairs Division, if we can be of any assistance as this measure proceeds.

Sincerely,

MARCIE FROST,
Chief Executive Officer.

PUBLIC CITIZEN,
Washington, D.C., June 14, 2021.

Re Public Citizen urges a YES vote on H.R.s 1187, 1087, 1188, 2570, 3007 and amendments.

House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR HONORABLE REPRESENTATIVES, On behalf of more than 500,000 members and supporters of Public Citizen across the country, we ask you to vote yes on a suite of bills designed to improve corporate disclosures regarding climate, compensation, political spending, taxes, human capital and other important issues. These bills were approved by the House Financial Services Committee and arc expected to come before the full House shortly.

H.R. 1087, THE SHAREHOLDER POLITICAL TRANSPARENCY ACT (FOSTER)

This bill requires firms that are traded on public exchanges to disclose in quarterly public reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) the amount, date, and nature of the company's expenditures for political activities. Importantly, this includes indirect political spending, or money given to trade associations or nonprofits that play in politics.

In Citizens United v. the Federal Elections Commission in 2010, the U.S. Supreme Court found that political spending is protected speech and therefore corporations, unions,

and other groups are permitted to make unlimited political expenditures, as long as they are not directly given to candidates or parties. The Court assumed, however, that this spending would be disclosed to investors so they could have input. Not addressed by the Court, however, was the fact that shareholders might not be aware of this spending or specific details of where the money might be going. In response, a bipartisan group of securities law experts filed a petition with the SEC to require corporations to disclose their political spending activities, and drew more than 1.2 million comments, the most in SEC history. The SEC has not yet addressed this decade-old petition, and passage of this legislation would jumpstart the rulemaking.

Public Citizen has long championed this important disclosure requirement. Political spending exposes a company to reputational risk when it involves itself controversial issues. Many corporations recognize this problem. For example, a number of companies ceased campaign contributions to certain lawmakers associated with the January 6; 2021 insurrection at the Capitol and in connection to the voter suppression bills moving through statehouses.

While some corporate political spending is already voluntarily disclosed, a considerable amount is funneled through trade associations such as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which deploys large numbers of agents to meet with members of Congress. Often, the Chamber advances or promotes policies that an individual company may find uncomfortable were they associated with it openly, such as opposition to climate reform or worker safety measures. If companies' spending on backward issues became known to the public, it could lead to material, reputational harm and ultimately subtract from shareholder value.

Public Citizen heartily endorses this measure.

H.R. 1188, THE GREATER ACCOUNTABILITY IN PAY ACT (VELÁZQUEZ)

This bill would require public companies, excluding emerging growth companies, to disclose certain employee pay raise information, comparing the CEO with the median-paid employee at the firm. This measure builds on a reform in the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act that first required identification of the median-paid worker at a firm. This requirement meant that firms were required to add one more item regarding employees to the sole requirement existing, namely, the number of employees.

For a half-century, the fruits of productivity gains have clotted in the C-suite, with average workers receiving little or no increase in real compensation. This has led to income and wealth inequality. During the pandemic, this played out in the need for trillions of dollars in emergency relief, as average people lacked the savings to survive a temporary loss of employment. Disclosures of these pay gaps can help lawmakers devise more ambitious reforms to address the widening gap between those workers who truly drive the economy and elites.

Public Citizen urges you to support this bill.

H.R. 2570, THE CLIMATE RISK DISCLOSURE ACT (CASTEN) AND H.R. 1187, THE ESG DISCLOSURE SIMPLIFICATION ACT (VARGAS)

Both of these bills deal with the increasing demand from investors and the public for information related to environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues. H.R. 2570 would require public companies to disclose in their annual reports information relating to the financial and business risks associated with climate change. The bill also requires the SEC to establish, in consultation with other relevant financial agencies, climate-related risk disclosure metrics and guidance, which will be industry-specific, and will require companies to make both quantitative and qualitative disclosures. H.R. 1187 requires the SEC to define what ESG metrics means and requires firms to disclose those metrics along with how ESG metrics accord with a firm 's long-term strategy. It also requires the SEC to establish a committee that would provide advice to the commission on sustainable finance issues.

Given the physical and transition risks inherent to the ongoing climate crisis and the shift away from fossil fuels and carbon-intensive industry, investors need more information about companies' growing climate financial risk, their contribution to climate change, and their plans for remaining viable in a low-carbon future economy. Requiring the SEC to establish climate-related risk disclosure metrics falls squarely within the agency's mission to protect investors; ensure fair, orderly, and efficient markets; and facilitate capital formation. Indeed, the agency has expressed its intention to explore a climate disclosure rule. Adopting this legislation would explicitly clarify the SEC's authority to adopt such a rule in the face of potential legal challenges from issuers and ideological opponents alike.

At the same time, it is important to remember that climate change is not just an environmental crisis, but one of social justice, wealth distribution, equity and human rights. It is vitally important that disclosures from issuers include elements of environmental and climate justice, as well as other ESG issues like political spending; tax; lobbying; diversity, equity, and inclusion; and human capital management practices to allow investors to make a holistic assessment of an issuer's overall sustainability and make more informed investment decisions.

Despite many firms reporting some ESG data, the available information has not satisfied the needs of investors because it essentially allows firms to self-determine and report which climate risks are material. Many firms provide only vague, boilerplate disclosures or do not address climate risk at all. Management is often overly optimistic about a firm's climate resilience, may not fully understand what investors actually believe is material or want to know, and may have an interest in obscuring parts of the picture, leading to drastic under-reporting of risks. The provisions in this bill represent a major step forward in terms of the quality of information that would be available to investors.

We strongly encourage you to support these bills.

H.R. 3007, THE DISCLOSURE OF TAX HAVENS AND OFFSHORING ACT (AXNE)

This bill would require public companies to disclose their total pre-tax profits, and total amounts paid in state, federal, and foreign taxes on a country-by-country basis. The bill would also require companies to disclose a number of specific tax-related items for each of its subsidiaries, as well as on a consolidated basis, such as total accrued tax expenses, stated capital, and total accumulated earnings. This legislation would ensure investors and the public at large are provided with enough information to discern if the companies they are invested in are participating in risky behavior like corporate tax avoidance. Many U.S. multinational companies use accounting maneuvers to book their profits in low- or no-tax jurisdictions, or ''tax havens.'' This legislation to mandate public country-by-country reporting would indeed aim to discourage and curb the trend of corporations' profit shifting to tax havens as these public reports would shed light on corporations that aggressively use avoidance practices to shirk their tax responsibilities, which creates both reputational and financial risk.

We urge you to approve this bill.

We also ask your support for amendments expected to be offered to this suite of bills, including:

H.R. 3471, the Workforce Investment Disclosure Act (Axne): this bill would require the SEC to implement petitioned rulemaking that would require public companies to disclose human capital management policies, practices, and performance. While corporations often claim that employees are their most valuable asset, shareholders know too little about investments in these assets.

H.R. 1277, the Improving Corporate Governance Through Diversity Act (Meeks): This bill would require public companies to annually disclose the voluntarily, self-identified gender, race, ethnicity and veteran status of their board directors. This measure helps corporations better identify how they are promoting diversity in the highest ranks.

H.R. ____, the Cybersecurity Disclosure Act (Himes): This bill would require the SEC to issue rules to require companies in their annual reports to the SEC or in their annual proxy statements to disclose whether any member of their board of directors, or similar governing body, has expertise or experience in cybersecurity and the nature of such expertise or experience. If there are no members of a company's governing body that have experience or expertise in cybersecurity, the bill would require the company to describe what other cybersecurity aspects were taken into account by persons responsible for identifying and evaluating nominees for the company's governing body.

With high-level hacks recently grinding important companies to a halt and cybersecurity affecting all walks of life, investors should be aware of how well corporations are prepared to defend themselves against attack.

Public Citizen strongly urges you to vote yes on these important pieces of legislation and amendments to provide greater information to investors, watchdog organizations, and the public at large.

For questions, please contact Bartlett Naylor.

Sincerely,

PUBLIC CITIZEN.

NORTH AMERICAN SECURITIES ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION, INC.,
Washington, DC, June 15, 2021.

Re H.R. 1187, the Corporate Governance and Investor Protection Act of 2021.

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

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI AND LEADER MCCARTHY: On behalf of the North American Securities Administrators Association, Inc. (''NASAA''), I am writing to express NASAA's support for several provisions of H.R. 1187, the Corporate Governance and Investor Protection Act, which the House is scheduled to consider this week, as amended and favorably reported by the House Committee on Rules on June 14, 2020. As further detailed below, NASAA also strongly supports two amendments to H.R. 1187 that were made in order by the Committee on Rules. The first such amendment addresses disclosure of information related to the diversity on the boards of directors of U.S. public companies, while the second amendment addresses disclosure of cybersecurity expertise at the leadership level of such companies. I sincerely appreciate your attention to NASAA's views.

(1) THE ESG DISCLOSURE SIMPLIFICATION ACT (TITLE I)

Increasingly, investors view a company's environmental, social, and governance, or ''ESG'' practices, as a material metric for determining whether to invest. To date, however, there are no uniform standards for the reporting of environmental and certain other ESG factors in the United States. In the absence of such standards, public companies lack clarity when making disclosures relating to ESG considerations. In some cases, they may have incentives to make selective or potentially misleading disclosures about the benefits of their practices, products, or services. Title I of H.R. 1187, the Corporate Governance and Investor Protect Act, seeks to remedy that problem.

The ESG Disclosure Simplification Act, as embodied in Title I, would require public companies to disclose in filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (''SEC'') and any proxy or solicitation materials that describe the ''views of the issuer regarding links between ESG metrics and the long-term strategy of the issuer'' and any process the issuer uses to determine the long-term business strategy of the issuer. Further, the bill would express the nonbinding ''Sense of Congress'' that ''environmental, social, and governance [ESG] metrics'' are ''de-facto material'' for the purposes of disclosure under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. The bill would also create a new permanent ''Sustainable Finance Advisory Committee'' within the SEC, that would, within 18 months of its first meeting, be required to submit ''recommendations about what ESG metrics'' the SEC should require to be disclosed.

The time has come to provide investors seeking to understand factors relating to a company's ESG profile with the ability to accurately understand and weigh ESG risks in their investment decisions, and Congress can play an important role in this regard. NASAA has previously called for Congress to enact legislation that would direct the SEC to develop a uniform standard for ESG reporting by public companies so that investors can understand companies' real practices and impact, and ''make 'head-to-head' comparisons between competing investments.'' NASAA has also urged that Congress consider legislation that would direct the SEC to establish a task force to consolidate, to the extent possible, themes from existing reporting frameworks and standards in order to catalyze faster progress toward standardization.'' Title I of H.R. 1187 marks an opportunity to ''move the ball forward'' on both of these recommendations; therefore, NASAA is pleased to support its passage.

(2) THE CYBERSECURITY DISCLOSURE ACT (AMENDMENT #1)

The Cybersecurity Disclosure Act, as filed as an amendment to H.R. 1187, is identical to stand-alone legislation recently introduced in the Senate as S. 808. NASAA was pleased to support this important legislation at the time of its introduction, and we are pleased to support its inclusion in H.R. 1187.

The Cybersecurity Disclosure Act would require publicly traded companies to include in their annual disclosure filings with the SEC information detailing whether any member of their governing body, such as their board of directors or general partner, possesses expertise or experience in cybersecurity. If no member has such expertise or experience, companies would be required to detail what, if any, other cybersecurity considerations were considered by the persons responsible for identifying and evaluating nominees for the governing body.

For nearly a decade, the list of public companies and financial institutions targeted by organized cyber-attacks has continued to grow with ever-increasing frequency. Over the past year, moreover, this threat has accelerated further due in part to the COVID–19 pandemic. Because many millions of Americans are conducting much or most of their lives online—and because an unprecedented number of U.S. employees arc working remotely—cybercriminals and scammers have an abundance of opportunities to infiltrate business security networks to install malware, steal personally identifiable information (''PII'') of customers and clients, and create other problems.

Incentivizing publicly traded companies to consider whether they have appropriate cybersecurity expertise on their governing body is a common-sense way to promote greater attention to cybersecurity risk by public corporations. Investors and customers are well-served by policies that encourage companies to consider such risks proactively, as opposed to after a data breach has already occurred when investors and customers have already been harmed. Importantly, the Cybersecurity Disclosure Act does not require companies to do anything beyond disclosing information; the bill encourages companies to act in their own best interests by creating an incentive for them to prioritize cybcrsecurity expertise at the senior levels of leadership.

NASAA shares Congress's interest in addressing the threat cybersecurity risk has on public companies and investors. We are pleased to support Amendment #1, and we urge its passage.

(3) THE IMPROVING CORPORATE GOVERNANCE THROUGH DIVERSITY ACT (AMENDMENT #11)

The Improving Corporate Governance Through Diversity Act, as filed as an amendment to H.R. 1187, is identical to stand-alone legislation entitled H.R. 1277, the Improving Corporate Governance Through Diversity Act. NASAA was pleased to support H.R. 1277 was it was considered and approved by the House Financial Services Committee in April 2020 and is pleased to again support the bill as an amendment to H.R. 1187.

The Improving Corporate Governance Through Diversity Act would require public companies to disclose annual information on the voluntary self-identified racial, ethnic, gender, and veteran composition of their boards of directors and executive officers. The bill would also require that such companies disclose whether their boards of directors have adopted any ''policy, plan or strategy'' to promote diversity among these bodies, and would instruct the SEC's Office of Minority and Women Inclusion to develop and publish ''best practices,'' in order to help public companies comply with the new diversity reporting requirements. In addition, the Act would establish a new ''Diversity Advisory Group'' within the SEC, which would be exempt from the Federal Advisory Committee Act, and be comprised of representatives from the Federal government, state and local governments, academia, and the private sector. Under the Act, the Advisory Group would be tasked with identifying strategies to ''increase gender, racial and ethnic diversity among members of the board of directors of the issuer,'' and be required to report periodically to Congress and the public.

NASAA has repeatedly called for Congress to examine the current state of corporate board composition with an eye toward encouraging greater diversity. In doing so, NASAA has noted that leading research indicates that greater board diversity correlates with sound corporate governance and enhances the performance of public companies. We have also noted evidence that shows that investors themselves increasingly regard corporate board diversity to be an indication of good governance, which improves both corporate performance and investor relations. Most recently, in NASAA's Legislative Agenda for the 117th Congress, state securities regulators called for Congress to pass legislation ''to require public companies to disclose information that demonstrates the diversity on their boards, or the lack thereof, as well as information regarding the diversity of their corporate operations.''

NASAA congratulates the House for its decision to consider including the Improving Corporate Governance Through Diversity Act as an amendment to H.R. 1187, and we urge its passage.

Thank you for your consideration of NASAA's views. If we may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or Michael Canning, NASAA's Director of Policy and Government Affairs.

Sincerely,

LISA HOPKINS,
NASAA President, General Counsel and Senior Deputy Commissioner of Securities, West Virginia.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time until the gentleman from Michigan yields back.

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, just a point of information for the chair from California: We have one more speaker, and I will be prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR).

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, once again, the bill we have been considering today is puzzling for Republicans, as it probably is for a large number of my Democratic friends as well.

On the one hand, the far left seeks to blame so much of what is bad in the world on large public companies. But then they turn around and claim that these same companies will see the light and embrace extreme leftwing policies if only they disclose more of their activities in obscure SEC reports. Mind you, these are perfectly legal activities, too.

But no serious Member of the House can believe the world works like this. The far left wants to claim they are heroes using the Securities and Exchange Commission to fight the scourges of our time, from foreign dictatorships to environmental degradation. But in reality, they are weaponizing financial regulation, and their support for this bill comes in the form of empty political rhetoric masquerading as sound corporate governance. Make no mistake, Mr. Speaker, this bill is about politicizing securities regulation.

Far from this fantasy land live the majority of House Members who understand that there are actual urgent problems we can solve only if we work together to address them.

Perhaps the gravest of these problems is represented by the goals of the Chinese Communist Party, which is perpetrating the great crime of our age against the Uighurs and other minorities in China. Beijing is also working to stamp out the vibrant democratic

culture in Hong Kong, hoping all the while that Congress will look the other way.

If we are truly concerned by public companies that may be working with bad actors—particularly bad actors responsible for China's worst human rights abuses—then burying their names on the SEC's website will achieve absolutely nothing. We need to ensure that they are referred to the Treasury Department so that we can impose sanctions, and that is what my motion to recommit will do.

Under this MTR, instead of reporting on malign Chinese companies to the SEC—an agency that has long acknowledged its lack of expertise and, frankly, its lack of capability and interest in pursuing foreign policy goals—we will instead make sure that entities in corporate supply chains are flagged for the Treasury when public companies have reason to believe they are involved in atrocities in Xinjiang, from mass surveillance to forced labor and other violations of basic human rights.

Companies will also be able to sound the alarm on entities complicit in China's assault on Hong Kong's freedoms, allowing OFAC at the Treasury to determine whether it can impose new sanctions.

We must cut off offenders from the global economy until China changes course. We must rely on appeals to their bottom line and not their conscience. That is the power of U.S. sanctions.

Mr. Speaker, if we adopt the motion to recommit, we will instruct the Committee on Financial Services to consider my amendment to H.R. 1178. My amendment doesn't pretend we can fight genocide, authoritarianism, mass detentions, mass surveillance, and other human rights violations with meaningless rhetoric on corporate transparency, none of which keeps China's leaders up at night.

There are over 1 million Uighurs detained in China and over 100 facilities covering millions of square feet suspected as sites of forced labor. It is an insult to Beijing's victims to claim that disclosure tweaks from the SEC will stop this. Securities regulation will not stop this.

Mr. Speaker, we can either pass half measures that we know won't work and then wring our hands later when the problem remains unresolved, or we can articulate what we want to target and take real action. The former is beneath the dignity of this House.

Measly disclosures in securities filings, transforming 10–Ks from 100 pages to thousands of pages, that is not going to solve the problem. The former is beneath the dignity of the House. The latter is embodied in my amendment: sanctions, OFAC using the power of the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment in the RECORD immediately prior to the vote on the motion to recommit.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time. I want to make sure we are clear not only with my colleagues but to those who may be listening and watching today.

Our side of the aisle has a couple of problems with this legislation today. First and foremost is the structure; next is the content; and then third, we have to question motivation.

What is the problem with the structure?

My friend from Connecticut talked about an issue that we have a lot of agreement on, and I say to him: Amen, hallelujah, let's talk about cybersecurity. Let's talk about how corporations are going to be held responsible for that.

However, my colleague from Iowa is talking about corporate tax law and country-by-country tax reporting. Now, that might be a good issue, but it is the wrong committee. I wondered to myself if Chairman DINGELL, who chaired the Ways and Means Committee for a few decades, and my colleague from Michigan, would have allowed this committee mission creep. Actually, I don't wonder. I know exactly what he would have said: Hell, no. This is in my committee.

This issue is in the wrong committee, and Financial Services is not the right and proper place to be doing that.

Let's look at the content of these bills. We are not debating climate, and we are not debating these social issues that need to be addressed. We are debating who is responsible for enforcing these. We are not debating the failures and flaws of humans. We are questioning who should be the enforcer of these regulations and if they are equipped to do so.

Now, not that long ago, before defunding the police was a popular item to discuss, the SEC was commonly called on all sides the cop on the beat. They were the cops on the beat who were the enforcers. They were the ones who were coming along and saying: We are going to make sure that there is no fraud as we protect investors; we are going to make sure that we have efficient markets; and we are going to make sure that we are building capital.

Here is the problem: They are not prepared and equipped to do so.

Don't take my word for it. Let's look at President Obama's head of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Mary Jo White, who said: ''When disclosure gets to be too much or strays from its core purposes, it can lead to 'information overload,' a phenomenon in which ever-increasing amounts of disclosure make it difficult for investors to focus on the information that is material and most relevant to their decision-making as investors in our financial markets. To safeguard the benefits of this 'signature mandate,' the SEC needs to maintain the ability to exercise its own independent judgment and expertise when deciding whether and how best to impose new disclosure requirements.''

She also said at one point that the Securities and Exchange Commission was not prepared to do enforcement on areas that they had no expertise. She was referring to conflict minerals. That was also part of the Dodd-Frank Act.

So, we have a number of issues that are in this content. Earlier, my colleague, the chair from California, submitted a letter from CalPERS in support of this. Earlier, just prior to that, I had submitted an article from The Wall Street Journal where CalPERS had actually had a massive regime change—this was in 2018—regarding this pension fund activism.

At the time, Mr. Perez, who was elected as the president of CalPERS, said:

> CalPERS has been used more as a political action committee than a retirement fund. I think the public agency employees are just sick of the shenanigans.

Hester Peirce, a Commissioner with the Securities and Exchange Commission, recently observed: ''When a pension fund manager is making the decision to pursue her moral goals at the risk of financial return, the manager is putting other people's retirements at risk.''

She was referring to the person whom Mr. Perez had beaten in that election.

The danger is real. In 2016, a consultant found that the CalPERS fund beneficiaries missed up to $3 billion in investment gains from 2001 to 2014. The reason? A divestiture of tobacco holdings for political purposes.

I wonder if this might be why some of the motivation for those on the other side, that they want to cover themselves. They want to make sure they are not open to the liability of retirees or others with a fiduciary being held responsible for bad decisionmaking when they use these amorphous, nondefined issues to make political statements rather than investment choices.

Madam Speaker, at the end of the day, what we have here is a problem not just of the issues but of the enforcement. I believe that if we are asking the ''cop on the beat,'' the Securities and Exchange Commission, to do a job that is up to the streets and maintenance department, then no one could expect that they are prepared for that. How can we expect that they are going to be able to do this?

With that, and including my opening statement where we looked at the disincentive to make sure there are more investment opportunities for everyday investors—our constituents—I must remain opposed to H.R. 1187.

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

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MCBATH). The gentlewoman from California has 16½ minutes remaining.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, this bill provides urgently needed investor protections by requiring the Securities and Exchange Commission to adopt clear, consistent standards for ESG metrics. Without the information requirements in this bill, investors are left with inconsistent information across companies and are ultimately unable to fully assess their investment decisions.

Investors deserve to know the risks they are exposed to with relation to climate change, political expenditures, and other important factors. We must make this right and take action to bring accountability to public companies.

Some or all of the provisions of this package have been supported by Public Citizen, AFL–CIO, SEIU, California Public Employees' Retirement System, Americans for Financial Reform, Council of Institutional Investors, United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment, Americans for Tax Fairness, North American Securities Administrators Association, FACT Coalition, Oxfam America, Ceres, and Sierra Club, among others.

For years, investors and market participants have been demanding more and better disclosures regarding ESG matters, which research shows can have significant impacts on the short- and long-term values of companies.

For example, a report issued by the BlackRock Investment Institute found that companies that score high on ESG measures are better able to adapt to environmental and societal changes, use resources more efficiently, have more productive employees, and tend to face lower risk of reputational damage and regulatory action.

Matters related to climate risk, the ways companies invest in their workers and further diversity, spend their cash on political expenditures, their global human rights records, their tax avoidance strategies, and how they invest in crucial corporate infrastructure such as cybersecurity are all significant and material factors in companies' short- and long-term viability.

Investors, who are the true owners of our Nation's public companies, recognize the importance of this information to their decisionmaking and have been demanding this information for years.

For example, in 2018, a coalition of public pension funds asset managers and others representing over $5 trillion in assets petitioned the SEC for rulemaking on mandatory ESG disclosures. Over 2,300 investment managers, asset managers, and service providers representing over $80 trillion in assets under management have become signatories to the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment, which commits to incorporating ESG factors into their investment decisions.

A group of 35 institutional investors representing over $6.6 trillion in assets form the Human Capital Management Coalition has petitioned the SEC to adopt rules to require issuers to disclose information related to their human capital management policies, practices, and performance.

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When the SEC solicited comments on political spending disclosures in 2011, it received over one million comments; by far more comments than any other SEC rulemaking petition, and the vast majority of which were overwhelmingly favorable. Yet the SEC's efforts were stymied because the Senate minority leader has personally insisted on statutorily prohibiting the SEC from even studying the issue.

However, we are currently without clear, consistent standards for this information to be disclosed. Investors will continue to be left in the dark. It is time we give investors and markets the information they have been demanding for so long.

And let me be absolutely clear about who we are fighting for. The other side has taken up the issue, as it tends to want to protect these big public corporations from disclosures.

It is for the American workers, the retirees, who worked their whole lives to save for retirement, for the public pension funds investing on behalf of our Nation's teachers and our firefighters, and other frontliners. We are fighting to ensure they have been given the tools they need to protect what they have worked so hard for, to achieve the American Dream.

So I would urge all of my colleagues who are concerned about not only the retail investors, but concerned about the institutional investors who are responsible for these teachers and these firefighters and these others that I have alluded to, and their ability to feel safe and comfortable that decisions are being made that are in the best interest of the people who are invested in them.

So I would ask for an ''aye'' vote on this very, very comprehensive and serious legislation.

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

Ms. VELAZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1187. Importantly, this package contains language from my legislation, the Greater Accountability in Pay Act that requires public companies to disclose the pay raise percentage of its executives and the pay raise percentage of its median employees over the past year and compare each to the rate of inflation. It also requires these companies to disclose the ratio between the two pay raise percentages.

This legislation is the next logical step of the CEO pay ratio disclosure requirement in the Dodd-Frank Act. The COVID–19 pandemic has left millions of working-class Americans feeling vulnerable and uncertain about their economic future—with many individuals and families facing reduced hours, furloughs, or outright dismissals.

However, an article published by the New York Times in April demonstrates the extraordinarily successful year it's been, financially, for America's biggest CEOs—even at many of the companies hit hardest by the events of the pandemic. The Times highlights how companies like AT&T, Hilton, Boeing, and Norwegian Cruise Line all took billions of dollars in losses in 2020 but still managed to pay each of their CEOs more than $20 million.

Unfortunately, excessive compensation packages received by many of America's CEOs is not a new or isolated event. The disparity between executive compensation and the average worker pay has been growing for decades. In August 2019, the Economic Policy Institute produce a report which highlights that, even before the pandemic, CEOs were earning far more than the typical worker, with CEO pay growing 940 percent between 1978 and 2018 while the wages for the typical worker grew by just 11.9 percent over that same period.

Additional transparency on pay ratios will also benefit investors, as data is key to their decision-making process. A balanced pay ratio is an indicator of a company's strong long-term performance and further pay ratio disclosures would provide better insight on a company's strategy, its values, and long-term outlook.

In order to get our economy back on track for everyone, we must increase worker pay and ensure that CEO pay ratios are in line with a corporation's fundamentals. I urge my colleagues to vote YES on bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Each further amendment printed in House Report 117–59 not earlier considered as part of amendments en bloc pursuant to section 4 of House Resolution 473, shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, may be withdrawn by the proponent at any time before the question is put thereon, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

It shall be in order at any time after debate for the chair of the Committee on Financial Services or her designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of further amendments printed in House Report 117–59, not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services or their respective designees, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. BURGESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 117–59.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 45, after line 19, insert the following:

''(3) INCLUSION OF NOTICE WITH RESPECT TO FEDERAL CORPORATE TAX INCREASES.—With respect to each disclosure made by a covered issuer pursuant to paragraph (2), if the Federal corporate tax rate in effect during the reporting period is higher than the Federal corporate tax rate applicable on June 1, 2021, the disclosure shall contain the following additional information:

''(A) With respect to any disclosure of taxes paid to the Federal Government, the disclosure shall include a calculation of what such payment would have been had the Federal corporate tax rate remained the same as it was on June 1, 2021.

''(B) The following notice: 'As a result of a change in U.S. Federal corporate tax law enacted during the _____ Administration(s), our company has _____ fewer dollars to pay its workforce, invest in our business, or return capital to its investors.'. (With the first blank filled in with the name of each President since June 1, 2021, during whose term legislation was enacted to raise the Federal corporate tax rate, and with the second blank filled in with the difference between the actual taxes paid by the covered issuer to the Federal Government during the reporting period and what that payment amount would have been had the Federal corporate tax rate remained the same as it was on June 1, 2021.)''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

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

This amendment is designed to highlight the impact that increased taxes have on companies and their workforce.

Like many Members of this body, I owned my own business prior to being elected to Congress. I know firsthand what it takes to make a payroll, expand your business, keep the lights on. Running a business takes the owner's blood, sweat, and tears to succeed, but it also requires capital. Heavier taxes can have significant impacts on a company's operation, certainly a company's access to capital and their overall fiscal health.

If we are to follow the premise of this bill, that investors need the Federal Government to mandate the disclosure of immaterial information, then the impact of tax hikes must be included. That is why I am offering this amendment.

This amendment would require publicly traded companies that pay Federal taxes to disclose the effects of any future U.S. corporate tax increases. Specifically, the company must calculate and disclose the difference between the amount in taxes it would have paid under laws in effect on June 1, 2021, and the actual amount paid after the taxes were increased.

Additionally, the company must acknowledge in writing which President signed the higher taxes into law.

Finally, the company must specify the decreased amount of capital that it now has to pay its workforce, reinvest in the company, or return capital to shareholders.

So I do want to be clear. I am opposed to Congress forcing disclosure of immaterial information, as H.R. 1187 would require. But if Congress is going to require companies to disclose other immaterial information, then it is only appropriate for Congress to require the disclosure of the effects of higher taxes. Requiring disclosures of certain tax-related information will not provide the whole picture without also looking at the impact of tax hikes.

If we are forcing disclosure of all this tax-related information that we have heard the Democrats propose, then why shouldn't investors know exactly and plainly how a President's tax increase bill impacts the bottom line of the companies, those same companies in which they have invested their life savings?

As our economy continues to recover from the pandemic, the public deserves to know how these policies, good and bad, would impact economic growth and their livelihoods.

Since Congressional Democrats are insistent in using this legislation to push their agenda on social changes and climate change, then I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, as it will tell investors a more complete story.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I claim time in opposition to the amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I strongly oppose Mr. BURGESS' amendment. This amendment is interesting to me because Republicans have, without fail, consistently cited the materiality standard both here on the House floor and in the Financial Services Committee as a basis to oppose very important disclosures.

Republicans have argued over and over again that we do not need to enact any new disclosures because companies are already required to disclose any and all material information. But, with this amendment, it seems their purported commitment to materiality has gone out the window so that they can bring attention to their massive tax cuts for the rich.

In 2018, when the United States Government should have been focused on growing the real economy for American workers, the former President pushed forward the largest tax giveaway to our country's largest corporations and executives in history. This government handout provided corporations and executives with $2 trillion in tax cuts and giveaways, saddling the United States Government with debt.

Make no mistake, these tax cuts did not go primarily to workers, but, instead, they went overwhelmingly to the top 1 percent. The year after the Trump tax cuts were implemented, public companies spent nearly $1 trillion in stock buybacks, rather than investing in research and development, increasing worker wages, or shoring up their bottom lines to make sure they could weather times of crisis.

According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Trump's tax plan gave the top 400 highest income taxpayers an additional $15 million per year. Compare this to the $2.8 million the average college graduate will earn in their lifetime.

This amendment absolutely and completely ignores the harm done to hardworking Americans and focuses on alleged harm to the large corporations. This amendment suggests our Nation's largest companies should not be paying their fair share, while American workers are forced to pay for Republicans' corporate handouts.

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

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

Look, I am not enthusiastic about Congress forcing disclosure of immaterial information. But if we are going to do it, if we are going to do it, then, at the very least, we should be honest. And to the extent tax increases are going to harm the company's ability to invest in its workers and invest in itself, we should disclose that as well.

Look, there was a time where corporate inversions were a big problem in this country. You haven't heard of corporate inversions since December of 2017, and the reason was because the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act made it unnecessary for companies to take their dollars and their jobs overseas. So now those dollars and those jobs stay for American workers.

After the passage of the American Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, actual revenues to the Treasury rose. And had it not been for the imposition of the pandemic, those tax cuts would have been paid for because the Congressional Budget Office assigned a very anemic rate of growth to their projections when they cited the CBO score prior to that bill's passage.

This is an important concept. If we are going to level immaterial information into a company's disclosures, let's disclose what happens when Congress applies additional tax rates to those companies as well. It is the right thing to do.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this amendment. It is the only thing that can make the underlying bill perhaps make a little more sense.

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

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS' amendment is a gimmick intended to distract from the important goals of this package. It insinuates that corporations should not be paying their fair share, while hardworking taxpayers foot the bill. So I urge my colleagues to join me in rejecting Mr. BURGESS' amendment.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the previous question is ordered on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS).

The question is on the amendment.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. BURGESS. 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 question are postponed.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC OFFERED BY MS. WATERS OF CALIFORNIA

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, pursuant to section 4 of House Resolution 473, I offer amendments en bloc.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

Amendments en bloc 1 consisting of amendment Nos. 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, and 9 printed in House Report 117–59, offered by Ms. WATERS of California:

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MRS. AXNE OF IOWA

Add at the end the following:

TITLE VI—WORKFORCE INVESTMENT DISCLOSURE

SEC. 601. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Workforce Investment Disclosure Act of 2021''.

SEC. 602. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) One of the keys to the 20th century post-war economic success of the United States was the ability to prepare workers over the course of their lives for success through multiple sectors across society. Unfortunately, during the several decades preceding the date of enactment of this Act, there has been a shift in business norms and in society. While Congress recognizes that the technology and job skills required for some jobs has changed dramatically, the private and public partnership to hire workers at different education levels and invest in them for the long-term is broken.

(2) Available data from the 10-year period preceding the date of enactment of this Act suggests that businesses are investing less in worker training during that time period, not more.

(3) In the wake of the 2008 global financial crisis, there was a well-documented decline in overall business investment. That decline coincides with the wage polarization of workers and an increase in spending on share buybacks and dividends, leading several researchers to conclude that companies are deemphasizing investment at the expense of increasing returns for shareholders. The onset of a global pandemic may make that trend worse, especially with respect to investments in workers.

(4) As part of the overall decline in investment described in paragraph (3), publicly traded companies are being provided with incentives to prioritize investments in physical assets over investments in their workforces, meaning that those companies are investing in robots instead of individuals. In fact, there are already signs that automation has increased during the COVID–19 pandemic.

(5) More than ever, the Federal Government, through company disclosure practices, needs to understand exactly how companies are investing in their workers. Over the several months preceding the date of enactment of this Act, companies across the United States have taken extreme actions to adapt and respond to evolving workforce challenges presented by COVID–19.

(6) JUST Capital has been tracking the responses of the Standard and Poor's 100 largest public companies to their workers and has found wide variation in the policies implemented, as well as with respect to the disclosure of those policies. Through different responses to their workforces, from layoffs to workplace safety to paid leave, the COVID–19 pandemic is exposing the myriad ways that workforce management practices of companies pose operational and reputational risks for short- and long-term financial performance.

(7) Even before the COVID–19 pandemic, there was a growing body of research establishing a relationship between measurable workforce management, which is the way that companies manage their employees, and firm performance. In a study of 2,000 large companies, Harvard Law School's Labor and Work Life Program found that forward-thinking workforce policies that prioritize workers, such as how companies train, retain, and pay their workers, are correlated with long-term financial performance.

(8) Disclosure of workforce management policies should be part of a Government-wide economic recovery strategy. Just as a set of generally accepted accounting principles (commonly known as ''GAAP'') was urgently adopted after the Great Depression, standardized, comparable metrics of workforce disclosure requirements in the context of the COVID–19 pandemic are critical for investors to accurately measure and project company performance, both in the present and in the future.

(9) Because many companies already track workforce metrics internally, moving towards a transparent disclosure regime would allow investors to better judge whether companies are managing risks and making the investments in their workforces that are needed for long-term growth.

(10) Businesses increasingly rely on workforce innovation and intellectual capital for competitiveness. Workplace benefits, particularly paid sick leave, medical leave, and flexible work arrangements, critically support employee mental and physical well-being.

(11) Race- and gender-based workplace discrimination have been tied to negative health outcomes, as well as lower productivity, trust, morale, and satisfaction and higher rates of absenteeism and turnover. Organizational reporting on practices to reduce discrimination can increase employee job satisfaction, performance, and engagement.

(12) According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, work-related stress is the leading occupational health risk and, per the American Institute of Stress, job stress costs United States industry more than $300,000,000,000 per year in accidents, absenteeism, employee turnover, diminished productivity, and medical, legal, and insurance costs.

(13) Employee health and well-being is a key asset to delivering long-term value, with 80 percent of public companies that took concrete actions on health and well-being having seen larger improvements in financial performance.

(14) Organizational well-being interventions can create cost savings of up to 10 dollars for every dollar invested. Specifically, for every dollar that employers spend on workplace disease prevention and well-being programs, there is a $3.27 reduction in employee medical costs and a $2.73 reduction in absenteeism costs. Employers that implement workplace health promotion programs have seen reductions in sick leave, health plan costs, and workers' compensation and disability insurance costs of approximately 25 percent.

(15) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has found that preventable chronic conditions are a major contributor to insurance premium and employee medical claim costs, which are at an all-time high, and a Milken Institute study shows that employers paid $2,600,000,000,000 in 2016 for the indirect costs of employee chronic disease due to work absences, lost wages, and reduced economic productivity.

(16) The COVID–19 pandemic has severely impacted employee physical, mental, and emotional well-being by increasing stress, depression, burnout, and mortality rates of chronic disease and by reducing work-life balance and financial security, with these challenges likely to persist due to uncertainty and instability even as employees return to work. Before the COVID–19 pandemic, but especially in the face of that pandemic, employers that advance policies and practices that support workforce health, safety, and well-being are likely to outperform competitors and benefit from lower costs.

SEC. 603. DISCLOSURES RELATING TO WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT.

Section 13 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m), as amended by section 502, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(w) DISCLOSURES RELATING TO WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT.—

''(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term 'contingent worker' includes an individual performing work in the usual course of business on a temporary basis (including through a labor intermediary, including an individual or entity that supplies an employer with workers to perform labor) or as an independent contractor.

''(2) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Commission, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Treasury, and the Attorney General, shall promulgate regulations that require each issuer required to file an annual report under subsection (a) or section 15(d) to disclose in that report information regarding workforce management policies, practices, and performance with respect to the issuer.

''(3) RULES.—Consistent with the requirement under paragraph (4), each annual report filed with the Commission in accordance with the regulations promulgated under paragraph (2) shall include disclosure of the following with respect to the issuer filing the report for the year covered by the report:

''(A) Workforce demographic information, including—

''(i) the number of full-time employees, the number of part-time employees, and the number of contingent workers (including temporary and contract workers) with respect to the issuer, which shall include demographic information with respect to those categories of individuals, including information regarding race, ethnicity, and gender;

''(ii) any policies or practices of the issuer relating to subcontracting, outsourcing, and insourcing individuals to perform work for the issuer, which shall include demographic information with respect to those individuals, including information regarding race, ethnicity, and gender; and

''(iii) whether the percentage of contingent workers with respect to the issuer has changed, including temporary and contract

workers, as compared with the previous annual report filed by the issuer under this subsection.

''(B) Workforce stability information, including information about the voluntary turnover or retention rate, the involuntary turnover rate, the internal hiring rate, and the internal promotion rate, as well as information about workers who transition between employee and contingent workers, and the horizontal job change rate by quintile and demographic information.

''(C) Workforce composition, including—

''(i) data on diversity (including racial, ethnic, self-reported sexual orientation, and gender composition) for senior executives and other individuals in the workforce; and

''(ii) any policies, audits, and programming expenditures relating to diversity.

''(D) Workforce skills and capabilities, including—

''(i) information about training and cross-training of employees and contingent workers by quintile and demographic information, distinguishing between compliance training, career development training, job performance or technical training, and training tied to recognized postsecondary credentials;

''(ii) average number of hours of training for each employee and contingent worker;

''(iii) total spending on training for all employees and contingent workers;

''(iv) average spending per employee or contingent worker;

''(v) training utilization rates; and

''(vi) whether completion of training opportunities translates into value added benefit for workers, as determined by wage increases or internal promotions.

''(E) Workforce health, safety, and well-being, including information regarding—

''(i) the frequency, severity, and lost time due to injuries, physical and mental illness, and fatalities;

''(ii) the scope, frequency, and total expenditure on workplace health, safety, and well-being programs;

''(iii) the total dollar value of assessed fines under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 651 et seq.);

''(iv) the total number of actions brought under section 13 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 662) to prevent imminent dangers;

''(v) the total number of actions brought against the issuer under section 11(c) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 660(c));

''(vi) any findings of workplace harassment or workplace discrimination during the 5 fiscal year period of the issuer preceding the fiscal year in which the report is filed; and

''(vii) communication channels and grievance mechanisms in place for employees and contingent workers.

''(F) Workforce compensation and incentives, including information regarding—

''(i) total workforce costs, including salaries and wages, health benefits, other ancillary benefit costs, and pension costs;

''(ii) workforce benefits, including paid leave, health care, child care, and retirement, including information regarding benefits that are provided—

''(I) to full-time employees and not to part-time employees; or

''(II) to employees and not to contingent workers;

''(iii) total contributions made to unemployment insurance by the issuer, how many employees to whom those contributions apply, and the total amount paid in unemployment compensation to individuals who were laid off by the issuer;

''(iv) policies and practices regarding how performance, productivity, equity, and sustainability are considered when setting pay and making promotion decisions; and

''(v) policies and practices relating to any incentives and bonuses provided to employees and any policies or practices designed to counter any risks created by such incentives and bonuses.

''(G) Workforce recruiting and needs, including—

''(i) the number of new jobs created, seeking to be filled, and filled, disaggregated based on classification status;

''(ii) the share of new jobs that require a bachelor's degree or higher;

''(iii) information regarding the quality of hire for jobs described in clause (i); and

''(iv) the retention rate for individuals hired to fill the jobs described in clause (i).

''(H) Workforce engagement and productivity, including information regarding policies and practices of the issuer relating to—

''(i) engagement, productivity, and mental well-being of employees and contingent workers, as determined in consultation with the Department of Labor; and

''(ii) freedom of association and work-life balance initiatives, including flexibility and the ability of the workforce to work remotely, as determined in consultation with the Department of Labor.

''(4) DISAGGREGATION OF INFORMATION.—To the maximum extent feasible, the information described in paragraph (3) shall be disaggregated by—

''(A) the workforce composition described in subparagraph (C)(i) of that paragraph;

''(B) wage quintiles of the employees of the issuer for the year covered by the applicable annual report; and

''(C) the employment status of individuals performing services for the issuer, including whether those individuals are full-time employees, part-time employees, or contingent workers.

''(5) TREATMENT OF EMERGING GROWTH COMPANIES.—The Commission may exempt emerging growth companies from any disclosure required under subparagraph (D), (E), (F), (G), or (H) of paragraph (3) if the Commission determines that such an exemption is necessary or appropriate in the public interest.

''(6) FALSE OR MISLEADING STATEMENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), it shall be unlawful for any person, in any report or document filed under this subsection, to make or cause to be made any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact required to be stated in the report or document or necessary to make the statement made, in the light of the circumstances under which it is made, not misleading.

''(B) EXCEPTION.—A person shall not be liable under subparagraph (A) if the person shows that the person had, after reasonable investigation, reasonable ground to believe, and did believe, at the time the applicable statement was made, that the statement was true and that there was no omission to state a material fact necessary to make the statement made, in the light of the circumstances under which it is made, not misleading.

''(C) NO PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—Nothing in this paragraph may be construed as creating a private right of action.

''(7) EXEMPTION.—This subsection shall not apply to an investment company registered under section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a–8).''.

SEC. 604. BACKSTOP.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term ''Commission'' means the Securities and Exchange Commission;

(2) the term ''covered issuer'' means an issuer that is required to file an annual report under section 13(a) or section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m(a), 78o(d)); and

(3) the term ''issuer'' has the meaning given the term in section 3(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)).

(b) COMPLIANCE.—If, as of the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission has not promulgated the regulations required under subsection (w) of section 13 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m), as added by section 603, a covered issuer, during the period beginning on that date and ending on the date on which the Commission promulgates those regulations, shall be deemed to be in compliance with such subsection (w) if disclosures set forth in the annual report of the covered issuer satisfy the public disclosure standards of the International Organization for Standardization's ISO 30414, or any successor standards for external workforce reporting, as supplemented or adjusted by rules, guidance, or other comments from the Commission.

SEC. 605. SEC STUDY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms ''Commission'' and ''issuer'' have the meanings given those terms in section 604(a).

(b) STUDY.—The Commission shall conduct a study about the value to investors of—

(1) information about the human rights commitments of issuers required to file annual reports under section 13(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m(a)), including information about any principles used to evaluate risk, constituency consultation processes, and supplier due diligence; and

(2) with respect to issuers required to file annual reports under section 13(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m(a)), information about—

(A) violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 201 et seq.) by those issuers;

(B) violations of worker misclassification by those issuers;

(C) surveys regarding employee satisfaction, well-being, and engagement;

(D) the number and overall percentage of quality jobs, as determined by compensation above median wage and comprehensive employer-provided benefits; and

(E) information about workforce investment trends, as determined by at least a 3-year time period.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to Congress a report that contains the results of the study required to be conducted under subsection (b), with recommendations for additional disclosure regulations based on the findings, and any actions the Commission plans to take to enhance disclosures based on the findings.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MS. LOIS FRANKEL OF FLORIDA

Add at the end the following:

TITLE VI—PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO WORKPLACE HARASSMENT

SEC. 601. SEC FILINGS AND MATERIAL DISCLOSURES AT PUBLIC COMPANIES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term ''Form 10–K'' means the form described in section 249.310 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation; and

(2) the term ''issuer'' has the meaning given the term in section 3(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)).

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) shareholders and the public should know whether corporations—

(A) are expending company funds to resolve, settle, or litigate claims of workplace harassment, including sexual harassment; and

(B) along with the executives and managers of those corporations—

(i) are complying with prohibitions against workplace harassment, including sexual harassment; and

(ii) facilitate a culture of silence, disrespect, intimidation, and abuse that negatively impacts the health and safety of the workers of those corporations and the value of those corporations; and

(2) the requirements of this section will—

(A) establish necessary transparency and accountability; and

(B) provide an incentive for corporations to—

(i) promptly address workplace harassment, including sexual harassment, as that misconduct occurs; and

(ii) foster a culture in which workplace harassment is not protected and does not occur.

(c) INFORMATION REQUIRED.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Securities and Exchange Commission shall promulgate a regulation that requires any issuer that is required to submit an annual report using Form 10–K to include in any such submission—

(1) during the period covered by the submission—

(A) with respect to workplace harassment, including sexual harassment, and retaliation for reporting, resisting, opposing, or assisting in the investigation of workplace harassment—

(i) the number of settlements reached by the issuer as a signatory or when the issuer is a beneficiary of a release of claims; and

(ii) whether any judgments or awards (including awards through arbitration or administrative proceedings) were entered against the issuer in part or in whole, or any payments made in connection with a release of claims; and

(B) the total amount paid by the issuer or another party as a result of—

(i) the settlements described in subparagraph (A)(i); and

(ii) the judgments described in subparagraph (A)(ii); and

(2) information regarding whether, in the aggregate, including the period covered by the submission, there have been three or more settlements reached by, or judgments against, the issuer with respect to workplace harassment, including sexual harassment, or retaliation for reporting, resisting, opposing, or assisting in the investigation of workplace harassment that relate to a particular individual employed by the issuer, without identifying that individual by name.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. HIMES OF CONNECTICUT

Add at the end the following:

TITLE VI—CYBERSECURITY DISCLOSURE

SEC. 601. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Cybersecurity Disclosure Act of 2021''.

SEC. 602. CYBERSECURITY TRANSPARENCY.

The Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78a et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 14B (15 U.S.C. 78n–2) the following:

''SEC. 14C. CYBERSECURITY TRANSPARENCY.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

''(1) the term 'cybersecurity' means any action, step, or measure to detect, prevent, deter, mitigate, or address any cybersecurity threat or any potential cybersecurity threat;

''(2) the term 'cybersecurity threat'—

''(A) means an action, not protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, on or through an information system that may result in an unauthorized effort to adversely impact the security, availability, confidentiality, or integrity of an information system or information that is stored on, processed by, or transiting an information system; and

''(B) does not include any action that solely involves a violation of a consumer term of service or a consumer licensing agreement;

''(3) the term 'information system'—

''(A) has the meaning given the term in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code; and

''(B) includes industrial control systems, such as supervisory control and data acquisition systems, distributed control systems, and programmable logic controllers;

''(4) the term 'NIST' means the National Institute of Standards and Technology; and

''(5) the term 'reporting company' means any company that is an issuer—

''(A) the securities of which are registered under section 12; or

''(B) that is required to file reports under section 15(d).

''(b) REQUIREMENT TO ISSUE RULES.—Not later than 360 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Commission shall issue final rules to require each reporting company, in the annual report of the reporting company submitted under section 13 or section 15(d) or in the annual proxy statement of the reporting company submitted under section 14(a)—

''(1) to disclose whether any member of the governing body, such as the board of directors or general partner, of the reporting company has expertise or experience in cybersecurity and in such detail as necessary to fully describe the nature of the expertise or experience; and

''(2) if no member of the governing body of the reporting company has expertise or experience in cybersecurity, to describe what other aspects of the reporting company's cybersecurity were taken into account by any person, such as an official serving on a nominating committee, that is responsible for identifying and evaluating nominees for membership to the governing body.

''(c) CYBERSECURITY EXPERTISE OR EXPERIENCE.—For purposes of subsection (b), the Commission, in consultation with NIST, shall define what constitutes expertise or experience in cybersecurity using commonly defined roles, specialties, knowledge, skills, and abilities, such as those provided in NIST Special Publication 800–181, entitled 'National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (NICE) Cybersecurity Workforce Framework', or any successor thereto.''.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. MEEKS OF NEW YORK

Add at the end the following:

TITLE VI—DATA RELATING TO DIVERSITY DISCLOSURE

SEC. 601. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Improving Corporate Governance Through Diversity Act of 2021''.

SEC. 602. SUBMISSION OF DATA RELATING TO DIVERSITY BY ISSUERS.

Section 13 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m), as amended by section 502, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(w) SUBMISSION OF DATA RELATING TO DIVERSITY.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

''(A) the term 'executive officer' has the meaning given the term in section 230.501(f) of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the date of enactment of this subsection; and

''(B) the term 'veteran' has the meaning given the term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

''(2) SUBMISSION OF DISCLOSURE.—Each issuer required to file an annual report under subsection (a) shall disclose in any proxy statement and any information statement relating to the election of directors filed with the Commission the following:

''(A) Demographic data, based on voluntary self-identification, on the racial, ethnic, gender identity, and sexual orientation composition of—

''(i) the board of directors of the issuer;

''(ii) nominees for the board of directors of the issuer; and

''(iii) the executive officers of the issuer.

''(B) The status of any member of the board of directors of the issuer, any nominee for the board of directors of the issuer, or any executive officer of the issuer, based on voluntary self-identification, as a veteran.

''(C) Whether the board of directors of the issuer, or any committee of that board of directors, has, as of the date on which the issuer makes a disclosure under this paragraph, adopted any policy, plan, or strategy to promote racial, ethnic, and gender diversity among—

''(i) the board of directors of the issuer;

''(ii) nominees for the board of directors of the issuer; or

''(iii) the executive officers of the issuer.

''(3) ALTERNATIVE SUBMISSION.—In any 1-year period in which an issuer required to file an annual report under subsection (a) does not file with the Commission a proxy statement or an information statement relating to the election of directors, the issuer shall disclose the information required under paragraph (2) in the first annual report of issuer that the issuer submits to the Commission after the end of that 1-year period.

''(4) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this subsection, and annually thereafter, the Commission shall submit to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives, and publish on the website of the Commission, a report that analyzes the information disclosed under paragraphs (2) and (3) and identifies any trends with respect to such information.

''(5) BEST PRACTICES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of Minority and Women Inclusion of the Commission shall, not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this subsection, and every 3 years thereafter, publish best practices for compliance with this subsection.

''(B) COMMENTS.—The Director of the Office of Minority and Women Inclusion of the Commission may, pursuant to subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, solicit public comments related to the best practices published under subparagraph (A).''.

SEC. 603. DIVERSITY ADVISORY GROUP.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section:

(1) ADVISORY GROUP.—The term ''Advisory Group'' means the Diversity Advisory Group established under subsection (b).

(2) COMMISSION.—The term ''Commission'' means the Securities and Exchange Commission.

(3) ISSUER.—The term ''issuer'' has the meaning given the term in section 3(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)).

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Commission shall establish a Diversity Advisory Group, which shall be composed of representatives from—

(1) the Federal Government and State and local governments;

(2) academia; and

(3) the private sector.

(c) STUDY AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Advisory Group shall—

(1) carry out a study that identifies strategies that can be used to increase gender identity, racial, ethnic, and sexual orientation diversity among members of boards of directors of issuers; and

(2) not later than 270 days after the date on which the Advisory Group is established, submit to the Commission, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate, and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives a report that—

(A) describes any findings from the study conducted under paragraph (1); and

(B) makes recommendations regarding strategies that issuers could use to increase gender identity, racial, ethnic, and sexual orientation diversity among board members.

(d) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Advisory Group submits the report required under subsection (c)(2), and annually thereafter, the Commission shall submit to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives a report that describes the status of gender identity, racial, ethnic, and sexual orientation diversity among members of the boards of directors of issuers.

(e) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF REPORTS.—The Commission shall make all reports of the Advisory Group available to issuers and the public, including on the website of the Commission.

(f) INAPPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply with respect to the Advisory Group or the activities of the Advisory Group.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. PHILLIPS OF MINNESOTA

Page 9, after line 10, insert the following:

SEC. 105. STUDY ON SHAREHOLDER COLLECTIVE ACTION.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Securities and Exchange Commission shall—

(1) conduct a study on—

(A) the emergence, viability, and significance of coalitions of shareholders who wish to preserve and promote critical employment and ESG standards;

(B) whether and to what extent shareholder collective action—

(i) occurs; and

(ii) has implications with respect to filing requirements under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78a et seq.); and

(C) any possible anticompetitive activities associated with shareholder collective action; and

(2) submit to Congress a report that includes—

(A) the findings of the study conducted under paragraph (1);

(B) guidance, which may include an approved list, of shareholder engagement activities that are not considered to involve questions of corporate control; and

(C) recommendations on regulatory safe harbors for engagement with respect to sustainability guardrails and similar restrictions on portfolio company conduct with a goal of—

(i) preserving economic justice, environmental systems, and social institutions; and

(ii) otherwise protecting the common interests of corporate shareholders and stakeholders.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MS. WEXTON OF VIRGINIA

Add at the end the following:

TITLE VI—UYGHUR FORCED LABOR DISCLOSURE

SEC. 601. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the ''Uyghur Forced Labor Disclosure Act''.

SEC. 602. DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN ACTIVITIES RELATING TO THE XINJIANG UYGHUR AUTONOMOUS REGION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 13 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m), as amended by section 502, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(w) DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN ACTIVITIES RELATING TO THE XINJIANG UYGHUR AUTONOMOUS REGION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the end of the 180-day period beginning on the date of enactment of this subsection, the Commission shall issue rules to require each issuer required to file an annual report under this section or section 15(d) or a proxy statement under section 14 to disclose in each such report or proxy statement whether, during the period covered by the report or proxy statement—

''(A) the issuer or any affiliate of the issuer, directly or indirectly, engaged with an entity or the affiliate of an entity to import—

''(i) manufactured goods, including electronics, food products, textiles, shoes, auto parts, polysilicon, and teas, that are sourced from or through the XUAR;

''(ii) manufactured goods containing materials that are sourced from or through the XUAR; or

''(iii) goods manufactured by an entity engaged in labor transfers from the XUAR;

''(B) with respect to any goods or materials described under subparagraph (A), whether the goods or material originated in forced labor camps; and

''(C) with respect to each manufactured good or material described under subparagraph (A)—

''(i) the nature and extent of the commercial activity related to such good or material;

''(ii) the gross revenue and net profits, if any, attributable to the good or material; and

''(iii) whether the issuer or the affiliate of the issuer intends to continue with such importation.

''(2) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—The Commission shall make all information disclosed pursuant to this subsection available to the public on the website of the Commission.

''(3) REPORTS.—

''(A) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Commission shall—

''(i) conduct an annual assessment of the compliance of issuers with the requirements of this subsection; and

''(ii) issue a report to Congress containing the results of the assessment required under clause (i).

''(B) GAO REPORT.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall periodically evaluate and report to Congress on the effectiveness of the oversight by the Commission of the disclosure requirements under this subsection.

''(4) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) FORCED LABOR CAMP.—The term 'forced labor camp' means—

''(i) any entity engaged in the 'mutual pairing assistance' program which subsidizes the establishment of manufacturing facilities in XUAR;

''(ii) any entity using convict labor, forced labor, or indentured labor described under section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1307); and

''(iii) any other entity that the Commission determines is appropriate.

''(B) XUAR.—The term 'XUAR' means the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.''.

(b) REPEAL.—The amendment made by this section shall be repealed on the earlier of—

(1) the date that is 8 years after the date of the enactment of this section; or

(2) the date on which the President submits to Congress (including the Office of the Law Revision Council) a determination that the Government of the People's Republic of China has ended mass internment, forced labor, and any other gross violations of human rights experienced by Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, and members of other persecuted groups in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

□ 1345

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the amendments en bloc, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this en bloc package of Democratic amendments to H.R. 1187, the Corporate Governance Improvement and Investor Protection Act.

These amendments include critical provisions offered by my colleagues, Representative HIMES, Representative AXNE, Representative PHILLIPS, Representative WEXTON, Representative FRANKEL, and Representative MEEKS.

These provisions strengthen H.R. 1187 by requiring public companies to disclose key information related to cybersecurity, corporate board diversity, human rights abuses, human capital management, and the ways companies are investing in and protecting their workforce.

Investors, the true owners of public companies, need this information because of the significant effects they can have on the bottom lines and operations of the companies they are investing their hard-earned money in. Investors need this information to hold companies accountable.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support these important measures, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUIZENGA. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the amendments en bloc, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, let's be honest. If the original bill wasn't bad enough, Democrats' en bloc amendments complete the picture. With this amendment, Democrats are packaging even more non-investment-relevant social priorities that only serve to feed protesters and dissidents with information to be used in naming and shaming companies.

I had mentioned earlier that in some of the bills in this package, we have some potential impossibility of working with each other. There are others that don't belong in our committee.

Then there are other bills that don't make sense if we really, truly are trying to protect investors from fraud and trying to build capital in our country, which is the directive of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Let's look at some of the specific information companies would be required to disclose under these amendments and how it benefits everyday investors.

Take the workforce and human capital management disclosure amendment, for example. How exactly is a company supposed to measure and disclose, in a comprehensible and comparable manner, ''employee engagement'' and ''alignment with business strategy''?

Additionally, how does disclosing the company's policies relating to ''freedom of association and work-life balance initiatives'' help everyday investors evaluate the risks of investing in that company?

My friends on the other side have been pretty adamantly opposed to Robinhood, but those who are looking to use Robinhood might actually like that work-life balance. That is kind of millennial type of language that is being used in here.

This amendment might as well require companies to disclose their policy on dogs in the office and whether their canine coworkers are purebreds or mixed breed types of rescue dogs. This doesn't have relevance and materiality to investors.

It is also worth highlighting an amendment that requires American companies to disclose whether the company or an affiliate of the company directly or indirectly engaged with an entity or the affiliate of an entity regarding the importation of not only goods from the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region but also goods that have materials originally sourced from the XUAR.

Well, this is a redo from last Congress, and now that Democrats have one-party control, their motives are clear. The bill requires companies to show if their affiliates are indirectly engaged with affiliates of certain companies.

To put it simply, American companies would be required to disclose unknowable information and face securities fraud charges for any misstatements or omissions.

Now, let's not have any doubt: This side of the aisle has been highlighting the Uighur situation for a very long time through bills, through amendments, through sanctions, advocating those and holding China and the CCP responsible.

But, again, under this legislation, they will violate the law for trying to disclose unknowable information.

Why would a company want to go public under that regime? And how does disclosing such indecipherable information help everyday investors make more informed investment decisions?

Now, just to make sure my Democrat friends don't twist my words, like I said, I very much care about the Chinese Communist Party's human rights abuses. We need to be focused on that. I think many of the underlying concerns that motivate this legislation and amendment are important. But the public company disclosure regime is simply the wrong vehicle for addressing those concerns.

The SEC's mission is to: one, protect investors from fraud; two, maintain fair, orderly, and efficient markets; and, three, facilitate capital formation. These packages of bills do not do that, and nothing in the SEC's mission looks remotely like enforcing foreign policy goals or labor law.

Mary Jo White had pointed that out regarding the conflict minerals portion of the Dodd-Frank law. Once again, Democrats are more than comfortable with shoving the SEC into subject matter areas where they have zero expertise rather than getting the policy right.

There are real downsides to this approach my colleagues are taking. Mandatory disclosure increases compliance costs. The more complicated and technical the information required to be reported in disclosures, the more specialized the attorneys and compliance experts a company needs to adhere to a law.

If I need to spell that out for you, that is money that companies cannot spend on its workforce and investing in their business, in equipment, and in their wages, or returning money to everyday investors who have invested in those companies.

Moreover, just to be clear, because my Democrat friends keep talking about how badly investors want this information, under the disclosure requirements in these amendments, everyday investors aren't the ones who benefit. Social activists, as well as compliance professionals—that is, lawyers and accountants—are the ones who will reap the biggest reward under these amendments.

We are helping the elite workforce with the bill and these amendments. Instead of helping investors participate in our capital markets and helping American workers, these amendments will leave everyday investors buried in disclosures that are, at most, tangentially related to investment.

Meanwhile, smaller public companies with shoestring compliance budgets will have to delay raising wages for workers in order to reallocate that capital to hiring more lawyers.

At its core, this amendment just heightens the key problem with the original bill. The additional disclosures will disincentivize private companies from going public, which will inhibit everyday investors, our constituents, from participating in our capital markets and will limit their choices of public companies to invest in.

Let's not eliminate access and opportunities to everyday investors, especially when rich investors will still have access to investing in companies that have gone private or stayed private in response to these amendments.

I think that is one of the things, Madam Speaker, that is getting lost in this. Those that have will continue to have those options. Those that are trying to build a future are going to get frozen out once again.

For that reason, I oppose this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. AXNE).

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, in the last century, businesses have become much less reliant on physical assets and more reliant on their workers.

In fact, virtually every business that I talk to says that the people are their most important asset. Yet, we have minimal information about the employees and what we are doing to invest in our workers.

My amendment would address that by giving us more information from public companies about workforce training, pay, benefits, health and safety, and turnover and promotion rates. By the way, these are sets of data that are already being collected by most public companies.

The pandemic, though, has only driven home how important it is for companies to make sure that their workers stay safe and healthy for their company's success. It is obvious that companies with workers who are more engaged and invested will do better, which is why investors want this information.

My amendment would encourage better corporate practices by giving investors and the public the information they want about which companies are truly investing in their workers.

Madam Speaker, I urge a ''yes'' vote.

Mr. HUIZENGA. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS).

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairwoman WATERS for her leadership on the Financial Services Committee.

Today, I urge bipartisan support for H.R. 1187, including the passage of my amendment, the Improving Corporate Governance Through Diversity Act.

As we continue these conversations about equity and closing the racial wealth gap, this amendment is a key component because it will empower investors with better data to drive diversity efforts in corporate America. This is precisely because investors recognize that profit, performance, and inclusive governance are logically intertwined.

That is why my amendment, which I want to thank Representative MALONEY and Representative TORRES for working with me on, seeks to enhance the SEC's current diversity disclosure regime by requiring public companies to disclose race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and veteran

status on the boards and in the C-suites.

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

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, the American economy cannot reach its full potential without fully redressing persistent barriers that have kept whole communities from being able to build wealth and share in opportunities of prosperity.

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

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. LOIS FRANKEL).

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative WATERS for her leadership on this issue.

Madam Speaker, I want to highlight some language in this en bloc amendment that is very important to the working women of this country. The provision requires publicly traded companies to disclose the number and monetary amounts of settlements and judgments in connection with workplace harassment claims.

This will not only improve transparency and accountability for public companies, but it will provide incentives for them to foster respectful, safe workplaces free from harassment and to make sure that there are consequences when workplace abuses occur.

Here is the thing. Up to 80 percent of women have experienced some form of workplace harassment, and there are serious implications that often result: physical and mental health problems, career interruptions, and lower earnings. Enduring this kind of harassment at work can even discourage women from advancing their careers, which only makes the gender wage gap worse.

All persons must have safe workplaces to reach their full potential, and investors should know more about the workplaces they are putting their money behind. Transparency should add motivation to employers to keep their employees safe, and that is good for everyone.

□ 1400

Mr. HUIZENGA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to close.

Madam Speaker, this was claimed earlier by one of the authors that investors wanted this information, I believe was the quote.

Well, I ask the question: If investors want this information, as claimed, then they can bring a vote to the shareholders to require these disclosures. Evidence, Madam Speaker, would dictate and show that precious few of these types of issues have actually been brought to shareholder meetings, where they are voted on. In the rare times that they have, even fewer have actually been approved.

So, no, investors don't look at this information. They don't want this information, and they don't view it as material to the investment decisions that they are making.

So you have to ask the question, then: Who is requiring or requesting this information? I suspect it is more about appeasing social activists. It is not about the workers and it is certainly not about the investors. This is about making sure that the virtue signaling that is required in today's corporate world—may I add, for large corporations, because there are plenty of small and medium-sized, even publicly traded companies that are bucking this.

But for these large corporations who have massive, massive compliance departments that are chock-full of attorneys, chock-full of CPAs and others that are going to work through this, and they are going to hire their friends in the consulting world to make sure that they are dotting the I's and crossing the T's, that is who it is really about.

Sadly, unfortunately, who ultimately ends up losing in that equation is the worker and the investor, our constituents.

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

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

I urge my colleagues to join me in standing up for our Nation's investors and workers to vote ''yes'' for these Democratic amendments.

I do believe that Mr. HUIZENGA correctly described who they are working for. He just talked about how big these corporations are and how much they have to manage.

Of course, prior to him, Mr. BURGESS talked about, yes, the tax breaks that they receive, and they should receive more tax breaks. However, they are worried about these corporations and their ability to comply, despite the fact they have all of the accountants they need, they have all of the personnel they need, they have all of the management they need. They have everything that they need to be in compliance.

We are simply saying it is time for them to disclose information that the investors have been asking and begging for.

And, of course, they often refer to the retail investors. But the institutional investors must be included in this decision because they are the ones that are in control of the teachers and the firefighters and the workers on the front lines and all of that money that they are investing for them, and they have got to protect them. The way that you protect them is making sure that the investors understand how to make good decisions based on information.

If the big corporations, with all that they have to be able to operate, do not give them this information, do not have this information, do not share this information, they are at a great disadvantage.

And so I would simply ask my colleagues to understand whose side we are on. We are on the side of the retail investors and the institutional investors who are handling all of the money of our frontline workers who are investing for their retirement.

I would ask for a ''yea'' vote on these en bloc amendments.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the previous question is ordered on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS).

The question is on the amendments en bloc.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to 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 question are postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. HILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER). It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in House Report 117–59.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Strike titles I through V and insert the following:

SEC. 2. SEC STUDY ON ESG AND CLIMATE-RELATED DISCLOSURES.

(a) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Securities and Exchange Commission shall carry out a study of all disclosure frameworks described in paragraph (2) that any U.S.-listed public company may use when making disclosures to investors, whether voluntarily or pursuant to law.

(2) DISCLOSURE FRAMEWORKS.—The disclosure frameworks described in this paragraph are as follows:

(A) Disclosure frameworks related to environmental, social, and governance (''ESG'') metrics.

(B) Disclosure frameworks related to the climate.

(b) REPORT.—The Commission shall issue a report to the Congress containing—

(1) all findings and determinations made in carrying out the study required under subsection (a)(1); and

(2) a description of all inconsistencies between the frameworks described under subsection (a)(2).

(c) ESG AND CLIMATE DISCLOSURE RULEMAKING CONTINGENT ON STUDY.—Issuers are not required to make any disclosures related to ESG or the climate that were not required on the date of enactment of this Act unless—

(1) such disclosures are required by a rule of the Commission; and

(2) such rule is issued taking into account the finding and determinations of the study required under subsection (a)(1).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) and a

Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, as I noted in our debate earlier today, I stand in opposition to the legislation en bloc offered by the majority, and that is why I am offering an amendment that replaces the entire underlying bill with a study to be conducted by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The amendment would require the SEC to summarize and describe any inconsistencies in the methodologies related to environmental, social, and governance metrics before—repeat, before—they mandate any type of disclosure from public companies.

My amendment will provide us with much-needed information on the differences between the five or six standard setters, among many others, currently in the market. They all have different approaches and ways to measure climate and other ESG risks. This causes confusion, Mr. Speaker, and turmoil, both for the public companies trying to determine these metrics and issue their financials and for investors trying to understand what has been disclosed.

As we have discussed during the general debate, H.R. 1187 is a compilation of five different bills. During this amendment debate, I want to focus particularly on the bills offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. VARGAS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CASTEN).

When we marked these bills up in the Financial Services Committee, I pointed out that even though Democrats believe these bills are in alignment, as they both address the need for climate-related disclosure, they are in tension with one another.

For example, Congressman VARGAS' bill suggests that a disclosure system is sufficient by providing an annual report describing the long-term ESG strategy and ESG-related metrics, which presumably would include climate risk.

On the other hand, Congressman CASTEN says that a disclosure should report the same metrics, but additionally needs to disclose the social and human impact of a company's actions, analyze how the company's reputation might be affected by climate, detail the board's oversight, and has a long list of statutory additions.

The Democrats often say that we need to mandate measuring climate risk because this is science. But Deloitte & Touche reported that science has not agreed on the methodology for measuring climate risks, and even when companies try to measure these risks, the information isn't measured consistently, timely, and in a relevant way, increasing uncertainty.

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I claim time in opposition.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I strongly oppose the amendment offered by Mr. HILL. This amendment would gut the entirety of H.R. 1187. Bizarrely, this amendment offered by my colleague has an odd focus on climate change, suggesting that we need more study about the financial risk of climate change. Let me be very clear: climate change is real. We cannot alter the Earth's orbit or the Moon's orbit or click our heels three times and wish for climate change to magically disappear.

In fact, the impacts of climate change are already apparent and are affecting global financial markets. Unfortunately, studies show that market prices currently fail to factor in the risks of climate change to the tune of trillions of dollars.

Mr. HILL's amendment would also allow companies to continue to engage in legally risky tax-avoidance schemes to funnel limitless amounts of corporate dark money into politics and to enrich CEOs while worker wages remain stagnant. This is precisely the information that investors want to know about the companies that they own.

I urge my colleagues to reject this amendment. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, we are not in Kansas anymore, since we are using ''Wizard of Oz'' analogies. To put a finer point on it, we are not debating climate. We are debating the right way to disclose financial risk for climate, from climate.

To put a finer point on it, a report released by the Governance & Accountability Institute features a breakdown of all the Standard & Poor's 500 publicly traded companies that are currently disclosing climate risk and which standard setter they are using.

The outcome shows that 51 percent use one company, 14 percent use another, and 5 percent use another. Vastly different outcomes. And, in fact, the bill proposed by the majority dictates which one of those should be used, and it happens to be the one that only 5 percent of companies are currently using.

So there are five or six of these different standard setters out there, and it is important for the commission to figure out which one of these makes the most sense before we mandate in a rulemaking.

Bogging down these companies with additional, unclear, unwieldy disclosures just to prove a political point is not just unfair, it is expensive. It leads to increased litigation risk and hurts long-term capital formation. This is not how we should be operating as policymakers and precisely why I am offering this amendment to get the work done right up front before it turns into another government mandate.

My amendment is simply good governance. It will replace the bill with a study of all disclosure frameworks related to the environment, social and governance metrics, as well as those particularly related to climate that any public company may use when making disclosures to our investors, whether voluntarily or pursuant to a statute. And it would analyze the differences and conflicting factors between the reporting frameworks. This information is what we need in Congress, and we should be able to review it before drafting, let alone voting on legislation that will lead to a mandated new disclosure framework.

Mr. Speaker, my amendment is simply good governance that will replace the bill with a study, and I believe that is the right way to go. I urge my colleagues to support this.

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. HILL's amendment would completely gut H.R. 1187 and would prevent investors from accessing critical environmental, social, and governance information that they need to make the best investment decisions possible and hold the companies they own accountable.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on Mr. HILL's amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the previous question is ordered on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL).

The question is on the amendment.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

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

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

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

□ 1415

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MS. SCHRIER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 8 printed in House Report 117–59.

Ms. SCHRIER. Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk made in order by the rule.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end the following:

TITLE VI—OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 601. STUDY AND REPORT ON SMALL BUSINESSES AND ESG DISCLOSURES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Securities and Exchange Commission, in coordination with the Director of the Office of the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation and the Investor Advocate of the Office of the Investor Advocate, shall—

(1) conduct a study on the issues small businesses face with respect to complying with disclosure requirements related to environmental, social, and governance metrics; and

(2) submit a report to Congress that includes—

(A) the results of the study required under paragraph (1); and

(B) recommendations with respect to small business compliance with such disclosure requirements.

(b) DEFINITION OF SMALL BUSINESS.—In this section, the term ''small business'' has the meaning given the term ''small business concern'' under section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. SCHRIER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington.

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

Mr. Speaker, my amendment to this bill is very simple. It would ensure that this important legislation does not place undue burden on small businesses.

In so many areas throughout my district, our Main Street businesses are just now finally getting back on their feet. They have faced unprecedented challenges during this past pandemic year. In fact, one small business owner in Auburn almost didn't apply for any Federal financial assistance because she was so overwhelmed by the potential paperwork.

Even before the pandemic, small businesses were bogged down with paperwork and administrative burdens, things that can be easily handled by a large corporation but that really are too much of a burden and can put a Main Street shop out of business.

When we implement this legislation, we should also understand what effect it will have on small businesses and make it as easy as possible for them to disclose this important information.

That is why my amendment requires the Sustainable Finance Advisory Commission to study issues small businesses may face when complying with requirements of this bill and order recommendations to ease regulatory burdens for these businesses.

As we move forward in creating transparency for large corporations, it is important that we do so without creating burdens that could really hamper the recovery of small businesses.

This is a commonsense amendment, and I urge my colleagues to support its adoption.

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

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I claim the time in opposition to this amendment, although I am not opposed to it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Michigan is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the goals of this amendment, and I applaud my colleague from Washington. We should be concerned about the effects of this bill and ESG reporting on small businesses, and I would say that this is a step in the right direction.

However, I don't believe this amendment actually goes far enough. The ranking member of the full committee submitted an amendment to the Rules Committee that would have exempted small businesses from the onerous and unnecessary requirements of this bill, and, sadly, that amendment was not made in order. I think that may have achieved the same goal in a certainly much more clear manner for the author.

This bill will be particularly burdensome on small businesses that don't have the resources to pay all the expenses associated with complying with these disclosures, such as lawyers, accountants, and other ESG consultants.

I know the chairwoman had mentioned that somehow my statements earlier and the statements of my colleagues were supportive of large business and their support of this. It is actually the exact opposite. I could really care less what the Fortune 50 think about this.

I am concerned about that bottom 50. I am worried about those up-and-coming companies that are going to have those precious resources sucked into more compliance that, again, does not have relevance or materiality to investors, nor is it actually requested by investors.

But this bill is a prime example of Wall Street versus Main Street, and I commend my colleague for fighting for Main Street with this amendment.

I am prepared to accept this amendment because I hope it will help small businesses.

Ms. SCHRIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for his commendation on the amendment.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS), the chairwoman of the House Committee on Financial Services.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, this amendment offered by Representative SCHRIER requires the SEC to work with the Office of the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation and the Office of the Investor Advocate to study the issues smaller public companies may face in reporting ESG disclosures, and to make recommendations for the SEC to consider.

Disclosures of ESG-related matters are critical to investors in markets, and it is imperative that public companies provide investors, the true owners of these companies, with this important information. However, it is just as important for us to ensure that public companies of all sizes are able to comply with these disclosure requirements.

To address this, my colleague, Representative SCHRIER, has introduced an amendment that requires the SEC to work with the Office of the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation and the Office of the Investor Advocate to study the issues that smaller public companies face in disclosing ESG matters, and to make recommendations for the SEC to tailor these disclosure requirements to assist smaller public companies.

Ms. SCHRIER's amendment, along with Mr. VARGAS' provision in H.R. 1187, will help smaller public companies by ensuring that the SEC is factoring in the unique issues that smaller public companies face while also creating clear, consistent regulatory standards that reduce regulatory uncertainty, all while providing investors and markets with this critical information.

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I continue to support this amendment, and I am happy to accept it.

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

Ms. SCHRIER. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment that is a commonsense amendment to support our local small businesses.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the previous question is ordered on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. SCHRIER).

The question is on the amendment.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appear to have it.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays. The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MS. PLASKETT.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 10 printed in House Report 117–59.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 41, line 8, insert ''means'' after '' 'tax jurisdiction' ''.

Page 41, line 9, strike ''means''.

Page 41, beginning line 9, strike ''or a jurisdiction that is not a country but that has fiscal autonomy; and'' and insert ''; or''.

Page 41, strike lines 12 through 14.

Page 41, after line 11, insert the following:

''(ii) a jurisdiction that is not a country but that has fiscal autonomy.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands.

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

I rise in support of this amendment. This amendment proposes a technical change in title 5 of this bill, the Disclosure of Tax Havens and Offshoring Act, to simply clarify that a ''tax jurisdiction'' includes either a country or a jurisdiction that is not a country but has fiscal autonomy.

My concern, as the bill presently states, is that certain words used in that part of the bill will be highly

problematic to U.S. territories, including my district, and our efforts to address very important tax policy issues that have arisen in the last few years.

My amendment seeks to correct the bill's definition of a tax jurisdiction by removing its words explicitly analyzing U.S. territories without the United States. While these specific words separating the territories from the rest of the United States would be removed, the rest of the language would be left as it currently exists in the bill: A ''tax jurisdiction'' would mean either a country or a jurisdiction that is not a country but that has fiscal autonomy.

My concern is with the language to explicitly distinguish U.S. territories from the sovereign United States in such a way.

First, it would be inconsistent with the current structure of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, which this bill seeks to amend. Under that law, each of the U.S. territories are defined and treated as States.

Secondly, it would be contrary to the position that the United States has taken in its deliberations with the European Union and the OECD in response to blacklisting of U.S. territories in 2017 and 2018.

A letter from the Secretary of Treasury to the Council of the European Union addressing this issue reads: ''The United States disagrees with the Council's decision to consider U.S. territories separately from the United States.''

It would be more difficult for the United States to make this argument if legislation is adopted by Congress lending credence to the argument that U.S. territories should be treated as tax jurisdictions without the United States as a whole.

Importantly, treating the U.S. territories as separate tax jurisdictions distinct from the sovereign United States would also be inconsistent with efforts that U.S. territories have been making for relief from tax increases intended for foreign tax jurisdictions that were unfairly imposed on U.S. territories by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

Lastly, I have concerns about the language at issue categorizing U.S. territories as fiscally autonomous. They are, in fact, legally possessions of the United States under the tax code to this day. One of the U.S. territories is currently in a state of bankruptcy. The U.S. Virgin Islands has no control over its income taxes and cannot sever itself from the mirror code tax system of the United States, and has extensive and longstanding written agreements in place with the IRS requiring exchange of tax information.

Thus, all I have requested with this technical amendment is that the bill language be slightly adjusted to remove words explicitly referencing U.S. territories as tax jurisdictions distinct from the sovereign United States. I believe this would be more fair to the sponsors of this measure because it would in no way impede the effect of its policy; the meaning of tax jurisdiction would remain as either a country or ''a jurisdiction that is not a country but has fiscal autonomy.''

Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS), the chairwoman of the Financial Services Committee.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I understand that my friend and colleague, Ms. PLASKETT, has raised some concerns about the treatment of territories in this bill, and I want to assure her that the staff has done everything possible in the bill text to ensure that territories are included in this bill and not treated disparately.

The language in this bill is consistent with regulations promulgated under the Obama administration regarding country-by-country tax reporting, which were carefully written to ensure territories were not excluded.

I want to make clear that nothing in this bill should be intended to suggest that territories are tax havens. In fact, I have worked with my colleague, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, on this bill text. We believe that the enhanced disclosures in this bill, which will include territories, should help encourage investment in the territories and hold corporations accountable for lack of investment in territories.

I want to ensure Ms. PLASKETT that I take her concerns seriously, and I intend to work with her to make sure that what she is identifying as perhaps incorrectly being defined as tax havens is an issue that I will deal with.

□ 1430

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, since I have assurances from both the chairwoman and the committee that they will continue to work with us to ensure that U.S. territories are not treated as tax havens but that we are, in fact, individuals who intend and continue to intend, through our governments, to pay our taxes to the Internal Revenue Service and continue to be treated equitably as part of the United States, at this time, I yield back the balance of my time and I withdraw my amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The amendment is withdrawn.

Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of H.R. 1187 is postponed.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 475, JUNETEENTH NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE DAY ACT

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 479 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 479

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (S. 475) to amend title 5, United States Code, to designate Juneteenth National Independence Day as a legal public holiday. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Reform or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to commit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. RESCHENTHALER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time is yielded for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, today, the Committee on Rules met and reported a rule, House Resolution 479, providing for consideration of S. 475, the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, under a closed rule.

The rule provides 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Reform and one motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, we are here today to consider an important and timely bill, S. 475, which parallels H.R. 1320 introduced by our colleague, SHEILA JACKSON LEE from Texas. This bill would make Juneteenth a Federal holiday.

We are happy and not a little surprised to see that the Senate was able to quickly pass this bill with unanimous consent. It is not every day that one sees the Senate move more quickly than the House, and it is my hope that today the House of Representatives would be able to act with similar swiftness.

Juneteenth, a portmanteau of June 19th, celebrates a seminal moment in Black American history, and it is well past time that our country recognizes the importance of this day by making it a Federal holiday.

While the Emancipation Proclamation outlawed slavery in the South, and the Civil War effectively ended with the surrender of the Confederacy in April of 1865 at Appomattox, slavery did not immediately end throughout the United States.

During the Civil War, many slaveholders migrated to Texas to avoid conflict and continued to hold Black Americans in bondage after the formal end of the Civil War.

On June 19, 1865, Union troops finally arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas, to ensure that slaves were freed, a full 2½

years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed by President Lincoln.

On that date, Major General Gordon Granger issued General Order No. 3, which announced that, in accordance with the Emancipation Proclamation, all slaves are free.

In the years following, Black Texans began to celebrate Juneteenth, also known as Emancipation Day, Jubilee Day, and Juneteenth Independence Day. Over time, they developed time-honored traditions for celebration, including parades, cookouts, family reunions, prayer gatherings, historic and cultural readings, and musical performances. As Texans emigrated to other parts of the United States, those traditions came with them and became enshrined in Black communities across our country.

Today, Juneteenth is celebrated by communities throughout the United States. Forty-eight States and the District of Columbia recognize Juneteenth. It is time for the Federal Government to do the same.

My own district in southeastern Pennsylvania takes great pride in its Juneteenth celebrations. From parades and flag raisings and picnics to musical performances and community gatherings, our community will celebrate at dozens of events throughout the district this weekend.

On a planning call this week for one of our local celebrations, a resident from the Eastwick neighborhood in southwest Philadelphia proclaimed that ''Juneteenth is the holy grail'' of celebrations for the community because it represents America's true day of freedom.

Upon hearing the news that this bill would come up for passage today, one of my staffers said: ''As an African-American woman raising five beautiful children, it would mean so much to make Juneteenth a Federal holiday. . . . It allows people to reflect on what my ancestors had to deal with. It gives the history of how they fought and continued to fight as they passed the torch on to the next generation.''

Another community member just shared: ''I hope this provides an accessible, teachable moment so people across the country can talk with their neighbors about why we need this holiday and how it helps to address the erasure of Black contributions to humanity and history.''

I know that this move to make Juneteenth a Federal holiday will mean so much to members of the Black community in my district, and I am so excited to have the great honor of returning home to celebrate this weekend after we pass this bill.

Juneteenth, like many of our other Federal celebrations, serves as a day of remembrance and reflection and a celebration of emancipation and freedom.

So, as we consider the rule today, and as we approach this year's Juneteenth celebrations, I ask my colleagues in this Chamber to think and reflect on our Nation's complicated history, the events that led us to where we are, and what we need to do to reckon with our past and continue to work toward creating a more equitable and inclusive society.

America has historically failed to fully address the horrors of the abuse wrought upon enslaved people during the early years of our country, and to this day, we live with the long-term effects and consequences of slavery in America.

Racism, both interpersonal and institutional, continues to plague our country. And despite monumental efforts, from the Civil War to the civil rights movement and beyond, to get our Nation to live up to the ideals proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence, Black Americans still face disparate treatment and disparate outcomes across our society, from housing and healthcare to education and the workplace.

To move forward with the work of dismantling institutional racism that continues to disenfranchise Black Americans, it is essential that we start by looking critically at how we get here.

If we all truly commit ourselves to striving toward a more perfect Union, where all people are not only legally equal but actually have a fair shot at achieving the American Dream, we must recognize our current failings and take the necessary steps to end racial discrimination, the racial wealth gap, and racial injustices in our social, economic, environmental, and judicial institutions.

While some may feel that making Juneteenth a Federal holiday is a purely symbolic act, symbols hold power. Holidays hold power.

While millions of Americans already celebrate Juneteenth and use the day to reflect on our collective past and future, this is an important step to formally commemorate a crucial part of our culture and history that for too long has been canceled.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on other meaningful steps we can take to honor the legacy of enslaved people who contributed so much to our history and to address the lasting impacts of this cruel chapter in our history that still persist today.

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

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCANLON) for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the rule before us today provides for consideration of S. 475, a bipartisan bill establishing a national holiday on June 19, known as Juneteenth National Independence Day. The June 19th date marks the date that Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, and announced the end of slavery and the Civil War.

I am honored to stand here with my colleague from Pennsylvania as the Battle of Gettysburg, of course, took place in Pennsylvania, involving the largest number of Civil War casualties, and marked the turning point of the war.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, the Keystone State played a crucial part in the Civil War. My State provided over 350,000 soldiers and sailors, more than any other Northern State except New York. Pennsylvania also served as a vital resource for military equipment and food for the Union Army. As I already mentioned, the Commonwealth was the site of the world's largest battle, that of Gettysburg.

So, it probably comes as no surprise that Pennsylvania already recognizes Juneteenth. In fact, since 1980, 47 States, including, as I said, my home State of Pennsylvania, as well as the District of Columbia, have issued legislation recognizing Juneteenth as a holiday or as a day of observance.

Designating June 19 as a national holiday would increase awareness and education on Juneteenth; it would celebrate Black history and culture; and it would recognize the Americans who fought and died to end slavery.

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

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I now recognize my distinguished colleague, the chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security in the House Committee on the Judiciary. Representative SHEILA JACKSON LEE is a tremendous advocate and leader in the fight for racial equity and an inspiration to many of our colleagues, including myself. Coming from the great State of Texas, she is all too familiar with the history and importance of Juneteenth for African Americans and for all Americans to recognize and reconcile our history.

In Congress' past, Representative JACKSON LEE led the charge to recognize Juneteenth as a national holiday by introducing legislation to federally recognize this historic day. In the 117th Congress, she, again, introduced H.R. 1320, which I understand formed the basis for the Senate bill.

Through the tireless work of her and her Senate colleagues, we now have the privilege of voting on this historic legislation. I applaud the tremendous work of the distinguished gentlewoman from Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. How humbled I am to be on the floor of the House with fellow Americans who can speak eloquently about the history that is so deeply seated in my history and the history of so many Americans.

How honored I am, Congresswoman SCANLON, that you come from the great State of Pennsylvania that has a storied history. For some of us, we remember Gettysburg, but there are many other aspects, which I have had the privilege of visiting.

I always say to America: Learn America. It is a beautiful place, but it is a historic place.

To my friend from Pennsylvania, the manager and Rules Committee member, how honored I am to have you, a fellow Pennsylvanian, in terms of the minority's manager, on the floor today. You know full well the fight of the Union soldiers, and I am sure that you have in your constituency or in the State descendants of those fights.

Mr. Speaker, I can stand here today to say, with Senator MARKEY, Senator CORNYN, Senator SMITH, and my colleague of long-suffering, DANNY DAVIS, who began this journey with me, the act or the thought of racial divide crushes to the floor on this bright and sunny day as we bring from the Senate the legislation that I offered, H.R. 1320, in the form of S. 475, the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, companion legislation to H.R. 1320 in the House.

The House was the leader, although I am always glad to embrace the dynamic leadership of the Senate. We have over 160 more sponsors coming, bipartisan sponsors.

My good friend and colleague from Texas, RANDY WEBER, actually represents Galveston, and I want to share his name on the floor.

□ 1445

But I introduce this to make Juneteenth a Federal holiday to commemorate the end of chattel slavery, America's original sin, and to bring about celebration, crushing racial divide down to a point of unity to this Earth, and it is because of the perseverance, the strength of our mutual communities, African Americans that struggle for equality.

Now, I would be remiss if I did not at least appoint that slavery was real. These are the brutal backs upon which the whip went over and over and over again, not only men, women, children, possibly, as history recounts.

The history is limited because it is slave narrative, that I might very humbly and respectfully say, those stories are in broken English. But I remember one where a woman slave said to a husband that had been either taken away or had been a freed slave to another plantation; she said, Husband, come back, come back, they are about to sell me and your children to different places. That is what this moment in time in history represents for us.

But look where we are today. Look where we are. In the midst of what people have described as racial divide, we have now come to a place where we acknowledge the 47 States that have done a celebratory, unified, and multicultural celebration of Juneteenth. Let me tell you why, just for a moment.

Juneteenth is as significant to African Americans as it will be to Americans because we, too, are Americans, and it means freedom.

Juneteenth. On June 19, 1865, General Granger found himself on the shores of Galveston—Senator CORNYN and myself will be in Galveston this very Juneteenth. How coincidental. Can you imagine, how short I am, I will be standing maybe taller than Senator CORNYN, forgive me for that, because it will be such an elevation of joy, but we will be there for a historic celebration.

But Juneteenth came in June of 1865, and shortly thereafter, in the next few months, the 13th Amendment declared slavery unconstitutional in the United States. I think it is important to read these words. These are the words of General Granger, coming all the way from Washington, D.C., of General Order No. 3.

You know, we like legislation, but I will tell you, can you imagine all of the slaves who were not free 2 extra years? They gathered around, they knew something was happening. There was no telegram and there was no cyber, there was no email or tweets.

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

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, 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 rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection therefore existing between them becomes that of employer and hired labor. It is a day of freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Rules Committee, Chairman MCGOVERN, and Ranking Member COLE. I want to thank them for their commitment in bringing this to us. I want to thank Majority Leader HOYER, Speaker PELOSI, the whip, Mr. CLYBURN, the chairman, Mr. JEFFRIES, and all of the leadership on both sides of the aisle that have brought us to this point.

Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the House Judiciary Committee, the Chair of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, and the principal sponsor in the House of the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, I rise in strong and enthusiastic support of the Rule and the underlying legislation, S. 475, the Senate companion to the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, which establishes June 19 as a federal holiday.

I applaud the U.S. Senate for passing S. 475, Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, companion legislation to H.R. 1320, which I introduced to make Juneteenth a federal holiday to commemorate the end of chattel slavery, America's Original Sin, and to celebrate the perseverance that has been the hallmark of the African American struggle for equality.

I thank Senator MARKEY of Massachusetts, my senior senator, Senator JOHN CORNYN of Texas, and others who spearheaded this effort in the Senate, and Senate Majority Leader SCHUMER for his support and for using his legislative skills to ensure the bill was voted on and passed.

Mr. Speaker, now it is time for the House of Representatives to act swiftly and bring to the floor, vote on, pass the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, and send it to the desk of President Biden for signature.

With the President's signature, the federal government will join 47 states in recognizing as a holiday Juneteenth, the day that has been celebrated by African Americans for 156 years and has been called rightly as 'America's second Independence Day.'

Let me extend on behalf of all of us who have labored to pass this important legislation our deep appreciation to the House leadership, particularly Majority Leader Hoyer, for their support which paved the way for the House last year to pass by unanimous consent H. Res. 1001, the resolution I introduced recognizing Juneteenth Independence Day.

As I have said many times, Juneteenth is as significant to African Americans as July 4 is to all Americans because on that day, June 19, 155 years ago, General Gordon Granger, the Commanding Officer of the District of Texas, rode into Galveston, Texas and announced the freedom of the last American slaves; belatedly freeing 250,000 slaves in Texas nearly two and a half years after Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation.

When General Granger read these words of General Order No. 3 set off joyous celebrations of the freedmen and women of Texas:

"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 rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection therefore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired laborer."

Juneteenth thus made real to the last persons living under the system of chattel slavery, of human bondage, the prophetic words of President Abraham Lincoln delivered November 19, 1863, at Gettysburg "that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

Juneteenth was first celebrated in the Texas state capital in 1867 under the direction of the Freedmen's Bureau and remains the oldest known celebration of slavery's demise, commemorating freedom while acknowledging the sacrifices and contributions made by courageous African Americans towards making our great nation the more conscious and accepting country that it has become.

Juneteenth is as significant to African Americans as July 4 is to all Americans because on that day, June 19, 155 years ago, General Gordon Granger rode into Galveston, Texas and announced the freedom of the last American slaves; belatedly freeing 250,000 slaves in Texas nearly two and a half years after Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation.

Juneteenth was first celebrated in the Texas state capital in 1867 under the direction of the Freedmen's Bureau.

Today, Juneteenth remains the oldest known celebration of slavery's demise. It commemorates freedom while acknowledging the sacrifices and contributions made by courageous African Americans towards making our great nation the more conscious and accepting country that it has become.

As the nation prepares to celebrate July 4th, our nation's independence day, it is a time to reflect on the accomplishments of our nation and its people.

General Granger's reading of this order ended chattel slavery, a form of perpetual servitude that held generations of Africans in bondage in the United States for two-hundred and forty-eight years and opened a new chapter in American history.

Recognizing the importance of this date, former slaves coined the word "Juneteenth" to mark the occasion with a celebrations the first of which occurred in the Texas state capital in 1867 under the direction of the Freedmen's Bureau.

Juneteenth was and is a living symbol of freedom for people who did not have it.

Juneteenth remains the oldest known celebration of slavery's demise.

It commemorates freedom while acknowledging the sacrifices and contributions made by courageous African Americans towards making our great nation the more conscious and accepting country that it has become.

The celebration of Juneteenth followed the most devastating conflict in our country's history, in the aftermath of a civil war that pitted brother against brother, neighbor against neighbor and threatened to tear the fabric of our union apart forever that America truly became the land of the free and the home of the brave.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Freedom is never free," and African American labor leader A. Phillip Randolph often said "Freedom is never given. It is won."

Truer words were never spoken.

We should all recognize the power and the ironic truth of those statements, and we should pause to remember the enormous price paid by all Americans in our country's quest to realize its promise.

Juneteenth honors the end of the 400 years of suffering African Americans endured under slavery and celebrates the legacy of perseverance that has become the hallmark of the African American experience in the struggle for equality.

In recent years, a number of National Juneteenth Organizations have arisen to take their place alongside older organizations—all with the mission to promote and cultivate knowledge and appreciation of African American history and culture.

Juneteenth celebrates African American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures.

But it must always remain a reminder to us all that liberty and freedom are precious birthrights of all Americans, which must be jealously guarded and preserved for future generations.

I urge all members to support the rule and the underlying legislation.

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time. I would like to thank my good friend and colleague from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for the kind words for my home State of Pennsylvania, and for recognizing the descendants of those who fought to end slavery, especially those in Pennsylvania.

Additionally, I would like to commend her on working on the House companion for, from what I am understanding, years and years. So this certainly says volumes about the work she put into the bill, and I would just like to thank her.

Mr. Speaker, President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, but it took 2½ years for slaves in Texas to learn of their freedom. S. 475 will finally designate June 19 as a national holiday and highlight the important history and contribution of Black Americans and those who fought and died to end slavery.

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

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time. I want to echo the remarks of my distinguished colleague, Representative SHEILA JACKSON LEE, in mentioning Pennsylvania's history in this moment. I want to highlight Philadelphia's role in our Nation's abolitionist movement, the Quakers, Lucretia Mott, who embraced that movement and pushed this country forward, the role of our residents in fighting and winning the Civil War, and being the birthplace of American ideals at Independence Hall.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that in passing this rule and the underlying bill we will take a collective step forward in achieving those goals that all Americans are equal under the law, treated fairly in our schools, our workplaces, our courts, and our public institutions.

Symbols hold power. Holidays hold power. While millions of Americans already celebrate Juneteenth and use the day to reflect on our collective past and future, this is an important step to formally commemorate a crucial part of our culture and history. I urge, again, that all my colleagues vote for the rule and the underlying bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the adoption of the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. 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 214, nays 208, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 163]

YEAS—214

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Auchincloss
Axne
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
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
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis, Danny K.
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fletcher
Foster
Frankel, Lois
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Golden
Gomez
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Kahele
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Kind
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
Malinowski
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Mfume
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newman
Norcross
O'Halleran
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Rice (NY)
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NAYS—208

Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bentz
Bergman
Bice (OK)
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brady
Brooks
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Calvert
Cammack
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Comer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Estes
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Gohmert
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
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)
Katko
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kim (CA)
Kinzinger
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
LaTurner
Lesko
Letlow
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Mace
Malliotakis
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McKinley
Meijer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar

Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Mullin
Murphy (NC)
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunes
Obernolte
Owens
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Young
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—8

Craig
Donalds
Gonzalez, Vicente
Jacobs (CA)
McHenry
Moore (WI)
Ocasio-Cortez
Roy

□ 1523

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. STEFANIK, and Mrs. HINSON changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mr. NADLER changed his vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on Roll Call No. 163.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Barragán (Gallego)
Cárdenas (Gomez)
Cleaver (Davids (KS))
DeSaulnier (Thompson (CA))
Gaetz (Greene (GA))
Granger (Arrington)
Grijalva (García (IL))
Horsford (Jeffries)
Hoyer (Brown)
Johnson (TX) (Jeffries)
Kim (NJ) (Pallone)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Langevin (Courtney)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lieu (Raskin)
Lowenthal (Beyer)
Meng (Clark (MA))
Mullin (Lucas)
Napolitano (Correa)
Nehls (Fallon)
O'Halleran (Stanton)
Payne (Pallone)
Porter (Wexton)
Roybal-Allard (Escobar)
Ruiz (Aguilar)
Rush (Underwood)
Sewell (DelBene)
Sherrill (Pallone)
Speier (Scanlon)
Strickland (Kilmer)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

ESG DISCLOSURE SIMPLIFICATION ACT OF 2021

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of the bill (H.R. 1187) to provide for disclosure of additional material information about public companies and establish a Sustainable Finance Advisory Committee, and for other purposes, will now resume.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. BURGESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on amendment No. 1, printed in House Report 117–59, on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS).

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 209, nays 218, not voting 3, as follows:

[Roll No. 164]

YEAS—209

Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bentz
Bergman
Bice (OK)
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Bost
Bourdeaux
Brady
Brooks
Buchanan
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Calvert
Cammack
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Comer
Craig
Crawford
Curtis
Davids (KS)
Davis, Rodney
Delgado
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Estes
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Gohmert
Gonzales, Tony
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harris
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hern
Herrell
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Hudson
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
Jacobs (NY)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Katko
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kim (CA)
Kinzinger
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
LaTurner
Lesko
Letlow
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Mace
Malinowski
Malliotakis
Mann
Mast
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
Meijer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Mullin
Murphy (NC)
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunes
Obernolte
Owens
Palazzo
Palmer
Pappas
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Phillips
Posey
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rouzer
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Sherrill
Simpson
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steube
Stevens
Stewart
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wild
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Young
Zeldin

NAYS—218

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Auchincloss
Axne
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Biggs
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Boebert
Bonamici
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brown
Brownley
Buck
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
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Davidson
Davis, Danny K.
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fletcher
Foster
Frankel, Lois
Gaetz
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez, Vicente
Good (VA)
Green, Al (TX)
Greene (GA)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Hollingsworth
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Kahele
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Kind
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
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Manning
Massie
Matsui
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newman
Norcross
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Rice (NY)
Rosendale
Ross
Roy
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sires
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stansbury
Stanton
Steil
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—3

Babin
Crenshaw
Herrera Beutler

□ 1545

Ms. NEWMAN, Mr. BUCK, and Ms. JACKSON LEE changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Ms. CRAIG and Mr. DELGADO changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the amendment was rejected.

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)
Cleaver (Davids (KS))
DeSaulnier (Thompson (CA))
Gaetz (Greene (GA))
Granger (Arrington)
Grijalva (García (IL))
Horsford (Jeffries)
Hoyer (Brown)
Johnson (TX) (Jeffries)
Kim (NJ) (Pallone)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Langevin (Courtney)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lieu (Raskin)
Lowenthal (Beyer)
Meng (Clark (MA))
Mullin (Lucas)
Napolitano (Correa)
Nehls (Fallon)
O'Halleran (Stanton)
Payne (Pallone)

Porter (Wexton)
Roybal-Allard (Escobar)
Ruiz (Aguilar)
Rush (Underwood)
Sewell (DelBene)
Sherrill (Pallone)
Speier (Scanlon)
Strickland (Kilmer)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC OFFERED BY MS. WATERS OF CALIFORNIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on the adoption of amendments en bloc, printed in House Report 117–59, on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendments en bloc.

The Clerk redesignated the amendments en bloc.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS).

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 215, nays 211, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 165]

YEAS—215

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Auchincloss
Axne
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
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
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fletcher
Foster
Frankel, Lois
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Golden
Gomez
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
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newman
Norcross
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Rice (NY)
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

NAYS—211

Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bentz
Bergman
Bice (OK)
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brady
Brooks
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Calvert
Cammack
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Comer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Estes
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Gohmert
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harris
Harshbarger
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)
Katko
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kim (CA)
Kinzinger
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
LaTurner
Lee (NV)
Lesko
Letlow
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Mace
Malliotakis
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
Meijer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Mullin
Murphy (NC)
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunes
Obernolte
Owens
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Young
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—4

Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Hartzler
Yarmuth

□ 1606

So the en bloc amendments were agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, June 16, 2021, I missed the vote on rollcall No. 165. Had I been present I would have voted: "nay" on rollcall No. 165.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Barragán (Gallego)
Cárdenas (Gomez)
Cleaver (Davids (KS))
DeSaulnier (Thompson (CA))
Gaetz (Greene (GA))
Gonzalez, Vicente (Gomez)
Granger (Arrington)
Grijalva (García (IL))
Horsford (Jeffries)
Hoyer (Brown)
Johnson (TX) (Jeffries)
Kim (NJ) (Pallone)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Langevin (Courtney)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lieu (Raskin)
Lowenthal (Beyer)
Meng (Clark (MA))
Mullin (Lucas)
Napolitano (Correa)
Nehls (Fallon)
O'Halleran (Stanton)
Payne (Pallone)
Porter (Wexton)
Roybal-Allard (Escobar)
Ruiz (Aguilar)
Rush (Underwood)
Sewell (DelBene)
Sherrill (Pallone)
Speier (Scanlon)
Strickland (Kilmer)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. HILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHNEIDER). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on the adoption of amendment No. 4, printed in House Report 117–59, on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL).

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 204, nays 225, not voting 1, as follows:

[Roll No. 166]

YEAS—204

Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bentz
Bergman
Bice (OK)
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Bost
Brady
Brooks
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Calvert
Cammack
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Comer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Estes
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Gohmert
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
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)
Katko
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kim (CA)
Kinzinger
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
LaTurner
Lesko
Letlow
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Mace
Malliotakis
Mann

Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
Meijer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Mullin
Murphy (NC)
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunes
Obernolte
Owens
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rouzer
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Young
Zeldin

NAYS—225

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Auchincloss
Axne
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Biggs
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Boebert
Bonamici
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
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis, Danny K.
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fletcher
Foster
Frankel, Lois
Gaetz
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Golden
Gomez
Good (VA)
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Greene (GA)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Kahele
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Kind
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
Malinowski
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Manning
Massie
Matsui
McBath
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newman
Norcross
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Rice (NY)
Rosendale
Ross
Roy
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—1

Dingell

□ 1632

Messrs. CASTRO of Texas and COSTA changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mr. DONALDS, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mses. GRANGER and HERRELL changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the amendment was rejected.

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)
Cleaver (Davids (KS))
DeSaulnier (Thompson (CA))
Gaetz (Greene (GA))
Gonzalez, Vicente (Gomez)
Granger (Arrington)
Grijalva (García (IL))
Horsford (Jeffries)
Hoyer (Brown)
Johnson (TX) (Jeffries)
Kim (NJ) (Pallone)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Langevin (Courtney)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lieu (Raskin)
Lowenthal (Beyer)
Meng (Clark (MA))
Mullin (Lucas)
Napolitano (Correa)
Nehls (Fallon)
O'Halleran (Stanton)
Payne (Pallone)
Porter (Wexton)
Roybal-Allard (Escobar)
Ruiz (Aguilar)
Rush (Underwood)
Sewell (DelBene)
Sherrill (Pallone)
Speier (Scanlon)
Strickland (Kilmer)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MS. SCHRIER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on amendment No. 8, printed in House Report 117–59, on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. SCHRIER).

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 380, nays 47, not voting 3, as follows:

[Roll No. 167]

YEAS—380

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allred
Amodei
Auchincloss
Axne
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice (OK)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Boebert
Bonamici
Bost
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Burgess
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carl
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Clyde
Cohen
Cole
Comer
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
Davids (KS)
Davidson
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fallon
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, C. Scott
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gimenez
Golden
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harder (CA)
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hayes
Hern
Herrera Beutler
Higgins (LA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jacobs (NY)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
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
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Lesko
Letlow
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Lowenthal
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luria
Lynch
Mace
Malinowski
Malliotakis
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Mann
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meijer
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (NC)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Newman
Norcross
Nunes
O'Halleran
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
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)
Rose
Rosendale
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
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)
Timmons
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Turner

Underwood
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yarmuth
Young
Zeldin

NAYS—47

Allen
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Biggs
Bishop (NC)
Brooks
Buck
Budd
Burchett
Cammack
Carter (TX)
Cline
Cloud
Donalds
Feenstra
Fitzgerald
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gibbs
Gohmert
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Greene (GA)
Harris
Herrell
Hice (GA)
Jackson
Jordan
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Massie
Mast
Miller (IL)
Norman
Owens
Perry
Rouzer
Roy
Sessions
Smith (NE)
Steube
Tiffany
Van Duyne
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Williams (TX)

NOT VOTING—3

Bucshon
Estes
Good (VA)

□ 1654

Mr. FEENSTRA changed his vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Ms. MACE, Messrs. CARTER of Georgia, ISSA, WENSTRUP, and Mrs. LEE of Nevada changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the amendment was agreed to.

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)
Cleaver (Davids (KS))
DeSaulnier (Thompson (CA))
Gaetz (Greene (GA))
Gonzalez, Vicente (Gomez)
Granger (Arrington)
Grijalva (García (IL))
Horsford (Jeffries)
Hoyer (Brown)
Johnson (TX) (Jeffries)
Kim (NJ) (Pallone)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Langevin (Courtney)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lieu (Raskin)
Lowenthal (Beyer)
Meng (Clark (MA))
Mullin (Lucas)
Napolitano (Correa)
Nehls (Fallon)
O'Halleran (Stanton)
Payne (Pallone)
Porter (Wexton)
Roybal-Allard (Escobar)
Ruiz (Aguilar)
Rush (Underwood)
Sewell (DelBene)
Sherrill (Pallone)
Speier (Scanlon)
Strickland (Kilmer)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Barr of Kentucky moves to recommit the bill H.R. 1187 to the Committee on Financial Services.

The material previously referred to by Mr. BARR is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AND FORCED LABOR BY THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days following the date of the enactment of this Act, and each year thereafter for 5 years, each issuer, the securities of which are registered under section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or that is required to file annual reports under section 15(d) of such Act, shall submit to the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury the report described under subsection (b).

(b) REPORT DESCRIBED.—The report described in this subsection shall include activities of the issuer with any foreign entity that, in the determination of the issuer—

(1) engages in, is responsible for, or facilitates the forced labor of Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, and members of other Muslim minority groups in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of China;

(2) engages in, contributes to, assists, or provides financial, material, or technological support for efforts to contravene United States law regarding the importation of forced labor goods from the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region;

(3) is subject to sanctions under Executive Order 13818, Executive Order 13936, or subtitle F of title XII of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328, the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act);

(4) engages in creating or providing technology or other assistance to create mass population surveillance systems in the Xinjiang Autonomous Region of China; or

(5) builds or runs detention facilities for Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, and other members of Muslim minority groups in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.

(c) IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—Not later than 90 days after receiving the report described under subsection (b), the Secretary of the Treasury shall determine whether to include a foreign entity described in the report on the Specially Designated Nationals And Blocked Persons List of the Department of the Treasury.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XIX, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. BARR. 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 207, nays 218, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 168]

YEAS—207

Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bentz
Bergman
Bice (OK)
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
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
Davis, Rodney
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Estes
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Gohmert
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
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)
Katko
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kim (CA)
Kinzinger
Kustoff
LaHood
Lamborn
Latta
LaTurner
Lesko
Letlow
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Mace
Malliotakis
Mann
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
Meijer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Mullin
Murphy (NC)
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunes
Obernolte
Owens
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Young
Zeldin

NAYS—218

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Auchincloss
Axne
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
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
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis, Danny K.
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fletcher
Foster
Frankel, Lois
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Golden
Gomez
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
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Manning

Massie
Matsui
McBath
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newman
Norcross
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Rice (NY)
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—5

Crenshaw
Gonzalez, Vicente
LaMalfa
Leger Fernandez
Loudermilk

□ 1717

Messrs. MALINOWSKI, BOWMAN, and Ms. McCOLLUM changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So the motion to recommit 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)
Cleaver (Davids (KS))
DeSaulnier (Thompson (CA))
Gaetz (Greene (GA))
Granger (Arrington)
Grijalva (García (IL))
Horsford (Jeffries)
Hoyer (Brown)
Johnson (TX) (Jeffries)
Kim (NJ) (Pallone)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Langevin (Courtney)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lieu (Raskin)
Lowenthan (Beyer)
Meng (Clark (MA))
Mullin (Lucas)
Napolitano (Correa)
Nehls (Fallon)
O'Halleran (Stanton)
Payne (Pallone)
Porter (Wexton)
Roybal-Allard (Escobar)
Ruiz (Aguilar)
Rush (Underwood)
Sewell (DelBene)
Sherrill (Pallone)
Speier (Scanlon)
Strickland (Kilmer)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BARR. 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 215, nays 214, not voting 2, as follows:

[Roll No. 169]

YEAS—215

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Auchincloss
Axne
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
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
Crist
Crow
Davids (KS)
Davis, Danny K.
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Foster
Frankel, Lois
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Golden
Gomez
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
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newman
Norcross
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Rice (NY)
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NAYS—214

Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bentz
Bergman
Bice (OK)
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brady
Brooks
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Calvert
Cammack
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Comer
Crawford
Cuellar
Curtis
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Estes
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Gohmert
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
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)
Katko
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kim (CA)
Kinzinger
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
LaTurner
Lee (NV)
Lesko
Letlow
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Mace
Malliotakis
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
Meijer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Mullin
Murphy (NC)
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunes
Obernolte
Owens
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Young
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—2

Crenshaw
Gonzalez, Vicente

□ 1741

Mr. HUDSON changed his vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So the bill was 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)
Cleaver (Davids (KS))
DeSaulnier (Thompson (CA))
Gaetz (Greene (GA))
Granger (Arrington)
Grijalva (García (IL))
Horsford (Jeffries)
Hoyer (Brown)
Johnson (TX) (Jeffries)
Kim (NJ) (Pallone)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Langevin (Courtney)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lieu (Raskin)
Lowenthal (Beyer)
Meng (Clark (MA))
Mullin (Lucas)
Napolitano (Correa)
Nehls (Fallon)
O'Halleran (Stanton)
Payne (Pallone)
Porter (Wexton)
Roybal-Allard (Escobar)
Ruiz (Aguilar)
Rush (Underwood)
Sewell (DelBene)
Sherrill (Pallone)
Speier (Scanlon)
Strickland (Kilmer)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

□ 1745

JUNETEENTH NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE DAY ACT

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 479, I call up the bill (S. 475) to amend title 5, United States Code, to designate Juneteenth National Independence Day as a legal public holiday, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON LEE). Pursuant to House Resolution 479, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is 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.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Reform or their respective designees.

The gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Member have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on S. 475.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today, I rise in strong support of S. 475, the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act.

I thank my good friend and colleague, SHEILA JACKSON LEE, for introducing the House companion bill, H.R. 1320, which has over 170 cosponsors.

This bill would establish Juneteenth, which is celebrated on June 19th, as a Federal holiday.

Our Federal holidays are purposefully few in number and recognize the most important milestones in our country's history. I cannot think of a more important milestone to commemorate than the end of slavery in the United States.

At the end of the Civil War in 1865, hundreds of thousands of people remained enslaved, despite the Emancipation Proclamation being issued nearly 2 years earlier.

On June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger traveled to Galveston, Texas, and issued General Order Number 3, which declared that all slaves are free. That is when 250,000 enslaved individuals in Texas finally learned that they were free. The celebration that they held in Galveston on that day is the basis for the Juneteenth celebrations today.

Juneteenth is considered the longest-running African-American holiday marking the end of slavery in the United States, and it has been celebrated across the Nation for over 150 years.

First known as Jubilee Day, Juneteenth is marked by food, music, and fellowship. These celebrations honor freedom, recognize life, and uplift the complex history and the beautiful culture of the African-American community.

Forty-seven States and the District of Columbia have made Juneteenth a public holiday, including my own State of New York.

While millions of Americans have celebrated this important day for generations, the Federal Government has failed in its responsibility to recognize its significance. Today, we can change that.

It is often said that those who do not remember their past are doomed to repeat it. If we want to confront the sins of slavery and move forward towards a more equitable, fair, and free society, it is incumbent upon us to recognize not only our past evils, but the moments of triumph over those evils.

Making Juneteenth a Federal holiday is a crucial step in remembering our past, and it will undoubtedly help us build a better future.

I thank Senator ED MARKEY for his longtime leadership on this bill. As a result of his hard work, yesterday, the Senate unanimously passed S. 475 to make Juneteenth an official Federal holiday. Democrats and Republicans passed it unanimously.

Senator CORNYN, a conservative Republican from Texas, stated: ''The freedom of all Americans that Texas celebrates every Juneteenth should be celebrated all across the Nation. The passage of this bill represents a big step in our Nation's journey toward equality.''

In this time of increasing partisanship, Senator CORNYN's strong support speaks to the importance and urgency of this bill.

I also thank again my good friend, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, who has been advocating for Juneteenth to be a Federal holiday for over 12 years. This bill would not be possible without her steadfast support and hard work.

It is now our responsibility to swiftly pass this bill and finally enshrine this important celebration in national law. As we strive toward a more perfect Union, it is critical that we acknowledge the national significance of Juneteenth. This day not only honors the past and celebrates the present, but it offers an opportunity to reflect upon ways to create an even more just society.

I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this vitally important bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, Juneteenth is an important day, and remembering and celebrating the emancipation of African Americans in the United States is certainly worthy of commemoration. All Americans should celebrate our fight for freedom.

It is a fitting tribute first celebrated in the State of Texas to commemorate the day in 1865, when President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation was recognized in that State.

I do plan to vote in favor of this bill that passed unanimously in the Senate yesterday. However, I would be remiss if I did not discuss the procedure leading up to consideration of this legislation.

Just a few mere hours ago, the Committee on Oversight and Reform, which has jurisdiction over Federal holidays in the Federal workforce, learned that this legislation would be taken up today. Our committee's job is to ensure the efficient and effective operation of the executive branch agencies.

Unfortunately, we have not had ample time to consider the effects of granting the entire Federal workforce another day off work. And we do not know what effect, if any, this bill will have on Federal programs and missions that our government delivers to the American taxpayer each day.

For instance, due to the rushed process, we do not yet have an estimate from the Congressional Budget Office of how much this bill will cost. I know my friends on the other side of the aisle have never really been concerned about the cost of a government program, but the people on this side of the aisle and the American taxpayers have a concern about the cost of legislation that we pass on the floor of the House of Representatives.

According to a 2014 analysis by President Obama's Office of Management and Budget, it cost Federal taxpayers $660 million in payroll and holiday premium costs when Federal employees were given an extra holiday on the day after Christmas that year by executive order.

Because we are not following regular order, which would have included a legislative hearing and committee markup, we do not fully understand the impacts of this new Federal holiday and the true costs of lost productivity.

Nevertheless, I thank my colleagues for the time to speak on this historical legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the distinguished Speaker of the House.

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I commend our distinguished chair of the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and the Congress, for bringing this important legislation to the floor within 24 hours of it passing the Senate.

It is a pretty exciting historic day.

I thank Congresswoman JACKSON LEE for her sponsorship of this legislation for such a long time.

Madam Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in the spirit of joy and pride as the Congress passes this legislation to declare Juneteenth a national holiday.

With this step, Congress is ensuring that one of the most momentous

events in our history—which has been celebrated by millions, particularly Black Americans for 150 years now—is officially recognized; that it is enshrined in our history books, and it takes its place of honor in our Nation.

□ 1800

Juneteenth is a beautiful and proud celebration of freedom for Black Americans. It marks the day, 2 years after President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, when Major General Gordon Granger and Union soldiers delivered the news of liberation in Galveston, Texas, not far from the district the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) represents.

That day, General Granger conveyed the declaration that all are free with ''an absolute equality of rights and rights of property.''

I know that Texas' special place in our Nation's history is cherished by its delegation, especially, as I mentioned, the Chair, Representative SHEILA JACKSON LEE, representing Houston. Thank you for being the author of the legislation, the House companion of S. 475.

Thank you to the Congressional Black Caucus and its distinguished chair, Congresswoman JOYCE BEATTY from Ohio, and the Texas delegation and all Members who have worked for this official recognition over many years, including Representative DANNY DAVIS. Thank you, also, to Committee on Oversight and Reform chair, CAROLYN MALONEY.

We salute Senators ED MARKEY and JOHN CORNYN, leading in the Senate, and congratulate them on yesterday's passage of S. 475 without objection.

And let me salute the activists and leaders who carried this fight to this day, including the late Dr. Ronald Myers. For decades, until his passing, Doc Myers led the campaign to make Juneteenth a national day of observance.

Over the past century and a half, Juneteenth has evolved into a day not only of celebration but of reflection. This day reminds us of a history much stained by brutality and injustice, and it reminds us of our responsibility to build a future of progress for all, honoring the ideal of equality that is America's heritage and America's hope.

I feel very honored to be here with the Congressional Black Caucus, as I mentioned already, to speak on behalf of this legislation. I thank them for making this day possible. I also had the honor of traveling with them to Ghana almost 2 years ago at the end of July as we observed the 400th anniversary of the first slaves coming to America.

John Lewis was with us on that trip to go to the Door of No Return, which is now the Door of Return, as it urges people to come back. Almost 402 years ago, the first slaves were pushed from Africa into dungeons, which were deadly, and onto slave ships, which were death ships, to come across the ocean to a place where they would be enslaved for hundreds of years.

It challenges the conscience of the world, and certainly of America, to even think about what happened to people in our country over that period of time. But to be there with the Congressional Black Caucus was a very, very special honor, and to see the connection between that Door of No Return and Ghana and the connection to our Members of Congress on the floor of this House today serving with such dignity and pride.

Madam Speaker, we know that the fight against racism and toward equality has far to go, but it is a fight that continues with a renewed sense of urgency all the time, now sparked by the murder of George Floyd and so many others.

We salute Congresswoman KAREN BASS as she continues negotiations on the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, which now must become law.

As we fight for its passage, the Democratic House remains committed to real, effective action to advance justice, fairness, and opportunity for all. That is the purpose of our Congressional Black Caucus in this Congress. The Congressional Black Caucus is the conscience of the House of Representatives.

Madam Speaker, I urge a bipartisan vote on this important legislation and thank all Members who have led this effort which strengthens America.

I hope we can have, again, a strong bipartisan vote.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER).

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Madam Speaker, today, the House moves to establish June 19 as the Juneteenth National Independence Day, a national holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the United States.

June 19 marks the day Union troops arrived in my district in Galveston, Texas—I wasn't alive back then, let me get that out there—in the heart of what is now the 14th Congressional District of Texas, the Gulf Coast of Texas. Those troops arrived to announce and enforce the Emancipation Proclamation.

On that day, General Gordon Granger delivered the news of President Abraham Lincoln's proclamation, which had abolished slavery more than 2 years before, on January 1, 1863. That was his intent. It was the law, and it should have been done. But we had a ways to go, didn't we, to abolish slavery? We really did.

The abolition of slavery was a key milestone toward fulfilling our Founders' promise, underwritten by the self-evident truths of natural law, that all humans are created equal and should enjoy the same protections under the law.

Ingrained in Texas culture, my great Texas, this special day has already been recognized, which the chairwoman eloquently spoke about, in 47 of the 50 States here in the United States, and it is long overdue to be recognized as a Federal holiday. I have been working on it myself for several years with my friends, SHEILA JACKSON LEE and JOHN CORNYN, and others.

This year's celebration should be rooted in the works of repair we have done, still need to do, and will continue to do, Lord willing, as a country that has endured periods of racial tension, which have tried to divide our people. Let it not be so.

As President Abraham Lincoln notably quoted from the Bible, he said: ''A house divided against itself cannot stand.'' Our country can and should—and, Lord, I will say ''will''—unite beyond the divisions that we have faced. And this is a long way toward that.

The forces that try to divide our Nation will not prevail as we stand firm in our identity as Americans. We are a people refined through the trials of fire and made stronger and stronger than ever.

Juneteenth reminds us of the freedom so bravely defended by many, many Americans, and it encourages us to remain steadfast in the good fight against division. It also reminds us we have a ways to go.

''A house divided cannot stand.'' That is absolutely true. But a house that is united is unshakeable.

Mr. Speaker, this is a step toward that unification.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), the author of the companion to the Senate bill.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New York for her courtesies.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a long journey. It has not been yesterday, the day before, or last month, or a few years before. One could argue that it has been 12 years on this floor of the House.

So many people have been involved: DANNY DAVIS; my colleagues in the United States Senate, Senator CORNYN and Senator MARKEY; Barbara-Rose Collins, some 25 years ago with a resolution; others unnamed; and organizations across the Nation and some international.

It has been a long journey. It has not been an easy journey. When we stand here today, we should be reminded of the fact that there were people who continued to experience the whips of a whip for 2 more years, even as Abraham Lincoln stood in the shining sun in the aftermath of Gettysburg to unite the Union and proclaim the slaves free in 1863.

Just a few years ago, I had the teary privilege of being, at midnight, in the National Archives, looking at that document. Then, of course, it took 2 years for General Granger to get to Texas. But in that 2 years, we realize that tragedy continued and brutality continued, even into the 20th century.

I salute the miraculous coming together today of the House leadership, the Speaker, Leader HOYER, Whip CLYBURN, Chairman JEFFRIES, and others who brought this to the floor through a rule, Chairman MCGOVERN, and then a debate. Then, of course, here we are today. It is a long journey, but here we are.

I am grateful, as I said earlier, that racial divide has fallen out of the sky, and we are crushing it to the Earth for this day, for the Juneteenth holiday.

H.R. 1320 was a bipartisan bill with over 166 sponsors, as well as now S. 475. We are delighted to note that the President will sign this bill.

When the words of General Granger were said—the people of Texas and other places are informed that in accordance with the proclamation from the executive, all slaves are free—then, in the same year, the 13th Amendment was passed.

This bill and this day are about freedom. At Gettysburg, that is what President Lincoln said in 1863, that this Nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom.

Why can't we continue on this pathway as we push the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, as we come together on the Voting Rights Act, as we realize that there is another path for America to take, that my freedom is your freedom and your freedom is my freedom?

Yes, slaves suffered continuously. Even in the 20th century, they were hung. Yet, we have a time today, miraculously, to be able to debate and vote on the floor of the House. Diverse persons can stand and join this.

So, I offer to my colleagues: Be reminded that this has been a long journey. There have been mountains and valleys, but we stand here today, free to vote for the Juneteenth National Independence Day, a Federal holiday for America. Freedom is now.

Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the House Judiciary Committee, the Chair of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, and the principal sponsor in the House of the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, I rise in strong and enthusiastic support of S. 475, the Senate companion to the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act I introduced on February 25, 2021, which establishes June 19 as a federal holiday.

I applaud the U.S. Senate for passing S. 475, Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, companion legislation to H.R. 1320, which I introduced to make Juneteenth a federal holiday to commemorate the end of chattel slavery, America's Original Sin, and to celebrate the perseverance that has been the hallmark of the African American struggle for equality.

I thank Senator MARKEY of Massachusetts for contacting my office with his request to introduce the Senate companion to H.R. 1320 for this Congress, and to my senior senator, Senator JOHN CORNYN of Texas for his steadfast support of the Juneteenth holiday over the years, and others who spearheaded this effort in the Senate, and Senate Majority Leader SCHUMER for his support and for using his legislative skills to ensure the bill was voted on and passed.

Mr. Speaker, the process that has brought us to this day has been bipartisan, bicameral, cooperative, and constructive beginning with my collaboration in the 116th Congress with former Senator Doug Jones of Alabama and Senator CORNYN of Texas to coordinate the introduction and cultivate the necessary support for the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act.

That partnership has continued through the 117th Congress with the addition of Senator MARKEY of Massachusetts as the lead Democratic sponsor in the Senate.

The bipartisan H.R. 1320, the House version of S. 475, is sponsored by 166 Members from all regions of the country, including two of my Republican colleagues from Texas, Congressman VAN TAYLOR and Congressman RANDY WEBER.

Mr. Speaker, now it is time for the House of Representatives to act swiftly and bring to the floor, vote on, pass the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, and send it to the desk of President Biden for signature.

With the President's signature, the federal government will join 47 states in recognizing as a holiday Juneteenth, the day that has been celebrated by African Americans for 156 years and has been called rightly as 'America's second Independence Day.'

Let me extend on behalf of all of us who have labored to pass this important legislation our deep appreciation to the House leadership, particularly Majority Leader HOYER, for their support which paved the way for the House last year to pass by unanimous consent H. Res. 1001, the resolution I introduced recognizing Juneteenth Independence Day.

As I have said many times, Juneteenth is as significant to African Americans as July 4 is to all Americans because on that day, June 19, 155 years ago, General Gordon Granger, the Commanding Officer of the District of Texas, rode into Galveston, Texas, and announced the freedom of the last American slaves; belatedly freeing 250,000 slaves in Texas nearly two and a half years after Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation.

When General Granger read these words of General Order No. 3 it set off joyous celebrations of the freedmen and women of Texas:

> 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 rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection therefore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired laborer.

Juneteenth thus made real to the last persons living under the system of chattel slavery, of human bondage, the prophetic words of President Abraham Lincoln delivered November 19, 1863, at Gettysburg 'that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.'

Juneteenth was first celebrated in the Texas state capital in 1867 under the direction of the Freedmen's Bureau and remains the oldest known celebration of slavery's demise, commemorating freedom while acknowledging the sacrifices and contributions made by courageous African Americans towards making our great Nation the more conscious and accepting country that it has become.

As the Nation prepares to celebrate July 4th, our Nation's independence day, it is a time to reflect on the accomplishments of our Nation and its people.

The celebration of Juneteenth followed the most devastating conflict in our country's history, in the aftermath of a civil war that pitted brother against brother, neighbor against neighbor and threatened to tear the fabric of our union apart forever that America truly became the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Juneteenth honors the end of the 400 years of suffering African Americans endured under slavery and celebrates the perseverance that has been the hallmark of the African American experience in the struggle for equality.

But as the poet Langston Hughes reminds us in his famous poem, ''Mother to Son,'' life in America for African Americans ''ain't been no crystal stair.''

The post-bellum period in America was marked by violence and terrorism against African Americans as they sought to make real the promises of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

General Granger's reading of General Order No. 3 ended the remaining vestiges of the system of chattel slavery, a form of perpetual human bondage that held generations of Africans in captivity in the United States for 248 years and opened a new chapter in American history.

Recognizing the importance of this date, former slaves coined the word ''Juneteenth'' to celebrate the occasion, the first of which occurred in the Texas state capital in 1867 under the direction of the Freedmen's Bureau.

Juneteenth was and is a living symbol of freedom for people who did not have it.

Juneteenth remains the oldest known celebration of America's freedom from slavery.

It commemorates freedom while acknowledging the sacrifices and contributions made by courageous African Americans in the quest to make our lives more perfect.

The celebration of Juneteenth followed the most devastating conflict in our country's history, in the aftermath of a civil war that pitted brother against brother, neighbor against neighbor and threatened to tear the fabric of our union apart forever that America truly became the land of the free and the home of the brave.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, ''Freedom is never free,'' and African American labor leader A. Phillip Randolph often said ''Freedom is never given. It is won.''

Truer words were never spoken.

We should all recognize the power and the ironic truth of those statements, and we should pause to remember the enormous price paid by all Americans in our country's quest to realize its promise.

In recent years, a number of National Juneteenth Organizations have arisen to take their place alongside older organizations—all with the mission to promote and cultivate knowledge and appreciation of African American history and culture.

I am reminded that the first legislation introduced in Congress recognizing Juneteenth occurred a quarter century ago, in 1996, when H.J. Res. 195 was introduced by Congresswoman Barbara Rose Collins of Michigan, and I have introduced similar legislation annually since the 109th Congress.

So it has been a long road we have travelled to get to this day, even longer that the

15-year journey taken to pass the bill making the Birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. a national holiday.

Juneteenth celebrates African American freedom, and in so doing celebrates America's history and promise, while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures.

But it must always remain a reminder to us all that liberty and freedom are precious birthrights of all Americans, which must be jealously guarded and preserved for future generations.

In conclusion, I wish to take a moment to salute two of the unsung heroes who helped bring us to this day: the late Texas State Representative Al Edwards and nonagenarian Opal Lee, known affectionately as the "Grandmother of Juneteenth."

In 1852, Frederick Douglass famously asked: "What to the slave is the 4th of July?"

In 2021, we can reply that it is the beginning of the American Promise that would be fulfilled and made real for all Americans, including the descendants of slaves, on June 19, 1865, 'Juneteenth Day.'

That is why we celebrate Juneteenth and that is why I urge all Members to join me in voting to pass S. 475, the "Juneteenth National Independence Day Act."

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS).

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the holiday and in objection to the means by which the Democrats have brought this to the floor.

It is just wrong that this holiday, which should be recognized—arguments against it are vacuous. A CBO score is not real because it doesn't recognize the productivity of Americans during a holiday week in anticipation of a holiday and increased productivity after the holiday, and it doesn't recognize the positive impact of the economy by those who celebrate the holiday, and the money they spend.

So, the CBO score is not an argument. We support the holiday. But why would the Democrats want to politicize this by co-opting the name of our sacred holiday of Independence Day. Why would it not be named the Juneteenth National Emancipation Day? Why would we want to inject conflict about this?

I don't understand this body and the way it moves forward contrary to the best interests of the American people. We all support the holiday. I am voting in support of the bill, but the objection—and my Democrat friends know this—the objection would be to the naming of the bill.

Where would that have been confronted? In committee. But this bill was not brought to committee, was it? It was brought directly to the floor for a vote, a trap set by my Democratic colleagues for conservatives on this side of the aisle who they knew would object to the naming of this bill and the co-opting of our Independence Day. They did not bring it through committee where we could have this conversation legitimately and for the historical record.

Everyone on the Committee on Oversight and Reform, we have jurisdiction over national holidays. We would have wanted to speak on this. We would have wanted to offer amendments. Did that happen? No. Were our amendments accepted? No, because this was brought directly to the floor.

That is what is wrong with this body. That is what is wrong about this bizarre realm of Washington, D.C.

Despite that, we are going to support the bill. I am going to support the bill because I support the holiday, and I support the Black communities. My Black brothers and sisters, Americans all, have been celebrating this holiday for 100 years. What is wrong with that? It is recognized by most States in the Union. This legislation just brings the Federal Government more in alignment with the sovereign States, which as a constitutionalist, I certainly support.

Mr. Speaker, I object for the historical record since there was no committee activity. I object on the floor this day to the process that Democrats used to bring this bill to the floor and the name by which it is entitled.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. MFUME), a member of the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairwoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act and to recognize and honor a day that symbolizes freedom for all African-ancestored Americans.

My thanks to my colleague, Representative SHEILA JACKSON LEE, for taking the lead on this important legislation and for doing the hard work to put the imprimatur of the United States Congress on this day, a day that means so much to so many.

□ 1815

As an original cosponsor of the legislation, I am proud to say that, once again, we are at the doorstep of history, and to finally acknowledge that history in a new light.

Juneteenth is a reminder that we must continue to move forward in honor and in recognition of ourselves, our families, our neighbors, and the nameless and faceless generations of African Americans that we will never know. Their plight and this history are all captured in the words of the poet Langston Hughes when he wrote:

I, too, sing America.

I am the darker brother. They send me to eat in the kitchen when company comes, but I laugh, and eat well, and I grow strong.

Tomorrow, I'll be at the table when company comes. Nobody'll dare say to me, "eat in the kitchen" then.

Besides, they'll see how beautiful I am and be ashamed.

I, too, am America.

Madam Speaker, I urge passage of this Juneteenth National Independence Act, and I encourage all of my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY).

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, I applaud the work by Congresswoman JACKSON LEE, my colleague from Texas, on her work on this important recognition. And the gentlewoman knows that we discussed on the floor some of the concerns that I have that I share with my colleague from Louisiana.

I wish—because I do believe that there will be some division that comes out of embracing this so quickly, rather than running it through committee, by embracing a name that is going to be seen as conflicting, whether correlated with, or something with our July 4th national independence recognition.

And I understand it has been referred to as Independence Day over the years, and I understand why. I think for purposes of recognition by the United States Government, it would be my preference, and I would offer an amendment—if such things were ever done on the floor of this body. It is not, which is a sad state of affairs for the people's House. We literally never amend anything on the floor of this body.

I would offer an amendment embracing the recognition of this important day, June 19, 1865, and what that meant for the actual end to slavery, and obviously, we then passed the 13th Amendment, I believe, later that year in December. That is from memory, if that is right.

And I think it would be important, and I believe it has often been referred to in our history as Jubilee Day, as Emancipation Day, as Freedom Day, I would be amenable to any of those names. I don't believe that the title National Independence Day, I think, works. I would prefer that we just have a debate on that, and I wish we would have done that in committee.

I agree with the gentleman from Louisiana that it would have been preferred that we have that ability to do that, and that we should remember why regular order matters. As I told the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) earlier, I would prefer that we have this be unanimous, and I am afraid that it is not going to be unanimous. It will pass and it will pass overwhelmingly. It is good that we will pass it and that this day will be commemorated, as it should, as we have been commemorating it in Texas for a long time.

But it would be my strong preference, and I just wish this body—I wish we could get back to a time where we could sit down and work together when we have these minor differences, because I believe if we did, we really would probably pass this unanimously. There may be one or two that would vote "no" because of the 660 million, or whatever, people would say.

But we recognize the importance of the day, and I would just implore my

colleagues going forward that on all of these issues, particularly where there is so much agreement, that we would find a way to come together to be able to hash out some of these differences so there could be a more unanimous belief and buy-in to what we are doing.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN), the Democratic whip.

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time. I do have some prepared remarks here, but don't tell my staff that I'm not going to use them.

I want to speak just a little bit about what I just heard and what I think some of our challenges are in this great country of ours. And it is a great country. It does not need to be made great again. Our problem is making this greatness accessible and affordable for all of its citizens.

I think one of the ways that we do that is to recognize that we have a shared history in this country, but it is a history that is spotted with a lot of inequities, inequalities, and a lot of things that we ought to be about the business of working to try and level off the so-called playing field. One of those, I think, is really about the ability to communicate.

When we talk about Juneteenth, I often equate the history of Juneteenth with our country's inability to communicate, because the Emancipation Proclamation, signed by Abraham Lincoln in 1862, was to be effective January 1, 1863, freeing all the slaves in the Confederate States not under Union control.

Now, when that happened, there was a big meeting down on the banks of a river in Beaufort County, South Carolina, near Port Royal, and 4,000 slaves came to listen to General Saxton read the Emancipation Proclamation. On that day they were free.

However, it was June 19, 1865, 2½ years later before it was communicated to those who were enslaved in Texas. The failure to communicate kept them in slavery for another 2½ years.

The failure to communicate is what seemed to keep us from coming together as one people today.

If we learned the lessons of history, as George Santayana once said to us: When we learn the lessons of history, we are bound to repeat them if we don't.

So I would hope that as we turn this piece of legislation into law and create a national holiday for Juneteenth, I hope we will keep a couple things in mind. It is not lost on me that this building we all meet in was built by slaves.

And one of the little known facts was a man named Philip Reid, who was enslaved in Charleston, South Carolina, and who came, after being bought, to Washington, D.C., worked in the foundry. And when the foundry made the Statue of Freedom, they couldn't get it up on top of the building.

All of those learned people who had been free all of their lives could not figure out how to get that statue on top of this building.

Philip Reid, enslaved, figured it out, and he showed them how to get that statue on top of this building. He was able to communicate some lessons that he could teach, though he was unlearned. In fact, it was against the law to be able to teach him to read. His name was Reid, spelled a little differently.

Now, I would hope that we would pass this law. I suspect we won't do what the Senate did and do it unanimously, though I think it would be a tremendous demonstration of unity for every one of us who vote to pass this law recognizing June 19 as a national holiday.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DAVIDSON).

Mr. DAVIDSON. Madam Speaker, the bill before us rightly commemorates June 19, 1865, the day Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, announcing the end of the Civil War, and the formal end of slavery. It is effectively freedom day for the last enslaved Americans.

Of course, that was only in law. In practice, America failed to secure the blessings of liberty for those formerly enslaved Americans. Instead, when Abraham Lincoln was assassinated, the assassin effectively muted reconstruction.

Leaders, like Pennsylvania Congressman Thaddeus Stevens, rightly called for a much more aggressive reconstruction, but he failed to persuade his colleagues. The long struggle in defense of freedom is part of America's history.

At our founding, in the Declaration of Independence, our Founders eloquently stated that all people are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among them are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Winning the revolution offered the potential for leaders like John Adams to rightly persuade their colleagues to end slavery, but they failed. Their failure set the stage for the Civil War, and the failure to complete reconstruction meant 100 years of Jim Crow, and separate but equal, that continued into my dad's lifetime.

America's failure to rightly recognize our painful and often unjust history has meant ongoing division, open wounds that continue to fester.

So, today, let us not fail to persuade our colleagues. Let us recognize this holiday. I mean, it should, however, be known as Freedom Day or simply Juneteenth, not National Independence Day, which recognizes the Declaration, not freedom, but the Declaration of Independence. I hope we can correct that in the future, but let's not allow perfect to become the enemy of this good bill, and I urge its passage.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB), a member of the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I thank our wonderful colleague, Congresswoman JACKSON LEE, for this amazing, incredible effort, and for me to be here, and to actually witness this is an honor.

The passage of the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act is long overdue recognition for generations of pain and suffering of our Black communities.

This comes at an important time, Madam Speaker. Across the country, we are seeing efforts to eliminate the teaching of our country's history, like the injustices of slavery, from being taught in our own schools.

This national holiday will serve as a powerful reminder that we cannot run from our past. That we must educate future generations of all of our history no matter how many want to delete it or to whitewash it.

It is important to note, Madam Speaker, that this is just a minor step, far from really truly addressing the ills of our country. We must go further.

Colleagues, we must go further. We must pass the For the People Act, to H.R. 40, which is the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act. We must do more. We need to transform the lives of our Black neighbors in a bold and meaningful way, and it will truly save lives. It will truly address why we need to take a moment and address this in a way that becomes a national holiday.

We must, again, take action to actually deliver for our Black neighbors.

□ 1830

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MASSIE).

Mr. MASSIE. Madam Speaker, I fully support creating a day to celebrate the abolition of slavery, a dark portion of our Nation's history. However, naming this day National Independence Day will create confusion and push Americans to pick one of those 2 days as their Independence Day based on their racial identity.

Why can't we name this Emancipation Day and come together as Americans and celebrate that day together as Americans?

Black and White—all colors, all races, and all ethnicities—can then come together on Independence Day, which celebrates the creation of our country, throwing off an oppressive government, and come together as Black, White, and all races to celebrate that day, too?

Why ask Americans to pick one of the two Independence Days to celebrate? I think it is wrong to do that.

I think this day is misnamed. I do support creating a holiday and recognizing that wonderful day and that wonderful time when we got rid of slavery in this country. But let's celebrate both of those days: Independence Day

and the day that we celebrate emancipation and ridding our country of slavery. Let's celebrate those 2 days together as one Nation under God indivisible.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS), who is a member of the Oversight and Reform Committee.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the recognition of Juneteenth as a national holiday to celebrate the ending of the most horrific period and the most horrific policy and practices this Nation has ever known: slavery.

I heard one of my colleagues suggest a moment ago that perhaps the cost of Juneteenth is not known. I guarantee you, Madam Speaker, that whatever the cost, it will not come close to the cost of slavery.

Juneteenth is the recognition that darkness can come to light and that there is a celebration as my forefathers and -mothers struggled to endure the horror they experienced. So, celebrating Juneteenth as a national holiday is simply an idea whose time has come.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to vote for the resolution.

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

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE), who is a member of the Oversight and Reform Committee.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise here today in strong support of Juneteenth National Independence Day.

I want to say to my White colleague on the other side: Getting your independence from being enslaved in a country is different from a country getting independence to rule themselves. It is not a day that you can loop together. That is inappropriate.

It is a day for reflection and commemorating the end of slavery. It is also a recognition that we have so much work to do to rid this country of systemic racism, discrimination, and hate.

Let's talk about the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act and H.R. 4, the John Lewis Voting Rights Act. We still have much work to do.

Juneteenth, what we are doing today, should empower us to fight even harder every single day for criminal justice reform, for racial equality, and for economic empowerment of Black people in America.

We are still today living through the blatant racism and slavery that denied us education, denied us opportunity for economic development and empowerment for ourselves, and denied us the right to have a job and own property. It is still today an issue in America.

We have a responsibility to teach every generation of Black and White Americans the pride of a people who have survived, endured, and succeeded in these United States of America despite slavery.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on this legislation because Black history is American history. We cannot hold our heads and try to ignore the sins of this country, but we can come together and celebrate a time when we made the right decision.

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

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), who is a cardinal on the Appropriations Committee.

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I thank Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON for her persistent and consistent leadership on so many issues, especially getting this bill to the floor today.

As another daughter of Texas, I am deeply connected to the history of Juneteenth. My grandfather, William Calhoun Parish, who helped raise me, was born in Galveston, Texas, just 10 years after General Granger announced that enslaved Africans were freed from the brutal and barbaric legal institution of slavery. My ancestors—my great-grandmother—were enslaved in and around Galveston, Texas.

Like myself, so many in the African-American community have celebrated Juneteenth as our liberation day. To us, it represents the day that enslaved African Americans were recognized as free men, women, and children.

Yet, the end of slavery did not stop with the brutal treatment of African Americans in the United States. The persistence of racial disparities in housing, income, education, the wealth gap, and other areas of injustices African Americans really are experiencing today are a direct result of the racism embedded in our institutions from our founding.

So, it is not purely symbolic to make Juneteenth a holiday. It is an important step toward the country reckoning the truth of its legacy of slavery in the past as manifested today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON LEE). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. LEE of California. It is manifested in the racial injustices which all of us must work together to end. So, yes, it is so important that we have the truth told of this legacy of slavery so that we can move forward and work together to end these racial injustices.

I am reminded of Dr. Maya Angelou and what she once wrote. She said, ''I am the dream and the hope of the slave. I rise,'' in ''Still I Rise.''

Madam Speaker, I want to thank you today for bringing this forward, and I thank the chairwoman for yielding.

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

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY), who is the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, we cannot change the future if we can't acknowledge the past. Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated and commemorated ending of slavery in the United States. Emancipation did not free all slaves, only those in the Confederate States. Independence is freedom for all people.

I rise today in strong support of S. 475, a top priority of the Congressional Black Caucus, to enshrine Juneteenth as a legal public holiday and a bill with tremendous historical implications for our Nation.

Madam Speaker, I thank you, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, for your work.

I thank Speaker NANCY PELOSI for speaking truth to power on this floor.

Lastly, as the chair of the powerful Congressional Black Caucus, I stand here leading our 58 members saying to you: We are the conscience of the Congress.

And today, I ask all of my Members to join us. Let us unite and pass this bill.

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

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD), who is a former civil rights attorney, judge, and chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

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

Madam Speaker, on January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation to emancipate 4 million slaves residing in the 11 Southern States that were combatants against the Union.

The proclamation was significant but not totally effective. It did not include slaves who resided in the States that were not in rebellion. Lincoln was of the opinion he could only use his authority against the States who were rebelling.

In addition, there was doubt about the legal efficacy of the proclamation since Congress had not participated. There were legal questions of whether the proclamation would expire following Lincoln's Presidency and, very importantly, whether States would not free slaves without Federal intervention.

Juneteenth is significant because it marks the day when Federal troops arrived in Galveston to take control of the State and ensure that all enslaved people were free. These Federal troops arrived 2½ years after the signing of the proclamation.

By passing this legislation, Madam Speaker, every American can now better understand the African Americans'

struggle for freedom and full citizenship. Every American can now participate in recognizing the end to slavery in America.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on this legislation.

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

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, may I inquire how much time remains.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Kentucky has 15 minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from New York has 6 minutes remaining.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT), who is a member of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, I enthusiastically support the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act.

I am glad that Congress is finally taking action to formally memorialize Juneteenth as a Federal holiday just a year after my home State of New York took this step.

Juneteenth is a reminder of a sad chapter in our history but one that we overcame, and this holiday will be a reminder that our freedom is not guaranteed but rather something that we will always fight for.

While this new holiday is an important step, in the backdrop, there are numerous efforts underway to limit the teaching of uncomfortable parts of our history, and there is an insidious plan to restrict the most important of our rights, the right to vote. Let this new holiday be not just a reminder but also a call to action that we must continue to work to secure our rights and freedoms.

□ 1845

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

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DAVID SCOTT), the chair of the Agriculture Committee.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, let me say to some of my Republican friends: If our African-American slave ancestors were here today, they would say to you:

> You know, them that's got should get, and them that's not should lose, because the Bible says, and it still is news, your mama may have, and your papa may have, but God bless the child that's got his own.

God bless the child who can say I am free. Two hundred years in the deep slavery south, but God put hope in our hearts and a song in our mouths. All we are asking is for you to express the feeling and the depths of the African-American people today who need you, all of us, White and Black Members of Congress, to stand together and vote ''yes.''

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

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Vote ''yes.'' And by doing so, you will say not: This is my country.

You will say in one united voice: This is our country, Black and White. This is our country, the greatest country, and we thank God Almighty for this blessing.

Please, let us do as the Senate. Vote unanimously for passage of this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN).

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Madam Speaker, Juneteenth is a day for me of commemoration, not of celebration, because it reminds us of something that was delayed in happening.

It also reminds me of what we don't have today, and that is full access to justice, freedom, and equality. All of these are often in short supply as it relates to the Black community, and it is still delayed.

So, as we take this time to acknowledge Juneteenth and to recognize Juneteenth National Independence Day Act—something I definitely support—I pray that we do not lose track of the fact that we have so much more work to do to ensure that we have the fairness, the equality, the opportunity, whether it is voting, working, or just living healthfully in the United States of America.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VEASEY).

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, as a Texan, this is obviously a very important day for me, and I am going to tell you what Juneteenth symbolizes for me.

Juneteenth symbolizes 100 years of oppression that we faced after June 19, 1865, after General Granger made his announcement in Galveston, Texas.

It symbolizes Barbara Jordan coming to the United States House of Representatives, the first Black woman from the south, 100 years after June 19, 1865.

It symbolizes three teenagers who died, handcuffed by law enforcement, in a boat in Mexia, Texas, at a Juneteenth gathering after they were arrested for celebrating this day with their family in 1981; over 100 years after June 19, 1865.

It symbolizes Opal Lee, from Fort Worth, Texas, long known as the mother of Juneteenth in Fort Worth, and now known nationally for her endeavors to help make today possible.

Someone mentioned the George Floyd Policing Bill earlier. And I want to tell you, Madam Speaker, things aren't perfect. That police officer who handcuffed those teenagers and put them in that boat, he just retired a couple of years ago from law enforcement. George Floyd fixes that.

So while we celebrate what is about to become, with the Juneteenth holiday today, we know that we have a long way to go. But hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, June 19, 1865, finally being enshrined in our national heritage.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS), the chair of the Financial Services Committee.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I rushed to the floor to be a part of absolutely indicating my support for this important legislation, the Juneteenth National Independence Day. I am so pleased that we take this step today to honor the day and the month that the information of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation reached enslaved people in Texas. It took more than 2 years before the news reached them.

Juneteenth is a State holiday in the State of Texas. It was authored by my friend, Al Edwards, who is since deceased. I wish he was alive today to witness this debate that is taking place on the floor of the Congress of the United States that will lead to the passage of the legislation that will make Juneteenth a national holiday.

I was a little bit concerned when I heard some of the Members be opposed to the way that the bill is titled. They didn't like the word ''independence'' that is in there because these are patriots and they want to protect Independence Day and not have it mistaken in any way.

But where were these patriots when the Capitol was being violated?

Where were these patriots when the noose was hung, in plain view, for everybody to see, where slaves and people of color had lost their lives because they were hung, et cetera, et cetera?

I want you to know that patriotism should be demonstrated all of the time. If you cannot demonstrate your patriotism when your Capitol is invaded, when the insurrection took place, then I question your patriotism.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I join my House colleagues in recognizing the significance of Juneteenth as a national holiday. This is significant legislation. The vast majority of

States already recognize the day as a holiday, or observe it, and establishing a Federal holiday mostly impacts the Federal workforce. I, therefore, support moving forward to designate this new Federal holiday. It is a day worthy of all Americans' support.

I want to congratulate those who have worked so hard to make this happen.

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

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

In closing, I want to thank my good friend and colleague, SHEILA JACKSON LEE, who had the honor of presiding in the Speaker's chair over this important historic legislation on which she worked for over a decade. Her bill, H.R. 1320, to establish Juneteenth Independence Day, has well over 166 cosponsors and bipartisan support.

I, likewise, want to thank the Congressional Black Caucus for their leadership on this and for their leadership on so many other important issues to our Nation.

Juneteenth is celebrated across our Nation. It marks the end of a very dark chapter in our Nation's history and celebrates the promise of a more hopeful and inclusive tomorrow. I am elated that this bill is before the House.

I urge passage of S. 475. I urge bipartisan support, and I hope this vote is unanimous and victorious.

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

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, Rev. Ronald V. 'Doc' Myers, Sr., M.D. (February 29, 1956—September 7, 2018), was the first ordained and commissioned medical missionary to America's poorest region, the Mississippi Delta, by the Wisconsin Baptist Pastors Conference and Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church, in Milwaukee, in 1990.

Rev. Myers was the founder of numerous medical and cultural organizations and a committed physician serving the poorest Americans through clinics in Tchula, Belzoni, Yazoo City, Indianola, Greenville and Tupelo, Mississippi. 'Doc' was also a jazz musician, composer and human rights activist. The New York Times stated, ''There aren't many doctors like Ronald Myers, a jazz-playing, Baptist-preaching, family practitioner whose dream has always been to practice medicine in the kind of place most other doctors wouldn't even stop for a tank of gas.''

In 1994 a group of community leaders from across the country gathered at Christian Unity Baptist Church in New Orleans, to work for greater national recognition of Juneteenth, a holiday celebrating the end of slavery. Myers was elected Chairman of this advocacy effort which lead to the establishment of the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation and his recognition as the leader of the ''Modern Juneteenth Movement'' in America. Doc was instrumental in the passage of 45 of the 49 state and District of Columbia's pieces of legislation naming Juneteenth as a Day of Observance in this country.

Working with the Black Congressional Caucus which included Illinois Senator Barack Obama and Representative DANNY DAVIS, he sought legislation to recognize Juneteenth Independence, hosting the annual Juneteenth Prayer Breakfasts. He established the Washington Juneteenth National Holiday Observance and the National Day of Reconciliation & Healing From the Legacy of Enslavement, which includes the National Juneteenth Black Holocaust ''Maafa'' Memorial Service.

Dr. Myers organized the National Association of Juneteenth Jazz Presenters, and the Fellowship of Creative Christian Jazz Musicians. Under his leadership, the Washington Juneteenth Congressional Event was held by the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation, Juneteenth America, Inc. & the National Association of Juneteenth Jazz Presenters.

An accomplished jazz pianist, trumpeter and composer, Myers performed across the country promoting ''June Is Black Music Month!''—Celebrating Juneteenth Jazz—''Preserving Our African American Jazz Legacy!''

For over 20 years, Doc met with state politicians, local Juneteenth organizations and community leaders

Charles Taylor, author of Juneteenth said, ''Doc would give a copy of my Juneteenth book to every governor who made Juneteenth a holiday or observance. He even gave Sarah Palin a copy when she was the governor of Alaska after her state recognized Juneteenth.''

At an award ceremony of the Beverly Hills Temple of the Arts at the Saban Theatre, founder Rabbi David Baron said, ''Reverend Dr. Ronald V. Myers is an outstanding living model of all the values for which Martin Luther King stood.''

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today's bill making Juneteenth, when the last slaves got word that slavery had ended, a federal holiday has unique meaning for the District of Columbia because the slaves here were the first, not the last, to be freed. The reason, of course, is that the District was and is a federally controlled jurisdiction. The District celebrates the emancipation of slaves here on April 16 every year.

Juneteenth should remind Congress that it's time for the first to be freed to finally become equal to other Americans. The House understands that with its passage of the D.C. statehood bill. So does the Senate, with a hearing on our D.C. statehood bill scheduled for next Tuesday, June 22.

With the President, the House, and the Senate all believing that the residents of their Nation's capital should in every way be equal to other Americans, we rejoice this Juneteenth knowing that we are close to adding the 51st star to the flag.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on June 19, 1865, in Galveston, Texas, more than two years after President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation and six months after the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment outlawing slavery, Union Troops seized control of the area and declared all slaves free.

Since then, ''Juneteenth'' has been observed in Texas and in many places as Emancipation Day and the end of slavery in the United States because many of those enslaved had not yet received the news of President Lincoln's January 1, 1863, Emancipation Proclamation.

The news surrounding the Emancipation Proclamation and the end of slavery reached different regions at different times. While many commemorate this occasion on June 19, in areas such as Russell County, Alabama, the date marking the end of slavery is May 28, and as such, locals have established May 28 as a community holiday to celebrate the day of freedom.

For many of the enslaved, in communities across the south, this news was purposefully kept from them—denying them the freedom and rights they were due. It is a dark legacy we see repeating itself today which reminds us that freedom and rights—even that most fundamental right to vote—are precious and precarious.

It has been a long and continuing march towards equality and justice. So long as slavery existed and persisted, our country could never truly live up to its founding ideals of ''life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.'' The great strides made by courageous pioneers such as William Lloyd Garrison, Theodore Parker, John Greenleaf Whittier, James Russell Lowell, William Wells Brown, and Frederick Douglass were among the early steps to realize those ideals in America.

Through Reconstruction, a Civil Rights Movement nearly 100 years later, and up through current efforts to eliminate the residual effects of slavery on the descendants of former slaves, the fight continues into this century. Every step forward seems to have been met with opposition—too often violent opposition—against recognition that ''all men are created equal''. The words of Frederick Douglass ring true today that ''freedom is a constant struggle''.

As we remember the struggles and successes of the past, we must use this occasion to renew our efforts to wipe out the vestiges of slavery that still remain.

Juneteenth is not only a reminder of the end of an odious era in our Nation's history, but a reminder of the work that still needs to be done before we can truly celebrate freedom.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I applaud the United States Senate for unanimously passing legislation to nationally recognize Juneteenth as a federal holiday.

Juneteenth marks the anniversary of General Gordon Granger arriving in Galveston, Texas, and delivering the news of emancipation to enslaved Texans on June 19, 1865.

More than two years after President Lincoln's January 1, 1863 Emancipation Proclamation and more than two months after the end of the civil war, the enslaved in Texas finally received word of their freedom from General Granger, who was backed by 2,000 Union soldiers.

These newly freed persons—the last to receive the news of their emancipation in the Confederate states—started a grassroots celebration in Texas known as 'Jubilee Day' to commemorate the life-altering event. Jubilee celebrations spread throughout the South and eventually to the rest of the country and taking on the moniker 'Juneteenth,' a portmanteau meaning June 19th.

Although official recognition of this day has been slow to come, work by individuals such as the late Al Edwards—former state representative and the father of the Juneteenth holiday in Texas—has led to all but three states recognizing Juneteenth with annual celebratory events.

Now, what began as a grassroots movement to commemorate Texas history is set to become our nation's next federal holiday.

In honor of the Honorable Al Edwards and every person ever enslaved, I eagerly anticipate the opportunity to vote for this legislation on the House floor, and I thank Senator EDWARD MARKEY as well as my colleague and friend Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE for introducing this legislation to ensure Juneteenth is nationally recognized.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 479, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

The question is on the third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. 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.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 415, nays 14, not voting 2, as follows:

[Roll No. 170]

YEAS—415

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
Boebert
Bonamici
Bost
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady
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
Cloud
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Comer
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crawford
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
Davids (KS)
Davidson
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
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
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Gohmert
Golden
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez, Vicente
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harder (CA)
Harris
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hayes
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Issa
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
Lamb
Lamborn
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Lesko
Letlow
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Lowenthal
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luria
Lynch
Mace
Malinowski
Malliotakis
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Mann
Manning
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meijer
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (NC)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Newman
Norcross
Nunes
O'Halleran
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Pence
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Pfluger
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
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
Steube
Stevens
Stewart
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
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—14

Biggs
Brooks
Clyde
DesJarlais
Gosar
Jackson
LaMalfa
Massie
McClintock
Norman
Rogers (AL)
Rosendale
Roy
Tiffany

NOT VOTING—2

Crenshaw
McHenry

□ 1927

So the bill was 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)
Cleaver (Davids (KS))
DeSaulnier (Thompson (CA))
Gaetz (Greene (GA))
Gonzalez, Vicente (Gomez)
Granger (Arrington)
Grijalva (García (IL))
Horsford (Jeffries)
Hoyer (Brown)
Johnson (TX) (Jeffries)
Kim (NJ) (Pallone)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Langevin (Courtney)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lieu (Raskin)
Lowenthal (Beyer)
Meng (Clark (MA))
Mullin (Lucas)
Napolitano (Correa)
Nehls (Fallon)
O'Halleran (Stanton)
Payne (Pallone)
Porter (Wexton)
Roybal-Allard (Escobar)
Ruiz (Aguilar)
Rush (Underwood)
Sewell (DelBene)
Sherrill (Pallone)
Slotkin (Houlahan)
Speier (Scanlon)
Strickland (Kilmer)
Waltz (Gimenez)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

□ 1930

HONORING THE LIFE OF JUDGE JACK B. WEINSTEIN

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

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a giant of the judiciary; a member of the Greatest Generation; an independent advocate for the least, the lost, and the left behind.

Yesterday, the Eastern District of New York, the residents of Great Neck, his family, and all justice-seeking people lost a giant intellect and champion.

Judge Jack B. Weinstein was 99 years old.

Judge Weinstein served as a Navy lieutenant during World War II. After the war, Weinstein graduated from Columbia Law School on the GI Bill and went to work for the NAACP; clerk for the Court of Appeals; teach at Columbia; serve as the Nassau County Attorney; and, in 1967, President Johnson appointed him to the Federal bench.

My father, also a World War II veteran and member of the State judiciary, always pushed me to seek out and learn from this brilliant jurist when I clerked in the same courthouse. Judge Weinstein encouraged me throughout my career.

Judge Weinstein created the concept of a special master in complex mass tort cases. He protested mandatory sentencing guidelines that he believed betrayed the concept that the punishment should fit the crime, especially in drug cases.

Time does not permit me to properly extol his intellect, compassion, and impact, but on behalf of the people of the Third Congressional District of New York, I offer my condolences to his family and I hope they will take comfort that his life will never be forgotten.

REMEMBERING AND HONORING MARY LOTT WALKER

(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. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to remember and honor Mary Lott Walker of Blackshear, Georgia, who passed away on May 12 at the age of 85.

Mary loved her city of Blackshear, her State of Georgia, and her country, the United States of America, devoutly.

After graduating from Georgia State College for Women, Mary began her influential career in public education.

Mary was also involved in politics, becoming the first woman in Blackshear to serve as mayor pro tempore.

Through her work in Georgian education, politics, and historical preservation, Mary inspired young people to achieve greatness.

Above all, she devoted more than 67 years of membership and leadership to the Blackshear Presbyterian Church.

Mary's profound community impacts will be felt for generations to come.

My thoughts and prayer are with her family, friends, and all who knew her during this most difficult time.

THE CARE ECONOMY IS THE HEART OF AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

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

Ms. JACOBS of California. Mr. Speaker, even before COVID–19 hit, the care economy was at the heart of our communities.

Care workers keep our kids safe, our families healthy, and our businesses open.

Last week, I met with a group of childcare providers in San Diego, extraordinary women who do this work because they have a passion for helping kids. They love their jobs and they love the kids they care for, but that doesn't mean they should have to accept low wages and job insecurity.

When the pandemic hit, thousands of childcare centers across the country closed, including more than 500 in San Diego County, leading to devastating job loss in an industry that is 95 percent women.

The American Rescue Plan included $39 billion in grants to help parents afford childcare, and funding to help providers stay open and pay workers.

Now we need to go further.

The American Families Plan will create universal pre-K, make childcare affordable to all, and pay care workers a living wage.

Mr. Speaker, let's make sure that we care for the amazing workers who care for our future.

RECOGNIZING FLAG DAY AND CELEBRATING THE UNITED STATES ARMY'S 246TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Flag Day and celebrate the United States Army's 246th birthday that we observed on Monday of this week.

Every year, just a few days after Memorial Day, on June 14, our country celebrates Flag Day and the Army's birthday.

Flag Day is a celebration of our Stars and Stripes, which the Second Continental Congress designated as the symbol of our Nation on June 14, 1777.

While our flag has changed over the years to celebrate our growing country, it remains a glorious symbol of hope for our brave servicemen and -women who salute it; defend it; serve it; and, in some cases, die for it, to protect our freedom and liberty.

Since our founding, our flag has flown from sea to shining sea and around the world. Old Glory remains one of the most powerful symbols on Earth.

June 14 is also the U.S. Army's birthday. Without our Army 246 years ago, we would not be the great Nation that we are today.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, our great Nation celebrated our Army and our flag, both of which symbolize America being the land of the free and the home of the brave.

AMERICANS MUST GET VACCINATED

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, we are not normal. We are not over the pandemic. We are not over coronavirus and COVID–19.

Many people in our country, over a majority in my State of Tennessee, have not been immunized, have not had the vaccine.

I urge everyone to get vaccinated.

When I was a young child, 5 years old, I got polio. Four months before I got polio, my father gave the polio vaccine to second graders in a test in Tennessee. He gave it to my brother in the second grade. He took some vaccine home to give to me, but decided it was outside of his call and didn't do it. I got polio. It has affected me every day of my life since, and it affected my father as well.

I urge everybody to get the vaccine, not to regret it. Keep your children, your family, and your neighbors safe and free from illness.

A MOMENT OF THANKS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is not often when you can stand on the floor of the House and use the terminology: I feel full or filled.

It is a terminology that many of us are familiar with in the religious communities of our Black American tradition.

But after a journey of 10 years, I just want to take this moment to thank all of my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, who showed America that there is unity in the understanding of our history, that the history of slavery is the original sin and should never be ignored.

But now we have a national independence holiday for Juneteenth. Let us come together.

I thank Senator MARKEY; Senator CORNYN; Senator SMITH; our friend DANNY DAVIS; Doug Matthews; the Moody family; and, of course, Reverend Thomas and many others from the Galveston area; Opal Lee; and the father of Juneteenth, the late Representative Al Edwards.

Opal Lee still lives. She brought 1.6 million petitions to the United States Congress in the dead of summer.

On behalf of all who have waited for this, I thank them. And to the Congressional Black Caucus, JOYCE BEATTY as the Chair, we stand here as the conscience of the Congress thanking them with all my colleagues.

Again, we say our message is our power. We are here to serve, and there is more to come in changing lives for justice, equality, and freedom. That is what happened today.

IN SUPPORT OF SMALL LOCAL FARMERS

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service, small family farms account for 90 percent of all U.S. farms. These farms are vital to local communities and economies, and they provide fresh produce for their local farmers' markets, farm-to-school programs, soup kitchens, and a host of other local consumer activity. Sales attributed to these farmers can total up to $12 billion annually.

I was thrilled to see President Biden's administration, through the Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, recently announce $400 million in funding to support local, regional, and socially disadvantaged farmers. This is dedicated funding that will go directly toward local producers and local and regional food systems to help revitalize the essential farming that makes America proud.

I was also pleased that the administration included Secretary Vilsack in its new Supply Chain Disruptions Task Force. This will address the unfair trade practices that have allowed for cheap and unjust agriculture labor practices to continue at home and abroad.

They have allowed large agriculture companies to thrive and put their food all over grocers' shelves, while our

small farmers struggle to put food on their own tables. This decisive action to increase domestic competitiveness is what our small family farmers need to regain their footing and make it economically viable to farm for their communities and our country.

I hope my colleagues will join me in this congratulatory note.

CLIMATE CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CARTER of Louisiana). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CASTEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. 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 our Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR), my friend and the distinguished chairwoman of the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, we are in a climate crisis, and it is going to take American leadership and ingenuity to solve it. But we think we can create jobs and a lot of opportunity when we solve the climate crisis. But what we are seeing right now are devastating health and economic consequences of climate change here all across America, whether it is wildfires out West, flooding in the midsection. We are approaching hurricane season with great trepidation. Extreme heat.

We have got to act urgently, guided by the science, working in concert with our allies across the globe to provide a livable climate for all Americans, especially for future generations.

We have got to harness the technological innovation of the Moon Shot. We have got to harness the creativity of our entrepreneurs, the strength of our workers, and the moral force of this great Nation that is working to establish justice for all. Because I believe that, working together, we will be able to avert the worst impacts of this climate emergency and build a stronger, healthier, fairer America.

□ 1945

But let's look at what is happening right now. People know this. The last 7 years were the hottest on record. You don't have to tell that to the folks out West right now. They are living through some of the hottest days—the hottest, driest days.

This is a departure from the 20th century average temperature. It just seems like these hotter days, the longer, hotter summers, are more frequent. And the science tells us that is true.

Why is this happening? Carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is at record levels. People thought that, during the pandemic, greenhouse gases would dip and that might provide some salvation from the worst impacts of climate. But, see, these gases build up in the atmosphere. You don't get a bonus for any year.

In fact, NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, has said no, despite the pandemic, carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is at a record high.

This creates enormous costs on families and businesses here in America but also all across the planet. It impacts the air we breathe. It creates very severe health consequences. Think about the folks who have to work outside in the extreme heat and more polluted air while coming out of a pandemic.

Then, there is the cost, not just to the bottom line of the Federal budget, but the cost to all of us. In fact, last year alone, we suffered through about $100 billion, $96 billion, in damages from weather and climate disasters. That is just 1 year.

This is an enormous wake-up call for our great country and people all across the planet. We have waited too long to take ambitious action. The time is now. The time is urgent.

We don't have any more time for half measures, so we intend now to hammer out the most ambitious climate legislation that we have ever seen in order to answer the moral call that we have to future generations to make sure we give them a livable planet.

Mr. Speaker, we are joined tonight by a number of colleagues, who are going to speak from the heart and speak with great intelligence to provide a little science, a little know-how. I am really proud to stand with them on the floor of the House tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, Congressman CASTEN, for bringing his intellect and his passion for solving the climate crisis to this Congress. It is needed now more than ever.

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her words and her leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI).

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. CASTEN for yielding. And thank you to Chair CASTOR, chair of the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, for her leadership throughout this process. It really has been science-based and meaningful.

Mr. Speaker, as we work to build back better, we have not just the opportunity but the imperative to take bold climate action. By strengthening investments in climate-centric infrastructure, we can create good-paying jobs, reduce emissions, and support frontline communities.

Last month, I had this great opportunity. I got to ride on a new electric bus at Meadow Park Middle School in Beaverton, Oregon. Thanks to the Portland General Electric's School Bus Electrification Project, the Beaverton School District is working to electrify its bus fleet.

The electric buses are quieter; they are less expensive to maintain; and, importantly, they reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This is good for the health of our children, our community, and our planet. We can and must help more school districts and transportation systems electrify not just in Oregon but across the country.

With the American Jobs Plan, we can create millions of good-paying jobs, combat the climate crisis, revitalize American manufacturing, and make long-overdue investments in our Nation's infrastructure.

As the House works to advance the American Jobs Plan, we can use as a roadmap the climate action plan from the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis. Our bold, comprehensive science-based plan includes investments in zero-emissions buses, transit, electric vehicle charging stations, and pedestrian and bike infrastructure, all to decarbonize our transportation sector.

Mr. Speaker, I want to give credit to Chairman DEFAZIO, my wonderful colleague from Oregon, for his leadership. He has included many of these provisions in his surface transportation reauthorization, the Investment in America Act. I look forward to supporting it when it comes to the floor in the coming weeks.

Mr. Speaker, I tell my colleagues that climate-resilient infrastructure is about much more than just roads and bridges. June is National Ocean Month, and as co-chair of the House Ocean Caucus and the Congressional Estuary Caucus, I want to highlight how the power of our ocean can and must be part of the solution, which is recognized in our plan for solving the climate crisis.

I recently led a bipartisan group of colleagues in calling for a $10 billion investment in coastal restoration and resilience projects in the American Jobs Plan, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to deliver these needed investments to coastal communities.

Addressing the climate crisis presents an economic opportunity, a tremendous economic opportunity. We can create millions of good-paying, high-quality union jobs that will help working families and displaced workers recover from the economic collapse caused by the COVID–19 pandemic.

Mr. Speaker, the American Jobs Plan meets the moment to not only build back but to build back better. By advancing the American Jobs Plan, we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to rebuild a resilient clean energy economy, create good-paying jobs to boost our economic recovery, and begin to repair the legacy of environmental racism and pollution that has

disproportionately burdened low-income communities and communities of color for decades.

As we build the infrastructure of the future, we cannot repeat the injustices of the past. Instead, we must pass and implement comprehensive climate policies, such as those set out in the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis' climate action plan.

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. CARBAJAL), my friend and one of the funnier Members of Congress, but heartfelt today.

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, going back to my days as the county supervisor, I fought to make sure the Central Coast was a leader in the clean energy economy. I helped get the first large-scale solar project in Santa Barbara County across the finish line and called it a win-win-win. That is because investing in renewables is one of the best investments we can make. It means a healthy planet, clean air, and good-paying jobs.

Since 2014, the Central Coast has emerged as a renewable energy powerhouse. We are now home to several major solar farms, and soon, we could be home to one of the largest battery storage plants in the world.

After years of negotiation, I helped secure an agreement to realize an offshore wind project and the jobs it will create for the Central Coast. According to a study conducted by a local organization called REACH, this project alone could create 650 good-paying jobs and generate $262 million in revenue each year.

Renewable energy is also a vital tool to address the climate crisis. Some claim renewable energy funding doesn't belong in an infrastructure package. I say modernizing our energy infrastructure and tackling the climate crisis go hand in hand.

Last year, the U.S. spent nearly $100 billion responding to extreme weather events and disasters fueled by climate change. Instead of rebuilding each time a disaster strikes, we need to be proactive to keep our communities safe from the realities of climate change. That means weatherizing millions of homes, retrofitting buildings, and shoring up our water infrastructure.

We also must curb emissions in the transportation sector, which is responsible for 29 percent of our greenhouse gas emissions. If we want to tackle climate change, the transportation sector must be part of the solution.

The measures included in President Biden's American Jobs Plan will modernize our transportation system to do just that. It will create millions of jobs in the auto industry building electric vehicles and expanding our network of electric vehicle charging stations.

Transitioning away from fossil fuels to renewable energy is also an environmental justice issue. Sadly, minority communities are disproportionately impacted by air pollution. For example, Latino Americans are exposed to 11 percent more fine particulate pollution compared to the average American.

Burning fossil fuels pollutes our air and destroys our planet. We cannot afford inaction any longer. We also cannot afford to pass up the opportunity to create millions of good-paying jobs that will propel our economy forward.

It is time for Congress to pass a bold infrastructure plan that protects our planet, air quality, and economy.

As we on the Central Coast know, investing in clean energy is a win-win-win.

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEVIN), my friend and a distinguished member of the Select Committee on Climate Crisis.

Mr. LEVIN of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from Illinois, and I thank Chairwoman CASTOR for her exceptional leadership of our select committee.

My colleagues have done a good job so far of explaining why we need ambitious climate action that follows the science and meets the scale of the challenge we face. However, I would highlight one climate impact that is particularly important in the area I represent.

My district encompasses more than 50 miles of coastline in southern California, North County San Diego, South Orange County. Our coasts are a huge part of our communities. They drive our economies and are critical to our way of life. But sea level rise threatens all of this. It is accelerating the erosion of our coasts, which washes away beaches and threatens critical infrastructure, like the Los Angeles-San Diego-San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor, also known as the LOSSAN Corridor.

The LOSSAN Corridor is the second busiest intercity passenger rail corridor in the United States and the busiest State-supported Amtrak route, with nearly 3 million inner-city passengers and 5 million commuter passengers each year. $1 billion in goods and services are also supported by the rail line.

At the same time, coastal erosion threatens the bluffs that run along our coasts in San Diego County. Bluff collapses have, tragically, taken the lives of eight people in our communities in recent years.

The impacts of climate change in coastal southern California are not theoretical. We see and experience them every single day. I strongly believe that we must take ambitious action to make our country more resilient to climate impacts while transitioning to a zero-carbon future, and we must do it now. We must do it now.

With President Biden's American Jobs Plan, we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to do so. The American Jobs Plan, as proposed by the President, advances real climate solutions that will make a difference in the lives of our constituents. It will put us on the path to meeting the challenge presented by the climate crisis while creating 2.7 million new jobs, the jobs of tomorrow in clean energy, the jobs that will help us compete on the global stage. Those are the jobs we need.

The American Jobs Plan will create them, but in order to achieve these goals, in order to pass the American Jobs Plan as intended by the President, we must not abandon the key climate provisions and investments that the President proposed in his version of the plan. The package must deliver on the promise to put our country on the path to a 100 percent carbon-free energy powered electricity grid by 2035.

We can do this if we include strong tax policies that incentivize renewable energy generation. We can do this if we include clean energy and energy efficiency standards that promote renewable energy and reduce electricity use. We can do this if we include the policies and funding to electrify cars, buses, and buildings. And we must include the transportation sector. It is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the country.

We need significant investment to incentivize the sale of zero-emission vehicles. Specifically, we must ensure that 100 percent of new light-duty vehicle sales are zero emissions by 2035, as envisioned under the Zero-Emission Vehicles Act that I introduced last Congress with Senator JEFF MERKLEY.

□ 2000

Moreover, the build-out of zero emission vehicle fueling and charging infrastructure must go hand in hand with the deployment of the vehicles themselves, which is why I strongly support the President's vision for 500,000 new charging stations across the country.

The American Jobs Plan provides us a pathway to finally achieve these goals and to lead the world when it comes to vehicle electrification. So without these key climate provisions, it is hard to imagine supporting any package that comes before this Chamber for consideration.

I am eager to help advance a strong American Jobs Plan that employs our communities, follows the climate science, and matches the scale of the challenge we face. I know my colleagues here feel the same.

Now is our opportunity to get this done. It is an opportunity that we must seize.

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), whom I am delighted was able to make time in a busy appropriation season to come down and join us today.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my very able colleague, Congressman CASTEN, for the opportunity to join him and Congresswoman CASTOR, the leaders of this marvelous committee on climate change. I thank them very much for leading our country and world in this regard.

My goal as chair of the House Energy and Water Subcommittee is to help them and help our generation embrace

a better future for those that will follow. We must sustain life on Earth. Let us all help our country and world meet the challenges as we face the dawn of this new climate change era.

The clean energy future of our Nation and our ability to reboot and reenergize the domestic manufacturing economy depends on climate-related infrastructure programs for inventing that new future. Addressing climate change will create and even bring back good paying jobs right here at home. Addressing climate change is our portal to sustain life on Earth for generations to come.

Headlines coast to coast, as others have referenced, tell part of the story. Yes, the Earth is warming. The rate of increase for damaging weather events is unrelenting. Each of us, and each of our districts, have personally experienced the impacts of this historic change. If we fail to address the hastening crisis, it is to our collective peril.

As a small first step, I would urge every American who may be listening to plant trees. Yes, everyone can do something. A first simple step is to plant a tree to capture the carbon that is already in the air, and the tree will produce oxygen to help you breathe, and to help your children breathe and your neighbors. It is amazing what happens.

Cleveland, Ohio, used to be known as ''forest city.'' We have a big job to do in replanting many of the trees that have aged-out over the years, and making Cleveland, and places like it, a much more oxygen-rich community.

Addressing climate change will help human health. As America stands at a crossroads in this new energy age, we must ensure that infrastructure includes strategic investments in energy, clean energy, climate, and water resources innovation.

Technologies and innovation driven by the Department of Energy are already helping to address climate change. They already have markedly driven down the cost of wind, solar, energy storage, and efficient lightbulbs by 60 to 95 percent just since 2008, and we are not done yet. They have led to widespread deployment and consumer savings.

New innovations will lead to new opportunities. In my own home region, I was very pleased to be at the birth of a company called First Solar, now the largest in the Nation, invented locally using cadmium-telluride technology. And now, just recently in the past month, First Solar has announced the hiring of an additional 500 new employees in good jobs to match the thousands they already employ, to meet an unmet market demand.

Reversing the impacts of climate change will create good paying jobs like these across every State in our country. Already there are more Americans working in energy efficiency and energy production than as waiters and waitresses. Think about that. That is in a very short time, and more jobs to come. We must continue to innovate and lead in these areas, so our Nation is not left behind. As people in communities succeed, so will America. As someone said to me, Marcy, what America makes, makes America. My, gosh, do I agree with that.

The Biden administration has been clear from day one about the need to urgently address the climate crisis, and I am excited that the President's American Jobs Plan will create new jobs by reinvesting in areas and workers too often left behind, and they will help save our planet and sustain all of us and those who will follow us.

We cannot lose sight of the importance of including climate-related and job-creating proposals in any infrastructure package. In fact, any package that aims to build back better must do that. Climate change can be addressed by every community across our country. Innovation, intelligence, and environmental patriotism should drive this new national imperative.

As we watch President Joe Biden in his foreign trip meet the leaders of democracies across Europe this week, we watch America lead these democracies of the world in protecting Mother Earth for those who will follow us.

It really is a daunting time, but it is also an inspiring time. And any time America has ever set a goal, it has always achieved it.

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take some time now to rise to talk about something that I have talked about—some would say too much—on this floor. To yet, again, discuss the grave threat and the massive opportunity that is the climate crisis.

Even as we talk right now about the necessity of limiting global warming to less than 1½ degrees Celsius, let's follow the math; the planet has already warmed by 1 degree, we only have ½ degree to go. The last 7 years were the hottest ever on record. Even in spite of the pandemic, global levels of carbon dioxide have hit record levels. In fact, the last time CO_2 levels were as high as they are right now was 4 million years ago. Sea levels were 50 feet higher. That is the reality of what happens when heat melts ice, ice dumps water. This is the reality we have made.

If we are to be judged by our works and we do nothing more in this moment, that judgment will not be pretty. That is our challenge and it is our opportunity.

But this change in CO_2 levels didn't happen over a million years, it didn't happen over a thousand years, it didn't even happen over a hundred years. Half of all the CO_2 we have ever emitted as a species since that first fire that some upright hominid built in a cave a million years ago, half of all the CO_2 we have ever emitted was since 1990. That is within my lifetime. It is within the lifetime of almost all of the Members of this body.

That is nearly a century after Svante Arrhenius discovered the greenhouse effect, since the science was basically settled; 100 years after the photovoltaic effect that was invented that powers solar panels today; and more than a decade after the fossil fuel companies knew about climate change and decided to promote misinformation instead of acting.

In 1989, when the U.N. formed the IPCC, when Ronald Reagan's EPA said, we need to create a global cap and trade program to reduce a global pollutant—to protect the ozone hole, chlorofluorocarbons. When that same EPA and the subsequent George Bush—both Republican Presidents, I would add—they said, let's take that same model and apply it to a domestic pollutant, acid-rain forming compounds.

We have sugar maples in New England because of their leadership. We have a shrinking ozone hole because of their leadership. When they did that at the end of the 1980s, we were on the right track 30 years ago. What do we have to do now to turn this ship around?

The heck of it is, we know what we have to do to reduce our emissions and we know how to do it, building out clean energy infrastructure, creating and building wind turbines, solar panels. Building big things is what America is good at. We do not need to be constrained by our ambition, my goodness.

When the New Deal was passed, we electrified 80 percent of rural America in just 15 years. I would like to think our capabilities are even greater now. Let's embrace that opportunity. The hard questions in this line of work are the zero sum ones.

How do you allocate wins to some parties when they imply a loss to another? That is not climate.

The hard questions in clean energy policy are not how we allocate the pains of this transition; they are how we allocate the gains of this transition. Clean energy is cheap energy. If you don't believe me, ask anyone with a solar panel on their roof how much they paid for electricity yesterday. Ask anybody with a coal plant, they know that number.

The clean energy transition means it is a win for the folks who get to go to work building more efficient buildings and wind turbines and solar panels. It is a win for every American.

I've polled this. 100 percent of Americans like to pay less for energy. They would all win. 100 percent of Americans like cleaner air. They will all win. 100 percent of Americans do not want to live on a coast that is flooding or forests that are on fire or derechos that are coming across the Midwest.

Our obligation is to seize this chance and to make sure—this is a hard problem, but it is a good problem—to make sure that those gains are equitably distributed throughout our society.

The President's infrastructure proposal is just that. It isn't just a chance for clean energy, it is a make-or-break

opportunity to finally do what is scientifically necessary before it is too late.

Proposals like a clean energy standard, a build-out of electric transmission lines, requirements for purchases of clean energy will help send our emissions from the electric sector to zero and will be the bedrock of a new clean economy.

Cutting some or—let's be ambitious—all of the $650 billion a year that the IMF has said that we currently subsidize the fossil fuel industry, will finally give us efficient markets in our energy sector. $650 billion—that is about how much we spend on Medicaid—subsidizing an energy that can't compete under a free market.

So help make lives better for hundreds of millions of Americans now and in the decades to come.

Now 12 years ago, when Waxman-Markey was the debate du jour, we let an opportunity to act on the climate crisis pass us by. Since that time, we have kept emitting and temperatures have kept rising.

I told you, I have given this speech a few too many times. I don't want to be giving this speech a year from now. I don't particularly want to be giving it tomorrow. I certainly don't want to be giving it 12 years from now.

We have a chance now to act while our planet can still afford it, and we can embrace that because our wallets are going to love it.

Before I took this job, when I was running a clean energy company, I had a board member who gave me a piece of advice that has always stuck with me, he said: In the end, the only thing that really matters in this life is whether your grandchildren can say they were proud of you. Let's be clear. Our grandchildren are not going to be proud of us. They are not going to pat us on the back for doing only what was politically possible. They don't care.

What matters is, did we do what was scientifically necessary? And I have a lot of colleagues on both sides of the aisle, on both sides of this building, who will say, You are naive, CASTEN, what is necessary is so far in excess of what is politically possible, we just can't do that.

If that is your approach to this moment, the only thing I know for certain is you are not cut out for leadership. Our moment, our challenge in this moment, is to make what is necessary possible, it is all that matters. Because while the best chance for climate action was 30 years ago, our last chance is now.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER).

□ 2015

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, to my colleague and my neighbor from Illinois (Mr. CASTEN), I thank him for his leadership on this issue, his experience in sharing his perspective, and his call to action.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to continue to raise the alarm about the rapidly accelerating consequences of the climate crisis.

Mr. Speaker, 30 years ago in 1989 I married the love of my life. When we got married, we looked to the future. We thought about having a family. We have two sons who are today 28 and 26. We still look to the future and hope they will have a chance to raise a family. But that is in doubt because we face a climate crisis.

The climate crisis is the most pressing threat to our children's future and our grandchildren's future. It is a threat to our Nation and to everything we hold dear. It is an existential threat to our way of life, and we have to take urgent action now.

We are already seeing the consequences of climate change throughout our country in our local communities, whether it is the case of more intense forest fires that are starting earlier in the year, 100-year rainstorms that cause floods, not every 100 years but every other year, or more intense hurricanes and also droughts that are devastating much of our West.

These are the consequences we are facing today, and they are putting our Nation at risk. We have to do everything we can to protect our communities, to protect our Nation, to protect our world, and to protect our children's future.

That is why it is so important that we pass the President's American Jobs Plan, that we invest in infrastructure, and that we do it in a way that builds resiliency against a changing climate but plans for a future to address and protect our climate.

There are many sources of the greenhouse gases causing global warming, everything from industry to industrial and commercial buildings, our residences, but, of course, transportation is the greatest source, and among that is air travel.

Airline travel is a growing part of our future, but it is contributing up to 2½ percent of our total emissions of carbon. Air travel has changed the world. It has brought us closer together. It is necessary for us to continue to have the hope for a 21st century global economy. But it is imperative that we work to address the impact.

That is why, among the many other bills I have helped work for and support in this Congress to address climate change, I am proud to have introduced the Sustainable Skies Act, legislation that will cut the carbon of greenhouse gas emissions of airline fuels by as much as or more than 50 percent. It will boost the use of sustainable aviation fuel to make airline travel something that will be a part of a sustainable future.

This legislation is the single most important step in the aviation industry that they can take to lower carbon emissions and to fight climate change. At the same time, sustainable aviation fuel will also enable more travel and commerce. It is, as Mr. CASTEN said, a win-win. It is good for everybody. It is good for our present, it is good for our future, and it is good for our children.

The facts could not be clearer: climate change is a serious threat to our economy, our national security, the planet, and the future that we pass on to our children. We must take action before it is too late.

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from the great State of New Mexico (Ms. STANSBURY), whose reputation has preceded her during her short tenure.

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I rise on this historic day in which we passed and sent to the President's desk the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act. It seems appropriate that we should also take a moment now to talk about climate justice as we are also talking about racial justice in our country.

Because the science is clear, we must urgently address the issues of climate change now. We must address the causes of climate change and our greenhouse gas footprint. We must mitigate the impacts of climate change and lift up and support our communities. And we must build a world that is more just, more equitable, and more climate resilient. To do so, we must invest in our communities, investing in their future, and investing in critical infrastructure that will make that possible.

The time is now to be decisive, to be brave in our policymaking, to be bold in our investments, and to lean into the science. This is especially critical for New Mexico, my home State, where we are already experiencing the impacts of extreme drought, catastrophic fires, and an uncertain future.

I have spent my working career working on these issues, and I know that we must invest in infrastructure like our electric grid, broadband infrastructure, drinking water, irrigation, and green infrastructure so that our communities can remain resilient as we are going through this change and to ensure that we are taking full advantage and leaning into our clean energy future.

We must do all of this through the lens of social, racial, and economic justice by investing in good paying jobs and in the livelihoods and well-being of our communities and our people.

That is why we need the American Jobs Plan now and the investments that are not only going to be shovel ready, but, as a friend of mine says, also shovel worthy. So the time is now to take action on climate change and to ensure that we are investing in the infrastructure that will make it possible for future generations to live resiliently on this planet.

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield again to gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR), who is the chair of the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, hearing my colleague speak with such

passion and such intellect really does give me hope that we have the tools necessary to tackle the climate crisis. But I think we also need to think about climate as a climate opportunity, and there are a few of these.

Our newest colleague, Congresswoman STANSBURY from New Mexico kind of hit on it. And it goes back to—I want to thank Mr. CASTEN—last year before the pandemic hit, Mr. CASTEN was kind enough to invite me to Chicago where we heard from environmental justice leaders. I also had the opportunity to travel to Detroit. I have listened to folks who are demanding greater equity all across America.

Back home in Tampa, Florida, I see it; I understand that now the climate crisis presents us with a generational opportunity to rebuild our country and our infrastructure, so we are not leaving communities behind and we are not leaving any American behind.

We can hammer out these investments that will help us rebuild the economy. Mr. CASTEN knows these examples quite well.

Decades ago, unfortunately, the Federal Government put interstate highways right through the center of many communities. The harms from the pollution still linger today. In fact, Black Americans are exposed to 21 percent more fine, particulate matter pollution than the average American. I just don't think we can pass an infrastructure package that ignores these injustices. We are going to have to create these new opportunities in solving the climate crisis, creating good paying jobs, but also lifting up Americans and American communities that have carried the burden of pollution.

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, I am reminded as I listen to the gentlewoman speak—I know our whip always likes to quote George Santayana who said that those who don't study their history are doomed to repeat it.

We are at the cusp—it has probably already started—of the third great energy transition we have had as a species. The first one was when we transitioned from depending on muscle power to mechanical power. The second was when we transitioned from mechanical power to electric power, and this transition from dirty energy to clean energy. Every one of those transitions has been a massive boon in labor productivity. It takes a lot fewer people to run a steam shovel than it does John Henrys to dig a hole in the ground, and it takes a lot fewer people when you can electrify the country to build all the industries that we have grown accustomed to than it does when you have to live within a pulley's length of the waterwheel.

With those opportunities have come all that we think of as great and truly American. We have freed up people's time to invest in whole new ideas and take away the drudgery of work. But the history we have to acknowledge is that every one of those transitions has also been extremely disruptive for the people involved.

I like to tell folks back home that only a Luddite would say we never should have invented the steam shovel. But you have to be deeply evil not to empathize with John Henry.

As we go through this transition that we are in right now, we are going to create a tremendous amount of wealth because we are going to grow labor productivity again. We are going to have the opportunity, as many people already do, to generate electricity without depending on coal mines and coal railroad lines and natural gas pipelines, and, Mr. Speaker, you are going to be able to do this on your roof from the sun or from the wind or from more efficient geothermal. That is going to free up a whole lot of time to do a lot of innovative things. But it is going to be disruptive for a lot of communities.

There is no doubt that there is a rising tide of wealth that is already upon us. There is also no doubt that not all rising tides lift all boats. Tsunamis tend to swamp them out sometimes, and in the tsunami of wealth creation that is coming down, let's make sure that we look out for the least among us.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I think that is one of the reasons why President Biden's American Jobs Plan targets 40 percent of the benefits of our clean energy and clean infrastructure investments to disadvantaged communities. I think that is smart policy.

I think the gentleman is right. Right now, as we move into our clean energy future, President Biden has the goal of really helping communities that need revitalization. When you think about the hard work in a coal mine or out in the field, we owe such a debt of gratitude to our coal miners and the energy workers who have powered America. They have made it what it is over the last century. They ushered in the economic progress that we enjoy today.

But we now know, according to the science, that our overdependence on coal and fossil fuels and fracked gas has led to a crisis that now threatens our way of life. I wish it weren't so, but we have to now, at this fork in the road, decide that our moral obligation to future generations comes first.

With all of the opportunities that clean energy and greater and stronger and healthier communities can provide, we have got to hammer this out through the American Jobs Plan and make sure that we protect our economy, we protect our national security, our health, our beautiful natural resources from sea to shining sea, and the air that we breathe.

But we have some choices to make. We can double down on the status quo, even as these climate-fueled disasters claim more lives and they hurt the pocketbooks of folks.

I think of my neighbors back home in Florida now, the so-called Sunshine State. Boy, we have a lot of work to do to capture the power of the sun through solar energy, but we are paying more now because we have longer and hotter summers, it means AC bills are going up.

We have these intense flood events, so we are paying more for flood insurance and stormwater costs. Meanwhile a lot of these energy companies have kind of gotten off the hook over time.

What does the gentleman say about that?

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, I think there is a refreshing change coming in our energy structure primarily because all of those old power plants—that some of the utilities in Florida that we are fighting because they still have all that capital they wanted to amortize—those plants are getting old, and they are making the decisions that intelligent businesses always make: I am going to invest in the stuff that is clean and that generates a high return.

Florida Power & Light Company is a utility that, frankly, has been one of the leaders in deploying wind energy. It took them a little while to do it in their own district, but they certainly did it all over the country, because they knew that was a good place to put their investors' money to work. And we have seen that leadership, I think, throughout the business sector in this country. There is a reason why we are creating so many more solar jobs, and so many more wind jobs. Jobs in the energy efficiency sector I think is the largest supplier of new labor.

□ 2030

But I don't think that absolves us as regulators.

I am remembering when you and I formed what I think we thought was going to be a vary small delegation to Madrid a little over a year ago; and we had our pins that said ''We're Still In,'' because we knew, of course, that the prior administration had pulled out of the Paris accord. And I still have a picture that I carry around and show to people of the two empty seats in front of the United States delegation sign when every other country in the world was there.

But I remember there was a—and I wish I could remember the name—European parliamentarian that came up to me and said: You know, we know from experience that when the United States doesn't lead, bad things happen.

And I said that we thought we were alone out there. But you remember when we got there, there were a lot of businesses that were there and there were lot of cities that were there. We spent a long time at a lot of university booths. And we were still in because we were still in, not just because it was a slogan on a pin; because all those companies that made zero carbon commitments and are committing to it because their shareholders are demanding it.

One-third of all of the assets under management in global equity markets right now are in ESG funds. People care. They don't—whether they care for moral reasons, whether they care because they are greedy, it doesn't matter. They care.

We have had over 1,200 State and local officials call on Congress to pass the American Jobs Plan because they care. Environmental and labor organizations across the country have pushed for us to act now because they care.

I am reading in the Tampa Bay Times. Recently, Dr. Rich Templin says: ''Everyone who stands for fair, union jobs and climate action can come together. In this plan, pro-workers and pro-environment voices can sing in unison.''

We know that is true.

Now, the challenge—you started by asking about the energy sector. If we are really honest, what we all know in this line of work that we are in is that losers always cry louder than winners cheer.

People who have got a loss of investment in this space know exactly what they have to lose. Future generations aren't here yet.

Our job here today is to look around the room and see who is not in the room and make sure we advocate for them. The rest of them are doing a pretty good job on their own, I think.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, well, what has been so fascinating is there are so many people in the room because they understand the opportunities, the job-creating opportunities through the American Jobs Plan.

Here we go. The American Jobs Plan will create 2.7 million new jobs. So let's talk about some of those jobs. I think about some of our colleagues who represent communities that have seen jobs go overseas over time, our industrial base.

We know what President Biden has proposed will help revitalize those communities; plug those abandoned coal mines; plug the abandoned wells; just plain plug the leaks of methane gas that are so damaging to the climate.

We think we can create millions and millions of jobs through a new CCC, a Climate Conservation Corps. We can strengthen our communities at home. I know we have got a lot of seawalls that need repair, a lot of replanting of trees and mangroves to help protect us from these very costly events. We know we need to modernize the electric grid across America.

Representative CASTEN, that is going to create an enormous amount of jobs in the Midwest because a lot of the renewable resources, your solar power, wind power, it is largely in the Midwest. We have got to build the modern electric grid.

Look at this horrendous catastrophe in Texas just a few months ago because the electric grid there was not connected. It wasn't modernized. It wasn't resilient. People lost their lives because of the strange, climate-fueled winter storm in Texas.

We are going to create a lot of jobs just modernizing and making the grid more resilient. And I haven't even gotten to the wind power, offshore wind, wind in the Midwest.

This is our future. This is why I like to think of it not just in the terms of a climate crisis, but a climate opportunity. And I think that is why President Biden says that every time he hears people talk climate, he hears jobs, jobs, jobs.

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, when we deregulated our power industry in 1992, with the energy policy act, that was never presented as being an environmental bill, as far as I can remember. It was designed to encourage people to build cheaper power.

And what did they build?

The nuclear industry went from running 60 percent of the time to running 90 percent of the time. We started building a whole lot of wind and solar. We basically stopped building inefficient gas plants, and the only new gas plants were combined cycle plants that are almost twice as efficient.

Since that bill was passed, the CO_2 emissions in our power sector have fallen from 1,300 pounds a megawatt hour to 900, and the price of power has fallen by 6 percent.

Now, there are those who say that is because of the fracking revolution. And there are people who say a lot of things, I guess. It happened because economics drives clean energy.

You know what people didn't build since 1992?

Coal. It is a really lousy investment.

In just those 10 years, after 1992, we built 200,000 megawatts of new gas turbine capacity. Twenty percent of the entire U.S. power grid, which was twice as efficient as what it displaced, was built in response to economic signals and drove down the CO_2 emissions of the grid. That is a start.

For us to do what we have to do from this point going forward, we have to electrify everything. We have to figure out how to electrify our transportation fleet; electrify the way our factories make goods and services, how our homes keep us warm.

In order to do that, we need to build at least 1,000 gigawatts; 1,000 megawatts; 1,000 kilowatts—whatever unit you would like—of new generation. That is about as much as generation as we already have in this country.

We are then going to need to build the wires to connect that up to all the new loads. And I think as we heard at a climate hearing, they said that is going to take at least $350 billion of investment. And those investments are going to make money because people are now connecting up a cheaper energy source that is giving people what they really want, which isn't electricity.

What people really want is a hot shower and a cold beer, and it is going to give them that cheaper.

It is going to help us build out electric vehicle charging stations. We are talking about massive amounts of public—and private-sector investments that are not only going to put people to work; is not only going to give us a more sustainable economy; it is going to leave more money in people's wallets.

The single best thing we can do to disadvantaged communities is cut their energy bill. That is what we are going to do. All we need is the ambition. And I am so glad that we are in this moment and with this President and this Congress that is rising to that challenge.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Mr. CASTEN is right. You know, listing off all the job opportunities, the transportation sector, he is right.

And this is a global competitiveness issue. We have got to win this race with China and the Europeans. They are building those electric vehicles.

But how exciting was it to see the announcement from Ford and GM?

I can't wait to see this electrified F–150 truck, the Lightning.

This is an enormous opportunity, especially in the industrial Midwest that has really seen a lot of job loss over the years to China. We are going to get back on this, and the only way we can do it is through making these targeted investments.

We want to build the electric vehicles that the world drives. We want to make sure that that charging infrastructure goes coast to coast in every community.

But it is going to take the focus of America. And the good news is, all Americans—I don't care if you are a Democrat or Republican or Independent, or what, they understand that clean energy is the future; and that if we do it right, we can lift communities that need it; and we can create millions and millions of jobs.

Now, I started with the science. And we heard from some outstanding colleagues, and we are going to hear a lot more from them in the coming weeks as we hammer out the American Jobs Plan.

But there was one witness at one of our early hearings, Dr. Abdelhadi, who is an expert, who has been focused on climate for many years, and I want to just remind what he said.

He said: The limited actions to address this climate crisis have resulted in lost opportunity and have produced a challenge that is even greater than it was even a few years ago. With political and society will, and with strategic and scientifically informed action that considers all of the dimensions of climate change, the dangerous trajectory we are on can be altered, such that our generation's story can be one of success and not failure.

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to close, as I often do, by observing that there are really only three things we have to do as a country.

The first thing we have to do is cut the energy—double the efficiency with which we convert energy into economic activity. If we were to cut our energy use per dollar of GDP in half, we would almost be at the level that Switzerland has already achieved. I think we are

better than Switzerland, personally, but let's at least aspire to be as good as Switzerland; double our efficiency.

The second thing we have to do is do the research and development to figure out how to decarbonize industries like steel- and cement-making because we don't know how to make silicone; we don't know how to make steel; we don't know how to make cement; we don't know how to make fertilizer without fossil fuels today. That is an R&D challenge we have to figure out.

Then we have to get to zero CO_2 emissions; not by 2050, not by 2030, by 1990. We have to get back to 350 parts per million in the atmosphere because that is the point that we can say to our children: We are leaving you a better planet than the one we inherited, where wildfires are not the norm, where droughts are not the norm.

And is it going to be easy?

No. But we know how to do it.

The first thing we ought to do is take our hand off the emergency brake. Stop subsidizing yesterday's technology. Embrace markets. Embrace innovation. Embrace all that makes us American. Stop subsidizing the fossil fuel industry by $650 billion a year.

Unleash the power of our innovators. Unleash the power of our entrepreneurs. Unleash the power and the innovation of all our great universities and national labs who will figure out how to do these hard things.

And then, yes, even after we do all that, make significant Federal investments in the things that the private sector is not very good at, like transmission, like coast-to-coast broadband, like EV stations. We have done it before. That is how we built the railroads. It is how we electrified the country.

It is not going to be easy, but it will be necessary. It will be inspiring, and it will be a story that we will tell our grandchildren about because we will be able to tell them that we were there, in this moment; we saw what was necessary, and we made it possible. I think that is something worth doing.

It is our opportunity. It is our moment.

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

SELF-INFLICTED CRISES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. 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 Louisiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, during my time tonight, my colleagues and I will address the major crises happening here at home, happening close to home, and now happening abroad. Our message tonight will cover many topics, but the theme is consistent. These crises are self-inflicted. There are the direct results of disastrous policy decisions from the Biden administration.

We have a large number of Members who want to participate tonight, so I will begin immediately by yielding to the gentleman from central Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE), my good friend.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, under the leadership of the Biden administration, Americans are facing escalating challenges to our economy, to our national security and, ultimately, to our way of life. As we have heard many times, our Nation continues to jump from crisis to crisis.

On this floor, I have often raised concerns about the border crisis, and it continues to spiral out of control as we record an increasing number of migrants crossing the southern border, along with gang violence, human trafficking, and deadly illicit drugs.

Border agents seized over 900 pounds of fentanyl at our southern border last month alone. Today, we are witnessing an escalating crisis and, unlike our Vice President, the American people aren't laughing.

More than 80 days ago, President Biden tasked Vice President HARRIS with addressing the border crisis. Months later, she has yet to visit the border and witness the devastation firsthand.

□ 2045

How many days will it take? One hundred? Two hundred? A year?

If Vice President HARRIS needs encouragement to get to the southwest border, then Congress can provide an incentive. I am proud to support Congresswoman ASHLEY HINSON's See the Crisis Act, which would defund Vice President HARRIS' international travel until she visits America's southwest border.

It is simple. If the Vice President wants to go to Europe, then she must go to the border first.

This is no laughing matter. At home in Pennsylvania, the border crisis is a matter of life and death. Lives are depending on border security.

The truth is clear: We can't afford the Biden border crisis. We can't afford the Biden economic crisis. We can't afford the Biden national security crisis. And we can't afford the Biden energy crisis.

This pattern is rooted in the Biden administration's broken policies. Under President Biden's watch, we are a nation in crisis.

The American people are paying attention, and they are counting on us to stop this alarming trend and restore our Nation's path to recovery.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. The American people are counting on us, and they deserve a President who will ensure their safety, security, and freedom, both here at home and abroad.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN), who represents Florida's Fifth Congressional District.

Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight because our country is facing a growing economic crisis, a crisis of the Biden administration's making.

With his massive and reckless spending programs, President Biden has mortgaged our economic security. Long after this current administration has skipped town, future generations of hardworking Americans will be stuck holding the bill.

It is human nature to like free stuff, I suppose, and as long as Uncle Sam is willing to dole out money to everyone and everything in sight, it is easy to understand why people are happily lining up for their fair share.

It is also a universal truth that there is no such thing as a free lunch. Unchecked spending doesn't just hurt us in the future. It is also destructive in the near term.

My Democrat colleagues have tried for months to convince the American people that it is only the rich who will pay for reckless spending policies, but people know better. Americans across the country are starting to feel the pinch of this unbridled spending.

They are certainly noticing it back in my home State of Florida, where drivers are paying more for gas than they have in nearly a decade. They see it when they go to the grocery store, where prices on everything from a jar of peanut butter to a gallon of milk have spiked sharply. They are feeling the pain on nearly everything they buy, with consumer costs rising at the highest rate in nearly 13 years.

This inflation President Biden has created is an immediate tax on workers, causing each hard-earned dollar to be worth less than it was before. At the same time, skyrocketing costs of materials are making it even harder for small business owners to reopen.

With high unemployment, record job openings, and spiraling inflation, it is time for the Biden administration to acknowledge that their bad medicine is hurting the patient. Congress has the authority and the responsibility to rein in this reckless spending, and the time to act is now.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, my friend is exactly right. The people do know better, and the pain hardworking Americans are feeling is very real.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER), who represents Pennsylvania's Ninth Congressional District.

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, in less than 6 months, the Biden administration's policies have disrupted the fundamentals of our economy and have caused significant inflation.

In March, congressional Democrats pushed through the $1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan, some thought after the recovery began, in a highly partisan process without one Republican vote. This level of spending was unwarranted. Even many liberal-minded economists estimated it was three times bigger than needed and warned of inflationary pressures not seen in a generation as a result.

Inflation occurs when too many dollars are chasing too few goods, and predictability, this influx of spending resulted in prices increasing 4.2 percent in April and 5 percent last month. The reality is that inflation is a tax, Mr. Speaker, on every American family who is now paying more for essential goods, such as food and gasoline and many others, and whose savings are now worth less. Again, even liberal-minded economists called this the least responsible fiscal policy of the last 40 years.

At the same time, businesses are struggling to compete with Federal unemployment benefits. In one month, 4 million Americans walked off their jobs. Last month, there were a record 9.3 million open jobs, a level not seen since the beginning of World War II, when Americans were leaving to go fight the war. Yet, the Biden administration denies the correlation between open jobs and excessive, untargeted unemployment benefits.

Undeterred by the data, the Biden administration shows no sign of letting up, proposing a $6 trillion budget this year that will put our country on a path to record debt and that reports show will disrupt our long-term economic growth.

The Biden administration is persistent in its charade that inflation is not occurring, unemployment benefits don't deter work, and their policies won't significantly disrupt our country's strength and economic growth.

The reality is, the Biden agenda only grows government, not the private-sector economy.

This can be a great American decade if we unleash the power of American innovators and entrepreneurs, but we can't do that under the yoke of excessive and untargeted spending, increased taxes, and inflation. We must, Mr. Speaker, grow opportunity in America, which creates the American Dream. Government should only serve this purpose.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, my friend said it so well. This administration either doesn't understand those fundamentals of the economy or doesn't care. It is very perplexing.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BAIRD), who represents Indiana's Fourth Congressional District.

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Louisiana for his allowing me to have the opportunity to be here and speak on this issue.

Today, I rise, Mr. Speaker, because our country is in crisis. Despite promises to the contrary, President Biden's policies are crushing small businesses and hurting hardworking Americans.

The simple fact is that we should be cruising into an economic recovery thanks to the Trump administration's advancements. Instead, we are drowning in Democrats' reckless spending packages that have led to a greater increase in inflation rates than we have seen since the 2008 economic crisis.

As a result, Americans are paying more for everything. Gasoline is over 50 percent more expensive today than it was 12 months ago. Transportation services are up 11 percent since last May. Food and energy prices have seen a combined price increase of nearly 4 percent, a dramatic increase that we haven't seen since 1992.

The average American simply cannot afford this, and it is time that we prioritize American paychecks over wasteful government spending.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, ''reckless'' is a word we hear over and over tonight and as we talk to our constituents because there is no better word to describe what is happening with this administration.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GIMENEZ), the former mayor of Miami who represents Florida's 26th Congressional District.

Mr. GIMENEZ. Mr. Speaker, many of my colleagues tonight have been sounding the alarm on the crisis our country faces at the hands of the most radical, progressive fringes of our politics. Institutionally, we are facing a grave danger right here in Congress, with a sitting Member of Congress choosing to continue her anti-Semitic and anti-American rhetoric from the halls of our government.

When a Member of Congress, who describes themselves as a starter of fires, fuels anti-Semitic violence against Jewish communities by perpetuating false stereotypes and anti-Semitic tropes; denigrates strategic allies of the United States and accuses Members of Congress of unconstitutionally pledging allegiance to a foreign sovereign because of their support of the U.S.-Israel partnership; whitewashes the September 11 terrorist attacks that resulted in the death of over 3,000 innocent Americans; draws equivalence between the United States and criminal organizations such as Hamas and the Taliban, both of which have been deemed by the Department of State as terrorist organizations, it is the absolute responsibility of Speaker PELOSI and Democratic leadership to hold their Members accountable.

Unfortunately, Speaker PELOSI has lacked the backbone to act and has chosen to cower in terror as Members of Congress in her party shred America apart from this podium.

They may call themselves a fire starter, but I have built my career as a firefighter. I cannot and will not allow this behavior to go unnoticed and be allowed to be swept under the rug.

These comments and policy stances undermine the interests of the United States abroad and weaken the effectiveness of our foreign policy, sending a dangerous signal to our allies and our adversaries alike that the United States tolerates anti-Semitism, that we no longer believe in the long-term mission of supporting free peoples and free markets, and that we no longer remain committed to combating acts of terror against the United States and our allies.

While we are encouraged that several of my colleagues across the aisle have posed their strong rebuke of these anti-American comments and policy stances, the only rebuke on this issue that will have any meaningful impact is one by the Speaker and the majority of the House of Representatives.

To turn a blind eye on this would be a ''cowardly refusal,'' as Speaker PELOSI characterizes it, to hold Members on your side of the aisle accountable and dereliction of your role as the leader of your party and as the Speaker of the House of Representatives, an institution we all so proudly and honorably serve.

Anti-Americans have no right to threaten our country without retribution. America deserves better.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, my friend is exactly right. That language is dangerous, and our colleague that he referenced is contributing to the foreign policy crises that have developed rapidly over the last few months.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. LESKO).

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, there is growing evidence that COVID–19 originated in a lab in Wuhan, China, which the liberal media and Big Tech dismissed as a conspiracy theory.

Time and time again, the Chinese Communist Party has lied and covered up the origins of COVID–19. Republicans have repeatedly called for a full, thorough investigation into this virus, but these calls have fallen on deaf ears.

It is unclear why my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have refused to hold Communist China accountable. They refuse to allocate any resources to support a full investigation or even hold a hearing. They are allowing China to get away with its deadly lies.

Over 600,000 Americans have died from COVID–19. It is time to stop pushing the America last agenda that prioritizes the Chinese Communist Party over giving the American people the answers they deserve.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, my friend from Arizona is exactly right. This crisis with China and the Chinese Communist Party is perhaps the greatest threat that we face as a people today, and we need the White House to stand strong. I am so grateful she brought that good word.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER), who represents Pennsylvania's 12th Congressional District.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, when I was a kid, my brother and I would help

our dad make ends meet by collecting aluminum cans on the side of the road. We didn't make much, but what we made, we used to buy food. Very early, we learned the value of a dollar.

Today, the value of that same dollar has plummeted because of wasteful, Big Government spending, like the kind President Biden has embraced with his disastrous economic policies.

One of President Biden's core campaign promises was that he would not raise taxes on any Americans making less than $400,000 a year. What he failed to mention was the hidden tax brought on by his inflationary spending. In May, the Consumer Price Index jumped to 5 percent, the fastest rate since 2008.

Every American is feeling the strain from this administration's reckless spending spree. From the gas pump and the supermarket to the clothing store and the car dealership, Americans are spending more and getting less.

While the current administration shovels trillions of taxpayer dollars into the furnace of a runaway train, it is clear that Joe Biden is intent on saddling our kids and grandkids with insurmountable debt.

It is time for Joe Biden to stop playing politics with taxpayer money and start doing what is right for our country. Let's get Americans back to work, get the government out of the way, and allow taxpayers to keep more of their own money. After all, they have earned it.

□ 2100

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, Mr. KELLER is correct. When we were kids, they taught us the value of a dollar. That is not what our Democrat colleagues are teaching anymore. Now they are subscribing to what we call fantasy economics, modern monetary theory and all the rest. Mr. KELLER is exactly right, and I am so grateful that he brought that word tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I yield next to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN), representing the 36th District.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I have one question for President Biden and his administration: What will it take? We are halfway through 2021 and more than 700,000 illegal aliens have already been apprehended unlawfully crossing our southern border.

Finally, as this administration begrudgingly chokes out the words ''border crisis,'' Americans and migrants alike are being raped, trafficked, kidnapped, exploited, and murdered.

Drug cartels are fully in control of the U.S.-Mexico border and in many places on both sides of the border, and they are not stopping there. They are infiltrating every community across the country—not just down at our border States—and they are hell-bent on causing us harm. Every State is now a border State.

More deadly drugs, like meth and fentanyl, are coming up through the southern border than ever before to kill over 70,000 Americans every year from overdoses. There has been over a 300 percent increase of fentanyl seized at the southern border. Even FBI Director Christopher Wray said that there was no question that cartel activity from Mexico is spilling over into the United States. And yet the Biden administration is silent. Silent.

Today marks 84 days since Vice President KAMALA HARRIS was foolishly dubbed the border czar. Last week, when asked when she planned to actually do her job and visit the border, she had the audacity to laugh. If any American didn't show up for their job for 84 days, they would probably be fired.

Clearly, this administration has all but abandoned our border communities and all of its American citizens. What a slap in the face to the American people, the rule of law, his sworn oath of office, and to the migrants who put their lives at risk to come here because Biden told them to and encouraged them to.

So what will it take? How much worse does the worst border crisis in our history need to get before President Biden begins fulfilling his duty to defend and secure the homeland and protect us and our sovereignty? How many more children need to be thrown from 18-foot walls or abandoned to die? How many more women and girls and young boys need to be sexually assaulted, trafficked, or murdered? How many more Americans need to die from drug overdoses or have a loved one hurt by an illegal alien who shouldn't even be here?

I am speaking for the millions of Americans who have empathy for those wanting to come here but who want to do so in a legal way. I am speaking as a descendant of immigrants myself. I am speaking as a taxpaying citizen who knows that we are trillions of dollars in debt and do not have the money to pay for noncitizens who are breaking our laws. Lastly, I am speaking as an American who loves his country enough to die for it. Enough is enough.

President Biden needs to do his job, secure our border, and protect this great Nation and the oath that he swore to uphold.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, despite the obvious magnitude of that big problem on the border that we have seen and talk about all the time, hammering home that theme, there have been zero visits to the border by the President or the border czar, the Vice President.

In fact, when KAMALA HARRIS was asked in an interview this week if she planned on visiting the border, she laughed about it. But I tell you, those Customs and Border Patrol agents will tell her that it is no laughing matter. I am grateful that Mr. BABIN brought that forward tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I yield next to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE), my good friend, who represents the Sixth District.

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, the evidence of the Chinese Communist Party's denial, distortion, and concealment of the coronavirus pandemic from its critical beginning to the present day is overwhelming.

In January 2020, if not before, the Chinese Communist Party knew it was dealing with a fast-spreading disease in Wuhan but rejected transparency in favor of a propaganda campaign to spread disinformation.

From manipulated statistics and the prevention of an investigation by international experts to ousted journalists and whistleblowers who were silenced through intimidation and foul play, there are countless examples of how the CCP lied to the rest of the world about the origins of the pandemic.

Prominent epidemiologists and biologists have raised concerns about a possible spillover in the Wuhan lab, and CDC director Dr. Walensky said it is possible COVID could have leaked from a lab.

It was recently reported that three researchers from China's Wuhan Institute of Virology became ill with symptoms consistent with COVID–19 and sought hospital care in November of 2019. On top of that, China has not been forthright in sharing information nor have they cooperated with the U.S. or the global community.

The dishonesty of China's Communist leadership regarding the coronavirus pandemic has led to hundreds of thousands of American deaths, millions of sick Americans, and trillions of dollars of economic damage to our country.

In the face of this mounting evidence, I join 211 of my House colleagues in urging Speaker PELOSI to investigate the origins of COVID–19. But House Democrats continue to stonewall this effort.

The Biden administration and House Democrats cannot continue to turn a blind eye to the CCP's nefarious behavior. We must penalize and hold the CCP legally and financially responsible for the human and economic suffering its Communist Government has caused. Enough is enough.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, that is such an important point. The evidence is mounting that China is indeed responsible for the COVID crisis, and we must hold them accountable.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS), who represents the Third District, and is the third Louisianan on the floor now.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, my ancestral forefather traveled to this country 200 years ago or so. He was born a poor Irishman with no path toward prosperity that did not lead through oppressive government, indentured servitude.

He arrived in the port of New Orleans after scrapping together enough money to book passage on a sailing vessel that had been converted from carrying cargo to carrying human beings. He survived the journey, although many poor Irishmen did not.

He came to this land seeking freedom. He found it. He prospered. And through the generations the Higgins family established itself as a solid, working-class American family. Construction workers, firemen, police officers, soldiers, and sailors.

After my father passed, my mother and her sister, my Aunt Gloria, took it upon themselves to research the family tree. They discovered some of the truths that I am sharing with you tonight. This was way before the Internet and computers and iPhones. They worked in the actual archives.

One of the things they discovered was a letter written by my ancestral forefather describing the conditions on a vessel he traveled to America upon. His sleeping berth measured 2 by 2 by 5. 2 by 2 by 5. I think about that as I serve within this body.

I recognize the pain that our ancestral forefathers and foremothers endured to carve this country of greatness from the wilderness. There has never been a moment when American patriots claimed that our Nation was perfect. We have always known that we are imperfect men driven by perfect intent to create a nation where a man could breathe free, and indeed we have.

The sovereignty of America requires action from this body and from this executive, our current executive, to maintain the security and sovereignty of our Nation at the southern border. The very promise of America is threatened by the policies and weakness of action and refusal to act in response to 1.1 million criminal crossings year to date.

□ 2110

The very freedoms and opportunities that our ancestral forefathers and foremothers came to this country to embrace, the blood and life and limb that has been sacrificed by generations of patriots past have preserved America.

America itself is imperiled from within. It is the duty and the sworn oath of Members of this body to ring our voices loud and clear across the land that we will not allow America to fall into decline. We will not become judicious managers of our Nation's fall. We will stand and we will fight; we will make noise and we will be heard.

I thank my colleague for allowing us to gather this evening and speak on behalf of the citizens that we serve, the Nation that we love, and the future that we will not allow to demise.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank Captain HIGGINS for those impassioned words. He is exactly right.

One of the things that is so heartbreaking, frustrating, unconscionable about this is we can solve this crisis at the border pretty simply. All we need the White House to do is reimplement the Trump-era policies because that increased border security, it discouraged illegal immigration and it reinstituted law and order, and we can do that, but they won't.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER), who represents Georgia's First Congressional District.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the many foreign failures President Biden and the Democrats have made putting our national security and country at risk.

When President Biden came into office, he and Vice President HARRIS invited people to come through our border. President Biden even stopped construction of the highly successful and necessary border wall.

The Biden border crisis was preventable, and can be fixed if President Biden and Vice President HARRIS would visit the border like I have.

President Biden has also been apologetic to our Nation's greatest foes. He refused for months to acknowledge the possibility that the coronavirus was man-made in the Wuhan lab. He let big tech silence those who spoke out about the evidence, despite leaked emails from Dr. Fauci that showed even he knew the lab leak theory was highly possible and likely probable.

And now President Biden wants to hand our vaccine technology over to China free of charge. Members on both sides of the aisle recognize the dangers of this. Yet President Biden would rather side with the Chinese Communist Party than American innovators and American workers.

And most recently, the Biden administration and my colleagues across the aisle won't condemn anti-Semitic comments made by Members of this Chamber.

To conflate the U.S. and Israel with Hamas and Iran is disgusting. It is wrong. And it is an insult to the men and women who fought for our country and who still defend our country against terrorism.

It is time for President Biden to put America first. President Trump did, and our country was stronger than ever before. Now it is time for President Biden to do his job and stand up for the U.S. and hardworking, patriotic Americans.

You work for Americans, not for foreign countries.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, that is a great reminder of who the President serves, and it is confounding to us that he doesn't understand these basic truths.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT), who represents Tennessee's Second District.

Mr. BURCHETT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for yielding. Second Congressional District, but first in our hearts.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Always.

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago, the average cost of gas in America was $2.17 a gallon. Today, it is $3.07 per gallon, a 41 percent increase.

But it isn't just gas prices. Costs for many goods and services Americans rely on are quickly rising. The Consumer Price Index, which tracks the cost of things, like food and energy, jumped 5 percent in May compared to 1 year ago.

This inflation is the ultimate cost of President Biden's $2 trillion Big Government spending spree back in January, Mr. Speaker. The Federal Government is printing money at a breakneck pace, decreasing the purchasing power of our dollars.

Meanwhile, businesses can't get folks to come back to work, thanks to President Biden's generous unemployment benefits. And lately in east Tennessee, I have heard stories from small business owners who can't find enough workers to keep up with their demand.

They need to tell the folks at Wright's Cafeteria, where my good friend David Wright owns his restaurant that was his mama's and daddy's, they can't get folks to come back to work. He is still too behind in the kitchen. He hasn't been open for months.

Another friend of mine, Mike Chase, owns Calhoun's, which is a world-famous restaurant chain in the area. And, actually, in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, they have had to close down in a tourist section of our community that is heavily populated during the day by well-heeled tourists wanting to spend their money, yet he had to close down because he can't get people to work.

Another friend of mine, Charlie Peroulas, at the Pizza Palace, world-famous onion rings. Mr. Speaker, I would literally crawl across Magnolia Avenue on glass to eat their onion rings. They are that good. And his pizzas are great as well. He has not been able to have full shifts and to serve the community as he has in the past.

Stories like these, though, aren't unique to east Tennessee, Mr. Speaker. This is happening all over the country. Businesses are raising their prices to stay alive, and those costs are passed along to the American consumers.

President Biden promised there would be no tax increase on working Americans, but inflation sure as heck isn't leaving any money in the pockets of our middle class, Mr. Speaker. His outrageous spending is causing long-term economic damage and saddling future generations with debt. And if President Biden isn't stopped in this venture, future generations will inherit a worthless American dollar, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman covered a lot, and he is right, this crisis we have, the jobs and the economy was so preventable.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON), one of my heroes in the Congress.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman MIKE JOHNSON for his leadership for promoting the truth tonight. It has been so refreshing to hear our colleagues bring

facts to the American people that they need to know.

And thanks to the leadership of Vice President Mike Pence through Operation Warp Speed to develop the Wuhan virus vaccine, America has been able to get back to work with jobs being available.

In May of this year, the Centers for Disease Control released updated guidance saying that fully vaccinated people no longer needed to wear a mask or social distance in most cases. America should be completely open for business to create jobs.

We saw President Trump created jobs. Under his leadership, we had record low unemployment for African Americans, for Asian Americans, for Hispanics. We had record employment. The most number of jobs ever for youth and women in the United States by cutting taxes, not raising the taxes either directly or by inflation, as Mr. Biden is doing.

Unfortunately, the Biden administration does not agree with science. Even with this huge win to the American people, the administration and Democrats want to continue to have unemployed Americans be dependent on the government by incentivizing them to remain unemployed with increased benefits that pay more than a small business can provide, destroying jobs.

I commend Governor Henry McMaster for ending these increased benefits and getting South Carolina back to work. Congress should follow suit creating jobs.

I am grateful to be a cosponsor of H.R. 3104, the Get Americans Back to Work Act, sponsored by Congressman DUSTY JOHNSON. This bill will remove the supplemental Federal self-destructive benefits by June 30 of this year.

I encourage my colleagues to pass this legislation. We must not continue to indebt future generations with reckless spending or create inflation, which destroys the retirement savings of our senior citizens and equally is crippling to small businesses that are the backbone of this country.

Jobs are uplifting, fulfilling, and meaningful for a productive life.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, the Biden administration Democrats continue to push policies that pay people more to stay at home than go back to work, so the results are not surprising at all.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY), who represents Pennsylvania's 10th Congressional District.

□ 2120

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, Mr. JOHNSON, for this Special Order, talking, unfortunately, about the things that make us sad to see happening in our country.

Here, before, they were talking about the climate crisis. We sure do have a climate crisis. We have a climate of unbridled spending happening in this country without any eye toward the consequences.

Of course, we have a border crisis. We have a law-and-order crisis going on.

We have a leadership crisis in this country. We are ceding the leadership of the United States of America to thugs in Russia, China, and Iran.

We have a political crisis, where everything is politicized, where we can't even get together on things we agree with because the other side forces you to take votes that potentially destroy the fabric of our country, our neighborhoods. The things that we agree on, we can't even do that here because there has to be a political price to pay for everything.

Of course, the financial crisis—inflation is here, and it is here to stay. In May, consumer prices spiked 5 percent from the previous year. That is the biggest spike since August 2008. Remember that? The beginning of the Great Recession?

We don't have to be doing this, but I think we are going to do it again. Overall, prices jumped at a shocking 9.7 percent annualized rate from March through May. That is 10 percent. Oh, by the way, that coincides with the time that the Biden fiscal policies started coming into play. They are beginning to devastate the economy like we knew they would.

In real terms, if you are driving, you are paying 40 percent more today than you did at the start of the year.

And it is artificial, right? We closed the Keystone pipeline down. We let Russia have their pipeline, but we closed ours down. Do you think the gas isn't coming? It is still coming. We are just paying a lot more for it because they have to put it on a truck or a train. Heaven forbid, it can't go through the Keystone pipeline. Oh, we can't have that.

Guess who pays? Every single one of us. But who does it hurt the most? Do you remember the days when you were growing up and couldn't afford to fill up your gas tank? You put five bucks in and prayed you got to the end of the week? That is who it is hurting, and it is happening again.

Food prices are up 2.4 percent, and the transport cost of food, up 25 percent. Again, who does it hurt the most?

Meanwhile, the May jobs report shows 9.3 million job openings in the U.S., nearly a million increase over the numbers for April.

That is the largest increase ever since the Bureau of Labor Statistics began counting. These are indicators of bad things happening. They are also indicators and a manifestation of bad policy when we, as the government, pay more for people to stay home than they make if they would go to work.

Who can blame them? They are looking out for their economic best interests. If they can make more staying home, well, God bless them. They have to because they have to pay the higher prices from all this inflation that is ''not happening.'' I say that tongue-in-cheek because that is what the President has told us, and that is what Janet Yellen told us.

Well, we might have been born at night, Mr. JOHNSON, but it wasn't last night. We know it is happening. It is obvious to any Economics 101 student.

The Biden administration and Democrats in Congress have extended these benefits through September. So guess what? It is just going to keep going.

Labor is going to cost more, and everything associated with labor is going to cost more. Who is it going to hurt the most? The people working the hardest at the bottom trying to make their way out.

Families can't afford it. Do you know who else can't afford it, Mr. JOHNSON? My good friend. I have a friend at home. He started a business 51 years ago. He came home from fighting for his country in Vietnam, and he started a business from scratch 51 years ago. He hired hundreds of people and was known around the world for his product.

Well, guess what just happened this month?

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, out of business.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, gotta shut her down, man. Gotta shut her down. The policies affect people's lives.

Like I said, the President and Secretary Yellen said that inflation wasn't real just a few months ago. Now they are saying it won't be permanent. If you believe what they said a couple of months ago, you might as well believe that.

While they are pursuing another $6 trillion in spending, we can't go to the bank. We are just going to print it. Guess what is going to happen? It is going to be runaway inflation, and it is actually going to threaten the continuation of this very Republic. And that spending is in addition to the $2.1 trillion budget deficit for the first 8 months of this fiscal year, the largest on record, which follows $3 trillion last year, which was another record.

We just simply can't afford these reckless policies. We love our country. We want to work with the other side. This isn't working. It is not working for the American people. It is not working for any of us.

We are at the tipping point in a lot of ways in this country. One of them is economic, and we can do something about it. But we need the President to have some fiscal restraint. We need the people in this body to have some fiscal restraint.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for offering this Special Order tonight. We don't need to kowtow. We don't need to kneel at the altar of the green crazy people who want to drive the agenda.

We have a great country, and we could save it. We don't have to let China open a coal plant—one every week—while we hobble ourselves and shut ourselves out of the great resources that we have in this country. We don't have to do it.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I am very grateful for those comments.

Mr. PERRY is exactly right. He mentioned Economics 101. Some of our colleagues would do well to go take a refresher course.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE), who represents Georgia's Ninth District.

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of Georgia's Ninth District to bring attention to two major issues plaguing our country as we speak, the economic crisis and the Biden border crisis, as both will affect our country for years to come.

Inflationary pressures are crippling consumer purchasing power at record rates, and our national debt is on the rise.

My constituents are eager to course-correct our Nation's fiscal ship so we can guarantee that the American Dream is attainable for future generations of Americans. Unfortunately, the Biden administration shows no signs of curtailing its spending habits any time soon, as Democrats are keying up a plan to shoehorn through Congress, the progressive American Jobs and Families Plan, which combined total $4 trillion in deficit spending.

Folks, the debt is already at $28.4 trillion. The White House has announced a budget that will leave the American people holding a stunning $39 trillion in debt by 2031. And what is truly scary? The interest payments on the debt are on track to eclipse our Nation's defense spending in just 10 years. As a military officer, that doesn't sit well with me.

The looming debt spiral will quite literally be the death of the American Dream as we know it if we don't act now. It is clear the Biden administration has no regard for Americans' pocketbooks, nor does it show any remorse for the future generations who will be left to bear the brunt of Democrat-controlled spending.

If that wasn't enough of a crisis, it has been 84 days since Vice President Harris was tapped as the border czar, yet she still has not made a trip to the U.S.-Mexico border. I have traveled to the border twice and have personally witnessed the escalation of the crisis. Why has the Vice President not gone?

The Department of Homeland Security published shocking statistics that paint a very clear picture of how the Biden administration policies are creating a devastating crisis on the border. Last month, encounters at the border exceeded 180,000. This level of apprehension has not been seen in over 21 years and is up 675 percent when compared to May of last year.

Dangerous human traffickers, gang members, and other criminals are smuggling deadly drugs over the border and into our communities at an alarming rate, refueling the opioid crisis, the very crisis former President Trump successfully subdued.

When we look at fentanyl seizures alone, Customs and Border Protection has already seized almost double the amount of fentanyl in the first 8 months of fiscal year 2021 than it did in all 12 months of fiscal year 2020.

The numbers will only continue to rise as more illicit substances come across the border through September, especially as Biden continues reversing Trump's successful border policies.

Enough is enough. We must put country over progressive politics, and I look forward to standing with my Republican colleagues to do so.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for those remarks, and I thank him for his service.

Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 13 minutes remaining.

□ 2130

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT), who represents Texas' First Congressional District.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, emails—as this headline says from Wendell Husebo—emails show Anthony Fauci scrambled at the beginning of the pandemic to determine the potential U.S. role in funding coronavirus research abroad, and that was because he provided money to a firm that provided money to the Wuhan lab.

As this points out, after Fauci made that comment that we didn't do that, a couple months later, the man responsible for steering U.S. Government funding to the Wuhan Institution of Virology, Peter Daszak, the president of EcoHealth Alliance, thanked Dr. Fauci on April 18, 2020, for publicly dismissing the theory coronavirus may have leaked from that lab to which they furnished money.

Here is another story from the same person. Anthony Fauci said in released emails: Drugstore masks are not really effective.

He told us, Oh, gosh, you know, we need to be taking a mask, everybody should be wearing a mask, but that was only after he had been against it before he became for it.

And this points out and quotes him as just being one of the biggest hypocrites. And in fact, that he completely lied to the American people, because he says that ''Masks are really for infected people . . . '' He goes on further: ''The typical mask you buy in the drugstore is not really effective . . . '' and he says, ''I do not recommend that you wear a mask, particularly since you are going to a very low risk location. Your instincts are correct, money is best spent on medical countermeasures such as diagnostics and vaccines.''

But as Fauci emails show, the U.S. scientists knew COVID looked engineered only days before insisting that the virus was natural. And that is another one of the reasons that Representative TAYLOR GREENE filed the Fire Fauci Act, and I would encourage people to get on board.

But the virologist who told Fauci that SARS–CoV–2 potentially looked engineered—he eliminated his Twitter account. That article is June 7th.

And then we find out that ''weight-adjusted hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin boosted survival of ventilated COVID–19 patients by 200 percent,'' according to a study. We have had hundreds of thousands of Americans who have died while Fauci and others belittled a hydroxychloroquine regimen, and the good that it could do, and the good it has done for most of those who have taken it.

So we know that in the 1950s President Eisenhower said: No, we got no U–2 flights going over the Soviet Union. And they shot one down. He had to go on TV and say: I am sorry, I lied. I am very sorry, I thought I was doing the right thing by the country.

In the 1960s, President Kennedy, he went on television, and said: I am sorry. It is my fault, basically, that people died in the Bay of Pigs invasion.

But who is going to come forward and say, you know what, this was my fault? It is not going to be Fauci. We don't know if it will be President Biden, but somebody owes a big apology to the American people.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, Mr. GOHMERT is exactly right. And the scope of that tragedy is something that is hard to wrap your mind around.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOONEY).

Mr. MOONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address an issue of great importance to all of our constituents: their economic livelihoods. It has only been 6 months since President Biden took office and already our country is moving in the wrong direction.

Under President Trump we saw unparalleled economic growth. Now under President Biden, we are faced with more and more government spending, fewer and fewer people going back to work, and skyrocketing inflation, which devalues your money. You can see here, a picture is worth a thousand words. 4.2 less percent value to your dollar today after all the spending the government has been doing here lately.

By the end of 2020, the economy was resurgent. And since the economy was crippled by the initial lock-downs in March and April of 2020, there had been an improvement in the unemployment rate each month, until this spring. After 11 months of significant job growth, the unemployment rate increased this past April for the first time since last year.

More Americans are getting vaccinated every day and COVID–19 restrictions are being lifted around the country. This should be a time when the recovery reaches new heights. There were 9.3 million jobs openings in April. That is more job openings than any other time in the last year. But those jobs may not get filled any time soon, due to President Biden and many of my Democrat colleagues' and

friends' decision here in this Chamber to continue an unsustainable level of Federal unemployment benefits. Some workers can make more money on unemployment than going back to work.

Commonsense dictates that if you pay people not to work, they will take you up on it. Most people will not act against their own economic interests by working if they can make more money staying home.

The failure of the Biden administration has forced some Governors to act on their own. So far, 25 States have announced plans to wind down the extra $300 a week in Federal unemployment benefits.

Governor Jim Justice in my State of West Virginia announced that our State will join that group here this month, in June. So when Federal leadership fails, Governors must step up and make the best decisions for their States.

West Virginia has had a particular problem with worker shortages for years now. Gil White, who is our State Director of the National Federation of Independent Businesses, was asked on WV MetroNews about the worker shortage, and he responded, ''That is not a myth; it's a reality. I don't care if it's large business or small business employers. I think there is a common theme that finding workers is very challenging, to say the least.''

After a tumultuous year with government shutdowns and strict capacity limits, the last thing small businesses need is a worker shortage that leaves them unprepared to meet the demands of a reopening economy.

President Biden's solution to this problem, along with every other problem, seems to be more spending of your hard-earned taxpayer dollars. But with our budget deficit at an alarming level, and you see it here how it is just skyrocketing, our budget deficit, more spending will bring about more problems.

Our debt is currently $28 trillion, and our deficits have grown substantially larger in the past year due to spending increases in response to COVID–19. And, yet, President Biden is currently pushing for more than $4 trillion in new spending. $4 trillion.

President Biden has proposed to build hundreds of thousands of electric vehicle charging stations, retrofit buildings across America, to make them greener, and a laundry list of other progressive priorities.

Despite his sometimes moderate demeanor, President Biden's platform is far left. President Biden made a long list of promises to the left wing of his party, like when he said he would ''get rid of fossil fuels.'' It should come as no surprise that his administration is shaping up to be the most liberal in recent memory.

We should not keep borrowing money from China in order to spend money that we don't have here in America. There is a simple solution, unwind these expensive government programs, continue opening up the economy, and let people earn a living again. That is our country's path forward.

Mr. Speaker, I have a couple more comments I would like to make on a separate issue.

I rise today to address the crisis at the southern border. These images here show children being dropped over the border fence, and show migrants nearly drowning trying to cross the river on the border.

Ladies and gentlemen, dumping children across a fence like this into the wilderness is not an immigration policy. That is child abuse. That is not how we are supposed to do this. It is an outrage. If President Trump had done that, he would be attacked everywhere.

The border crisis is a humanitarian crisis. Even the President of Guatemala, Alejandro Giammattei, blamed the Biden administration's open border messaging calling it ''lukewarm'' and ''confusing.''

He explained this messaging actually increases the number of unaccompanied minors that are sent out on the journey and are subsequently trafficked by coyotes and cartels.

Data shows that Customs and Border Patrol agents stopped over 180,000 illegal border crossings in the month of May alone, the highest in over 20 years. Look, we can have our own opinions, but we are not entitled to our own facts.

This is a crisis, ladies and gentlemen. It is time for America's border czar, Vice President KAMALA HARRIS, to do her job and address the humanitarian crisis at the border to protect to lives of these young children.

□ 2140

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, how much time remains on the clock?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 3 minutes remaining.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I will need to summarize, then.

I am delighted to have had so many of my colleagues here tonight to help us sound the alarms and inform the American people what is going on here.

We have a crisis here at home. We have a crisis on the southern border. And we have multiple developing crises abroad. You heard the broad spectrum of all those tonight, Mr. Speaker.

Whether it is our concern about jobs in the economy with the rising inflation, with this humanitarian crisis with young children and traffickers and drug cartels at the border, or whether we are talking about this administration's critical foreign policy blunders, you can summarize it all, Mr. Speaker.

Maybe it was summarized best tonight by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY). He said in one phrase: We have a leadership crisis.

We certainly do. But I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, all these issues and everything that my colleagues talked about tonight can and should be addressed in a bipartisan way. All of us on this side of the aisle want to do that. We are anxious to do that. We should all want Americans to get back to work. We should all want to end the humanitarian crisis at the border. We should all want to achieve peace through strength on the international stage.

It is time for President Biden and it is time for our Democrat colleagues to work with Republicans for the American people.

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

''GO FOR BROKE'' STAMP RELEASE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. CASE) for half of the time until 10 p.m., which is 9½ minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CASE. Mr. 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 this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues for so many to recognize and honor a stamp just issued by the U.S. Postal Service that, with stunning simplicity, remembers, recognizes, and honors one of the most remarkable and inspirational stories in the whole of our country's history.

It is a story of tragedy, perseverance, and triumph that is so quintessentially American, that goes so deeply to our essence, and that offers the most fundamental lessons that we must never forget. And that is the point of this stamp, that we never forget the story of the Japanese-American soldiers of World War II and their famous motto, which is its own lesson: ''Go for broke.''

For many of us, the story is well-known and has instructed and inspired our own lives. But for a growing number of our fellow citizens of our country and world it is not. So permit me just a brief retelling.

As World War II loomed, Americans of Japanese ancestry were beginning their third generation, or nisei, in substantial communities, yet they remained largely marginalized because of their race. In Hawaii, they constituted over one-third of our population, yet largely still labored on plantations or worked in small businesses. The same was true on the West Coast, from Washington through Oregon to San Diego.

Some nisei saw war with Japan coming and sought to enlist in our armed services, but they were largely denied out of race and suspicion, and sought to prove themselves through service in the Guard or in Hawaii, the Varsity Victory Volunteers.

Pearl Harbor changed everything. Infamously, over 100,000 Japanese were interned for their race, an indelible stain on our national fabric. After years of Japanese Americans pushing to be allowed to prove their loyalty by enlisting and fighting, the military finally relented with the 100th Infantry Battalion; the 442nd in the military intelligence service; and the 1399th Engineer Construction Battalion.

The rest, as they say, is legend. The 100th and 442nd fought their way through Sicily, through France and Italy, and ended up with the highest number of decorations for their length of service in the history of our military. We honored them in 2010 with our Congressional Gold Medal.

But was that enough?

Would it all be remembered?

Three Japanese-American women in California, who themselves had been incarcerated—Fusa Takahashi, Chiz Ohira, and Aiko King—thought not, and they fought a 16-year effort to gain approval of this beautiful stamp from the U.S. Postal Service, impeccably designed by Antonio Alcala. It was issued just weeks ago.

The design is taken from a 1944 photo in the field of 442nd Private First Class Shiroku ''Whitey'' Yamamoto, a nisei born and raised in the plantation village of Ninole on the Hamakua coast of my home island of Hawaii.

It is such a fitting tribute, so appropriate. To look into his eyes, Mr. Speaker, you see fatigue; you see commitment; but most of all, you see gaman, perseverance through great adversity to a better place.

No better fitting tribute could be issued at this point than this stamp. I am so honored to stand with my colleagues to honor the issuance of this stamp in memory of the Japanese-American soldiers of World War II.

I am honored to be joined by my colleagues here today who will speak also, many of whom labored long and hard with the rest of us towards the issuance of this stamp.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO), who is the second vice chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus and chair of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I say mahalo to my colleague, Representative CASE, for yielding and for organizing this Special Order hour to commemorate the release of an historic stamp that honors the bravery and service of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the Go for Broke Japanese American Soldiers of World War II Forever Stamp.

I am a proud Japanese American, the son of a mother and father who were young children when executive order 9066 was signed by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, which forced them and the rest of my family out of our homes and into internment camps on American soil.

Executive order 9066 labeled Japanese Americans as enemy aliens. It scapegoated an entire community of Americans and questioned their loyalty. It was misguided, it was based on lies, and it was rooted in racism and fear.

During this time, 120,000 Japanese Americans were unjustly imprisoned, mass-blamed for atrocities they did not commit. Their rights were trampled, their freedoms were curtailed, and their humanity was ignored.

While our own government was carrying out the unthinkable against its own people, while fighting for the ideals of liberty and freedom abroad, young Japanese-American men stepped up to serve under our flag, even when our country did not want them to.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, Japanese-American men of draft age were excluded from military service. They were considered enemy aliens, unfit to serve and unfit to fight for their very own country. Yet, in spite of this, a highly motivated group of Japanese Americans eager to prove their allegiance and patriotism petitioned the U.S. Government for their right to serve.

President Roosevelt relented, allowing these men to form the 442nd Regimental Combat Team of the United States Army, a legendary, segregated Japanese-American fighting unit that was sent to the front lines of World War II, even as their families were in internment camps back home.

Among these men were three of my great-uncles, including my great-uncle Manzo ''Mon'' Takahasi, who is pictured right beside me. My great-uncle Mon gave his life for our country in Italy just a few weeks before D-day. He was 26 years old.

Recently, I rewatched the testimony of his brother, my other great-uncle Nobi, who recounted the story of the day that he learned that his brother had died in battle, in what he called the final push of the war.

Mon and so many other nisei soldiers never had the opportunity to relish the victory that they helped secure, but their valor helped move our world closer to peace.

My great-uncle Nobi also shared what it was like to serve in the rescue of the Lost Battalion as a member of the 442nd. The rescue of the Lost Battalion took place in the Vosges Mountains of France in October of 1944. Eight hundred men in the 442nd lost their lives in combat to rescue 211 men in the 141st Texas Regiment. He told a story of bloodshed and of the carnage that he witnessed there. He described the nauseating, terrible feeling after seeing dead bodies of American and German soldiers and helmets all around him.

The nisei fighters believed in the promise of America. These men were betting on America, and they bet that America could be a more perfect, free, and more equal Union. In the case of my great-uncle Mon, he bet his life.

I just want to say that the motto of this unit was Go for Broke, which means to go all in, to bet everything. This group of men bet not on the reality of America—the reality then was an America that let Japanese Americans down, that stripped them of their rights and interned them without reason.

These men were in a humiliating place to have to prove their patriotism. They had something to prove, and they did prove it. So I tell the story of my great-uncles and the 442nd with great pride and a strong belief that, if it wasn't for them, I would not be a Member of Congress today.

Did they win their bet?

I stand as evidence that they did.

□ 2150

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. KAHELE).

Mr. KAHELE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, Representative CASE, for yielding to me so that I may speak on the merits of all Japanese Americans who served during World War II, a recognition the United States Postal Service captured with the recent issuance of its 2021 Go for Broke Japanese American soldiers of World War II commemorative stamp.

Go for Broke, the motto of the brave 442nd Regimental Combat Team, which means give it your all, speaks to the spirit of courage, of patriotism and sacrifice, as well as their fight for equality for all people.

The 442nd, almost entirely composed of second-generation Japanese Americans, or Nisei, was the most-decorated unit for its size and length of service in the history of the United States. Eighty years ago, these brave Americans were filled with dreams, aspirations, and hope, only to be faced with harsh discrimination and assaults on their character and loyalty to America.

The Go for Broke Japanese American soldiers of World War II stamps are forever stamps and symbolize these men and women's undying devotion to their country.

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

DEBT IS ABOUT TO CRUSH THIS COUNTRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) until 10 p.m.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I know we are all up against the clock; as my wife would say, the tyranny of the clock. So I had all sorts of boards and information. I was going to drive the poor stenographer nuts because sometimes I talk a little fast. I will try to slow down. I apologize. I have had a lot of caffeine.

But I have a simple thing I want to try to walk through. And that is that this place isn't dealing with the actual crisis that is about to crush this country, and it is debt. But it is also opportunity. It is opportunity for our underserved populations; those who have

been crushed by COVID. And when you look at why, I think we have a solution, but we have to think differently in this place.

So first let's do the global problem. The honest truth about what is about to crush us, as a people, is debt. Take a look at this chart next to me. Over the next 30 years—and this is in adjusted dollars, so this is in today's dollars—$101 trillion of debt in today's dollars. I don't think we ever get close to that, being able to finance that type of debt.

But if you look at the chart, 67 percent of it is just Medicare. The rest here is Social Security. The little green part of that $101 trillion, only about $3 trillion of it is the rest of government. It is Medicare and Social Security.

If you believe, like I do, that we have a moral obligation to keep our promises on Social Security and Medicare, we need to step up and deal with the reality of the math hiding it.

So think about the debates that have been going on here. We are talking about $4 trillion here, $4 trillion for this. This is the Damocles sword hanging over our head. And the economic violence, the evil that we will do to seniors and this government when this blows up on us is terrifying.

So I want to walk through some basics, and as I juggle these boards, a really interesting number here, and this one is really important. If you can take a look at this top line, this is what needs to bounce off here. Of that, functionally, I think it is $68 trillion of debt that is driven just by Medicare over the next 30 years, 31 percent of it is diabetes.

If you look at the health outcomes from COVID, from my Tribal communities out in the Southwest, for urban populations that have lots of diabetes issues, take a look at what a crappy year they had, dying from COVID.

If we don't change this policy of saying, well, we are going to spend money putting up more medical clinics and in doing this and doing that, we are going to spend money to help people live with their misery?

Is that really what we are about?

How about doing something bold?

We are going to do an Operation Warp Speed to cure diabetes, and, yes, it is going to be hard.

There is some incredible science coming on type 1 because type 1 is an autoimmune. Type 2, a lot tougher because a lot of it is lifestyle. And we are going to have to deal with government policy on how we do farm policy, on how we do nutrition support.

But maybe we can come together here and say we are going to stop financing misery; the diabetes that is rampant through our society. Oh, by the way, at the same time, it is the single biggest impact you can have on the debt bomb that is hanging over our society.

And we have got to work through some of the crazy policy proposals here that sound great, and you work through, and all they are going to do is bring more misery to our society.

How many of you have actually read H.R. 3?

That is the Democrats' bill on trying to deal with prescription drug costs. And I understand we need to something about prescription drug costs, but what it does is it uses reference pricing. Which means we are going to go to Great Britain here and take what they allow for a year—so a single quality year of life—and if the drug costs more than $37,000, you don't get it.

So the new Alzheimer's drug that was finally approved last week, you don't get it because it doesn't give you—it costs more than $37,000. That is the price mechanism that makes H.R. 3 work. That is cruel.

But on the conservative side, we have got to get our math right. We tell people, price transparency. Price transparency does a good thing. It makes a difference, but it only makes a fractional difference. The best research we have been able to find is it is .1 percent to .7 percent change in healthcare cost.

So here is the point I am trying to get through. ObamaCare, the ACA, the Republican alternative, they were financing bills. It is who had to pay, who got subsidized. We need to start having a debate here on what we pay and how we crash the price of healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have left?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has under 3 minutes remaining.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, okay. In that case, I am sorry, I am going to talk even faster.

I am going to make an argument that there is a technology disruption here that can help us change what we pay. The single thing we could do immediately to have the most impact is if we could get our brothers and sisters to take their hypertension medicines, to take their pills. That is 16 percent of all healthcare costs. A half a trillion dollars a year is just from people misusing or not taking their pharmaceuticals.

There is technology now on the pill cap, the dispenser, to help grandma, to help me, to help all of us take our pharmaceuticals when we need it.

But the other thing, this can be in your medicine cabinet. We now have the technology that you blow into, that tells you if you have a virus; that tells you if you have a cancer; tells you what you have.

It is time for the technology disruption, and it is time this body started to legalize that technology to help us disrupt the price of healthcare. We can do something. And the beauty of it is, by doing the right thing, it affects the debt crush that is coming to our society. But, also, we start helping our brothers and sisters not have to live with the misery.

So an Operation Warp Speed for diabetes, Republicans, Democrats, we can get on that. There may be some who want to do it because of debt. Some want to just do it for a humanitarian cause. It is the right thing to do.

And then let's legalize the technology that helps us change what we pay, instead of having the crazy debate we have here of how we pay.

It is time for the revolution. Adopt the technology. Let's change the price of healthcare.

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

ENROLLED BILL AND JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill and a joint resolution of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 49. An act to designate the National Pulse Memorial located at 1912 South Orange Avenue, Orlando, Florida, 32806, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 27. Joint resolution providing for the appointment of Barbara Barrett as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, reported that on May 20, 2021, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 941. To reauthorize the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act of 2005, and for other purposes.

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, further reported that on May 24, 2021, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 1318. To restrict the imposition by the Secretary of Homeland Security of fines, penalties, duties, or tariffs applicable only to coastwise voyages, or prohibit otherwise qualified non-United States citizens from serving as crew, on specified vessels transporting passengers between the State of Washington and the State of Alaska, to address a Canadian cruise ship ban and the extraordinary impacts of the COVID–19 pandemic on Alaskan communities, and for other purposes.

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, further reported that on June 7, 2021, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 2523. To amend the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to improve the COVID–19 Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance program, to make certain technical corrections to the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(b) of House Resolution 188, the House stands adjourned until 9 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon (at 10 p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until

tomorrow, Thursday, June 17, 2021, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC–1358. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense, transmitting an 11-Year Update on the Longitudinal Study on Traumatic Brain Injury Incurred by Members of the Armed Forces in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1074 note; Public Law 109-364, Sec. 721(e); (120 Stat. 2295); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1359. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral David M. Kriete, 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–1360. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Robert F. Hedelund, United Marine Corps, 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–1361. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Herman S. Clardy III, United States Marine Corps, 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–1362. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General James F. Pasquarette, 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–1363. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter authorizing 9 officers to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 777(b)(3)(B); Public Law 104-106, Sec. 503(a)(1) (as added by Public Law 108-136, Sec. 509(a)(3)); (117 Stat. 1458); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1364. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter authorizing 22 officers to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 777(b)(3)(B); Public Law 104-106, Sec. 503(a)(1) (as added by Public Law 108-136, Sec. 509(a)(3)); (117 Stat. 1458); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1365. A letter from the Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)/Chief Financial Officer, Department of Defense, transmitting a semiannual report titled, ''Acceptance of contributions for defense programs, projects, and activities; Defense Cooperation Account'', pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2608(i); Public Law 101-403, title II, Sec. 202(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 103-160, Sec. 1105(b)); (107 Stat. 1750); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1366. A letter from the Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)/Chief Financial Officer, Department of Defense, transmitting the semiannual report titled, ''Acceptance of contributions for defense programs, projects, and activities; Defense Cooperation Account'', pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2608(i); Public Law 101-403, title II, Sec. 202(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 103-160, Sec. 1105(b)); (107 Stat. 1750); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1367. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Clean Air Act New Source Review Operating Permit Program; Notice of Transfer of Permits to Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality [EPA-R08-OAR-2021-0267; FRL-10024-01-Region 8] received June 1, 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–1368. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Utah; Source Category Exemptions [EPA-R08-OAR-2021-0056; FRL-10024-14-Region 8] received June 1, 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–1369. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Quality Designation; TN: Redesignation of the Sumner County 2010 Sulfur Dioxide Unclassifiable Area [EPA-R04-OAR-2020-0482; FRL-10024-20-Region 4] received June 1, 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–1370. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Texas; Revisions to the Texas Diesel Emissions Reduction Incentive Program [EPA-R06-OAR-2020-0713; FRL-10024-03-Region 6] received June 1, 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–1371. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Pennsylvania; 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard Second Maintenance Plan for the York-Adams Area [EPA-R03-OAR-2020-0319; FRL-10023-71-Region 3] received June 1, 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–1372. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Pennsylvania; 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard Second Maintenance Plan for the Youngstown-Warren-Sharon Area [EPA-R03-OAR-2020-0320; FRL-10023-70-Region 3] received June 1, 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–1373. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; OR; Smoke Management Revision [EPA-R10-OAR-2019-0599, FRL-10022-46-Region 10] received June 1, 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–1374. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Missouri; Construction Permits By Rule [EPA-R07-OAR-2019-0711; FRL-10024-22-Region 7] received June 1, 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–1375. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Strengthening Transparency in Pivotal Science Underlying Significant Regulatory Actions and Influential Scientific Information; Implementation of Vacatur [EPA-HQ-OA-2018-0259; FRL-10024-32-ORD] (RIN: 2080-AA15) 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 Energy and Commerce.

EC–1376. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revised Air Quality Designations for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-HQ-OAR-2017-0548; FRL-10019-90-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AV06) 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 Energy and Commerce.

EC–1377. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Implementing Statutory Addition of Certain Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) to the Toxics Release Inventory Beginning With Reporting Year 2021 [EPA-HQ-TRI-2021-0049; FRL-10022-25] (RIN: 2070-AK72) 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 Energy and Commerce.

EC–1378. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; California; San Diego County Ozone Nonattainment Area; Reclassification to Severe [EPA-R09-OAR-2021-0148; FRL-10024-30-Region 9] 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 Energy and Commerce.

EC–1379. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final authorization — California: Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions; Final Correction [EPA-R09-RCRA-2019-0491; FRL-10023-58-Region 9] 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 Energy and Commerce.

EC–1380. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Pennsylvania; 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard Second Maintenance Plan for the Erie Area [EPA-R03-OAR-2020-0553; FRL-10023-65-Region 3] 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 Energy and Commerce.

EC–1381. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Maine; Removal of Reliance on Reformulated Gasoline in the Southern Counties of Maine [EPA-R01-OAR-2021-0006; FRL-10024-50-Region 1] 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 Energy and Commerce.

EC–1382. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Burundi that was declared in Executive Order 13712 of November 22, 2015, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC–1383. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to North Korea that was declared in Executive Order 13466 of June 26, 2008, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC–1384. A letter from the Chair, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report to Congress for the six-month period ending March 31, 2021; ; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC–1385. A letter from the Senior Advisor, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting two (2) notifications of a nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC–1386. A letter from the Senior Advisor, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting one action on nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC–1387. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting three (3) notifications of a nomination and an action on nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC–1388. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting seven (7) notifications of a nomination and a discontinuation of service in an acting role, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC–1389. A letter from the Acting Director, Human Resources Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting fourteen (14) notifications of a nomination, an action on nomination, a change in previously submitted reported information, and a discontinuation of service in an acting role, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC–1390. A letter from the Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta, transmitting the 2020 management report of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106(a)(1); Public Law 97-258 (as amended by Public Law 101-576, Sec. 306(a)); (104 Stat. 2854); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC–1391. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting the Commission's Office of the Inspector General's Semiannual Report to Congress for the period October 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC–1392. A letter from the Chair, Federal Election Commission, transmitting fourteen recommendations for legislative action; to the Committee on House Administration.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Ms. SCANLON: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 479. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (S. 475) to amend title 5, United States Code, to designate Juneteenth National Independent Day as a legal public holiday (Rept. 117–62). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. TENNEY (for herself and Mr. PAPPAS):

H.R. 3923. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a grant program to provide funding for memorials honoring veterans, law enforcement officers, and firefighters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HICE of Georgia:

H.R. 3924. A bill to reduce the number of, and shorten the time between, pay grade steps for officers and members of the United States Park Police, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself and Mr. CRIST):

H.R. 3925. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit against tax for disaster mitigation expenditures; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BUCHANAN (for himself, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. POSEY, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. CRIST, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. DUNN, Mr. SOTO, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. MAST, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. ALLEN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. UPTON, Mrs. MCCLAIN, and Mr. BERGMAN):

H.R. 3926. A bill to amend title VII of the Tariff Act of 1930 to provide for the treatment of core seasonal industries affected by antidumping or countervailing duty investigations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia (for himself, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. SOTO, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. MCKINLEY, and Mr. GRIFFITH):

H.R. 3927. A bill to mitigate drug shortages and provide incentives for maintaining, expanding, and relocating the manufacturing of active pharmaceutical ingredients, excipients, medical diagnostic devices, pharmaceuticals, and personal protective equipment in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CAWTHORN (for himself, Mr. MANN, Mr. OWENS, and Ms. SALAZAR):

H.R. 3928. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to reform the American History for Freedom program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. CICILLINE (for himself, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COOPER, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEAN, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. TAKANO, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. EVANS, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. JONES, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. MENG, Mr. RUSH, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. BASS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. BEYER, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Ms. HOULAHAN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. POCAN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. SEWELL, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. BERA, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. CHU, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. COHEN, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. SIRES, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. TITUS, Mr. WELCH, Mr. YARMUTH, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CRIST, Mr. CROW, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. KAHELE, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. RYAN, Mr. SOTO, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. KEATING, Mr. LIEU, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. TONKO, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mrs. TORRES of California, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. CORREA, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. NADLER, Mr. PAPPAS, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. NORCROSS, and Ms. ROSS):

H.R. 3929. A bill to prevent a person who has been convicted of a misdemeanor hate crime, or received an enhanced sentence for a misdemeanor because of hate or bias in its commission, from obtaining a firearm; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. DELBENE (for herself, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. KILMER, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. RYAN, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. TITUS, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. CARSON, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, and Mr. COOPER):

H.R. 3930. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the membership of

the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans to include veterans who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender diverse, gender non-conforming, intersex, or queer; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. DOGGETT:

H.R. 3931. A bill to ensure that health professions opportunity demonstration projects train project participants to earn a recognized postsecondary credential, and to clarify that community colleges are eligible for grants to conduct such a demonstration project; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania (for himself and Mr. FERGUSON):

H.R. 3932. A bill to establish a program to develop antimicrobial innovations targeting the most challenging pathogens and most threatening infections; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Veterans' Affairs, Armed Services, the Judiciary, and Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK (for himself, Mr. LAMB, Mrs. TORRES of California, and Mr. KATKO):

H.R. 3933. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide for the installation of ground-based augmentation systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GALLAGHER (for himself, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. WALTZ, and Mrs. HARTZLER):

H.R. 3934. A bill to maintain the ability of the United States Armed Forces to deny a fait accompli by the People's Republic of China against Taiwan; 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.

By Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas (for himself and Mr. VELA):

H.R. 3935. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to modify the exception from requirements for the operation of vehicles on certain highways in the State of Texas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GREEN of Tennessee:

H.R. 3936. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Defense and the Secretaries of the military department to monitor real property ownership and occupancy in the vicinity of United States military installations inside and outside of the United States to identify instances of ownership or occupancy by a foreign adversary; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. GROTHMAN (for himself, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. FALLON, Mr. GIBBS, and Mr. JACKSON):

H.R. 3937. A bill to promote dignity and nondiscrimination in the District of Columbia Public Schools and the District of Columbia Public Charter Schools; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Ms. HOULAHAN (for herself, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. JACOBS of California, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. BERA, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. KEATING, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. CARSON, Mr. COHEN, Ms. MANNING, Ms. MENG, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. EVANS, Mr. TONKO, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Ms. TITUS, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. STRICKLAND, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. DEAN, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. CHU, Mr. POCAN, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. ROSS, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. NADLER, Mr. RYAN, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. KILMER, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. CASE, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. BASS, Mr. HIMES, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. COOPER, Mr. ALLRED, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. COSTA, Mr. PAPPAS, Ms. SCHRIER, Ms. WILD, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. LEVIN of California, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. BOURDEAUX, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. TRONE, Ms. OMAR, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. SIRES, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. KAHELE, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. LIEU, Mr. CROW, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. LAMB, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. KUSTER, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. TAKANO, Mrs. TORRES of California, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. KIND, Mr. SOTO, and Ms. JAYAPAL):

H.R. 3938. A bill to authorize contributions to the United Nations Population Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. KIND (for himself and Mr. REED):

H.R. 3939. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make qualified biogas property and qualified manure resource recovery property eligible for the energy credit and to permit renewable energy bonds to finance qualified biogas property, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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 Mrs. KIRKPATRICK (for herself and Mr. NEWHOUSE):

H.R. 3940. A bill to provide tax incentives that support local newspapers and other local media, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut (for himself and Mr. BACON):

H.R. 3941. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exclusion from gross income for AmeriCorps educational awards; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MOULTON (for himself, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. KAHELE, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. NORTON, Ms. CHU, and Ms. STRICKLAND):

H.R. 3942. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve the process by which a member of the Armed Forces may be referred for a mental health evaluation; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. OWENS (for himself and Mr. ESTES):

H.R. 3943. A bill to establish a commission to make recommendations for modernizing Federal financing of early care and education programs; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PAPPAS (for himself, Mr. PALAZZO, and Ms. KUSTER):

H.R. 3944. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that grants provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for State veterans' cemeteries do not restrict States from authorizing the interment of certain deceased members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces in such cemeteries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PERRY (for himself, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. NORMAN, and Mr. GOSAR):

H.R. 3945. A bill to prohibit using Federal funds to refer to the head of state of the People's Republic of China as ''President'' on new United States Government documents and communications, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. POCAN (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. KILMER, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. TONKO, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. CARSON, Ms. BUSH, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. WELCH, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. KHANNA, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. ROSS, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. OMAR, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. NADLER, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. MENG, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. MFUME, Mr. JONES, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. NEWMAN, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. EVANS, Mr. SIRES, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. LOWENTHAL):

H.R. 3946. A bill to improve the structure of the Federal Pell Grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. PORTER (for herself, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. DELAURO, and Mr. POCAN):

H.R. 3947. A bill to prohibit the inclusion of mandatory predispute arbitration clauses and clauses limiting class action lawsuits in health insurance contracts; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. PRESSLEY:

H.R. 3948. A bill to require the global systemically important bank holding companies

to provide annual reports to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. RYAN (for himself and Mr. MCKINLEY):

H.R. 3949. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to make grants to States for use to eliminate blight and assist in neighborhood revitalization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. SCANLON (for herself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 3950. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize a State veterans assistance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia (for himself, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. BASS, Mrs. BEATTY, and Mr. MCEACHIN):

H.R. 3951. A bill to amend the 400 Years of African-American History Commission Act to extend the 400 Years of African-American History Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Ms. SHERRILL (for herself and Mr. FEENSTRA):

H.R. 3952. A bill to strengthen the role of the Chief Scientist of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in order to promote scientific integrity and advance the Administration's world-class research and development portfolio; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TAKANO (for himself, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CASE, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. RASKIN, and Mrs. DINGELL):

H.R. 3953. A bill to increase consumer protection with respect to negative option agreements entered in all media, including on and off the internet, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California:

H.R. 3954. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide disaster tax relief, exclude from gross income amounts received from State-based catastrophe loss mitigation programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Small Business, and Agriculture, 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. TURNER:

H.R. 3955. A bill to change the calendar period of the Federal fiscal year; to the Committee on the Budget, 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 Ms. UNDERWOOD:

H.R. 3956. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the continued implementation of the Climate and Health program by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. WALBERG (for himself and Mr. SABLAN):

H.R. 3957. A bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to train certain Department of Labor personnel how to effectively detect and assist law enforcement in preventing human trafficking during the course of their primary roles and responsibilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. WATERS (for herself, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. PERLMUTTER):

H.R. 3958. A bill to amend the CARES Act to make certain enhancements to the Central Liquidity Facility permanent; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Mr. CLEAVER):

H.R. 3959. A bill to amend title VI of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to establish a Federal renewable electricity standard for retail electricity suppliers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.J. Res. 52. A joint resolution relating to a national emergency declared by the President on March 13, 2020; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE (for herself, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. MFUME, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. EVANS, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. CROW, Mr. LAMB, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. OMAR, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. TITUS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. KEATING, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. DEAN, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. PALLONE, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. BASS, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. RUIZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. ALLRED, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SOTO, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. BUSH, Ms. KAPTUR, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. MANNING, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. CLEAVER, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. VELA, Ms. CHU, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. JONES, Mr. HIMES, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mrs. BEATTY, Mrs. FLETCHER, Ms. WATERS, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. WELCH, Mr. KILMER, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. COOPER, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. JACOBS of California, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CARSON, Ms. ROSS, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. TRONE, Mr. BACON, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, and Ms. JAYAPAL):

H. Res. 480. A resolution recognizing June 19, 2021, as this year's observance of the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. PAYNE (for himself, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. NORTON, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and Mr. DEFAZIO):

H. Res. 481. A resolution expressing support for health and wellness coaches; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PAYNE (for himself, Mr. COHEN, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. CARSON):

H. Res. 482. A resolution supporting National Men's Health Week; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. TENNEY:

H.R. 3923.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. HICE of Georgia:

H.R. 3924.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 3925.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. BUCHANAN:

H.R. 3926.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:

H.R. 3927.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. CAWTHORN:

H.R. 3928.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. CICILLINE:

H.R. 3929.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Ms. DELBENE:

H.R. 3930.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. DOGGETT:

H.R. 3931.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution

By Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 3932.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 3933.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII

By Mr. GALLAGHER:

H.R. 3934.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 14

By Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas:

H.R. 3935.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution; and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GREEN of Tennessee:

H.R. 3936.

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. GROTHMAN:

H.R. 3937.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. HOULAHAN:

H.R. 3938.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. KIND:

H.R. 3939.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mrs. KIRKPATRICK:

H.R. 3940.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut:

H.R. 3941.

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. MOULTON:

H.R. 3942.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clauses 12, 13, 14, and 18 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. OWENS:

H.R. 3943.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. PAPPAS:

H.R. 3944.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution states that ''Congress shall have the authority to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.''

By Mr. PERRY:

H.R. 3945.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII of the United States Constitution

By Mr. POCAN:

H.R. 3946.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Ms. PORTER:

H.R. 3947.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. PRESSLEY:

H.R. 3948.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. RYAN:

H.R. 3949.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: ''To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.''

By Ms. SCANLON:

H.R. 3950.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 3951.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. SHERRILL:

H.R. 3952.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of Section 8 or Article 1 of the Constitution of the United States of America.

By Mr. TAKANO:

H.R. 3953.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California:

H.R. 3954.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I

By Mr. TURNER:

H.R. 3955.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This legislation would alter the budget cycle in accordance with Article I, Section 8, clause 1, which provides Congress with the power to ''lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises'' in order to ''provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States.''

By Ms. UNDERWOOD:

H.R. 3956.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. WALBERG:

H.R. 3957.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. WATERS:

H.R. 3958.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 3 provides Congress with the power to ''regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.''

By Mr. WELCH:

H.R. 3959.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have Power To . . . make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.J. Res. 52.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 19: Ms. CHENEY.

H.R. 68: Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. AGUILAR, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 79: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 431: Mr. BROWN, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. KELLER, and Mr. CARSON.

H.R. 454: Mr. AGUILAR and Mr. CÁRDENAS.

H.R. 471: Mrs. LESKO.

H.R. 475: Mr. CASE, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MALINOWSKI, and Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 477: Ms. SPANBERGER.

H.R. 483: Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 554: Mr. EMMER.

H.R. 591: Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 605: Mr. LONG.

H.R. 616: Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 628: Mr. PAPPAS.

H.R. 748: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia and Mr. ALLRED.

H.R. 835: Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 852: Mr. ALLRED.

H.R. 890: Mrs. TORRES of California, Ms. BASS, Mr. BANKS, and Mr. HORSFORD.

H.R. 959: Mr. CASTEN, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, and Mr. MALINOWSKI.

H.R. 962: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 1012: Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. ADAMS, and Ms. UNDERWOOD.

H.R. 1014: Ms. STRICKLAND.

H.R. 1088: Mr. RYAN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. GALLEGO, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. KAHELE, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. COHEN, and Ms. BARRAGÁN.

H.R. 1115: Ms. STRICKLAND and Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 1155: Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. KAHELE, and Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.

H.R. 1177: Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 1179: Ms. ESHOO, Ms. STRICKLAND, and Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 1193: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mrs. HINSON, and Mr. ALLEN.

H.R. 1201: Mr. MORELLE, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. COHEN, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. SIRES, Mr. NEAL, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Ms. JACOBS of California, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. JONES, Mr. CONNOLLY, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. PORTER, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CROW, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. SOTO, Mr. DELGADO, Ms. NEWMAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. TONKO, Mr. RUIZ,

Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. MANNING, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. WELCH, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. STRICKLAND, and Ms. JAYAPAL.

H.R. 1255: Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. POSEY, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. PORTER, Mr. TONKO, Ms. WILD, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. GOHMERT, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 1297: Mr. STEIL.

H.R. 1304: Mr. MOULTON, Mrs. WAGNER, and Mr. CUELLAR.

H.R. 1320: Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. BASS, Ms. CHU, Mr. MALINOWSKI,

Ms. BROWNLEY, and Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H.R. 1455: Ms. WILD.

H.R. 1527: Mrs. MURPHY of Florida and Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.

H.R. 1531: Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 1539: Ms. SPANBERGER.

H.R. 1541: Ms. SPANBERGER.

H.R. 1553: Mr. BACON.

H.R. 1580: Mrs. LESKO.

H.R. 1592: Mr. NEWHOUSE.

H.R. 1593: Mr. STEIL and Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 1697: Ms. ROSS.

H.R. 1735: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. DELGADO, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. RYAN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, and Ms. MANNING.

H.R. 1749: Mr. COLE.

H.R. 1758: Mr. ROSENDALE and Mr. GOOD of Virginia.

H.R. 1788: Mr. SWALWELL.

H.R. 1800: Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 1861: Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. SMUCKER, and Mr. STEIL.

H.R. 1888: Mr. YOUNG.

H.R. 1916: Mr. HARRIS and Mr. CRAWFORD.

H.R. 1926: Mr. ROY.

H.R. 1927: Mr. ROY.

H.R. 1946: Ms. DEAN and Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 1959: Mr. SIRES.

H.R. 1978: Mr. MULLIN, Mr. KINZINGER, and Mr. SCHRADER.

H.R. 2035: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 2049: Mr. SCHRADER.

H.R. 2059: Mr. TURNER.

H.R. 2060: Mr. CLEAVER and Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 2062: Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. DEAN, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. ROSS, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. KIND.

H.R. 2063: Mr. FERGUSON and Mr. LOUDERMILK.

H.R. 2067: Mr. GARBARINO.

H.R. 2079: Mr. PAYNE and Mr. GUEST.

H.R. 2107: Mrs. DEMINGS and Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.

H.R. 2125: Mr. GALLEGO and Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 2126: Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. EVANS, and Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 2137: Mr. BACON and Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 2138: Mr. TRONE.

H.R. 2139: Ms. WATERS, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, and Mr. JONES.

H.R. 2143: Mr. EVANS and Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 2146: Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.

H.R. 2163: Mr. PENCE, Ms. BOURDEAUX, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. KINZINGER, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. TRONE, Mr. COHEN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. CHENEY, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. BACON, Mr. LAMB, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. RUSH, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. PORTER, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. TONKO, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. MACE, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. COLE, and Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio.

H.R. 2184: Ms. MENG, Ms. BONAMICI, and Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 2213: Ms. SPANBERGER.

H.R. 2214: Ms. STRICKLAND, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, and Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.

H.R. 2225: Mrs. KIM of California, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, and Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio.

H.R. 2226: Mr. BROWN.

H.R. 2234: Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 2244: Mr. PANETTA, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. PAPPAS, and Mr. MOONEY.

H.R. 2249: Mr. NEAL and Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.

H.R. 2256: Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 2294: Mr. UPTON.

H.R. 2316: Mr. MOORE of Alabama and Mr. NORMAN.

H.R. 2321: Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio.

H.R. 2373: Mrs. AXNE.

H.R. 2424: Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 2446: Mr. GAETZ.

H.R. 2460: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.

H.R. 2466: Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 2467: Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 2499: Mr. HARDER of California and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 2558: Mr. JACKSON and Mr. LATURNER.

H.R. 2561: Mr. KUSTOFF.

H.R. 2583: Mr. NEGUSE and Ms. STEFANIK.

H.R. 2589: Ms. BARRAGÁN.

H.R. 2639: Ms. SALAZAR.

H.R. 2646: Mr. JACKSON.

H.R. 2650: Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 2689: Ms. STRICKLAND.

H.R. 2728: Mr. PFLUGER and Mr. ROY.

H.R. 2742: Mr. AGUILAR.

H.R. 2759: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS.

H.R. 2773: Ms. WILD, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 2785: Mrs. AXNE.

H.R. 2811: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 2817: Ms. BARRAGÁN.

H.R. 2837: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, and Mr. SIRES.

H.R. 2901: Mr. FERGUSON and Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 2903: Mr. KIND, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. CHU, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. PASCRELL, and Mr. BEYER.

H.R. 2919: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS.

H.R. 2920: Mr. VEASEY.

H.R. 3001: Mr. POSEY, Ms. CRAIG, and Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 3021: Mr. MEUSER.

H.R. 3031: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 3036: Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 3056: Mr. LEVIN of California.

H.R. 3057: Mr. BABIN.

H.R. 3085: Mr. DUNCAN.

H.R. 3095: Ms. WEXTON, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. KIND, Mr. HERN, Mr. CROW, Ms. WILD, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 3100: Mr. NADLER, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. BUSH, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 3104: Mr. GROTHMAN.

H.R. 3148: Mr. ROUZER.

H.R. 3187: Mr. LIEU.

H.R. 3228: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.

H.R. 3256: Mr. HARRIS.

H.R. 3269: Mr. CAWTHORN.

H.R. 3281: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 3285: Mr. CASE.

H.R. 3304: Mr. PAPPAS.

H.R. 3314: Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.

H.R. 3353: Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. SOTO, Mr. VAN DREW, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. COOPER, Mr. BACON, Mr. KIND, Mr. GUEST, Mr. TONKO, Mr. LUCAS, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mrs. LESKO, and Mr. LAMB.

H.R. 3362: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 3369: Mr. FLEISCHMANN.

H.R. 3385: Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. STANTON, and Mr. VEASEY.

H.R. 3437: Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H.R. 3461: Mr. POSEY, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. SCHRADER.

H.R. 3472: Mr. MANN.

H.R. 3482: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. SALAZAR, and Mr. TURNER.

H.R. 3488: Mr. CARBAJAL and Mr. KIM of New Jersey.

H.R. 3496: Mr. COLE.

H.R. 3512: Mr. KAHELE and Ms. STRICKLAND.

H.R. 3518: Mrs. HAYES, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 3537: Mr. GIBBS, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. OWENS, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. WENSTRUP, Ms. JACOBS of California, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 3554: Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. KUSTOFF, and Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 3565: Ms. SPANBERGER.

H.R. 3572: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS.

H.R. 3580: Mr. JONES, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. MENG, and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 3586: Ms. TITUS, Mr. WELCH, Ms. MENG, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. CASE, Mr. SIRES, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. WILD, and Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 3627: Mr. KELLY of Mississippi.

H.R. 3637: Mr. DELGADO.

H.R. 3666: Mr. CALVERT and Mr. JACOBS of New York.

H.R. 3684: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.

H.R. 3685: Mr. VARGAS, Mr. STEIL, Mr. ROSE, Mr. OWENS, and Ms. MACE.

H.R. 3704: Mrs. CAMMACK.

H.R. 3710: Mr. COMER.

H.R. 3728: Mr. MALINOWSKI.

H.R. 3746: Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mrs. AXNE, and Mr. LAHOOD.

H.R. 3770: Mr. BERGMAN.

H.R. 3782: Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 3793: Mr. BACON.

H.R. 3796: Mr. PFLUGER.

H.R. 3807: Mr. AGUILAR, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. BERA, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CARSON, Ms. CHU, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COOPER, Mr. COSTA, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEAN, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. HERN, Ms. JACOBS of California, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. JONES, Mr. KEATING, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KIND, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. LAMB, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. LURIA, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. POCAN, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. ROSS, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. RUSH, Mr. RYAN, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. SCHRIER, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. SIRES, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. TRONE, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WEXTON, Ms. WILD, and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.

H.R. 3811: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Ms. TENNEY.

H.R. 3816: Mr. DONALDS.

H.R. 3820: Mr. ARMSTRONG.

H.R. 3825: Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 3835: Ms. SPANBERGER and Mr. CAWTHORN.

H.R. 3843: Mr. DONALDS and Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 3849: Mr. DONALDS.
H.R. 3853: Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 3870: Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 3880: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 3882: Mr. JACKSON.
H.R. 3897: Ms. MACE.
H.R. 3901: Mrs. BOEBERT and Mrs. MILLER of Illinois.
H.R. 3917: Mr. NEWHOUSE.
H.R. 3922: Mr. BABIN, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. CLINE, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. JACKSON, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. GROTHMAN, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H.J. Res. 50: Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. DUNN, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. LAMBORN.
H.J. Res. 51: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. HICE of Georgia, and Mr. FORTENBERRY.
H. Res. 118: Ms. DEAN.
H. Res. 268: Mrs. HARTZLER and Mr. BURGESS.
H. Res. 289: Mr. WENSTRUP.
H. Res. 305: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H. Res. 318: Mr. ISSA.
H. Res. 344: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H. Res. 396: Mrs. HARTZLER.
H. Res. 417: Mr. ALLEN.
H. Res. 431: Mr. SESSIONS.
H. Res. 465: Ms. NORTON.
H. Res. 471: Ms. SPANBERGER and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H. Res. 474: Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. CARL, Mr. CAWTHORN, Mr. VAN DREW, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. BABIN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. LAMBORN.

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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 167 WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 2021 No. 105

Senate

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ALEX PADILLA, a Senator from the State of California.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, who rules the raging of the sea, thank You for being our constant source of strength.

Lord, You know our limitations and how our weaknesses can distort the clarity with which we should see Your providence unfolding.

Continue to lead our Senators. Direct their steps to the destinations of Your choosing. Open their ears, O God, so that they can hear Your voice calling them to attempt great things.

Though Your path may take them through the night, empower them to persevere until the morning comes.

We pray in Your great 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 16, 2021.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ALEX PADILLA, a Senator from the State of California, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. PADILLA 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.

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 Radhika Fox, of California, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

SENATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, Senators are moving forward this week on two major legislative initiatives: infrastructure and voting rights.

Bipartisan infrastructure talks continue in our Senate committees and among our Members.

Remember, discussions about infrastructure, both physical and human, are proceeding along two tracks. The first track is bipartisan, and I understand there has been some progress. The second track pulls in elements of President Biden's American Jobs and Families Plan and will be considered by the Senate even if it does not have bipartisan support.

Today, we are going to start moving the trains down the second track. I will convene a meeting with all the Members of the majority party on the Senate Budget Committee to begin the important work of producing a budget resolution for the Senate to consider. This is something we have planned for quite a while, but we are moving forward today after having individual discussions which I have had with many members of the Budget Committee.

It is a diverse committee. Senator SANDERS is the Chair. Senators WARNER and KAINE are on it as well.

There are many items to discuss, but one subject is not up to debate. I will instruct members to ensure that any budget resolution puts the United States on track to reduce carbon pollution at a scale commensurate with the climate crisis. We need significant reductions in emissions through clean energy and electric vehicles, as well as funding to help manufacturers and farmers be a part of the solution in fighting climate change.

The American Families Plan, as well, is essential to the forthcoming budget resolution and must be robustly funded.

The Senate will also vote on major voting rights legislation before the end of June.

Yesterday, the Democratic caucus hosted a group of Democratic lawmakers from Texas who led the dramatic walkout to prevent the Texas Republican legislators from passing one of the most draconian voting laws in our country. It was a powerful meeting. We heard moving testimony from five different lawmakers about the vicious, nasty, even bigoted attacks against voting rights in their State.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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The actions taken were totally partisan, just like those in all the other legislatures. So the idea that this can have some kind of bipartisan solution befuddles me, because every action taken in the legislature is done just with Republican State Senators, Republican assembly members, with no Democratic participation or input. In fact, the Texas legislators told us they were deliberately excluded from certain meetings and conference committee hearings.

Speaking for our caucus, we were all taken by the courage of the Texas legislators, their fortitude, and, most importantly, by their mission to defend the right of every American to be able to access the ballot, not just in Texas but across the country. These lawmakers in one State put everything on the line to protect voting rights in their State. The Senate should put everything on the line to protect voting rights in this country.

Now, tomorrow, Senate Democrats will hold another special caucus meeting to continue discussing the best path forward to achieve voting rights legislation.

AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF MILITARY FORCE

Mr. President, 2 days ago, the Biden administration became the first administration since the beginning of the Iraq war to support repealing the authorization for the use of military force in Iraq, passed in 2002 and now in effect for 19 years.

The Iraq war has been over for nearly a decade. An authorization passed in 2002 is no longer necessary in 2021. It has been nearly 10 years since this particular authorization has been cited as a primary justification for military operations. It no longer serves a vital purpose in our fight against violent extremists in the Middle East.

So I strongly and fully support repealing the 2002 authorization for the use of military force in Iraq. This is the first time I am formally announcing my support for repeal.

I want to be clear. In no way will America abandon our relationship with Iraq and its people as they rebuild their country after years of war in our shared fight against ISIS, but there are very good reasons to repeal the specific legal authority.

For example, it will eliminate the danger of a future administration reaching back into the legal dustbin to use it as a justification for military adventurism. At the beginning of last year, we saw that danger become frightfully real when President Trump ordered an airstrike against an Iranian target in Iraq without transparency, without proper notification to Congress, and without a clear strategy. President Trump cited the 2002 AUMF as partial justification, ex-post facto—a claim that legal scholars and foreign policy experts resoundingly rejected. There is no good reason to allow this legal authority to persist in case another reckless Commander in Chief tries the same trick in the future.

Tomorrow, the House of Representatives will vote on whether to formally repeal the authorization. Next week, Chairman MENENDEZ and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will mark up a resolution led by Senators YOUNG and KAINE which will repeal the Iraq war AUMF. It is my intention, as majority leader, to bring this matter to a floor vote this year, and we will discuss the precise timing with Chairman MENENDEZ.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, sometimes good news comes to those who wait. Other times, it comes rather quickly. Earlier this year, I recommended to President Biden a prominent voting rights attorney for a key position on the Federal Bench in New York.

Yesterday, President Biden agreed with my recommendation and announced his intention to formally nominate Myrna Perez for the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. I am very pleased that the President has chosen her and am proud to have championed her candidacy.

Ms. Perez is not only an accomplished attorney who has dedicated her career to equal justice under the law, but she is one of the Nation's foremost experts on voting rights and elections. With a national focus on voting rights now, it is a significant step to elevate Ms. Perez to the Federal Bench.

Beyond that important exercise, she would also be the first Latina to serve on the Second Circuit Court since now-Justice Sonia Sotomayor—who, incidentally, I suggested to President Obama that he put her on the Supreme Court. Ms. Perez is a perfect example of Democrats' desire to bring balance, experience, and professional and personal diversity back to the judiciary.

So far this year, I have made two recommendations to the Second Circuit in New York: Ms. Eunice Lee, a former Federal defender, and now Ms. Perez, a voting rights attorney.

The cupboards of the Federal judiciary have long been stocked with former prosecutors and corporate lawyers. It is about time that civil rights attorneys, voting rights attorneys, and Federal defenders like these two outstanding nominees join the ranks.

So, again, I applaud President Biden's decision. It is a very bright day for the future of the Federal Bench in New York.

I yield the floor.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Key economic indicators continue to show that our Nation's recovery is still facing significant head winds.

Last week, we learned that inflation has logged its steepest increase since the 2008 financial crisis. There are more unfilled jobs in America than at any point on record, and, when asked, more than 90 percent of the small business owners trying to fill them say they are having trouble finding qualified candidates.

So how did we get here?

When COVID–19 arrived last spring, emergency shutdowns put the brakes on what had become a roaring economy. The pro-growth agenda enacted by Republicans had helped drive unemployment to its lowest level in a half-century. Take-home pay was rising and rising fastest for lower earners, and millions of new workers were coming off the sidelines to join a competitive market for American talent.

The past year presented harsh new challenges, but thanks to the bravery of frontline workers, the genius of scientists, and targeted, bipartisan relief measures passed here in Congress, our Nation was beginning to turn the corner.

The Biden administration actually inherited the conditions for success. It had a bipartisan roadmap of how best to support our economic recovery.

Alas, but instead, the Democrats chose to ram through trillions of dollars in liberal pet projects—a relative pittance for actual pandemic relief and a massive expansion of Federal unemployment benefits that has made staying home the most sensible financial decision for literally millions of American workers.

As one pair of economists put it recently, ''The stimulus bill stimulated unemployment, not employment.'' To be specific, their analysis found it created conditions in at least 19 States where a family of four could claim the equivalent of a six-figure salary by staying out of the workforce.

Let me say that again. One recent study found that in 19 States, a family of four, with two working parents, would have had to earn at an annual rate of more than $100,000 from working for it to make financial sense not to stay home. In 19 States, it made more sense to stay home than to go back to work.

But burying American workers in incentives to stay home hasn't just hurt rehiring; it has also magnified supply shortages. A few months back, the recovery made possible by bipartisan action last year had our economy geared up for a rush of consumer spending, but today, short-staffed producers are having to pass the rising costs on to households just as this rush was set to ramp up.

A tough year forced American families to put off some big purchases, but now they are facing some of the worst sticker shock in a generation. Used car

prices are 30 percent higher than last year, and the cost of some home appliances has spiked nearly as much. Everyday essentials are getting pricier too. Milk is up 7 percent, and gas has jumped by more that 50 percent.

Consumers are feeling the real cost of what the White House Chief of Staff called ''the most progressive domestic legislation in a generation.'' But it didn't have to be this way. These are exactly the conditions economists have been writing about and warning about for months.

Back in March, the Washington Post ran an ominous line:

> For policy experts and even members of Biden's own party, the improving picture is raising questions about whether the stimulus bill is mismatched—

Mismatched—

> to the needs of the current moment.

Sure enough, not just any member of the President's party but a top economist under both the last two Democratic administrations, Larry Summers, cautioned even earlier that a massive spending plan like the one Democrats were proposing could ''set off inflationary pressures of a kind we have not seen in a generation.'' Prescient, to say the least. That is exactly what has happened.

These exact fears have been realized, and experts are still clear about the source of the problem. ''Labor shortages are the last thing that we need'' with inflation on the rise. Until very recently, the White House has been unwilling to connect these dots.

States have been on their own to turn off the perverse incentives driving the shortages. To date, 25 States have done so, announcing suspensions of excessive Federal unemployment supplements. But across the country, Main Street has already been feeling the pinch.

In my State of Kentucky, the consequences of Democrats' misguided spending are growing more serious. Small business owners in particular are nearing a breaking point. One restaurant owner in Clark County wrote to me to say that ''each week it gets harder to create a full schedule. Restaurants are already reducing hours of operation. Next will come closing.''

I have heard the same story from constituents all over the Commonwealth. A sign manufacturer in Woodford County had to ask his staff to work as many as 10 hours of overtime each week just to keep up with demand. An outdoor supplies maker in McCracken County saw shipping costs quadruple in the past year. He can't find a prospective employee who will even show up for an interview. He can't even find a prospective employee who will show up for an interview. After 25 years of production, he is facing the prospect that his company may not be able to stay afloat.

The Commonwealth still has 90,000 fewer workers than we did before the pandemic. In the past year, the Consumer Price Index in Kentucky and surrounding States has increased by a whopping 7 percent. The recovery teed up by smart, targeted, bipartisan policies last year has been buried under an ill-advised, self-inflicted avalanche—avalanche—of spending. Folks in Kentucky know all too well what happens when Democrats get carried away here in Washington. They know who ends up footing the bill back home.

Higher prices at the gas pump and the grocery store, just as families were hoping to put a year of sacrifices in the rearview mirror—these are the real-world effects of the Biden administration's multitrillion-dollar economic debacle. These are the effects that Republicans and nonpartisan experts have warned about literally for months.

The American people are, nevertheless, resilient. Job creators, innovators, and skilled workers are ready. But as our economy slowly gets back up to speed, it certainly won't be because Democrats stroked an outsized check; it will be in spite of it.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RUSSIA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today President Biden had the first of his meetings with Russian President Vladimir Putin. He certainly has many important messages to convey to Mr. Putin about ongoing cyber attacks against us and our allies, the murdering of peaceful political opponents, and potential areas where we may be able to work together to deal with nuclear proliferation. The important discussion comes after several days where President Biden reaffirmed our relationship with our most important allies, those in the G7 and NATO. There were important announcements about leading the global COVID vaccine effort and standing up to the outrages perpetrated by nations around the world. But perhaps what was most important was that President Biden reasserted America's role as a leading champion of democracy, security, and international norms.

I hope this spells an end—and I believe it does—of the unimaginable events that occurred in the previous administration: Coddling a foreign dictator such as Putin, dismissing our closest allies, and threatening the critical North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

President Biden knows that America's leadership and its example are critical in leading shared efforts to stop this pandemic, tackle climate change, push back on rogue nations, and maintain global norms of behavior. President Biden also knows that how we manage our democracy here at home affects our ability to lead abroad.

The last administration bullied our allies, who watched in disbelief as it cozied up to the autocrats around the world. I have often said that a great deal of America's influence around the world comes from the power of its ideals and values—critical and precious assets that we must nurture and never take for granted.

Our historic peaceful transfer of power has been a marvel for generations for much of the world. I will never forget the power and emotion felt walking with my friend the late Senator John McCain through Ukraine's Maidan square, looking at the makeshift memorials to those who lost their lives hoping for a free and democratic Ukraine.

John McCain once said:

> America's greatest strength has always been its hopeful vision of human progress.

I couldn't agree more. I couldn't be more proud that President Biden is reaffirming this belief on the world stage this week. So let me take this moment to commend the President and his team for a timely, critical, and important visit with international allies and adversaries in recent days. It won't solve all the problems we face, but we can be proud of this example of American leadership, generosity, and decency.

JUNETEENTH

Mr. President, this Saturday is Juneteenth, the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the end of slavery in America. Our Founders were brilliant and brave about many, many things, but they lacked the wisdom, perhaps the courage, maybe even the resolve, to face a poisonous contradiction at the heart of our new Nation. How could this Nation, founded on the belief that all people are created equal, condone and allow human slavery? Many of our Founding Fathers owned slaves themselves.

Eighty-five years after our founding, that unresolved contradiction plunged America into civil war. Halfway through that war, President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that all persons held in bondage in rebellious States ''are, and henceforth shall be free.''

His action meant little to most enslaved people in America. Most of those held in bondage didn't gain freedom for another 2 years after the Civil War ended. For the 250,000 men, women, and children enslaved in the State of Texas, the wait was even longer. They learned of their freedom on June 19, 1865, 2 months after the Civil War ended, when Army MG Gordon Granger and 2,000 Union troops marched into Galveston, TX, with orders to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation.

One year later, African Americans in Galveston held America's first Juneteenth celebration to commemorate that moment when they knew of the end of slavery in America. Formerly enslaved people wore their finest clothes, read the Emancipation Proclamation, and prayed together.

Later, as African Americans in Galveston and other parts of the South joined the great migration north, they carried that Juneteenth memory with them, giving the celebration new roots in Chicago, Los Angeles, and scores of other cities.

Today, Juneteenth is celebrated as a State holiday or day of observance in 47 States, including my State of Illinois and in the District of Columbia.

Yesterday, this Senate approved unanimously the resolution honoring Juneteenth as a national day of reflection and celebration. In this moment in time in our divided Nation, that unanimous recognition of the importance of Juneteenth is a balm to our national soul.

FILIBUSTER

As America prepares to celebrate Juneteenth 2021, we must also remember that the ''absolute equality,'' promised at that first Juneteenth in 1865, has too often been denied to African Americans.

Just a year after the Civil War ended, Southern States enacted the ''Black Codes,'' State laws meant to preserve White supremacy. In response, Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1866 and the 14th and 15th Amendments to the Constitution, guaranteeing African Americans due process of law and Black men the right to vote.

Unbowed, Southern States invented Jim Crow laws, creating new hurdles to voting and participation that made it nearly impossible for many African Americans to exercise their voting rights and other basic rights of citizenship.

As the great activist W.E.B. DuBois wrote in his essay ''Black Reconstruction in America,'' ''The slave went free; stood a brief moment in the sun and moved back down again toward slavery.''

This betrayal of the promise of freedom for African Americans was possible, in part, because of misguided Court decisions by the Supreme Court, especially the infamous 1896 Plessy v. Ferguson ruling, which enshrined the concept of ''separate but equal.'' That odious decision stood for more than 50 years as the law of the land, making racial discrimination both legal and enforceable.

The betrayal of equality for African Americans also was abetted by southern segregationist Senators who wielded the filibuster as a weapon for decades to stop civil rights measures in Congress.

I know our Senate minority leader and some of his colleagues on the other side get upset when anyone utters the words ''filibuster'' and ''Jim Crow'' too close together. They insist that the filibuster has nothing to do with race. Well, history, in fact, proves otherwise.

Historian Sarah Binder is a leading expert on the filibuster. According to her analysis, of the 30 measures between 1917 and 1994 that were killed on this Senate floor by the filibuster, ''exactly half addressed [the issue of] civil rights . . . including measures to authorize Federal investigation and prosecution of lynching, [banning] the imposition of poll taxes, and [prohibiting] discrimination on the basis of race and housing.'' That total doesn't count other major civil rights measures, such as the Civil Rights Acts of 1967 and 1964, which passed only after lengthy filibusters by segregationist Senators.

Today, Senator MCCONNELL is vowing to use the filibuster, if necessary, to protect a flood of new State voting laws that are as racially discriminatory as we have seen since the Voting Rights Act of 1965 officially barred Jim Crow from American elections. After record numbers of Americans braved a deadly pandemic to vote in the 2020 elections, Republican-controlled State legislatures are rushing to pass new laws to make it harder—not easier, harder—for millions of Americans to vote, especially people of color.

Supporters of these new voter suppression laws cite the Big Lie as their justification, Donald Trump's dangerous, discredited claim that the 2020 Presidential election was somehow stolen from him. That Big Lie has been rejected by State election officials of both parties, by our Nation's top election security experts, and by every Federal judge it has faced, including several appointed by President Trump himself. Sixty times President Trump went to Federal courts with his Big Lie, and 60 times he lost.

Despite all of that, Senator MCCONNELL and many of our Republican colleagues have vowed to filibuster our measure, known as the For the People Act, which includes provisions to protect voting rights, defend the integrity of elections, prevent billionaires from buying elections, and strengthening ethics.

Their opposition to protecting the right to vote doesn't end there. Senator MCCONNELL has also said he will oppose the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, a bill that Senator LEAHY and I are working on in the Senate Judiciary Committee, that would restore and strengthen the protections of the Voting Rights Act.

I will say this. In all fairness to the minority leader, his use of the filibuster is not limited to matters of civil rights and racial justice. Senator MCCONNELL has transformed the filibuster from a rarely used tactic to a weapon of frequent mass obstruction.

When Barack Obama was elected President in 2008, our Nation was teetering on the edge of a second Great Depression, and Senator MCCONNELL said his top priority was to make President Obama ''a one-term President.'' Not to rescue the economy—no, that wasn't his top priority. Not to help people who had lost their homes or business. Senator MCCONNELL's No. 1 priority was to make President Obama a one-term President. He would do that by dramatically increasing the use of filibusters in order to deny the new President every possible achievement.

Fast-forward to this year. President Biden is sworn in during an epidemic that has killed hundreds of thousands of Americans and sent our economy into deep recession, and Senator MCCONNELL was quoted again saying: ''100 percent of our focus is on stopping this new Administration.'' Not stopping the virus nor the economic devastation we are facing, but stopping the new administration. Again, the weapon of choice for Senator MCCONNELL is the filibuster.

Three weeks ago, 42 Republican Senators stood with Senator MCCONNELL and filibustered a bill to create an independent, bipartisan commission to investigate the deadly January 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol. This independent Commission's mission would have been to examine the attack on the Capitol and the events leading up to it. Fifty-six Senators, a clear majority, supported creation of the January 6 Commission. It wasn't enough. We needed 60 votes. Senator MCCONNELL's filibuster prevailed again.

For those who argue that the filibuster encourages bipartisan cooperation, let me tell you: The January 6 Commission bill was the result of intense bipartisan compromise. Negotiations were worked out by top Republicans and Democrats in the House, and it was filibustered by Senator MCCONNELL regardless.

The Commission would have been more comprehensive and less political than the inquiries into the insurrection being conducted by congressional committees. Like the 9/11 Commission, the January 6 Commission would have subpoena authority to get to the truth.

For a short while, Senator MCCONNELL said he would keep an open mind about whether to support the bill. The night before the House voted to create the Commission, however, former President Donald Trump posted a screed on his blog denouncing the Commission as a ''Democratic Trap.'' That was all Senator MCCONNELL needed to hear. The former President demanded that Republicans reject the Commission and added: ''MITCH MCCONNELL and KEVIN MCCARTHY, I hope you're listening.'' Well, it turns out that they were.

The next day—after 35 House Republicans joined Democrats to create this January 6 Commission—Senator MCCONNELL announced that he was going to filibuster it and oppose it. He asked members of his caucus, as a personal favor, to support his filibuster of the January 6 Commission.

This is where the abuse of the filibuster has brought us. We aren't able to break through the partisan gridlock even to investigate the worst attack on the Capitol of the United States of America in more than 200 years. How can anyone believe, after that shameful vote, that protecting the filibuster as it is currently misused is protecting our democracy? Cynical, overuse of the filibuster imperils our democracy. There has got to be a better way.

Contrary to Senate myth, the filibuster is not in our Constitution—just the opposite. The man who wrote that Constitution knew well how requiring supermajorities for routine bills had doomed the Articles of Confederation. They deliberately rejected a supermajority requirement for common legislation when they wrote the Constitution.

Defenders say the filibuster encourages bipartisan compromise. Look around you. Does anyone really believe for a minute that this is the new golden age of bipartisan compromise in the Senate?

There are proposals to mend the filibuster. We could bring back a talking filibuster. We all remember the movie ''Mr. SMITH Goes to Washington,'' where he withered and fell to the floor at his desk carrying on an endless filibuster. It isn't that way any longer. Senators now can start a filibuster with a phone call and head home for the weekend. That is not what the filibuster was designed for. If a Senator feels strongly enough about an issue to grind the Senate to a halt, they should be willing to stand up and speak their mind and stay on the Senate floor.

Some have proposed changing the number of votes needed to end debate, possibly lowering the 60-vote requirement for cloture to 55. That is a precedent that at least is consistent with historical trends, but leaders of both parties need to agree on it.

I am willing to consider any reasonable plan that promotes genuine bipartisan cooperation and ends the tyranny of the minority. What we cannot do is nothing.

After a minority of Senators used the filibuster to prevent—for now—the creation of the January 6 Commission, we all went home for a long Memorial Day weekend. On my flight home and all that weekend, I thought of the young men who stormed the beaches of Normandy on D-day, running straight into enemy fire, knowing well that they might die to preserve democracy. And many of them did. Now we see Members of the Senate routinely abusing the filibuster because they are afraid to face an unpleasant vote or an angry insult from Donald Trump. Surely, we are better and braver than this.

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

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The 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. 148, Radhika Fox, of California, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Charles E. Schumer, Thomas R. Carper, Jacky Rosen, John Hickenlooper, Tammy Baldwin, Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Raphael Warnock, Chris Van Hollen, Martin Heinrich, Christopher Murphy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Bernard Sanders, Jeff Merkley, Patty Murray, Margaret Wood Hassan.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Radhika Fox, of California, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

(Mr. DURBIN assumed the Chair.)

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COONS). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote or change their vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 55, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 234 Ex.]

YEAS—55

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Brown	Hyde-Smith	Schatz
Burr	Kaine	Schumer
Cantwell	Kelly	Shaheen
Cardin	King	Sinema
Carper	Klobuchar	Smith
Casey	Leahy	Stabenow
Collins	Luján	Tester
Coons	Manchin	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Markey	Warner
Cramer	Menendez	Warnock
Duckworth	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murphy	Wicker
Gillibrand	Murray	Wyden
Graham	Ossoff	
Hassan	Padilla	

NAYS—43

Barrasso	Hagerty	Romney
Blackburn	Hawley	Rounds
Blunt	Hoeven	Rubio
Boozman	Inhofe	Sasse
Braun	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Capito	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Lankford	Shelby
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cotton	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tillis
Cruz	McConnell	Toomey
Daines	Moran	Tuberville
Ernst	Paul	Young
Fischer	Portman	
Grassley	Risch	

NOT VOTING—2

Booker	Peters

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas are 55, the nays are 43.

The motion is agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The 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. 173, Lydia Kay Griggsby, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Benjamin L. Cardin, Chris Van Hollen, Jacky Rosen, John Hickenlooper, Tammy Baldwin, Richard Blumenthal, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Raphael Warnock, Martin Heinrich, Christopher Murphy, Bernard Sanders, Jeff Merkley, Patty Murray, Margaret Wood Hassan.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Lydia Kay Griggsby, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 57, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 235 Ex.]

YEAS—57

Baldwin	Graham	Ossoff
Bennet	Grassley	Padilla
Blumenthal	Hassan	Reed
Brown	Heinrich	Romney
Burr	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Cantwell	Hirono	Sanders
Capito	Kaine	Schatz
Cardin	Kelly	Schumer
Carper	King	Shaheen
Casey	Klobuchar	Sinema
Collins	Leahy	Smith
Coons	Luján	Stabenow
Cornyn	Manchin	Tester
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Menendez	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warnock
Ernst	Murkowski	Warren
Feinstein	Murphy	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murray	Wyden

NAYS—41

Barrasso	Hoeven	Rounds
Blackburn	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Blunt	Inhofe	Sasse
Boozman	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Braun	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Lankford	Shelby
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cramer	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tillis
Cruz	McConnell	Toomey
Daines	Moran	Tuberville
Fischer	Paul	Wicker
Hagerty	Portman	Young
Hawley	Risch	

NOT VOTING—2

Booker	Peters

(Mr. BENNET assumed the Chair.)

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. On this vote, the yeas are 57, and the nays are 41.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Lydia Kay Griggsby, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Maryland.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture vote with respect to the nomination of Tommy P. Beaudreau, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior, occur following the disposition of the Griggsby nomination.

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

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, this means that there will be three rollcall votes beginning at 3:15 p.m. this afternoon.

NOMINATION OF LYDIA KAY GRIGGSBY

Mr. President, today I rise to speak on the nomination of U.S. Court of Federal Claims Judge Lydia Griggsby to be U.S. district judge for the District of Maryland. We just invoked cloture, and we will be voting on that nomination this afternoon.

Judge Griggsby was favorably reported by a bipartisan vote of the Committee on the Judiciary on June 10. I had recommended Judge Griggsby, along with Senator VAN HOLLEN, to President Biden, and I strongly support this nomination.

Judge Griggsby has been nominated to fill the current vacancy created when Judge Catherine Blake, appointed by President Clinton in 1995, announced her intention to take senior status on April 2. President Biden nominated Judge Griggsby to this position on March 30, and the Judiciary Committee held her confirmation hearing on May 12.

Shortly after the November 2020 elections, I worked with Senator VAN HOLLEN to establish a judicial selection committee in Maryland. We used an open application process with a public advertisement and communicated and worked closely with the State, local, and specialty bar associations in Maryland.

In particular, we sought out a highly qualified and diverse application pool. Our committee interviewed everyone who submitted an application, which involved several dozen interviews. Senator VAN HOLLEN and I then personally interviewed several finalists before recommending names to the White House.

The White House Counsel asked Senators to propose talented individuals who would bring to these critically important roles a wide range of life and professional experiences, including those based on their race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, veteran status, and disability.

I would call my colleagues' attention to a recent Washington Post article entitled ''President Biden Has Nominated as Many Minority Women to Be Judges in Four Months as Trump Had Confirmed in Four Years.'' Having judges with a broad range of backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives makes our Federal bench more diverse and better representative of the communities they serve, which builds greater public trust in the judiciary.

Instead of giving a formal introduction to my colleagues of Judge Griggsby today, we should really say ''welcome home'' to Judge Griggsby. When I first was elected to the Senate, I served on the Judiciary Committee, and my staff and I were pleased to work with then-Chief Counsel Griggsby.

She was born in Baltimore and went to high school in Baltimore.

At that time, Judge Griggsby served, when she was here, with Chairman PATRICK LEAHY's Judiciary Committee staff as his expert on privacy and information policy.

Judge Griggsby went on to serve for 7 years as a judge on the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, which has national jurisdiction to hear complex monetary damages claims against the Federal Government. Judge Griggsby was confirmed to her current position by a voice vote of the Senate in 2014.

Judge Griggsby is a lifelong Marylander who was born in Baltimore, a graduate of the Park School, and she has been a mentor at the Baltimore Leadership School for Young Women. She received her B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania and her J.D. from Georgetown Law School. She was an associate at DLA Piper before beginning her government service as a trial attorney in the Civil Division at the U.S. Department of Justice.

She then became an assistant U.S. attorney in the District of Columbia. Judge Griggsby later transitioned to Capitol Hill, serving as a counsel on the Senate Select Committee on Ethics before beginning her work with Senator LEAHY on the Judiciary Committee. I am so pleased that Judge Griggsby brings such a wide array of professional experience from the first two branches of government as she prepares to assume a new role in our third branch of government.

In particular, I would note that as an assistant U.S. attorney, she helped secure a $20 million settlement against Toyota for selling vehicles that violated the Clean Air Act. She also held two of Washington, DC's largest property managers accountable for failing to disclose lead-based paint hazards in the buildings.

If confirmed by the Senate, I would note that Judge Griggsby would be the first Black woman and first woman of color to serve as a Federal judge on our bench in Maryland in our State's history, and it is about time. The American Bar Association's Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary gave Judge Griggsby its highest rating—unanimously ''well qualified''—after evaluating her integrity, professional experience, and judicial temperament.

I was delighted to recommend the nomination of Judge Griggsby to President Biden, along with Senator VAN HOLLEN.

Judicial nominees must meet the highest standards of integrity, competency, and temperament. Judge Griggsby will safeguard the rights of all, uphold the Constitution and rule of law, and faithfully follow the judicial oath to do equal right to the poor and to the rich.

So I urge my colleagues to vote to confirm Judge Griggsby, who I believe will be an outstanding member of the Federal bench. She is already a sitting Federal judge on the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, and I look forward to her continued public service, serving all the people of our Nation as a Federal district judge.

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.

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

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

JUNETEENTH

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Maryland. I rise today in gratitude because last night the Senate put us one step forward to finally making Juneteenth a Federal holiday.

Juneteenth is our Nation's oldest celebration of emancipation, and it should have been established as a Federal holiday long ago. So I am glad that yesterday the Senate passed our bill, with Senator MARKEY and Senator BOOKER, the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, by unanimous consent.

The end of slavery in this country is a central milestone in our history, and Juneteenth should be commemorated nationwide as a day of celebration and reflection and rededication to the cause of racial justice in this country.

I am forever grateful to the generations of activists who made this possible, and, in particular, I want to thank Ms. Opal Lee, who at 89 years old walked halfway across this country to rise in support of Juneteenth as a Federal holiday.

Yesterday, I had the opportunity to call Ms. Lee, now in her nineties, after this bill cleared the Senate, and I wish you could have heard the sound of joy in her voice when I told her the good news. This is a memory that I know I am going to treasure for the rest of my life.

So to Ms. Lee, if you are listening here today, I want to tell you that I have been honored to support your moral cause here in the Senate, and I hope to celebrate Juneteenth as an official Federal holiday with you soon.

I also want to thank my colleagues, especially Senator MARKEY and Senators BOOKER and WARNOCK, for their

leadership on these efforts, as well as Senator CORNYN and Representative SHEILA JACKSON LEE, for their work to get this over the finish line. When it passed last night, we had over 60 bipartisan cosponsors, and I am grateful to all of them and all of you for your support.

So commemorating Juneteenth as a Federal holiday is an encouraging and meaningful step, but we have so much farther to go on the path toward justice. Let's use this victory to build momentum for the systemic change that we need—protecting voting rights and safeguarding our democracy, passing meaningful policing and criminal justice reform, pursuing economic and environmental justice, and working toward a more just and equitable world.

There will be plenty of times when this path seems impossibly long because the scale of the injustice is overwhelming. But when this happens, I will be thinking of Ms. Opal Lee, of her long walk to Washington, DC, and the joy in her voice when she heard the news that the Senate had taken one more step toward her dream of Juneteenth. May we all draw inspiration and strength from her example.

I am proud to walk this path with you, Ms. Lee, and with all of you. Let's keep this going.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from West Virginia.

NOMINATION OF RADHIKA FOX

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I rise today to oppose the nomination of Radhika Fox to be Assistant Administrator for Water at the EPA. I certainly appreciate her willingness to serve, and I have found her to be quite personable and friendly. So this is not a personal statement.

But even though she is not yet confirmed, she is already in place as the lead political appointee in the Water Office of the EPA. In that capacity, her recent announcement of overreaching regulatory proposals under the Clean Water Act cemented my opposition to her nomination.

Ms. Fox's position on the appropriate scope of the Clean Water Act was not clear last month when I voted on her nomination in the EPA committee, of which I am the ranking member. At that markup in May, I noted that I could not support Ms. Fox at that time because she would not commit to maintaining the navigable waters protection rule issued in 2020. As I noted at the time, she would also not state that the 2015 waters of the United States rule was overreaching. So I really couldn't pin her down on any opinion on this very important rule.

I now know why she would not commit to maintaining the navigable waters protection rule when she testified before the committee and avoided providing direct responses in her written responses to my followup questions. The administration did not support the rule and, apparently, the EPA opposed it completely.

Last week, Ms. Fox and EPA Administrator Regan, as well as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, announced their plans to repeal and replace the rule in its entirety. EPA and the Corps of Engineers are going to completely rewrite the regulations that determine whether a business, a farm, or a citizen needs to obtain a Federal water permit. The Federal Agencies announced that they had decided they are not going to keep any part of that rule and that they are going to start from scratch.

That was at odds with what Ms. Fox conveyed to me in a phone call that she did make the previous day to inform me they were going to be making an announcement. She was just very incomplete, and it was extremely disappointing to me and to the many States and businesses that support the navigable waters protection rule, which—unlike the 2015 waters of the United States rule it replaced—is the law presently. The navigable waters protection rule is the law of the land in all 50 States. That made it clear when Federal permits would be needed, and it gave States more control over how to permit water bodies in their borders.

Throughout her nomination process, when I asked Ms. Fox about the administration's plans, she expressed a desire to hear from stakeholders in order to create a ''durable'' rule. Ms. Fox did not conduct any formal public stakeholder process before announcing the decision that was made to repeal the navigable waters protection rule.

The administration has said it plans to repeal the rule and then put in place guidance from the 1980s while we wait and while they come up with a replacement. Changing the regulations three times in a short period of time—2015, 2020, and now 2021—simply does not meet her commitment to develop a ''durable'' definition.

Instead, ever-changing rules create a game of regulatory ping-pong across administrations. These are big far-reaching rules. That permitting uncertainty hurts our economy at a time when we need growth, and it does so without additional environmental protection in my home State.

We often forget that the Clean Water Act allows States to regulate their waters as much as they like. The definition of ''waters of the United States'' only determines Federal jurisdiction. In fact, that is the keystone of the Clean Water Act.

The administration's promises of transparency and creating regulatory certainty simply are not reflected in these actions, and their goals, stated to a briefing of congressional offices during a briefing call, are particularly troubling. They pointed to the prior converted cropland exemption and treatment of ditches under the current rule as ''implementation challenges'' that they want to address.

It doesn't take much to understand what that means. The administration intends to require more Federal permits for prior converted cropland and ditches on private land. That is a gross overreach of the Federal Government's authority under the Clean Water Act, and it is questionable whether the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers could even vet the sheer volume of permit applications that would come their way.

I encourage Ms. Fox to engage with stakeholders from agriculture to mining, to construction, to home building before issuing the official proposal to repeal the navigable waters protection rule, and I urge Ms. Fox to make that engagement meaningful. Simply checking the box that these stakeholders have had the opportunity to talk to members of the administration is not meaningful engagement.

If officials of the administration truly engaged in a transparent process where they took stakeholder feedback into account, they would learn that the best way to provide regulatory certainty is to keep that navigable waters protection rule in place. I cannot support Ms. Fox's decision to undo such a foundational rule without any public engagement and to do so in a way that appears to be more expansive than the overreaching Obama rule called the ''waters of the United States rule.''

So I urge my colleagues to vote against Ms. Fox's nomination on the basis of what she has already done and in most probability will do in the future surrounding this very, very important topic.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Louisiana.

NUCLEAR ENERGY

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I want to talk for a few minutes about nuclear energy. President Biden, of course, as we both are aware, has called climate change the ''existential threat.'' He says it is the ''number one issue facing humanity today.'' Secretary Kerry, who, as we know, is President Biden's climate envoy, has said that climate change is a ''life and death'' issue. President Biden's National Climate Advisor, the Honorable Gina McCarthy, believes that saving the environment is the ''fight of our lifetimes.''

If you ask many Members of Congress, not all of them—I don't want to paint with too broad a brush—but if you ask many Members of Congress what they think the solution to our environmental issues is, they will probably respond: renewable energy. But if we are really worried about the climate—and I know we all are; we all want clean air, and we all want bright water—I suggest that we also embrace nuclear energy. Nuclear energy is not only safe, but it is clean and, frankly, it can produce more power than renewables.

Nuclear energy, as you know, creates little or no carbon emissions. Let me say that again. A lot of people don't realize it. Nuclear energy creates little or no carbon emissions. It also creates very little waste—an extraordinarily small amount of waste. All the nuclear waste that America's commercial nuclear industry has ever produced—ever,

in the history of ever—can fit into a single football field to a depth of fewer than 10 yards. Now, you compare that with solar panels, for example—solar panels create 300 times more toxic waste than nuclear plants in order to yield the same exact amount of energy—or compare the waste from nuclear power production with wind turbine blades. Wind turbine blades are very hard to recycle, and they usually end up in landfills.

These facts are underreported, but the fact is that solar and wind power do have their own harmful impacts on our environment. There is no free lunch, as you know, and you don't get one now. There are pros and cons of everything.

Solar and wind can't hold a candle to nuclear power when it comes to efficiency. That is just a fact. It takes more than 3 million solar panels or more than 430 wind turbines to produce the same amount of energy as the average nuclear plant. Let me say that again—3 million solar panels, 430 wind turbines to produce the same amount of energy as the average nuclear powerplant. And these numbers do not take into account that solar panels, as we know, are useless when the Sun doesn't shine, and wind turbines are nothing more than expensive paper waste when the wind doesn't blow.

Also underreported, in my judgment, is how safe nuclear energy is. Despite what some people may think, Homer Simpson does not run America's nuclear powerplants. The industry is constantly evolving to make nuclear powerplants safer, to make them more efficient. In fact, we have all read a lot about small modular reactors. I will just use that as an example. These small modular reactors are part of a very promising new generation of advanced reactors that can automatically—automatically—prevent overheating. And, frankly, they produce even less nuclear waste.

Now, I want to be clear. I still believe in fossil fuels. I am an ''all of the above'' energy advocate, but leading that pack is fossil fuels.

America's economy is the largest in all of human history, and it can't run without oil and gas. Louisianans know this, and most Americans know this. The people of Louisiana serve our country pretty well by contributing to our energy independence, and I am very proud of that.

Last year, Louisiana supplied 9 percent—9 percent—of America's marketed gas. And Louisianans understand, as do, I think, most Americans, that giving up on fossil fuels would not only destroy jobs; it would ruin the economy.

But I want America to use every advantage that it has. I want America to use every energy tool at its disposal. Now, that is why nuclear energy—I see nuclear energy as supporting oil and gas, not replacing it. I want to be clear about that, as supporting oil and gas, not replacing it.

Since nuclear energy holds such promise—and it does—I am hoping that my Democratic friends in Congress and my Republican friends in Congress—because I see this as a bipartisan issue—will lend their full-throated support to nuclear energy.

I am not saying that renewables don't have their proper place in America's energy policy—they certainly do—and I am not saying we should get rid of them—I am certainly not—but we need to acknowledge that renewables have limitations. They have limitations, and nuclear energy does not. There are disadvantages to renewables. As I said, there is no free lunch, and you don't get one now.

Now, for some people, that is a lesson that needs to be repeated. I take note. I say this gently, but the Democratic Party platform, for example, calls for installing 500 million solar panels—500 million solar panels—and 60,000 wind turbines over the next 5 years. This will occupy a lot more land and actually create less energy than building new nuclear reactors. And that is a fact.

Some small modular nuclear reactors are roughly twice the length of the average schoolbus—twice the length of an average schoolbus. Wind farms, on the other hand, can eat up more than 19 square miles. That is about half the size of Disney World—half the size of Disney World, compared to twice the length of the average schoolbus. If we succeed in blanketing our land with solar panels and wind farms, it is going to create more waste, occupy more green space, and ultimately weaken our economy.

Again, I am not saying no to solar and wind. I am not at all. I am saying yes to explore the possibilities of nuclear energy.

President Biden, as we know, has a $2 trillion infrastructure plan. And I think, if nothing else, his infrastructure plan establishes the Biden administration's priorities. His plan does call for $61 billion in initiatives that include investments in advanced nuclear technology. I am not sure I agree on the amount, but I like the concept, and I find that to be prudent. But it also asks for three times that amount—$174 billion—to support electric vehicles, electric cars. I suggest that nuclear energy has more place in energy's future, and it is something that we ought to talk about.

Other spending bonanzas in President Biden's plan include a $213 billion investment to give 2 million buildings a Green New Deal makeover and $100 billion to make our schools greener. These are not going to have a more meaningful impact on our environment than exploring nuclear energy. They are just not.

I know that nuclear energy sounds too good to be true, and I don't want to oversimplify the circumstances. Nuclear energy has its drawbacks, but nuclear energy is powerful. Nuclear energy is safe. Nuclear energy is clean. And by building up our nuclear power capabilities, the United States can create more jobs; the United States can strengthen its economy; and the United States can ensure its place as a world leader on energy. And we can do all that while reducing carbon emissions.

I hope my colleagues will come to embrace nuclear energy as the efficient green energy source that it is and that the U.S. Congress can work with the White House to improve America's standing as an energy juggernaut.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from New Jersey.

RODRIGUEZ V. PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise today to express significant concern about the Biden administration's decision to file an amicus brief in the case of Ramona Matos Rodriguez v. Pan American Health Organization.

This case involves serious allegations that the Pan American Health Organization facilitated human trafficking and regrettably places the administration in a position in which it is undercutting efforts by the victims of the Cuban dictatorship's forced labor schemes.

Now, let me be clear, I am a strong advocate for the Pan American Health Organization and its mission strengthening health systems across Latin America and the Caribbean. Given the significant impact of COVID–19 on the region, PAHO's efforts are needed now more than ever, and I have fought to ensure that the Pan American Health Organization has the resources it needs to carry out its lifesaving work during the pandemic and throughout a good period of time of my congressional career. However, I also firmly believe that the Pan American Health Organization must be held accountable for its past transgressions, including the unacceptable role that it played facilitating a program that subjected more than 10,000 Cuban medical professionals to forced labor conditions in Brazil.

From 2013 to 2019, the Pan American Health Organization profited from its participation in Brazil's Mais Medicos Program, an initiative that allowed Cuba's dictatorship to earn income from trafficking doctors.

The Cuban regime's so-called foreign medical missions are nothing more than human trafficking. In November of 2019, the United Nation's Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery and the United Nation's Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons raised concerns that the Cuban regime's trafficking of medical professionals constitutes forced labor and modern slavery.

In fact, the Department of State's last ''Trafficking in Persons'' report found the Cuban regime garnishes the wages of its medical professionals that serve overseas, surveils them, confiscates their passports so they can't

leave anywhere, and retaliates against family members in Cuba if they leave from the program. So if you send me abroad, don't pay me, get money from the country that you send me from, take away my passport, and retaliate against my family, that is the ultimate forced labor. Cuba's dictatorship generated more than $6 billion in profit from its forced labor schemes in 2018 alone as it trafficked tens of thousands of Cuban medical professionals to some 60 countries.

The Pan American Health Organization's participation in the Cuban dictatorship's human trafficking programs cannot be overlooked, and accountability is urgently needed.

It is against this backdrop that I have reviewed the Biden administration's amicus brief in Rodriguez v. Pan American Health Organization. And while the brief addresses some of the technical aspects of the case, it effectively does nothing—nothing—to condemn Cuba's dictatorship for human trafficking or the Pan American Health Organization's participation in those programs that were human trafficking.

For over two decades, the United States has led the international community in combating human trafficking. In 2000, the United States enacted the Trafficking Victims Protection Act—something I was involved with in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee—which has set a standard for countries around the world to strengthen efforts to prosecute traffickers, increase protection for victims, and expand foreign assistance programs. We have built a range of financial tools to combat the human trafficking industry and its illicit profits. We have spearheaded efforts to ensure that slavery-free supply chains—slavery-free supply chains—that respect workers' rights and prevent against forced labor conditions around the world become more and more a reality.

The Biden administration squandered an opportunity in this brief, an opportunity to support Cuban trafficking victims and an opportunity to advance our extraordinary American leadership in combating all forms of human trafficking and modern slavery. It is a major disappointment.

I urge the President and the Secretary of State to redouble efforts to pressure Cuba to end this medical trafficking program and the many other abuses it perpetrates against the Cuban people.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

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

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

(The remarks of Mr. TUBERVILLE pertaining to the introduction of S. 2079 are printed in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

FOR THE PEOPLE ACT OF 2021

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, we have been told by the majority party that soon we will be having a vote on an 800-page bill to change 50 State voting laws to 1 Federal law. This bill is called the For the People Act. It was compiled after the 2018 elections to call into question the legitimacy of democratic elections for partisan political purposes.

If it had been a serious attempt at legislating, there would have been some outreach to some Republicans because it takes 60 votes, a bipartisan vote, to get anything through the U.S. Senate.

In that process, there would have been consultation also with local elected officials—the election officials who conduct the State elections—to make sure it was workable. There would have been hearings in the Congress. There would have been revisions from the bill originally introduced.

The fact that back in 2018, when it was introduced, is the fact that it was intended as political propaganda, and that betrays the absurdity of the title, the ''For the People Act.''

Also, despite Senator SCHUMER's using Senate rule XIV in the last Congress to bypass the committee and put the bill directly on the Senate calendar, Senator SCHUMER never used his right to force a vote on moving to the bill. At that time, the Democratic narrative was that Republicans were not doing enough to secure the election so the results might end up being in doubt. Now, what we know from happening in the last election, that argument is out the window now.

Since the Democrats got the results they wanted, they endlessly quote the Trump administration's top cyber security official declaring the 2020 election the most secure ever in history.

I assumed last Congress that Senator SCHUMER would wait until right before the 2020 election to force a vote so he could accuse Republicans of blocking an election bill for their campaign narrative questioning election security. Instead, they repeatedly, dishonestly, blamed the Republican leader for blocking the bill, ignoring the fact that the Democratic leader had reserved the possibility of forcing a vote.

The For the People Act is a messaging bill. The bill has now been reintroduced and recast as a response to a few State election security laws. A handful of relatively modern reforms at the State level have been shamelessly and falsely characterized as voter suppression, even considering the fact that in the last election, the winner got the highest number of votes of any winner for President in the history of the United States, and the loser got the highest number of votes of any candidate for President of the United States throughout our history.

As I have mentioned before, the claim by some Trump supporters that a certain brand of voting machine switched votes, I pointed out that that was lifted entirely from the Democrats' 2004 playbook. And President Trump's questioning of his loss in Georgia was simply following in the footsteps of the losing candidate for Governor of Georgia 2 years before. The Georgia Democrat lost by over 50,000 votes in 2018 and has never even bothered to try to prove voting irregularities on that scale.

Foreign adversaries like Russia and China cast doubts on the soundness of our democratic system, both to weaken us from within and to justify their own repressive regimes. American politics should not do these repressive regimes propaganda jobs for them, but too often we tend to be doing that.

This bill is being called democracy reform. I support our American democratic system. All Americans should be proud of it. We can and should have confidence in our elections. Our democracy does not need a fundamental rewrite because our democracy works.

Let's stop casting doubt on American elections, stop casting aspersions on the commonsense election security measures supported by Americans of all backgrounds. Let's work together to boost the confidence of all Americans in our elections.

This bill would register illegal aliens. It would do away with State voter ID laws. It would have taxpayer-funded elections.

I remember what our colleague Senator CRUZ said. In the first quarter of this year, he raised—it must have been in the neighborhood of about $5 million from contributors of under $200. So if you get that kind of money, under this bill, from people under $200, for every dollar you get, you get $6 from the taxpayers. So Senator CRUZ, I am told, would get about $34 million of taxpayer funds to use for political purposes. We don't need to replace 50 State voting laws as this 800-page bill would.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, you and I, as we sit on the Rules Committee, saw the debate on this bill—the bill that the sponsors call the For the People Act. I think it really more accurately could be called the ''For the Politicians Act.'' S. 1 was marked up in the Rules Committee last month, a markup that I certainly raised a number of concerns about the bill and others did too. It is more than 800 pages

that contains policies relating to election administration, to campaign finance, to redistricting, and much more.

Now, the truth is, we don't know what bill will come to the floor because this bill couldn't get out of committee. And apparently we are going to not use the committee process but, in fact, we will bring a different bill to the floor that nobody has seen yet. But this bill seems to get bigger over time, not smaller over time.

It includes the overwhelmingly bad idea that Congress should impose a Federal takeover of elections and force a one-size-fits-all approach on the more than 10,000 voting jurisdictions in the country.

There are very few things that you can develop a formula that works just right in 10,000 places. In fact, in our States and in the District of Columbia, we have a pretty significant problem coming up with 51 different structures that work for everywhere in every jurisdiction that is impacted by that.

This bill also has some deadlines that are so short that if it became law, it would create chaos in next year's elections and make the election process less trusted, not more trusted.

We should be focusing on Federal laws and State laws that make it easier to vote and harder to cheat. I think this bill makes it easier to cheat and harder to figure out whether anybody cheated or not.

S. 1 undermines the popular State voter identification laws. The majority of our States now require some kind of identification. And an overwhelming number of voters believe that voter identification at the polls is a good thing.

This bill allows political operatives to fan out across a community and collect an unlimited number of ballots. In fact, it says States can't even stop that process of ballot harvesting. Those ballot harvesters can collect ballots from you. They can collect ballots from your neighbors, from vulnerable voters like people in nursing homes. And, frankly, who knows if they turn them in or not? Who knows if they put them in the post office box or not? If they never show up, the ballot harvester, who may very well know that your ballot is a ballot they don't agree with, could just say, ''Well, I don't know what happened. It must have been lost in the mail,'' and who would ever know whether it was lost in the mail or not?

In addition to undermining voter identification laws and making it possible for complete strangers to take your ballot, S. 1 disrupts States' long-made efforts to maintain an accurate list of eligible voters. Voter rolls are the foundation really of election administration. I was the chief election official in our State. I was a local election official in our State.

Accurate lists of who can vote that people can look at before the election, during the election, and after the election create great confidence in the process.

Accurate lists ensure that voters are able to cast a ballot—and the ballot they should cast—in the districts they actually live in. That can be pretty complicated sometimes, and really only the election authority can be aware of that when they know exactly where you live.

Election officials, when you have accurate lists, know who has voted, and, frankly, they know who hasn't voted. So if the same person comes in or at least a person pretending to be the same person comes in a second time, they know that.

Accurate voter lists allow voters to check in more quickly to get that efficient and quick exercise of democracy done.

One of the things everybody constantly talks about is, well, we make it too hard to vote. If you really want to make it hard to vote, make it hard to figure out who the voters are who are supposed to be voting at a given precinct.

The right to vote is a bedrock principle in our democracy. The right to vote wherever you want to vote is not a bedrock principle in our democracy. You can't just decide: Well, this year I think it is going to be pretty competitive in some other State. I will just drive over there on election day and vote. Frankly, you can't just decide: You know, that congressional district next door to the one I live in looks more competitive than the one I live in. I think I will go over there and vote this year instead of in the district that the census tract would have put me in.

The right to vote is a bedrock principle. The right to vote wherever you want to isn't. Some of our great local administrators figured this out. In St. Louis County, the biggest single election jurisdiction in Missouri, you can vote anywhere in the county, but at the place where you go vote—the ballot for you individually is generated at the place you go vote, and it is counted in the races that are generated for you to vote in. That is pretty innovative. I don't think we could probably have ever figured that out at the national level.

But the point is, you are voting for the people who you are living in the district that person will represent, whether it is on the local school board or in the Congress or in the State legislature. That is a very complicated set of things that benefit totally from voter rolls and benefit from you voting where you live.

This bill prohibits States from putting in place really just reasonable election security measures that have been upheld by court. It takes away the guardrails that prevent fraud from happening and ensures that when you do have fraud, you have ways to figure out that fraud occurred and what to do about it. You pile up all the ways this legislation actually increases the likelihood of fraud, and you think about whether you really need a strong reason to change the system when, as Senator GRASSLEY said, the system appears to be working pretty well.

Democracies benefits from local responsibility. One political party, however, thinks this bill will give it an electoral advantage. They have thought that for about 20 years. This is the compilation of 20 years of Democrats in the Congress thinking, what could we do to change the election law that would be helpful for us? That is where we are in this legislation. It was written by one party alone. It has been steered through Congress by one party alone. It has not actually been seen by anybody in the other party yet, and the majority leader says this bill, which probably still is going to be about 800 pages, will come to the floor next week. In both Chambers of Congress, there has been bipartisan opposition to the bill and no bipartisan support for this bill.

The danger of those kinds of sweeping changes really can do a lot to negatively impact our election system, but it doesn't stop there. It would turn the Federal Election Commission into a partisan tool where the party of the President has a majority. There is a reason that six-member Commission was equally divided when it was set up, just like there is a reason the Senate Ethics Committee is equally divided.

This bill would send Federal money to campaign coffers at the rate of $6 for every dollar raised for every contribution under $200. I think the number my friend Chairman GRASSLEY was talking about was if you raised $5 million of under $200, you would get $30 million from the Federal Government—$30 million of government money that could clearly be used for something else. In fact, the current Members of the Senate would be eligible under the total restrictions of the bill to get $1.8 billion in Federal money. Talk about a conflict of interest when you vote for this bill.

The bill also changes redistricting established in the Constitution for the States and basically ensures that all congressional redistricting would be done by Federal courts. That doesn't affect the Senate much, but it affects the government a lot. It places heavy burdens on free speech and impacts every branch of the Federal Government.

I have heard proponents of this bill say that it is necessary to push back recently passed State voter laws and protect the voting rights of Americans. This bill has nothing to do with voting rights. It doesn't protect the right of a single American to cast a ballot. It doesn't bring new people into the system as the constitutional amendment did on women and other people who have been added, people who had been held in a terrible way in slavery, people who had been prevented from voting because of their sex or race, and people who were prevented because of age at one time. This bill does nothing of that.

This is a Federal takeover of elections. It should be rejected by the Senate. I believe it will be rejected by the Senate. We look forward to seeing the other side defend this bill next week.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. ROSEN). The Senator from West Virginia.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, I thank my colleague from Missouri, Senator BLUNT, for his leadership on this issue.

We had the hearing and the markup in the Rules Committee. I think that we could tell from the debate that the amount of holes and misinformation that is contained within S. 1 is the reason that I call it the so-called For the People Act.

Ronald Reagan famously said that the nine most terrifying words in the English language are ''I'm from the government, and I'm here to help.'' This can be applied to many examples of what we do here.

What seems more pertinent, I think, now is this latest partisan attempt to federalize one of America's most sacred functions, and that is our elections. Advocates claim that this sweeping effort, which comes in the form of legislation ironically called For the People Act, is to get more people to vote. Let's be clear. Everyone—Republicans, Democrats, Independents—we all want to see more people voting. The good news is that we have already been doing that across the country and in my home State of West Virginia.

Remember, last year we were voting under a pandemic, under incredibly difficult situations for everybody. Our State of West Virginia ran a very successful election suited to our State. We had thousands more people vote in 2020 than they did in 2016. In fact, the total number of ballots cast in 2020 was more than any other election in West Virginia's history, with the exception of the 1960 election. The 1960 election, remember, was the Presidential election that President Kennedy won after he had a very successful and a pivotal victory in the primary in West Virginia as the first Roman Catholic running for President. More than 158 million ballots were cast in 2020. That is a 7-percent increase since 2016. This is under a pandemic.

Every State decided the best way to get maximum participation. Last November, every single State saw higher turnout rates compared to the previous Presidential election. If more people are, in fact, voting, what is this Democratic-proposed legislation really about? And that is where it is about the federalization of elections and election power grab. I believe it lacks credibility. It is really about a way to implement absurd and downright un-American provisions in the bill that prioritize power over the will of the people.

I am glad to say that some of my Democratic colleagues are finally acknowledging the concerns with this bill. During the Rules Committee markup, Republicans and Democrats offered a number of amendments, some of which were adopted on a bipartisan basis. That is what we are supposed to do—work it through committee. These amendments have been heralded by some of my Democratic colleagues as an example of how we can work together on this issue.

Despite the bipartisan amendments in the Rules Committee—despite this—the version that the majority leader may bring up for a vote does not include any of the amendments that were adopted during the markup even though they had bipartisan support. To me, that is a clear sign that the majority is not trying to cooperate in good faith but, rather, trying to ram through a partisan bill that will encroach on the States' abilities—my State's ability—to ensure a free and fair election and a well-attended election at the same time.

The legislation would strip States of their constitutional authority to run elections and allow the Federal Government to determine what is best.

It would ban voter ID laws, which are adopted in many States, mine included, which maintain the integrity of elections in my State and the majority of others. Quite frankly, I haven't heard one person in my State complain about having to take an ID to the polls or to submit an ID with their vote.

The bill would also force States to administer same-day voter registration—a cumbersome mandate that many States won't be able to comply with for dozens of reasons. In my State, it is internet connectivity. Many of our polling areas wouldn't be able to accept same-day registration because they can't connect, unfortunately, to the bigger system to find out if this person is fraudulent or not.

It would also require that States mandate the unpopular and dangerous practice of ballot harvesting, which is ripe for fraud. Now, I will tell you, some States have made ballot harvesting legal. Some States have same-day voter registration. Good for them. They decided what is good for their State through the constitutional duty of States to run elections.

Speaking of fraud, this bill would mandate absentee ballot boxes, drop boxes, and force county clerks to accept regular ballots filed in the wrong precinct without proof of residency, both of which leave the door open to voter fraud.

If that is not enough, if signed into law, West Virginia's e-voting system and others like it—this is the e-voting system that allows our Active military who are deployed overseas to be able to vote safely by their mobile phone, and the legislature opened that up to people with disabilities to be able to use an e-voting system. This bill would severely curtail that and negate it in many cases. That is an expansion of voting rights that this bill would take away.

This legislation would allow government funding of congressional campaigns, with small donations being matched with Federal funds. Now, we heard from our friend Senator CRUZ in our committee. He talked about, if his contributions were matched for the first 3 months of this year, he would get millions of dollars, over $20 million of public financing for his campaign. I highly doubt my Democratic colleagues would want the Federal Government to help Senator CRUZ in the financing of his campaign. As a matter of fact, he himself, Senator CRUZ, said he doesn't want that at all either.

The bill also would make the FEC, the Federal Election Commission, which oversees our elections and our finances, which is now a neutral three Republicans, three Democrats on the Commission, as it always has been—it would make it into a partisan majority vote. Well, if you are going to be making decisions on my colleague from Florida's election or my election on financials, or the Presiding Officer's election, do we really want a political organization making those? Not when we have had a nonpartisan FEC for years and have enforced our campaign laws and put them above party politics. But remember, this is only about getting people to vote, so don't worry.

The disaster doesn't stop with politicizing the FEC; it would also remove the authority of States to draw district maps and would mandate how you do that. Our States can figure out how best—some of them have commissions. Some of them do it by the legislature. Some of them do it by the supreme court. Let's let the States make that decision.

I just think that the biggest demonstration of opposition to this bill has come from the West Virginia County Clerk's Association. It adopted a resolution in opposition to S. 1 that 54 of the 55 county clerks in my State signed. These are Republican and Democratic county clerks.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD this letter from the West Virginia County Clerk's Association.

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

JUNE 10, 2021.

WVCCA RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PASSAGE OF H.R. 1 & S. 1

Whereas, the United States Constitution recognizes the authority of the legislatures of each State to regulate the times, places, and manner of holding federal elections; and

Whereas, election administrators and county officials were not given an opportunity to provide input on the drafting of H.R. 1 and S. 1 prior to the introduction of the legislation, unlike previous bipartisan federal election reforms; and

Whereas, H.R. 1 and S. 1 preempt state law that currently restricts ballot harvesting for the prevention of fraud, by expressly providing that states ''may not put any limit on how many voted and sealed absentee ballots any designated person can return to the post office, a ballot drop-off location, tribally designated building, or election office''; and

Whereas, H.R. 1 and S. 1 preempt state law by mandating same-day registration, regardless of the severe lack of internet service and broadband in rural areas: an impossible feat in West Virginia; and

Whereas, Same-day registration provisions in H.R. 1 and S. 1 lack proper security protections, multiplied by the lack of internet capability in polling locations in West Virginia, which undermines the integrity of our elections by making it impossible for election officials to confirm any new voter's eligibility prior to them casting any ballot or from guaranteeing that no voter both registers and votes more than once in an election on Election Day; and

Whereas, H.R. 1 and S. 1 preempt state law by prohibiting requirements for physical proofs of identification for regular in-person and absentee voters, and requiring states to accept just a voter's signature affidavit as proof of eligibility and proper registration; and

Whereas, H.R. 1 and S. 1 preempt state law and adoption of voting systems by requiring decertification of current, federally certified voting systems, and forcing states to purchase new voting equipment—none of which currently comport with the most recently adopted voluntary voting system guidelines (adopted Feb. 2021 by EAC)—wasting millions of dollars in recent upgrades purchased with HAVA funding across West Virginia and requiring new manufacturing by vendors and purchases by counties to the tune of tens of millions of dollars in WV alone; and

Whereas, H.R. 1 and S. 1 creates multiple so-called ''private rights of action'' that would lead to election administrators being targeted for lawsuits all across the country for both real and imagined violations, and causing county clerks to spend more time defending themselves in court than preparing to make sure that elections are run smoothly and securely; and

Whereas, H.R. 1 and S. 1 places dozens of additional mandates on county clerks while providing no ongoing operational funding to fulfill the requirements, causing potential cuts in county budgets to law enforcement and public safety; and

Whereas, H.R. 1 and S. 1 preempt state law by forcing county clerks to accept regular—not provisional—ballots of voters who vote in the incorrect precinct, without sufficient evidence of eligibility or proof of residence; and

Whereas, H.R. 1 fatally contradicts the reliability and security of electronic transmission by permitting voters to cure signature deficiencies electronically (see Sec. 1621) but prohibiting UOCAVA, voters living with disabilities, and first responders called away for service from transmitting absentee ballots securely using extensively tested procedures and methods; and

Whereas, H.R. 1 and S. 1 lump dozens of state agencies and educational institutions into ''voter registration agencies,'' and requires them to integrate into an automatic voter registration system without regard to current systems, data collection practices, or security creating more opportunities for voters' registrations to be mishandled and mistransmitted, and likely resulting in security lapses for agencies currently not covered under the Critical Infrastructure designation of the Department of Homeland Security; and

Whereas, H.R. 1 and S. 1 preempt state law by mandating new dates for the early in-person voting period without regard to state-specific success and voter participation under current election calendars; and

Whereas, H.R. 1 and S. 1 preempt state law by requiring absentee ballot drop boxes and increasing security concerns for absentee ballots that currently do not exist under state laws: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the West Virginia County Clerk's Association opposes the passage of H.R. 1, S. 1, or any other legislation that impedes the state's ability to administer elections in an overreaching, one-size-fits-all approach out of Washington D.C.

Adopted the 10th day of June, 2021 in Canaan Valley, WV

Expires: June 2026

CONNIE KAUFMAN,
Barbour Co. Clerk.
ROGER TONEY,
Boone Co. Clerk.
ELAINE C. MAUCK,
Berkeley Co. Clerk.
SUE ANN RUTHERFORD,
Braxton Co. Clerk.
KIM BARBETTA,
Brooke Co. Clerk.
JEAN SIMERS,
Calhun Co. Clerk.
CATEE SLATER,
Doddridge Co. Clerk.
JEAN BUTCHER,
Gilmer Co. Clerk.
ROBIN LOUDERMILK,
Greenbrier Co. Clerk.
GEORGE FOLEY,
Hancock Co. Clerk.
JOHN SPIRES,
Harrison Co. Clerk.
JACQUELINE C. SHADLE,
Jefferson Co. Clerk.
CYNTHIA S. ROWAN,
Lewis Co. Clerk.
JOHN A. TURNER,
Logan Co. Clerk.
PHYLLIS SMITH,
Cabell Co. Clerk.
CONNIE WORKMAN,
Clay Co. Clerk.
MICHELLE Z. HOLLY,
Fayette Co. Clerk.
BUD FISHER,
Grant Co. Clerk.
ERIC W. STRITE,
Hampshire Co. Clerk.
GREGORY L. ELY,
Hardy Co. Clerk.
CHERYL A. BRIGHT,
Jackson Co. Clerk.
VERA MCCORMICK,
Kanawha Co. Clerk.
DIREL G. BAKER,
Lincoln Co. Clerk.
JULIE KINCAID,
Marion Co. Clerk.
JAN PEST,
Marshall Co. Clerk.
DONALD L. HICKS,
McDowell Co. Clerk.
LAUREN ELLIFRITZ,
Mineral Co. Clerk.
DONALD J. EVANS,
Monroe Co. Clerk.
ROBERT PAINTER,
Nicholas Co. Clerk.
ELISE M. WHITE,
Pendleton Co. Clerk.
MELISSA BENNETT,
Pocahontas Co. Clerk.
BRIAN WOOD,
Putnam Co. Clerk.
BRENDA WISEMAN,
Randolph Co. Clerk.
DIANA N. CROMLEY,
Mason Co. Clerk.
VERLIN T. MOYE,
Mercer Co. Clerk.
LARRY CROAFF,
Mingo Co. Clerk.
KIMBERLY NICKLES,
Morgan Co. Clerk.
MICHAEL E. KELLY,
Ohio Co. Clerk.
EVELYN DAVIS,
Pleasants Co. Clerk.
LINDA HUGGINS,
Preston Co. Clerk.
DANNY MOORE,
Raleigh Co. Clerk.
TRACIE MCDONALD,
Ritchie Co. Clerk.
CHARLES B. WHITE, JR.,
Roane Co. Clerk.
GEORGIANNA THOMPSON,
Taylor Co. Clerk.
NEIL ARCHER,
Tyler Co. Clerk.
RENICK C. BOOTH,
Wayne Co. Clerk.
CAROL HAUGHT,
Wetzel Co. Clerk.
MARK RHODES,
Wood Co. Clerk.
MARY B. MERRITT,
Summers Co. Clerk.
SHERRY SIMMONS,
Tucker Co. Clerk.
CAROL SMITH,
Upshur Co. Clerk.
EVA R. GREEN,
Webster Co. Clerk.
MAROLYN BALDRIGE,
Wirt Co. Clerk.
JEWELL AGUILAR,
Wyoming Co. Clerk.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, they raise numerous grievances, many of which I have talked about. They talk about the voting machines they have right now, which they have spent a lot of money on, that would all be taken offline. You would have to fully replace all of that. They also fully reject the usurping of what is their constitutionally based responsibility to run elections safely, securely, and on time. So I appreciate the letter from our clerks and certainly understand their deep, deep concerns. The right to vote is a constitutional right, and on that, we are in agreement.

I got to go to a citizenship ceremony wherein 20 new citizens joined our country after having waited to get into our country. After becoming citizens, the best and most precious right they get is that right to vote. Yet S. 1 is merely a partisan power grab that includes all kinds of unrelated, harmful provisions. It strips the States of their authority to run their elections. To put it simply, States do not need the Federal Government to strip them of their authority and impose burdensome requirements to fix problems that do not exist. That is exactly what this bill does, and it is why the For the People Act does not live up to its name.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Madam President, the United States is a beacon of democracy in the world, and our Nation was founded on free and fair elections, but if the American people don't have confidence in our elections, we don't have a sustainable democracy.

Right now, unfortunately, many people do not have confidence. People across the country are mad when they look at the blatant power grab by the Democrats to fundamentally change our democracy. Do you know what? They should be mad. We are talking about the sacred right to vote.

If we want to continue as a thriving democracy, we have to take action so

that Americans trust in free and fair elections. That is why I introduced the Save Democracy Act so as to restore faith in our Federal elections and guarantee that voters decide the outcomes of elections, not the courts.

I also introduced the Promoting Election Integrity by Proving Voter Identity Act so as to require voter ID. It is pretty simple. If you want to vote in person, you will need to bring your current and valid ID. If you want to vote by mail, you will need to provide a copy of your ID. Like I said, it is pretty simple and straightforward. If we want, and we do—we want 100 percent participation in our elections, and we want zero fraud. We want it to be easy to vote and very hard to cheat. Voter ID helps us meet that goal.

Of course, the Democrats will do anything to fight against these commonsense reforms. Instead, the Democrats are pushing S. 1, otherwise known as the Corrupt Politicians Act. S. 1 is the most ridiculous legislation I have seen since I have come to the Senate. I would need hours to go through all of it. For our purposes here today, I want to highlight just one piece of this lunacy: using taxpayer dollars to pay for political campaigns.

The Democrats want to use your tax dollars to subsidize their political campaigns. Think about how anti-democratic it is to allow public servants to use the people's money to manipulate the people themselves. Just to be crystal clear, here is what is exactly being proposed by the Democrats in this anti-democratic bill: Public officials—the government—take money from you. Then they use that money to pay for their campaign ads in order to manipulate you.

This bill is nothing but a political power grab by Washington Democrats. New Hampshire Democrat Secretary of State Bill Gardner even said recently that S. 1 was a power grab by the Federal Government that would ''trample New Hampshire's state constitution.''

Under the Democrats' plan, a candidate for the Senate in California could spend $80 million in taxpayer dollars to run attack ads and fund his campaign—$80 million. In Georgia, a Senate candidate could get as much as $25 million in taxpayer money. Candidates in Arizona could get almost $19 million. New York candidates would get more than $44 million. That doesn't make any sense.

What kind of return on investment are the American people getting when their hard-earned tax dollars are funding attack ads? Why is the Federal Government in the business of funding campaigns? Because my Democratic colleagues want the government to take your money and spend it on trying to manipulate your vote.

Only in Washington would a bunch of politicians look at the challenges from recovering from the pandemic and decide the most important thing we can do is make taxpayers fund campaign ads.

This is the most radical piece of voting legislation this Nation has ever seen at a time when restoring confidence in our elections has never been more important.

I was sent to the U.S. Senate to fight for Floridians and Americans against corrupt politicians. Here is my promise to every American family: I am going to fight every day to make sure the Democrats do not try to take your money to manipulate your vote.

If we are serious about working together to move our country forward, restore public trust in our elections, and protect democracy, we need to reject the insanity of S. 1 and look to commonsense reforms like voter ID. We will continue to fight the Democrats' election power grab and combat their efforts to prevent measures that protect the integrity of our elections.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, it has been so interesting to talk with Tennesseans over the past couple of weeks, and it is interesting in the vein that they are beginning to really question some of the proposals that my Democratic colleagues are bringing forward and items that they are pushing from the left side of the aisle.

I have to tell you that I honestly can't blame them. After all, when they promised COVID relief, they delivered a blue State bailout, which was something that was not popular in Tennessee. They said that they were going to be all for some much needed infrastructure projects. In Tennessee, we like to talk about this in terms of roads and railways and runways and rivers. Yet what did the people from Tennessee hear? They heard all about the Green New Deal, they heard about incentives for electric vehicles, and they heard about alternative energy. They looked at that infrastructure bill and said: This is fantasyland.

Then, when they promised to support families and children, what did you get from the left side of the aisle? You got support for expanding the welfare state.

Now Senate Democrats have promised to vote on legislation that they claim is going to make our elections more transparent. Hmm. That is interesting. Surprising no one, the bill the Democrats are trying to sell to the American people will do exactly the opposite.

Of course, in typical fashion of the House, what did it do? It gave it a friendly sounding name—the For the People Act—but in actuality, this is a bill that would take away rights and responsibilities from the American people.

They are saying: This is going to be about transparency. Well, when we think of transparency, we think of things that are going to be seen, of things that are going to be easily understood. We think of things from which the activity within is going to be made available so that people can see this. It should follow, then, that a bill that is promising transparent elections would be there to help voters understand the rules, trust the people in charge, and cast their votes of confidence. It would not be a bill that would seize control from local officials and place it in the hands of unelected Washington bureaucrats, and it would not be a bill that would make it literally impossible to stand up polling places. It certainly would not be a bill that would erode confidence in ballot integrity, but that is what we have. It just doesn't make sense what they are trying to do when it comes to voting.

Even with all of this, my Democratic colleagues have spent most of this year trying to sell the American public on a bill that would centralize power, that would impose burdensome rules on State and local governments, and that would take away constitutional responsibilities and rights and all but ensure rampant voter fraud. That is correct. A piece of legislation that would do—what?—make it easier to cheat.

So, in the interest of the transparency my Democratic colleagues have promised, let's take a closer look at the legislation they are pushing forward.

Like most proposals they have tried to force through this year, this latest, brazen political power grab is built on a foundation of unreasonable mandates—mandates from the Federal Government to the State and local governments. Yet, rather than simplifying the process, these new rules would throw your local elections into chaos.

If passed, the provisions in this bill would mandate the use of ballot casting technology and voter registration systems that don't even exist yet. That is correct. What is being mandated is not in existence, but when it does come to exist, you can bet that it will cost a fortune, that it will come with a steep learning curve, and that there will be buddies of the Democratic Party that will make a bucket of money.

The same automatic registration procedures that failed voters in California and Illinois will fail voters in every State in this country.

It would force States to stand aside for activists running ballot harvesting schemes—and, indeed, ballot harvesting is a scheme. Anyone who has ever watched one of these campaigns in action knows that forcing officials to tolerate them is an invitation for these activists to engage in a little sleight of hand, if you will.

In fact, this bill truly outdoes itself when it comes to encouraging fraud. Its hallmark provision would ban meaningful voter ID laws and stop State and local officials from cleaning up their voter rolls. This bill strips away every commonsense defense against voter fraud.

It would also inject fear into the process by mandating donor disclosure and weaponizing a partisan FEC against minority political parties.

The American people know there is only one reason you would work this hard to remove transparency from elections: They are seeking to remove transparency from the voter. Truth be told, many of my colleagues across the aisle know it, too, which is why this bill has earned bipartisan opposition.

I have spent the better part of 2 years coming to the floor to object to various iterations of this bill, and I will continue to do so until my colleagues abandon this partisan power grab.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I am joining others who have the same problem with what the majority party here in the U.S. Senate is trying to do. It is something that surprises a lot of people, something that would completely revamp, completely change, a system that has been in place since 1787.

I understand that they are soon going to be forcing a vote on a bill they are naming the For the People Act, and it is anything but for the people.

For those unfamiliar, this is a Democrat bill to nationalize our elections and to give Washington unprecedented and unconstitutional power over States and local governments.

Each speaker, including myself, who has spoken so far has been jealously guarding their system because we have put into place a very safe and honest way of handling our elections.

Now, keep in mind, this bill is not new. House Democrats passed this back in 2019, right on party-line votes. In fact, the only bipartisan aspect of the bill is its opposition, as was just stated by another speaker.

Back in March, along with every single House Republican, one brave House Democrat voted against this bill, and the reason is clear—and it has been stated—but let me put all five of these things into one area so that it is a little easier to understand.

The bill is filled with dangerous, anti-democratic provisions—provisions that make it easier to steal votes.

One, legalizing ballot harvesting. Each Member has been talking about ballot harvesting and the threat that is out there.

Banning voter ID. In my State of Oklahoma, we have ID laws to safeguard our votes.

They are attempting to restore felons' right to vote. Why would you want to restore a felon's right to vote? And I have not heard anyone yet give a good argument that is persuasive.

Allowing voters to cast ballots outside of their precincts. That is just one step further and one step easier to falsify ballots.

Subsidize political candidates with Federal funds. We are going to talk about that. It is unbelievable. I mentioned some of the—how it might affect some individuals.

It is more accurately named the ''For the Liberal Politicians Act.'' In their mind, it not only ensures that they can control elections forever with ballot harvesting and other questionable practices, but they would also give millions in taxpayers' funds to bulk up their campaigns.

I just reminded them, and others have mentioned this, too, it sounds like you might be criticizing TED CRUZ when you say this, but it is not because he knows it is wrong. He observed that—when he was running for office, that if he had been able to harvest the opportunities you have from the Federal Government, he would have raised some $24 million in Federal funds in the first quarter of this year for his campaign.

The Oklahoma State Election Board Secretary, Paul Ziriax, shared with me his strong concerns about this bill and what it would do to my State of Oklahoma and our election integrity laws. It would impose policies that contradict State law, like legalizing ballot harvesting and preventing voter ID for in-person voting.

As he is responsible for managing the elections in Oklahoma, he knows how bad this would be for Oklahomans.

Today, Oklahoma's elections are safe, secure, and fair. Secretary Ziriax said it best in 2019, when he testified before the House, that Oklahoma's voting system is ''one of the most reliable, most accurate, most secure, most efficient, most cost-effective, and speediest voting system in the entire world.''

We pride ourselves on that. That is Oklahoma doing it, not the Federal Government—not the Federal Government doing something that might benefit one segment of our society.

It is clear the Democrats are playing politics with S. 1.

Now, following the 2020 Presidential election, Democrats complained about efforts to remove States from running their elections, but now Democrats are seeking sweeping Federal control over elections.

I am going to mention something that no one has mentioned before, and I guess the only reason it comes to my mind is I have been doing this for a long period of time—being concerned in trying to preserve our electoral college.

Back in 1787, we had a problem. They were putting together a Constitution to try to establish a way of voting in the United States of America that would be safe for everyone and be equitable.

And so they came out and—they didn't want to do it just on a one-person vote because if you do that, that is a decided advantage for all of the large States. And so what they did was come up with what they called the electoral college, and that was that they made the effort to correct the problem. We are talking about back in 1787.

In 1787, we had a system where we had four very large States and nine small States. So if you just—the four large States were comprised of more than 50 percent of the electorate so that wouldn't work. That wasn't going to work. And, of course, the same thing is true today. Today, nine States have a majority of the votes.

And so it was the clear intent not to let the large States have control of our system.

Now, I am sure some of the large States disagree with that. Some Democrats—a lot of Democrats disagree with that because it would be a decided advantage in an interim election.

So what we did, we established the electoral college, and I have committed that is my main cause right now because it is in jeopardy now. The electoral college is being attacked on a regular basis.

In fact, one of the prominent Democrats who is currently in the leadership in the Democratic Party has introduced a resolution to do away with the electoral college. That is something we cannot allow to happen.

And, oddly enough, it has survived for, what, 233 years now—233 years. And yet, it has survived all that time, but there are those attacking it right now.

So that is another one of the major issues that we are concerned with, and that is that we are not only giving up all the creativity and the safeguards that are in a secure system, put together not by the Federal Government but by the States, and trying to take that over for the Federal Government. They have been attempting to do this, now, for 230 years. They haven't been successful, and I am hoping they will not be successful on my watch.

Thank you.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam President, if H.R. 1, S. 1 were ever passed into law, it would forever be known as the ''Nancy Pelosi Power Grab Act.''

This legislation lets the Federal Government take over our elections, which is clearly unconstitutional.

Let's talk about ballot harvesting to begin with. Most Americans believe that ballot harvesting is wrought with fraud and wrong. Frankly, it dilutes your vote.

For decades, for centuries, Americans have woken up early in the morning on voting day to get to church, to vote early before they get to work.

Can you just imagine how much seeing so many show up with a bag full of ballots, which can't be vouched for—what it does to devalue your vote.

Let's talk about voter ID for a second. I think most Americans—maybe at least 80 percent of Americans—believe that voter ID brings integrity to the election process.

Certainly voter ID has worked for Kansas for years and brings about integrity to our election process. Just think about all the things that require an ID at this point in time. To rent a car today, if I wanted to check into a hotel, if I wanted to board an airplane tonight, I would need some type of identification.

And I think the value of voting is even more than any of those and thus the need for some type of voter identification. This bill takes integrity out of the election process.

Next, most Americans don't want their tax dollars going to fund any elections, especially elections of the opposite party to which you belong, and I can certainly guarantee that nobody wants to see more political attack ads with their hard-earned tax dollars being spent.

But let me tell you what I am for. I want to make it easier to vote and harder to cheat. I want to make it easier to vote and harder to cheat.

Ballot harvesting makes it easier to cheat. Getting rid of voter ID makes it easier to cheat. That destroys the integrity of the election process.

This bill, simply stated, is just another attempt at an unconstitutional power grab.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. YOUNG. Madam President, today we are discussing S. 1, the so-called For the People Act.

Now, this legislation takes a system that is actually working quite well and applies drastic, draconian, and desperate election reforms meant to keep Democrats in power.

Now, why do I say the current system is working well? Well, let me tell you just how easy it is back home in my home county of Johnson County, IN, to cast one's vote.

You see, beginning 4 weeks before the election, you can vote early in person, with no excuses, Monday through Friday, for at least 8 hours per day. The two Saturdays before the election, early voting was open for 7 hours each day. Monday, the day before the election, early voting was open for 3½ additional hours. And then on election day, polls were open for 12 hours. In total, that is 201½ hours of voting across 23 days, over a period of 4 weeks.

In total, you see, we afford Hoosiers plenty of opportunity to vote.

And lest you think that my suburban county is somehow unique in the State of Indiana, let me disabuse you of that notion. In neighboring Indianapolis, they had 221 hours of early voting over that same period.

Additionally, Hoosiers have the ability to vote absentee. Now, you can vote absentee in the State of Indiana by mail for 11 separate reasons, including being sick or caring for someone who is sick or working on election day.

Now, colleagues, in the history of our country, voting has never been easier than it is right now. That is right. You may not see this in the media, but this is indeed true.

You see, the truth bears it out right in the numbers. Last year, a larger percentage of the population voted than they had in any election since 18-year-olds were given the right to vote 50 years ago. A larger proportion of the population voted than it had since over the last 50 years.

Why aren't we hearing this?

According to the Census Bureau, voter turnout for African Americans and Hispanic Americans were up 3 and 6 percent, respectively, not down. Asian Americans saw a huge 10-percent increase. This is fantastic.

Yet my colleagues on the left would have the American people believe that we are living in an era of extreme suppression or, as President Biden demagogically, dishonestly, and divisively called it, ''Jim Crow on steroids.''

So what exactly is the national Democratic response to this record turnout?

Well, they would like to strip election powers away from the States, States like Indiana, and give those powers to Democratic overlords here in Washington, DC. That is how we ended up with S. 1, the For the People Act.

So for the folks back home, what is this For the People Act really all about? Why are we having this debate? Why are we going to have this vote? It is really about four things—four things.

One, national Democrats want to fund their campaigns with your taxpayer dollars. That is right. Under the For the People Act, a $100 campaign donation to NANCY PELOSI could be matched by $600 from taxpayers.

I don't know about, you know, my colleagues who are listening, but my neighbors work very hard for their wages and salaries, and I expect that is the case for them as well. They don't want $600 to match $100 given to NANCY PELOSI.

Two, national Democrats want to gut popular voter ID laws, like those in the State of Indiana. I know what Hoosiers believe. Hoosiers believe you should have to prove who you are in order to vote. Our voter ID law, incidentally, passed in 2005. It was challenged in the courts, and it was upheld in the Supreme Court of the United States by a vote of 6 to 3.

But this bill, this For the People Act, says you don't have to prove who you are. You don't have to prove you are who you say you are in order to cast your vote. We will just take you at your word. That seems to me to be ripe for abuse.

No. 3, the third thing this is all about is that national Democrats want to allow ballot harvesting. It is an awful word, and it is an awful thing—the harvesting of ballots. In Indiana, a member of your household can already turn in your absentee ballot. You can do it. But under this law, anybody can turn in your ballot—or not turn it in—and there is no limit as to how many ballots a single person can turn in—hundreds of ballots, thousands of ballots. It is ripe for abuse.

The final thing this is about is that national Democrats want to take control of the Federal Election Commission. They want to turn it into a partisan committee.

Now, everyone in this body believes that the right to vote is sacred. It is a sacred right that all of us have, and we ought to be able to exercise it unhindered and with fidelity. We are in this Chamber because each one of our respective constituents exercised their right to vote. That is how we earned our election certificates, and we all agree that our constituents need to be able to trust the systems in place that allowed them to cast their vote.

So we can't take that sacred right and turn it into a partisan exercise, as S. 1 proposes we do. That, my friends, is why this Senator will be voting no on S. 1, the so-called For the People Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The Senator from Iowa.

Ms. ERNST. Madam President, in each new Congress, the bill number S. 1 is a sign of the majority's priority legislation. It says a lot about the new Democrat majority that the bill they chose to design as S. 1 prioritizes themselves.

This bill creates a Federal campaign fund to finance the expenses of candidates for Congress. Instead of addressing the important issues that are on the minds of my fellow Iowans—like the rising cost of gasoline, bread, milk, and all sorts of household goods—this bill literally takes money out of the paychecks of working Americans and puts it into the campaign coffers of Washington politicians.

Rather than helping to get Americans back to work, the Democrats' top priority, again, is S. 1. Their top priority is to create a Federal jobs program for political consultants and pollsters, taxpayer-subsidized robocalls interrupting your family dinner, junk mail cluttering your mailbox, and attack ads blaring—yes—on your TV. And, folks, you cannot—cannot—unsubscribe, either, because there is no opting out.

Think about the politician you dislike the most. Now imagine your tax dollars funding their ads and fliers and campaign parties and rallies. That is what this bill does.

That is right. The bill subsidizes politicians' campaigns—your tax dollars helping to elect politicians who oppose your values.

This idea is so unpopular that a New York poll found that the majority leader's own constituents oppose public funding of campaigns by a 3-to-1 margin.

While the Democrats call the bill the For the People Act, a more apt title would be ''Fund the Politicians Act.'' It is about Washington politicians—the same ones who just brought back earmarks to pay for their pet pork projects with your tax dollars, prioritizing themselves.

The bill not only subsidizes the campaigns of politicians, it nationalizes elections. Washington would tell the rest of the country how you can select your representatives. It does so by creating a Federal workaround of State voter ID laws by effectively eliminating the enforcement of State ID requirements at the polls.

Think about what you are required to show an ID to do: drive a car, board a plane, buy a beer—and the list goes on. But Democrats think it is best if we don't require an ID to vote.

The majority of Americans disagree with Washington Democrats, and 77 percent of voters support voter ID. A little known fact is that this includes support by 63 percent of Democrats and a vast majority of Black and Hispanic voters.

It is all part of the Democrats' larger scheme and total power grab to tilt our political system in their favor. First, eliminate the filibuster. Then, rig elections by eliminating election integrity laws like voter ID verification. Then, add new States, like the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, that will elect Democrat Senators. And don't forget the plan to pack the Court.

There are just 50 Democratic Senators, but 60 votes are required to end debate on legislation in the Senate. Therefore, the Democrats must eliminate the filibuster in order to pass S. 1, their priority legislation. That is right—changing the rules in order to fundamentally change our country.

And I would remind folks that my friends across the aisle are seeking to abolish the very same tool—the filibuster—that they used 327 times last year alone when they were in the minority. If they chose to change the rules, they would destroy this Chamber's long, proud history as being the world's greatest deliberative body.

The Senate's current assistant majority leader made it clear—very clear—in 2018, in no uncertain terms, that ending the filibuster would be the end of the Senate as it was originally devised and created going back to the Founding fathers.

Because the takeover of elections is just as radical and largely unconstitutional, the Democrats' Court-packing scheme is another key component of enshrining S. 1.

Folks, we can all see this for what it is—a transparent play for permanent political power. This is not about democracy. It is about changing the rules and tipping the scales to favor Washington Democrats.

As a former local elections commissioner, I believe elections are always best kept at the State and local level, and I will continue to push back on my colleagues' attempts to federalize our elections system.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

NOMINATION OF RADHIKA FOX

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, I rise today to urge our colleagues to join me in voting to confirm Radhika Fox—Isn't that a great name, Radhika Fox?—to be Assistant Administrator for Water of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Over the past 2 months, as Radhika Fox has gone through the confirmation process, I have had the real pleasure to come to know her and, frankly, to admire her. I am convinced that she is an excellent choice to lead the EPA's Office of Water at a crucial time in the Agency's history.

Ms. Fox brings with her an impressive, professional record of service and accomplishment spanning over two decades, working on water issues at the local, State, and Federal level.

Most recently, before she was nominated for her position at EPA, Ms. Fox served as the CEO of the U.S. Water Alliance. There she worked hand-in-glove with organizations across this country representing a wide range of water stakeholders, from industries to municipalities, from service organizations to consumer groups, and from agricultural groups to environmental organizations. What those organizations have said again and again about Radhika Fox is that she is an exceptional leader who will work day and night to come up with practical solutions for our country's serious water challenges. Moreover, Ms. Fox will make sure that everyone's point of view is heard and taken into account when EPA acts to protect our country's precious water resources.

And how do we know these groups say all these wonderful things about Radhika Fox? Because they have written to us, urging the Senate to act swiftly to confirm her, again and again and again. In fact, over 80 prominent organizations that are key stakeholders in the nation's water policies have written letters in support of her nomination to this important post.

When I say that over 80 organizations have written, I don't mean that 80-plus organizations have signed on to a common letter—one letter of support. No, no, no. I mean that over 80 organizations have taken the time to write their own unique, thoughtful letters of support.

In fact, the Senate Committee on the Environment and Public Works, which I am privileged to lead along with SHELLEY CAPITO of West Virginia, has been inundated with letters of support for Radhika Fox. Each letter describes the specific and positive impact that Ms. Fox has already had on issues of importance to those individual organizations and the members of those they represent, and she has done it under previous professional positions consistently.

I will take a few minutes. I don't do this very often, but I just want to take a few minutes here and actually go through some of these letters, these 80 letters of support. They are remarkably consistent letters of great compliment and praise for her and the kind of person she is and the kind of leader that she is. But I want to share the words of some of those who reached out to us.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce writes:

> Ms. Fox has worked to ensure that businesses and the groups that represent them are valued stakeholders in water infrastructure conversations. She has created platforms to convene stakeholders from the water sector and industry through her leadership.

The U.S. Water Alliance, what do they say? The U.S. Water Alliance writes:

> Radhika Fox developed a consistent record of working cooperatively alongside stakeholders from every corner of the water sector, including drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater utilities of all sizes, environmental groups, labor, frontline communities, and countess others.

How about the Family Farm Alliance. Here is what the Family Farm Alliance writes:

> Due to her extensive engagement in policy and public discourse in her previous positions, Ms. Fox understands the implications of guidance and regulation but also the importance of authentic community engagement and the need to achieve quantified results on the ground.

They go on to say:

> Radhika Fox is the type of leader to create the conditions to catalyze that work and ultimately see it through.

Again, those are the words we received from the Family Farm Alliance.

How about the Iowa Soybean Association? We raise a lot of soybeans in our State, and I know the Presiding Officer raises a bunch in her State. And for this gentleman sitting over here on my left, they raise a few down in West Virginia. But the Iowa Soybean Association says:

> Ms. Fox understands how water management issues are interwoven with the fabric of rural and urban communities and that farmers must be part of the team and beneficiaries of this work. This integration is key for making real and long-lasting progress on protecting and improving water in the 21st century.

And here are some words from one of our neighbors in Delaware, off to the west of us, Maryland. Ben Grumbles, a Republican-appointed secretary of the Maryland's Department of the Environment writes that Ms. Fox has ''impressed public and private sector water leaders on her abilities to find common ground and skillfully advocate for integrated 'One Water' policies throughout the country. . . . Radhika is well-qualified to organize, inspire, and lead EPA's national water program and the many diverse constituencies who shape our water future.

Thank you for those words, Ben Grumbles.

Galveston. Galveston, TX, here we go. Galveston Bay Foundation down in Galveston, TX, says this about Radhika:

> Radhika is a proven leader who has demonstrated a desire to make sure that all stakeholders and all voices have a place at the table.

And, finally, last but not least, the Community Water Center—that is an outfit in Central California, not too far from where I was stationed when I was in the Navy. They write:

> Ms. Fox has the rare ability to bring multiple differing voices into the room (from environmental justice to water agencies to agricultural entities to state government leaders), find the common themes, and then

weave together a shared ground that helps advance the conversation and create real progress. You will be hard-pressed to find a more gifted visionary and leader in the water space than Ms. Fox.

Those are amazing letters. Any one of them by themselves would be, I think, remarkable and compelling, but when you put them all together—from the Chamber of Commerce to environmental organizations and agricultural organizations—we hear this theme repeated again and again. It is pretty amazing, and the reason why is because it turns out that Radhika Fox is an amazing human being and leader.

These excerpts that I just shared with my colleagues today are really a small sample—this is just a small sample—of the expressions of overwhelming support that our committee, the Environment and Public Works Committee, has received from organizations and from people around the country who know water issues and who also know Radhika Fox.

Their message is loud. Their message is clear. We have the opportunity today to confirm a truly gifted leader and put her to work serving our country right away from sea to shining sea. I urge my colleagues to join me in doing just that.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

NOMINATION OF TOMMY P. BEAUDREAU

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, today the Senate will be voting to invoke cloture on the nomination of Tommy Beaudreau. And I have to explain the difference between ''Bohdroh'' and ''Beaudreau.'' ''Bohdroh'' is when you are up north in Alaska being raised, and that is how it is said and pronounced. It is spelled B-O-H-D-R-O-H. Now, if you are down in the South, especially in Louisiana, it would be all Beaudreau, which is B-E-A-U-X. So there is a difference here, and Tommy wanted to make sure that I explained that to you.

Mr. Beaudreau has been nominated to serve as the Deputy Secretary of the Department of the Interior. I believe that he will be an outstanding Deputy Secretary. He is experienced. He knows the Department of the Interior, and he is familiar with the wide range of issues that come before it.

He has previously served as the first Director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, as the Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, and as Chief of Staff of the Department. His performance at his nomination hearing demonstrated that he has both a very firm grasp of the issues and the ability to listen, learn, and work with all sides and to find commonsense solutions to difficult problems.

He has the knowledge, the experience, the temperament, and the skills needed to serve in this important position. Mr. Beaudreau fully understands the role of the Department of the Interior in striking the balance in its dual mission of preserving and protecting our national parks and public lands and providing a large part of the energy and mineral resources that we need to power the Nation.

And I believe Senators on both sides of the aisle will find that he is someone that they can work with. Mr. Beaudreau is supremely well qualified for the job. He was reported out of the Senate Energy Committee with a very, very strong bipartisan vote. I heartily support his nomination, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

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.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today the Senate will take another step toward building a Federal judiciary that reflects the experiences of all Americans by voting on the nomination of Judge Lydia Griggsby to serve on the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland. Once confirmed, she will be the first Black woman—and first woman of color—to serve in this position.

Since 2014, Judge Griggsby has served as an outstanding and even-handed judge on the U.S. Court of Federal Claims. In fact, many of us in this Chamber are familiar with her intellect and sound judgment. Prior to being nominated to the Court of Federal Claims, Judge Griggsby served as chief counsel for privacy and information policy on the Senate Judiciary Committee under then-Chairman LEAHY. Before that, Judge Griggs by spent 10 years at the Department of Justice as an Assistant U.S. Attorney. Judge Griggsby's long and distinguished career has earned her a unanimous rating of ''Well Qualified'' from the American Bar Association.

She also received broad, bipartisan support in the Judiciary Committee, with five Republicans joining all Democrats to advance her nomination. And she has the strong support of her home State Senators, Senator CARDIN and Senator VAN HOLLEN. In 2014, the Senate confirmed Judge Griggs by by voice vote. I hope she will once again receive broad bipartisan support today.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of her nomination.

VOTE ON FOX NOMINATION

Ms. COLLINS. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Fox nomination?

Ms. COLLINS. 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.

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

The result was announced—yeas 55, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 236 Ex.]

YEAS—55

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Brown	Hyde-Smith	Schatz
Burr	Kaine	Schumer
Cantwell	Kelly	Shaheen
Cardin	King	Sinema
Carper	Klobuchar	Smith
Casey	Leahy	Stabenow
Collins	Luján	Tester
Coons	Manchin	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Markey	Warner
Cramer	Menendez	Warnock
Duckworth	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murphy	Wicker
Gillibrand	Murray	Wyden
Graham	Ossoff	
Hassan	Padilla	

NAYS—43

Barrasso	Hagerty	Romney
Blackburn	Hawley	Rounds
Blunt	Hoeven	Rubio
Boozman	Inhofe	Sasse
Braun	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Capito	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Lankford	Shelby
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cotton	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tillis
Cruz	McConnell	Toomey
Daines	Moran	Tuberville
Ernst	Paul	Young
Fischer	Portman	
Grassley	Risch	

NOT VOTING—2

Booker	Peters

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON GRIGGSBY NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Griggsby nomination?

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill 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.

The result was announced—yeas 59, nays 39, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 237 Ex.]

YEAS—59

Baldwin	Feinstein	Merkley
Bennet	Gillibrand	Murkowski
Blumenthal	Graham	Murphy
Brown	Grassley	Murray
Burr	Hassan	Ossoff
Cantwell	Heinrich	Padilla
Capito	Hickenlooper	Reed
Cardin	Hirono	Romney
Carper	Kaine	Rosen
Casey	Kelly	Sanders
Collins	King	Schatz
Coons	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cornyn	Leahy	Shaheen
Cortez Masto	Luján	Sinema
Duckworth	Manchin	Smith
Durbin	Markey	Stabenow
Ernst	Menendez	Tester

Tillis
Van Hollen
Warner
Warnock
Warren
Whitehouse
Wyden
Young

NAYS—39

Barrasso
Blackburn
Blunt
Boozman
Braun
Cassidy
Cotton
Cramer
Crapo
Cruz
Daines
Fischer
Hagerty
Hawley
Hoeven
Hyde-Smith
Inhofe
Johnson
Kennedy
Lankford
Lee
Lummis
Marshall
McConnell
Moran
Paul
Portman
Risch
Rounds
Rubio
Sasse
Scott (FL)
Scott (SC)
Shelby
Sullivan
Thune
Toomey
Tuberville
Wicker

NOT VOTING—2

Booker
Peters

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). 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.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The 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.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Tommy P. Beaudreau, of Alaska, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 89, nays 9, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 238 Ex.]

YEAS—89

Baldwin
Barrasso
Bennet
Blackburn
Blumenthal
Blunt
Boozman
Braun
Brown
Burr
Cantwell
Capito
Cardin
Carper
Casey
Cassidy
Collins
Coons
Cornyn
Cortez Masto
Cotton
Cramer
Crapo
Daines
Duckworth
Durbin
Ernst
Feinstein
Fischer
Gillibrand
Graham
Grassley
Hagerty
Hassan
Heinrich
Hickenlooper
Hirono
Hoeven
Hyde-Smith
Inhofe
Johnson
Kaine
Kelly
King
Klobuchar
Lankford
Leahy
Luján
Lummis
Manchin
Markey
Marshall
McConnell
Menendez
Merkley
Moran
Murkowski
Murphy
Murray
Ossoff
Padilla
Portman
Reed
Risch
Romney
Rosen
Rounds
Rubio
Sasse
Schatz
Schumer
Scott (FL)
Scott (SC)
Shaheen
Sinema
Smith
Stabenow
Tester
Thune
Tillis
Toomey
Van Hollen
Warner
Warnock
Warren
Whitehouse
Wicker
Wyden
Young

NAYS—9

Cruz
Hawley
Kennedy
Lee
Paul
Sanders
Shelby
Sullivan
Tuberville

NOT VOTING—2

Booker
Peters

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). On this vote the yeas are 89, the nays 9.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 1899

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Madam President, I stand again today in support of our great ally Israel. Israel is a vibrant democracy that supports capitalism, champions human rights, and holds free and open elections. Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East, and Israel deserves our unwavering support.

Israel is surrounded by nations and terrorist groups that want it wiped off the face of the Earth. I saw this firsthand during my latest visit as Senator, which gave me a clear picture of Israel's proximity to its enemies—Hamas, Hezbollah, ISIS, and Iran.

At my last visit, I was about a half mile from the Gaza Strip and went to a kibbutz. What was shocking to me is that there were little children there instinctively raised that, whenever they would hear the sirens, they instinctively raised their hands because somebody is going to pick them up and get them to a bomb shelter. I think what they were telling me when I was there is they had 15 seconds to get to a bomb shelter when the sirens went off, which said that Hamas was sending rockets. Also, they were told the story that Hamas was sending balloons with candy and explosives. So when the balloon would come down, if the children would touch it, it would explode. It is disgusting.

For 11 days last month, we saw rockets rain down on Israel. As we watched Hamas terrorists target innocent Israeli citizens, I thought about the families impacted by this evil. Think about a 5-year-old you know. They like to play games. They love their brothers and sisters, and they love their mom and dad. Well, a 5-year-old, just like the one you are thinking of, named Ido Avigal was killed as Hamas rockets indiscriminately just pounded Israel. His life was taken by Hamas terrorists. I have a 5-year-old grandson. I can't imagine life without him. I can't imagine what either of those families is going through right now.

Instead of coming together against this violence, we saw the Democrats turn their backs on Israel. I was proud to lead more than 30 of my colleagues in a resolution to support Israel in its right to defend itself against terrorist attacks. Unfortunately, it was blocked by Senate Democrats.

It was not so long ago that the Senate stood with Israel on a bipartisan basis. In 2014, when Israel was again subject to a barrage of rockets targeting innocent Israelis, then-Majority Leader Reid offered a resolution supporting Israel's right to defend itself against Hamas. Every single Senator voted to support Israel's right to defend itself against Hamas—not anymore. It is despicable that something as simple as reaffirming America's support for Israel no longer aligns with the priorities of the Democrat Party.

I have also joined in a resolution with Senator CRUZ to approve the arm sales to Israel and the resolution with Senator HAWLEY to condemn the disturbing wave of anti-Semitic and anti-Israel actions in Congress, in the United States, and around the world. These reprehensible and disturbing acts must be swiftly condemned at every level and those responsible prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

President Biden's State Department recently said:

> We're going to be working in partnership with the United Nations and the Palestinian Authority to 'kind of' channel aid there in a manner that does its best to go to the people of Gaza.

The official went on to say:

> As we've seen in life, as we all know in life, there are no guarantees, but we're going to do everything that we can to ensure that this assistance reaches the people who need it the most.

So the Biden administration can't guarantee that American taxpayer dollars aren't going to fund terrorists in Hamas? The Biden administration thinks it is OK to fund Hamas terrorists because ''in life there are no guarantees''? The Biden administration seems unbothered if some funding goes to the terrorists that killed Ido.

President Biden must do better. His administration must control where this money is going. Yes, we can make sure American tax dollars aren't funding terrorists. What we are hearing from the Biden administration is they simply won't take the time to do what it takes to guarantee that. This lack of accountability or concern is absolutely disgusting, and we should not allow it.

That is why I, along with Senators JONI ERNST, CINDY HYDE-SMITH, and MIKE BRAUN, introduced the Stop Taxpayer Funding of Hamas Act, which says that no funds will be authorized for the territory of Gaza until the President certifies to Congress that these funds can be spent without benefitting terrorist organizations.

The Stop Taxpayer Funding of Hamas Act also ensures U.S. funds are not authorized for expenditure in the territory of Gaza to any United Nations entity or office that the President cannot certify is not encouraging or teaching anti-Israel and anti-Semitic ideas and propaganda.

Recently, a European Union report was released showing Palestinian Authority textbooks in U.N.-supported schools encourage violence against Israelis, including anti-Semitic messages. And just last week, a tunnel reportedly dug by Hamas was found underneath a Gaza school run by the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees.

We can't allow this to continue. I am proud to lead my colleagues in saying the United States will not fund this destruction.

I yield to my colleague from Iowa, Senator JONI ERNST.

Ms. ERNST. Madam President, I thank Senator SCOTT, and I appreciate the time to speak today on this topic. Certainly, I am rising to also support the Stop Taxpayer Funding of Hamas Act.

The United States should no longer provide any recognition or resources to Hamas, a terrorist organization supplied by Iran disguised as a Palestinian political party. Hamas is a longstanding terrorist organization whose attacks and efforts against peace threaten the lives of civilians and innocents.

Using the population of Gaza as a human shield, Hamas fired more than 1,500 rockets into Israeli civilian areas in an unprovoked attack last month. The attack was not the action of a responsible political party but the violent outburst of an Iranian proxy bent on the destruction of Israel and peace.

Hamas's roots and rationale have very little to do with a broader struggle for freedom of worship or narrow land use disagreements. It is far simpler than that. Iran supplies rockets, and Hamas launches rockets on innocent Israelis because they share a common goal: eradication of the Jewish people in Israel. It is that simple.

Hamas couldn't be more clear in their goals. Their charter states:

> There is no solution for the Palestinian question except through Jihad. There is no way out except by concentrating all powers and energies to face this Nazi, vicious Tatar invasion.

No mention of peace or advancement for people—Israel's defensive actions against a terror group that compares their people to Nazis and is dedicated to their destruction are to be expected. Self-defense and protection of citizens is a core responsibility of every country. Hamas attacked innocent civilians, fully expecting them to be attacked in return. Their plan was to purposely create civilian casualties.

We must be unequivocal in support for our ally. The President and Secretary of State must remain strong in American support to Israel and not lose sight of the true threat Hamas's backer, Iran, poses to Israel.

The administration must abandon its attempts to return to the deeply flawed nuclear agreement with Iran. Their attempt to return to the failed nuclear deal only emboldens Iran's nuclear ambitions.

Iran provides Hamas and other genocidal terrorist organizations with rocket systems, rocket parts, assembly training, and cash support every year. And Iran's goal mirrors that of Hamas: to wipe Israel off the map, bottom line.

Just as no country—Israel or otherwise—would tolerate such terrorism and aggression against its citizens, no true ally would turn their backs on a friend in their moment of need. They certainly would not continue funding the organization responsible for the attack. So now, more than ever, the United States must stand with its ally, condemn the attacks against Israel by Hamas, and affirm our commitment to support Israel's peace and security.

The Stop American Taxpayer Funding of Hamas Act ensures no funding will be authorized to the territory of Gaza, the site of Hamas's headquarters, until the President certifies to Congress that these funds can be spent without benefiting terrorist organizations.

The United States must be clear in our unwavering commitment to our ally and ensure no American taxpayer dollar goes to Hamas ever again.

I would like to thank my friend and colleague from the great State of Florida for moving on this piece of legislation I am proud to support.

Again, thank you for your leadership on this.

I yield the floor back to the Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. And I yield to my colleague from Mississippi, Senator HYDE-SMITH.

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Madam President, I join my colleagues today in defense of our longtime friend and trusted ally, Israel, and to argue that absolutely no American taxpayer dollars should be spent to benefit terrorist organizations.

Israel has no greater friend than the United States, and the Israeli people have long relied on assistance from the American people and other allies. It is an unshakeable bond based on mutual respect, shared democratic values, and common interests that existed long before the modern State of Israel was founded. We must continue to support and foster that relationship with everything we have as Israel faces growing threats from Hamas and other terrorist groups in the region.

As the annual appropriations process moves along, I am concerned, as are many of my colleagues, that foreign aid—U.S. taxpayer dollars—could end up in the hands of those who have boldly proclaimed that their intent is to do harm to Israel and our interests in the region.

The most recent wave of violence in the Middle East makes it clear that our resources must be responsibly spent and kept out of the coffers of terrorist organizations and bad actors whose violence can be bankrolled by commandeering U.S. foreign aid.

The Biden administration admitted recently ''there are no guarantees'' our humanitarian assistance will reach the intended recipients. I believe it is our duty to guarantee this. It is imperative that we are certain that not a single cent of taxpayer money is spent to fund Hamas and its military arsenal.

In this effort, my colleagues and I have teamed up to ensure that safeguards are in place to make sure anti-American and anti-Israel groups do not continue down this dangerous path of radicalization and indoctrination at the expense of hard-working Americans.

The Stop Taxpayer Funding of Hamas Act, introduced by my friend Senator SCOTT of Florida, is commonsense legislation. It protects American assets and allies, while ensuring that not a penny of foreign aid is spent indoctrinating students abroad and bankrolling terrorist activities.

This is a nonpartisan issue. Americans do not support terrorism, so they certainly should not have to subsidize terrorism. We must take a stand against this barbarism and the harm it poses to most innocent civilians.

I simply cannot imagine why any of my colleagues—Republican, Democrat, or Independent—would oppose legislation that is fiscally responsible, morally sound, and in the best interest of our allies, servicemembers, and our future generations.

Finally, I believe we should recognize that American citizens feel the painful effects from the recent flareup of violence toward Israel. In tandem with the global unrest, we have witnessed the significant rise in anti-Semitic attacks largely fueled by old prejudices and accelerated by harmful political rhetoric. It is my fervent hope that we would dedicate ourselves to stopping anti-Semitic violence, to fortifying our determination to protect the State of Israel, and to promoting peaceful relations in the Middle East.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Madam President, I want to thank my colleagues from Iowa and Mississippi for supporting me today in our effort to make sure that we do not ever fund Hamas.

I hope every single Member in this body can agree that the United States shouldn't fund terrorists with American taxpayer dollars—funding that could be used to kill Israelis—like I do.

I look forward to my colleagues joining me today to stand with Israel and against terrorism.

Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 1899 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration. I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, reserving the right to object, I have real concerns my colleagues' efforts to subvert the legislative process and push through a bill without due consideration from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. I know my distinguished colleague from Florida is very interested in these issues. I hope he would ask his leadership to put him on the committee because he consistently comes to the floor and wants to circumvent the committee. This is not the first time.

Let me be very clear: Hamas is a terrorist organization, and the terrorists who lead Hamas have no regard for human life, whether they be the life of innocent Israelis targeted by their rocket attacks or the Palestinian families they constantly put in harm's way.

Israel has every right and responsibility to defend herself from attacks against their civilians, and the United States does not, and will not, ever provide funding to Hamas. Neither of those statements are up for debate. In fact, I would argue that every single Member of this body agrees with those assertions.

Indeed, the Senate has a long history of carefully crafting foreign aid programs with robust oversight, as well as sanctions that target Hamas and its supporters. With that in mind, there is simply no reason this bill can't go through regular order and sustain a markup in the Foreign Relations Committee. I looked at the dates of introduction and then its subsequent referrals—less than 3 weeks. We have done it before, and we can do it again.

As the chair of the Foreign Relations Committee, I have shown that I prioritize moving serious, bipartisan legislation. This bill in question is not a serious attempt at legislating; it is a partisan talking point.

Had the Senator from Florida, who is the chair of the Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee, or any of the bill's sponsors had a genuine interest in asserting Congress's role in foreign policy and the hard work that goes into legislating, they would have gone through the regular order of the committee process. They did not.

Instead, I imagine they would rather relish in a tweet proclaiming that Democrats support taxpayer funding of Hamas or oppose defending Israel. And all I can say to this is, enough abusing the United States-Israel relationship for partisan political purposes. It does damage to the United States. It does damage to the State of Israel.

I am proud of my legislative efforts to defend Israel for over three decades, and I would argue that the facts that these efforts have been bipartisan speak to the strength of the United States-Israel relationship. Both Republicans and Democrats share a long track record of working together to defend Israel's right to exist and legislating accountability for U.S. taxpayer dollars spent overseas. But we have to do the work, and I do believe there are Senators who are genuinely interested in working toward that goal.

The truth is, we already have a number of laws and regulations in place regarding the delivery of lifesaving humanitarian relief. As written, this bill, by way of example why we have bills go through the committee so they can be worked on, seems intended to ensure that nobody in Gaza could ever receive any of this support. The language is written so broadly that, for example, before delivering clean water or water infrastructure, the President would effectively have to certify that anyone related to Hamas would never drink that water or drink from a water fountain that carried that water. That is simply absurd.

I would welcome a robust discussion on the ways we can continue to ensure that taxpayer dollars intended for lifesaving humanitarian relief in Gaza and elsewhere can get to those who need it the most and certainly evade and avoid the hands of Hamas.

Let's remember why we invest in foreign aid programs in the first place. We do so in pursuit of our common humanity, of our values, and our own security interests. So let's recognize the political games being played on the floor today for what they are and reject them.

Because of all of those reasons, Madam President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Madam President, I am glad my colleague has acknowledged his interest in helping Israel. Unfortunately, I am surprised that the—if my colleague had an interest, why didn't the Foreign Relations Committee take up the same resolution that the majority leader retook up in support of Israel basically saying that Israel had the right to defend itself and saying that Hamas was a terrorist organization? My colleague didn't.

This is a pretty simple bill. It basically just says, look, any foreign aid we are going to give to the Palestinian Authority, we are going to make sure it doesn't go to Hamas. It is pretty simple.

Let's remember why we are doing this. President Biden's State Department said:

> We're going to be working in partnership with the United Nations and the Palestinian Authority to kind of channel aid there in a manner that does its best to go to the people of Gaza.

That should scare us.

It went on to say:

> As we have seen in life, as we all know in life, there are no guarantees, but we're going to do everything that we can to ensure that this assistance reaches the people who need it the most.

That is not much of a guarantee. That is a ''maybe we will try.'' We can do better. The Senate should do better. Republicans and Democrats should all say that not a dime will ever go to Hamas, a terrorist organization that kills little boys like Ido. We should all be disgusted with this.

So I am very disappointed that my colleague uses a procedural matter to say he objects, but basically what he is saying is he will not agree that this money will not go to Hamas. This was really simple. You could read this in just 2 minutes.

I am disappointed that my Democratic colleague has made this political. It is not political. It is about, do we support Israel? Are we going to make sure that never a dime goes to Hamas and another little boy like Ido dies?

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

NOMINATION OF TOMMY P. BEAUDREAU

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, the Senate will be voting tomorrow on the nomination of Tommy Beaudreau to serve as the Deputy Secretary of the Interior. If confirmed, he will play a critical role in managing our Nation's public lands, our natural resources, our national parks, our wildlife areas, and the Outer Continental Shelf. He will oversee the management of the largest water supply in the West, and he will also oversee our Nation's trust responsibilities to American Indian Tribes and Alaska Natives. He will be responsible for the multiple uses of our public lands.

One of the most important roles that he will fulfill is overseeing the development of traditional and renewable energy supplies on public lands and waters.

Energy production on public lands is the engine of Wyoming's economy. It creates good-paying jobs. It provides tremendous revenue for the State, and we use the essential services of the State funded by this, like public education.

Mr. Beaudreau has extensive experience at the Department of the Interior. He served in a leadership position during the Obama administration. As an attorney in the private sector, he regularly handled matters relating to the Department. He is an expert in his field. His qualifications are clear. It is also clear from his nomination hearing

that he understands America's needs for an ''all of the above'' energy strategy. That strategy must include coal, oil, natural gas, nuclear power, and renewables.

I appreciated his commitment to working with members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. The Department needs to listen and collaborate with the people of Wyoming and the West. These are the States that rely heavily on energy production on our public lands. We are the States that power America. We are the ones that will be hit the hardest by President Biden's punishing Executive orders. This administration has unleashed a barrage of Executive actions that threaten to destroy the livelihoods of oil, natural gas, and coal workers in the West. It is critical that Mr. Beaudreau keep those Americans at the forefront of his mind as he works at the Department. He can serve as a voice of reason in an administration that is waging a war on American energy workers.

My goal is to hold Mr. Beaudreau and the Biden administration accountable to the commitments that Mr. Beaudreau has made to our committee, and I will support his nomination.

POLICE DEPARTMENTS

Madam President, on another topic, I come to the floor today in support of America's police officers. Every weekend, I go home to Wyoming. Every weekend, people ask me about three issues: the President's attacks on American energy, the crisis at our southern border, and the Democrats' defunding the police.

People see the headlines. They see the images on the news. They have heard about looting and rioting, the violence in Democrat-run cities. They are deeply concerned.

Last year, 63 of America's 66 largest cities saw increases in one or more categories of violent crimes. On average, homicides are up by one-third in just 1 year. Since President Biden took office, these increases have continued in Democrat-run cities. In the first 3 months of this year, homicides went up in Washington, DC; Oakland, CA; Philadelphia; Chicago; and Baltimore, just to name a few. It is no wonder that the American people tell pollsters that they feel less safe today than they did 1 year ago.

The Democratic crime surge is especially shocking because it is a reversal of a long-term trend. For a quarter of a century, crime in America had been going down. The violent crime rate was cut in half. The murder rate was also cut in half. It was a historic, bipartisan accomplishment.

Then, in 2014, Democrats began their war on law enforcement officers. After Michael Brown was killed in Ferguson, MO, Democrats started attacking police. Crime suddenly went up in Democratic cities. In the final 2 years of the Obama-Biden administration, the murder rate went up by one-fifth. Violent crime overall went up by nearly 7 percent.

Then Republicans took back the White House and the Congress. We stopped the war on law enforcement, and crime went down again.

Last year, Democrats began a repeat of 2014. This time, it was on a much larger scale. Democrats began attacking police again. Crime went up again in Democrat-run cities. America's cities saw the largest increase in murder on record.

My Democratic colleagues might say it is a coincidence. Yet there is a very clear chain of events: Democrats attack police. They cut police funding. The number of police officers went down. Crime went up.

We had a chance to fix the problem in law enforcement. Senator TIM SCOTT introduced a police reform bill, which I strongly support. Yet the Democrats blocked it. Time and again, Democrats put criminals ahead of police and law-abiding citizens. Innocent people continue to pay the price.

Democrats spend trillions and trillions of our tax dollars. Yet they cut funding to police, to law enforcement. Last year alone, Democrats cut more than $1 billion worth of police funding. This includes cutting funding in cities where violent crime went up.

Police have been retiring or quitting in historic numbers. Fewer police officers means more crime, more destruction, and more fear in our cities.

The American people deserve better. The American people deserve safety and peace of mind. It is time for the Democrats to stop attacking the police. It is time for the Democrats to stop wasting taxpayer dollars on liberal spending. It is time for Democrats to start paying attention to public safety.

I say to my Democratic colleagues, the vast majority of police officers in this country are heroes. They put their lives on the line for us every day. It is time to treat them with respect.

When Democrats wage their war on the men and women who dedicate their lives to law enforcement, only criminals win. The rest of our Nation loses.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 1520

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Madam President, I rise to once again call for this entire body to have the opportunity to consider and cast their votes on 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 vote on the floor on this bill since May 24. That was 23 days ago. Since then, an estimated 1,288 servicemembers will have been raped or sexually assaulted. Two in three of the survivors will not even report it because they know they are more likely to face retaliation than to receive justice.

Today I want to share the story of the kind of offender our bill would address.

On March 30 of this year, SSG Randall Hughes pled guilty to a series of rapes dating back to 2006 that he committed while the Army looked the other way. Staff Sergeant Hughes was only brought to justice after his brave daughter decided to come forward. Had the Army prosecuted him the first time one of his victims had come forward, his daughter may have been spared.

At a Super Bowl party in 2017, Staff Sergeant Hughes fed drinks to his host, a soldier under his care, until the host passed out. He then approached his host's wife while she was outside the house. He propositioned her for sex, and when she refused, he forced himself on her against their grill outside their house and then dragged her inside their house, where he raped her—all while the husband was passed out in the next room.

The survivor hid in her bathroom until she could report the ordeal to CID the next day. CID took a year to investigate a relatively straightforward rape allegation. The command did nothing to expedite the investigation or hold CID's feet to the fire.

CID determined that the allegations were credible, but the command did nothing. Instead of prosecuting him, the command put Staff Sergeant Hughes on the sergeant first class promotion list.

Hopeless, the survivor asked that something, anything, be done. The command reacted by putting an administrative remark in his record.

Staff Sergeant Hughes was transferred to a new duty station, Fort Dix. While at Fort Dix, after years of sexual abuse, his daughter bravely came forward to report that abuse. CID at Fort Dix then noticed the administrative remark in his record from the previous rape and began making inquiries. They learned he had raped two other women and physically abused his wife.

The command had every tool available to stop Staff Sergeant Hughes from his serial rapes, including the abuse of his own daughter, but instead they turned a blind eye and did nothing. Even after he admitted to his crime and pled guilty, the Army offered a plea deal of 13 years of confinement—13 years of confinement despite sexually assaulting three women, including a minor. This serial offender avoided justice for 15 years. Even when the command was forced to administer justice, he received a sentence less than we would give a drug offender.

This case is why we need a professional military justice system worthy of the sacrifices the men and women in our military make every day. Having leadership at the top that truly cares and that is truly passionate about prosecuting sexual abuse will have repercussions down the chain. Our bill does exactly this.

We have 66 Senators who have cosponsored this bill. It deserves a vote on the floor.

As if in legislative session, 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 of 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Madam President, once again, I object to the request from the Senator from New York for the reasons I have previously stated, and I will repeat again what I have said publicly and what I have committed to.

I support removing prosecution of sexual assault, the types of crimes that Senator GILLIBRAND discussed, from the chain of command. But her bill goes further to include crimes not related to sexual assault. The removal of sexual assault crimes from the chain of command will be an historic change in the military justice system and one which Senator GILLIBRAND can claim great responsibility for effecting. We must take care, however, that we do it thoughtfully, in a manner that does not break the military justice system.

The worst thing we can do to victims of sexual assault is to move a bill through that can't be implemented effectively or on time, creates too large a workload for too few qualified military judge advocates, imperils prosecutions, leads to convictions being overturned on appeal, or results in neglected cases because the necessary attention cannot be devoted to them.

According to the Department of Defense, the number of full-time colonels, lawyer disposition authorities required to execute the system as proposed, which would take effect 180 days from enactment, exceeds the number of judge advocates in that senior grade. And this doesn't account for her bill's requirement that these O–6 judge advocates have significant trial and criminal law experience or that they would not then be available for other important assignments reserved for O–6s, such as military judges and division, corps, or combatant command judge advocates.

The heads of the service Judge Advocate General's Corps have previously raised concerns about the implementation timeline, the resources necessary to execute, and a host of other inconsistencies with the current system that would have to be addressed to be sure of successful implementation. These are the very military lawyers that Senator GILLIBRAND's bill would empower to make prosecutorial decisions, which includes an evaluation of a far greater number of cases than simply those that end up in court-martial. These are the issues that we need discuss in the committee and not dispose of in an amendment on the floor. The committee will do this and do it faithfully. And I am very confident that we will be able to move legislation that does remove any crimes related to sexual misconduct from the current command to a system that Senator GILLIBRAND is proposing.

With that, I would reiterate my objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. As you heard from the chairman of the committee, he only intends on taking one crime out of the chain of command, and that is sexual assault. And the reason why that is so problematic is, No. 1, it will continue to undermine women in the military, marginalize them and isolate them, creating a ''pink court'' that all legal experts have agreed would be highly ineffective and would harm the military justice system.

Second, our allies have already made this move. They have taken all serious crimes out of the chain of command and given it to trained military prosecutors in the UK, Israel, Germany, Netherlands, and Australia. In those instances, they did it specifically for defendants' rights. And we have a similar problem in this country because right now we have a great deal of racial bias in who gets punished.

If you are Black or Brown in the U.S. military today, you are 2.5 times more likely to be punished. And most commanders are White commanders. There is further data that shows most Black and Brown servicemembers have either experienced or witnessed racism within the ranks.

If we want to fix this criminal justice system, you need a bright line, and it should be at all serious crimes. That is how we fix the military justice system. That is how we give justice to sexual assault survivors.

And for the chairman to say today that it would cost too much money or that they don't have sufficient resources or sufficient lawyers, it isn't true. And those are the same arguments that were used over the last 8 years about excluding sexual assault from the chain of command as well.

So I don't think these are legitimate arguments. I think they are brought up year after year as just a way to put an impediment in front of the reform that is needed to fix the system.

I now yield the floor to my colleague Senator GRASSLEY.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Senator GILLIBRAND, as 1 of the 65 other cosponsors of this legislation, I think you are to be commended for every day coming to the floor, to be as consistent in being for this legislation as you have been since 2013. And every one of us thank you for your persistence. You need to be congratulated. And all the people who have been harmed by sexual assaults over the last decades owe you a great deal of gratitude for that.

So I am here to join Senator GILLIBRAND in asking for a vote on this crucial legislation. And, obviously, today we aren't going to get it, but eventually it is going to happen. You can't say no to 66 Senators that want this legislation. The Military Justice Improvement and Increasing Prevention Act has that many bipartisan cosponsors, and it is past time for this bill to become law.

This legislation was first introduced by Senator GILLIBRAND and me and other Senators 8 years ago and has gained more and more support each year. Senators who previously were skeptical have come around and realized that the Department of Defense can't handle the pervasive problems of sexual assault on their own.

The Armed Services Committee and the Department of Defense have had more than enough time to consider this idea. They have told us that they have it under control and tried other approaches. Those approaches have not worked. Women and men in the military continue to face high rates of sexual assault and retaliation. It is clear this bill is needed.

By moving the decision to prosecute out of the chain of command, perpetrators of sexual assault and other serious crimes will be held accountable. Survivors will have more confidence in the process. Retaliation will be less likely. We have been waiting almost a decade. There is no need any longer to wait. I urge my colleagues to allow this bill to move forward today. And, obviously, it isn't going to move forward today, but Senator GILLIBRAND will be back here tomorrow, asking the same thing. And I applaud you for doing that.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

UTAH

Mr. LEE. Madam President, 100 years ago, in 1921, a young and newly married couple named Percy and Verabel Knudson saw the need for a gathering place in their community. Knowing they could make money selling ice cream and candy, they started Idle Isle Ice Cream and Candy Store.

A few years later, after raising the necessary funds, Percy and Verabel Knudson—with the help of David H. Call and his wife LaRita—shifted their business from sweets to full-service meals, and Idle Isle Cafe was born.

Over the course of the last century, Idle Isle Cafe has endured remarkable events in history and served important people. It survived the difficulties of the Great Depression and World War II, all while serving locals and national celebrities alike, including Wallace Beery, Charlie Chaplin, Clark Gable, Carole Lombard, and Paulette Goddard.

During the fifties, Idle Isle even served ''The Duke'' himself, Mr. John Wayne, who stopped in on a number of occasions while visiting Utah on hunting trips and movie shoots.

In those years, the cafe also served as a meeting place for members of the Brigham City unit of the Utah National Guard, who were later called to

serve their country in the Korean war. Idle Isle Cafe has endured both good times and bad over the last century. But whatever the times, it has always been a place where people from every walk of life could share a meal, enjoy friendship, and bear one another's burdens as they endured the ups and downs of life together.

As the cafe celebrates its 100-year anniversary this year, it is worth recognizing all the good that it has done for Utah and for Brigham City. Of course, bearing one another's burdens is one of the things that Utahns do best.

Travis and Jana Porter, the current owners of Idle Isle Cafe, epitomized this spirit. Everyone who befriends or works with the Porters quickly sees their love of community and their dedication to their country. Nearly everything they do, both inside of the restaurant and outside, stems from their passion for helping others and their optimistic outlook on life.

Even with their five kids and the business of running the restaurant, the couple finds intentional time each day to love and serve those who work in the cafe and all who come to visit. As a result of their service, Idle Isle Cafe endures.

We, as Utahns, are engaged in the work of enduring together. In fact, the State's economy is so robust, in large part, because neighbors care for neighbors, friends care for friends, and strangers even look out for strangers. It doesn't matter who you are. In Utah, you belong. Whether in the cafe or the community, there is a place for you at the table. Our doors are open. So, too, are our hearts. You see, Utah is one of these places where it doesn't matter how long your family has been in the State or whether you have been here for 5 minutes; to us, you are a Utahn.

The endearing spirit of Utah is not inspired by government. No, it is inspired by moms and dads, teachers, small business owners, friends, and neighbors.

Earlier this year, when neighbors in West Valley City were overwhelmed at the prospect of revamping and reclaiming their community, an opportunity presented itself. Aging homes, with peeling paint and cracked up driveways, broken fences, and neglected yards, needed to be refinished. So in typical Utah fashion, neighbors came together.

After identifying problems, reviewing resources, and communicating with community leaders, an initiative was born—Operation My Hometown. Operation My Hometown is a neighborhood improvement coalition made up of residents, city workers, and volunteers from various churches and other organizations. It runs entirely on private initiative and volunteerism, two of Utah's hallmark strengths. Their process is simple: see something in need of repair, note it and join the group to help fix it and then, of course, fix it.

Repair requests can be submitted online, and anyone can help. The projects are significant. And, quite remarkably, they are being completed. To quote one news report:

> Six days a week, the church is converting its meetinghouse in the neighborhood into a community center. Corporations are donating cash and goods. A new park is planned. The city is adding street lights. Funds are being raised to finance home ownership. And volunteers are streaming in from all over the Salt Lake Valley to work side by side with residents.

Neighborhood resident, Bonnie Shaw, stated:

> I am so encouraged, so hopeful, so blessed, I can't even believe this is happening.

Another resident, Nickolaus Orwin, shared, as follows:

> We live in a strange world these days. We hear this ideology that if you don't look like me, talk like me, act like me and vote like me, then we must be enemies, but throughout all of this social upheaval . . . this community has worked together and served one another in such a brilliant and beautiful way that it just defies the ideology that we're different and we have to segregate ourselves out into groups. Even in the dark days of COVID . . . this community service was such a bright, shiny star. Through all of that hard, we have this, this really beautiful and safe community service that was happening.

It has been said that ''the greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.'' If that is the case, then Utah is truly a great place.

To honor this tradition of greatness, I myself am grateful to host the annual Flavors of Utah event in partnership with Operation My Hometown in West Valley City later this summer. My office has partnered with this and other great community groups to collect food from local producers and distribute it to those in need. I encourage other Utahns to join me in this effort as we together look for opportunity to thrive.

The spirit of Utah, the enduring spirit of Utah, is borne from a rich history of hard work, industry, innovation, and ingenuity—even against great hardship. Few individuals embody this spirit more than the late Obert Clark Tanner.

Born in Farmington, UT, in 1904, O.C. Tanner was the youngest of 10 children. Despite his position in the family, from a young age, Tanner felt an obligation to provide for his family. He did so by performing odd jobs around the city, including stoking furnaces. One of the people for whom Tanner stoked the furnace was a jeweler. The jeweler became a friend and a mentor to Tanner and, with time, schooled the young Tanner in the jewelry business. Tanner was a quick study. He swiftly implemented the lessons taught to him and began selling graduation pins and class rings from the back of his car.

In 1927, he officially founded the O.C. Tanner Company. Though still an undergraduate student at the University of Utah, he used what little time he had outside of his classwork to make ends meet—and make ends meet, he did. The company quickly grew and endured the difficulties that put others out of business.

Throughout the years, the enduring spirit of O.C. Tanner has been a guiding light and inspiration to many, and the company has achieved truly great heights.

In 2002, the O.C. Tanner Company crafted the medals for the Winter Olympics, which were hosted in Salt Lake City. In 2019, O.C. Tanner designed a copper spike replica of the original golden spike that was ceremonially driven at the joining of the two branches of the first transcontinental railroad.

Today, the O.C. Tanner Company maintains offices in the United States, Canada, England, Singapore, Australia, and India. The company is one of the largest manufacturers of retail and corporate awards in the United States, and it employs over 1,500 people.

Through the dark nights of hardship, O.C. Tanner has endured and even succeeded, thrived. Through the difficulties of community building, the volunteers of Operation MyHometown endure, and they are succeeding.

Through 100 years of historic highs and unforgettable lows, the Idle Isle Cafe endures and, yes, the cafe is succeeding too. As goes the saying, those who endure conquer.

Similar to O.C. Tanner, volunteers of Operation MyHometown, the Idle Isle Cafe, and all Utahns have endured the difficulties of the last year with utmost faith and fortitude, and they are emerging victorious. The enduring spirit of Utah is strong.

The 2020 pandemic, earthquakes, civic discord, confusion, and contention presented daunting challenges in the lives of all, and yet Utahns are breathing a collective sigh of relief as we embrace the shining horizon that lies yet ahead.

Since the onset of the virus over a year ago, Utahns have seen near-continual drop in unemployment. Utah's unemployment rate fell to 2.8 percent in April—less than half the national number.

Though earthquakes shook homes and businesses last year, Utah's economy has still been rated the best in the United States by several nationally recognized outlets. And while the discord, confusion, and contention seem to dominate the airwaves, Utah's citizens have banded together to bridge the partisan divides that can be so difficult to overcome.

Utah and Utahns are remarkable.

If you are seeking a place to start a business, ask those at Idle Isle Cafe. Utah is the place.

If you are seeking a place where community matters, ask those at Operation MyHometown. Utah is the place.

If you are seeking a place where opportunity is abundant, read the story of O.C. Tanner. Utah is the place.

I am very grateful for the privilege of representing the State of Utah here in the U.S. Senate. It is my hope that the successes and the enduring spirit of

Utah will continue to serve as an example for the Nation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). The Senator from Texas.

JUNETEENTH

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, yesterday, the Senate moved a historic bill one step closer to President Biden's desk. The Senate unanimously passed legislation to finally make Juneteenth a Federal holiday and to preserve the legacy of that momentous day for generations to come.

For more than a century, Texans have celebrated Juneteenth and commemorated the anniversary of the day slaves in Texas were first informed of the news that they were, indeed, free. President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, but the news didn't reach Texas for 2½ years, until June 19, 1865.

We were the first State to make Juneteenth a holiday and, of course, it commemorates an event that occurred in Galveston, TX. But over the last four decades, many other States have joined us.

It is finally time to recognize Juneteenth as a national holiday. I reintroduced this bipartisan bill with the Senator from Massachusetts, Senator MARKEY, this year, and I have been proud to work alongside my fellow Texan Congresswoman, SHEILA JACKSON LEE, in the House to get the bill passed and signed into law. The bill now heads to the House and according to Congressman STENY HOYER, the House will actually pass it today.

I will have more to say about the history and significance of Juneteenth tomorrow, but for now, I want to thank the dozens of Senators on both sides of the aisle who have supported this effort. I think, particularly now at this point in our Nation's history, a little reconciliation can go a long way.

It is also an opportunity to learn from our past. America is the greatest Nation in the world, but we are not perfect and, indeed, the original sin of slavery when this country was created has caused this country a lot of angst, death, and injustice over the years. We fought a civil war, and 600,000 Americans died. If you extrapolated that to current population, that would be like 3 million Americans dying.

Of course, we went through the civil rights movement in the sixties, and, of course, the latest manifestation of racial strife is the unfortunate killing of people like George Floyd and the lack of trust that exists between some law enforcement and the communities that they serve.

While America is not perfect, we continue to do the work to strive to be ''a more perfect Union,'' in the words of the Constitution.

IRAN

Mr. President, this Friday, Iran will hold its 13th Presidential election, but unlike Presidential elections in the United States or in any other legitimate democracy, this process in Iran is more about providing the appearance of a democracy than an actual democratic process.

In America, elections are conduits for change. If the American people don't like their elected officials or the direction of their government, they can change it. In Iran, elections are a sham. The candidates are hand selected, the result predetermined, and the opportunity for change nonexistent.

The process for electing the President of Iran is just a few steps shy of the fabricated elections in places like Iraq under Saddam Hussein. In 2002, Saddam won reelection by 11 million votes—11 million to 0—and there was reported to be 100 percent turnout. In fact, there weren't any other candidates running. In fact, the question on the ballot asked if Saddam should remain in office, check yes or no.

It reminds me of the story I heard about that time of a reporter traveling with a driver whom he had hired to drive him around Iraq to report on conditions there. The reporter asked—when he learned that there was 100-percent turnout and Saddam Hussein won by 100 percent of the votes, he said to this driver: Well, you have been with me; how did you vote? And he said: Saddam must have known what was in my heart.

That, to me, is maybe apocryphal, but a demonstration how even the dictators like Saddam Hussein, even the Ayatollah in Iran, still want to give the appearance of democracy, even though they deny it to their very own people.

In Iran, the situation isn't much different than the election under Saddam Hussein. It is just a larger effort to create the appearance of choices.

While the Iranian people may vote for the eventual winner, there is a highly controlled process that selects the pool of candidates, and the puppeteer behind the curtain is the Supreme Leader, Ali Khamenei.

Unlike a true democracy, the candidates for President of Iran are not selected by the Iranian people. They are selected behind closed doors by a powerful group called the Guardian Council. This group, itself, is comprised of 12 people. Half are selected by the Supreme Leader and the other half are selected by the Parliament.

But Parliament can't select just anyone for this position. These six jurists are chosen from the options presented to the Parliament by the Chief Justice, and the Chief Justice—you might have guessed—is appointed by the Supreme Leader.

This contrived election is not the result of a fair and democratic process. So the candidates hardly represent the will of the Iranian people. Of the 592 registered candidates, only 7 were approved by the Guardian Council—5 conservatives and 2 so-called reformists.

The Guardian Council, in fact, prevented most reformists or moderate candidates from even participating in the race, and the candidate pool was carefully whittled down to a point that the outcome is virtually a known certainty.

All signs point to the eventual winner being Ebrahim Raisi, the favorite of the Supreme Leader and the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps. It is easy to see why Mr. Raisi is the chosen front man for the corrupt leaders of a brutal regime, because his resume is nothing less than a long list of atrocities. Mr. Raisi's first step to power came after the 1979 Revolution.

Throughout the 1980s, he gained more power and influence and the trust of the Ayatollah. In 1988, he was chosen to be one of the four members of the so-called ''death commission'' charged with carrying out executions of Iranians' political prisoners. Mr. Raisi played a central role in these executions, which took place over the course of 5 months.

It is difficult for us to be sure how many political prisoners were killed, but it is widely known to be in the thousands. Some believe the death toll could be as high as 30,000 from these death commissions.

Mr. Raisi's reign of terror did not stop there. He continued to serve in high-ranking positions throughout the government and inflict violence on dissidents. He currently serves as the Judiciary Chief, where he continues to direct the execution of protesters and ethnic minority groups. Once again, this mass murderer is expected to be the next President of Iran.

This election comes at a very precarious time for the regime. Iran has experienced major uprisings since the last election in 2017. Popular slogans included: ''Death to the dictator'' and ''Our enemy is right here; they lie when they say it is America.''

Iranian citizens place the responsibility for the economic crisis that the country is currently experiencing on the regime that controls the country. The vast majority of Iranians live below the poverty line, and the government's pathetic mishandling of COVID–19 has made already harsh circumstances even more unbearable.

The Iranian people know this election is a sham. Candidates approved by the Supreme Leader offer no window for the freedoms and change that they desperately want and desperately need.

The Iranian resistance has called for an all-out boycott of the elections, and turnout is expected to be the lowest since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

For the United States and our allies, this changing of the guard cannot be just a blip on the radar, because Iran continues to commit human rights abuses and back terrorist organizations and authoritarian figures, including dictators around the world.

Currently, two Iranian warships are making their way across the Atlantic, and we have reason to believe that these ships are carrying missile-equipped fast-attack boats and other military equipment to Venezuela.

Whether this is a test or a threat or an effort to seek some kind of leverage remains to be seen, but what is abundantly clear is that Iran has no intention of taking its foot off the gas.

Over the past 2 months, U.S. military assets in Iraq have been attacked by drones laden with explosives, and all signs point to the responsibility being on Iranian-backed militias. Just last month, the world watched in horror as the conflict between Israel and Palestine gave way to more violence and destruction than we have seen in years. This was a proxy war waged by Iran against the Jewish State. Hamas—that proxy—receives significant financial support from Iran, which is the No. 1 state sponsor of terrorism in the world.

Now take these actions over the past few months, and add that to what we have seen over the last several years. Iran has arrested and continues to detain American citizens. It engages in gross human rights abuses. It backs terrorists around the world. We have also watched as Iran has blatantly ignored the restrictions on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the so-called JCPOA, which is designed to prevent Iran from enriching uranium and building a nuclear weapon.

During the time that it violated the terms of the JCPOA, Iran was led by President Hassan Rouhani, broadly considered to be a moderate when compared to his expected successor. Following this election, Iran's already extreme President will be replaced by an even more punishing leader. The United States cannot simply stand by and enable Iran to continue down its current path.

In recent years, Iran has felt significant pressure from the United States and our allies. The Trump administration withdrew from the Iran nuclear deal and placed sanctions on hundreds of businesses and individuals who helped finance Iran's illicit activities, and there is no question that Iran stood the most to lose from the historic Abraham peace accords that were brokered this last year. This took a number of Arab countries that were nominally adversaries, and they joined together to declare their willingness to let Israel live in peace and to recognize it as a legitimate state.

The Biden administration has already loosened the pressure valve on Iran. President Biden has made it clear his intent to revive the Iranian nuclear deal no matter what the cost. At the same time, the administration has rolled back sanctions that would have provided the U.S. maximum leverage to bring Iran to the negotiating table.

By simply signaling his intent, the Biden administration has already emboldened and encouraged Iran's malign activities. Iran did not play by the rules of the JCPOA the first time around, so there is absolutely no reason to believe that this will change when a radical mass murderer assumes the Presidency.

Over the last few days, the leaders of the G7 have reaffirmed the need to stop Iran from developing a nuclear weapon. I agree that this is one of the most critical responsibilities of our time, but a flawed agreement that relieves pressure on Iran, without concessions, with regard to its nuclear weapon aspiration will only continue to embolden the regime. Iran's belligerence cannot be rewarded with sanctions relief, and the administration should not continue to squander our leverage.

The Biden administration needs to resume the maximum pressure campaign on Iran, and I would encourage the President to work closely with us in Congress to identify an approach that is effective, comprehensive, and built on bipartisan foundations. We have to stop Iran from ever achieving a nuclear weapons capability.

I asked the Director of National Intelligence, Avril Haines, during her confirmation hearing: Should the United States prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon? She said: Yes. She didn't hesitate.

I asked Ambassador Burns, the new CIA Director, the same question: Should we let Iran get a nuclear weapon? He said ''no'' without hesitation.

I find that encouraging from these two new members of President Biden's Cabinet, but we need to work together, as Republicans and Democrats, as Members of Congress, with the administration to ensure that our efforts to stop Iran from developing nuclear weapons can last beyond the term of a single President or Congress.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I am here to talk about the escalating crisis on our southern border.

I am the ranking Republican, the senior Republican, on the Homeland Security Committee, which is a committee that has, among other things, oversight over what happens at the Department of Homeland Security and therefore at the border and with the Customs and Border Patrol and has other responsibilities. We have been looking at this issue carefully over the past few months. We have been trying to figure out how we can address this surge at the border that is really overwhelming the Border Patrol.

It is obviously about people, but it is also about drugs. Unfortunately, there are more and more drugs coming over the southern border as well, which, in effect, makes States like mine, Ohio—which is not on the southern border; we are actually on the northern border—part of the border, in effect, because we are affected by what happens down there.

At one time, most of the most deadly drug, fentanyl, which is a synthetic opioid, was coming from China. Frankly, a lot of it was coming from the mail system, from our own Postal Service. We passed legislation here in this body. I have worked with Republicans and Democrats alike on it, and we have largely been able to deal with that issue, but those same drugs have now moved to Mexico, and now they are coming across our southern border. So, if you look at the amount of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids—again, the deadliest of all drugs at a time when more people are dying from overdoses in our country than ever in history—more and more of that is coming across the southern border in addition to the cocaine and crystal meth and other dangerous drugs that were already coming.

This is about the immigration system not working properly and having a huge surge of individuals—family members, unaccompanied kids. It is also about not having control of that border and having this contraband come over—in the case of these dangerous drugs—that is actually resulting in overdoses and deaths all over the United States, including in my State of Ohio.

So how can we tell that it is getting worse? I would just look at these numbers here. This is the latest from the Customs and Border Protection folks of its encounters at the southwest border.

Remember, we had a crisis in May of 2019, which was deemed to be the worst crisis of its kind, and it was pretty bad. We had a lot of unaccompanied kids coming at that time and a lot of family members as well as individuals. The high point was here at 144,000 individuals. We are now, as of May of 2021, which was last month, at 180,000.

Some of my colleagues have said: Well, it is getting better. I don't see that it is getting better, and the numbers don't say it is getting better. It is really at the point now where it is overwhelming those people whose jobs are to try to control the border. They just don't have the resources to be able to handle this.

It is also overwhelming our system all the way through. A lot of this is of families and kids coming in, as an example, and we don't have the facilities to take care of these children.

During this first period of time—here is the Biden inauguration. After the inauguration, this huge increase started to happen, and it was because policies were changed. A new President who is coming in has the right to change policies, but in my view, what a President doesn't have the right to do is to change policies without preparing for it.

It is one thing to say we are not going to have an emergency on the southern border anymore and that we are going to do away with title 42—a provision that says, if you have somebody coming over the border during COVID, he can be turned back—and immediately the President is saying: No,

we are not going to use that anymore for unaccompanied kids. They have also now not used it for most families coming over. So not having title 42 was a shock to the system. You had a situation where people were being turned away because of COVID one day, and the next day, they were not, and you can see the result.

By the way, these are people who come from all over the world, but a lot come from the Northern Triangle countries—the countries of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras.

Recently, the President of Honduras talked about this, and I know the President of Guatemala has talked about it. What the President of Guatemala has said, in essence, is that the traffickers, the smugglers, heard this. So they came down to our country and said: Let's go to the northern border and make that difficult and arduous journey—it is sometimes a very dangerous journey for these children—because the Biden administration has said that there would no longer be this title 42 in place so that we can turn you away at the border. In fact, he said: We want to reunite families and kids, and that means come to the border, and you can come into the country. That is what has happened.

Look, I believe we ought to have a legal immigration system that is very healthy in this country. I believe in immigration. I think it is a very important part of who we are as Americans. We take more people in legally every year than any other country in the world, and that is over a million people a year. I think that has been good for our country. It is part of the fabric of our society. We should want immigrants to come but to come in a legal and orderly way.

And not only is this surge overwhelming the border, but it is really not fair to all of those people who have been waiting in line for years and years to come to our country from a country like El Salvador or Honduras or Guatemala or Mexico, for that matter, people who want to come legally, people who are reuniting with their families legally here or have skills that we want in this country. We should encourage that. But this is happening in a way that is not orderly, and it is happening because there has been a change in policy.

The other big change in policy is that if you come, people were told—this is after the inauguration—then if you apply for asylum, meaning that you have a credible fear of persecution back home, so you apply for asylum, you will be allowed to come into the country. In other words, there won't be an adjudication of that. There won't be a decision made. Whether you apply properly or not, you will be told you can come into the country.

So I went down to the border a couple months ago and was able to go there with Secretary Mayorkas and my colleague on the committee, Senator PETERS, who is the Democratic chairman of the committee, so it was a bipartisan group, and at that point, we were just overwhelmed with these children. At that point, the Border Patrol stations and the border detention facilities, which were primarily built, frankly, for single adults and were never built for long-term detention, were overwhelmed with children. You had children sleeping side by side during COVID—none of them being tested for COVID, by the way—and they didn't have blankets. They had sheets, essentially, that are—you know, no real warmth or padding. They were sleeping on the ground with pads underneath them. The system just couldn't handle it.

Now, at this point, most of those children are out of the Border Patrol system, and they are into the HHS system. HHS is the Agency that is supposed to take care of these kids. They can only be in the Border Patrol custody for a short period of time. That was being violated. They were staying there much longer than they were supposed to under law, but there was no place else for them to go. So now there have been HHS facilities that have been built and opened, and these HHS facilities are taking care of these kids.

I will say that some of my colleagues would say: Well, this is great news. You know, we have fewer children in Border Patrol custody; that is good. But they are still in American Government custody; they just switched from Border Patrol to HHS.

HHS has had a very hard time staffing up, and there have been, as you know, allegations of abuse. Some of these contracts that have been given to the private sector to run these HHS facilities have not been done in a proper way, and it has caused problems.

A lot of the people who were down there on the border helping with these kids do not have the right training. They are not trained to take care of kids—including, by the way, a lot of government employees who have volunteered to go down. God bless them. They are getting paid to go down there rather than do their work here in Washington, as an example, but they don't have the training.

So this creates a lot of issues, as you can imagine, when you have thousands and thousands of these kids showing up in unprecedented numbers. So that is what we are seeing on the border because of changes in policy.

Another change in policy that was made was not only were we no longer going to turn people away because of COVID without putting anything in its place to deal with all these claims, but, instead, there was a policy called the ''Remain in Mexico'' policy or the Migrant Protocol policy. Under that policy, people who came as families and applied for asylum were told: Fine, but you have to wait in Mexico rather than wait in the United States for your asylum claim to be adjudicated.

Frankly, a lot of those people ended up going back home because they were not brought into the United States, into the interior, as I said earlier, as the vast majority of people have been. They were instead told: You have got to wait in Mexico. They chose instead to go back to their home, mostly in Central America, rather than wait in Mexico. Those cases, once adjudicated, those people could come back and enter into our country if they were successful in their court case.

But this system is not working. If a trafficker or a smuggler goes to a family in Central America or elsewhere—there are a lot of immigrants now coming from other countries, including all over Latin America, Ecuador, and Nicaragua and other places. They say: Look, if you come with us, give me a lot of money as a trafficker, thousands of dollars, and if these kids come with me or you come with me as a family, we will get you into America, and you will have the opportunity to stay in America.

You know what, I have to say tonight on the floor of the U.S. Senate that those smugglers and traffickers are probably telling the truth, and that is the problem, because when they come to the border and they claim asylum, then instead of having that be adjudicated there at the border and determined—or saying: You need to wait on the other side of the border until we adjudicate this—what I would do on our side of the border, I would do the adjudications right there rapidly. Instead, they are saying: OK. Here is a bus pass or here is a plane ticket. Go to the interior of the United States. Go to your hometown, wherever it is, whoever is listening tonight—my hometown is Cincinnati, OH—go to Washington, DC, wherever, and then wait for your court case. You need to check in periodically.

Those court cases and the adjudications take years—on average, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 years, depending on who you talk to. Because a lot of these cases are appealed, that is maybe where you get to the 7 or 8 years. So that is a long period of time, right, when you are in the United States awaiting your court case. Why? Because there is a backlog—a huge backlog—of over a million cases. I think it is more like 1.3 million now. So that huge backlog and the lack of resources that have been devoted to the system and the fact that just because you apply for asylum, you get to come into the United States gives the trafficker the ability to say that, to say: Just let your kids come with me or come with me as a family member. Pay me a lot of money.

Unfortunately, a lot of these individuals, including kids, women and girls, get abused on the trip north from mostly, again, the Northern Triangle countries—Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras up to Mexico. Obviously there are a lot of issues with crossing the border itself in terms of going across the desert, and there are some terrible stories.

But the point is, they know that when they get to the United States,

they are going to be told not that ''You have to turn back,'' not that ''You have to stay here until we decide whether you actually are, you know, going to get asylum, whether you qualify for it,'' but instead ''Here is a bus ticket. Here is a plane ticket. Go into the interior and wait.''

Now, let's say that individual who goes to the interior does not show up for the court case. What happens? Well, in theory, there is a group called ICE, which is part of the immigration system that then, having kept track of that person, deports the person back to their home country. That is not happening, or at least it is not happening in the vast majority of cases.

For a while, it was that the administration—and, frankly, the previous administration had a similar policy for at least some time—that we are going to focus on criminals. So those who are in the United States who are migrants coming up here who have a criminal record, we are going to deport them but not prioritize others who simply come here under an asylum claim and then do not show up at their court case or show up but do not leave the country.

But if you look at the deportation figures over the last several months of the Biden administration, you will see that that is just simply not happening. In fact, there were fewer deportations last month, I am told, than there are ICE agents. So I am not sure what they are doing.

But I do know that on this day, on the inaugural day, President Biden said to the world that we are going to stop deportations for a period of time. So that is added to this narrative that if you are a smuggler or a trafficker and one of these people who are taking advantage and exploiting these families and individuals and kids, you have got a narrative that is pretty strong where you can say: Hey, if you go to the border and you claim asylum, you come into the United States of America, and then we will see what happens. Unfortunately, right now we don't have a system in place to deal with that.

So that is a long way of saying we have a crisis on the border, and we are not facing up to it.

In a number of the hearings that I have been at on this topic, the administration witnesses go out of their way to say this is the fault of the Trump administration. Their argument is, as I understand it, that the Trump administration should have been prepared for this surge by putting in place during this time period a lot more of this infrastructure.

We talked about the HHS facilities, for instance, that were not ready, and therefore kids got stuck at the Border Patrol detention facilities.

Well, it is an interesting argument. I mean, they didn't have any issue here. They didn't have this surge. They did back in 2019, but they put policies in place to deal with it. You can argue whether those policies were right or not, but you can't then say: OK. They should have had all this infrastructure in place.

My point is, we need to own up to our own actions, and to blame the Trump administration for what is happening now in terms of the lack of infrastructure when the infrastructure wasn't needed, frankly, given the policies they had in place, I think is, frankly, just not a very constructive use of time. We should instead be focused on, OK, how do we take this situation and make it better and deal with it?

My own view, for what it is worth, is we start with enforcing the law, particularly along the border, and say to our Border Patrol: We are going to give you the support you need to be able to support keeping these drugs out and dealing with the immigration crisis in an appropriate way. Instead, we have done just the opposite.

So the first thing I would do is to say: Let's support those who are on the border. Let's tell them we are going to be there for them and provide them the resources they need to do their job. One of those things, of course, is to complete the fencing that was started during the Trump administration.

There are some in this body on the other side of the aisle and, of course, a lot in the Obama administration who did not support the wall; same with the new Trump administration—or, I am sorry, the new Biden administration. But the Trump administration decided to go ahead with the wall. They got the money for it. He started building it—not across the whole border but over about 20 percent of the border, which has often been misunderstood, but areas where it would make a difference, at least to slow people down.

I have always been of the view that the wall is not in and of itself an answer because if you don't have technology associated with the wall, people will go under it or over it and around it. You have to have the cameras and the sensors and so on to make the wall effective. That has not been completed.

What has been completed is most of the fencing, but then there are gaps in the fencing. And when I was down there, as everyone can testify who has been down to the border to see this, there are literally holes in the wall where they were going to put a gate in, but they hadn't completed it yet, and when the Biden administration came in, again, one of the things they did on day one, they said: Stop. Stop the construction—even though the contractors had already been paid to do this work.

So, literally, if you go to the El Paso sector, where I was, you go to an opening in the wall, there will be the construction material there on the ground, and there are no contractors there, and the Border Patrol, you can imagine, is demoralized by this. These people have already been paid to put up the gate, but they leave the gate open. So they have to be 24/7 physically present there to keep people from coming through those openings or just—which is what they do because they don't have the people to do it—just assume you are going to have a lot of crossings there when there is not Border Patrol there.

Instead, we should complete those very small sections of the wall that haven't been completed, and, again, it is mostly openings.

Then we should put the technology in place. We were told when we were down in El Paso in that sector that only 10 percent of the technology had been put in place for, let's say, you know, dozens of miles of wall—not thousands, not for even the area outside of the suburban and urban areas, but in the areas where it could slow people down to give the Border Patrol a chance to be able to respond. But the technology was stopped, again, on day one because President Biden said we are going to stop construction, stop—even though the contractors had been paid for this work.

So that, to me, is No. 1. Let's give the Border Patrol what they need in terms of personnel and equipment and specifically the technology. I think the technology is the most important part of this. And you do need the sensors, you do need the cameras, and you do need to know what is going on.

If smugglers are coming through with a bunch of drugs and they can divert the Border Patrol, which they do, with another group—let's say a group of unaccompanied children or families, where there is a lot of processing time involved—the Border Patrol will go to the one group, spend a lot of time processing, as they have to do, and in the meantime, the group coming with the drugs will sneak across. If you have the technology in place, you can avoid that, but if you don't, there is no way to deal with that crisis.

So, No. 1, let's take care of those along the border who are trying their best to do their work and don't have the support that they need.

No. 2, I think we need to reinstate some asylum policies that were starting to work effectively. Frankly, they hadn't been implemented fully during the Trump administration, so it is hard to tell. But one is allowing people who want to apply for asylum to apply in their home country or in a safe third country.

So think about this. I talked earlier—people who want to apply for asylum now are just coming to the border, and they are told, under an asylum claim, they can go into the interior of the United States. They are given maybe a notice to appear—actually, a lot of families are not even given a notice to appear anymore because they are just overwhelmed. We saw that, and I saw families who were literally given just a sheet of paper that had the addresses of where the ICE offices are in America, and they were told: We don't know where you are going in America, but wherever you go, go to this ICE office wherever, in your region, but no notice to appear in court. But whether they are given a notice to appear or not, they are going into the interior.

Instead, what if those people applied—not taking that dangerous journey north through Mexico but instead applied in their home country or applied in a safe third country?

And there were safe third-country agreements with the countries in the region—for instance, Guatemala—which, as you know, those who are in Guatemala are coming from El Salvador or Honduras or farther south. That makes a lot of sense to me. Those are discontinued for some reason. They really hadn't been put in place where they were implemented fully, but that would seem to me to be a very smart thing; that is, to tell people: If you want to apply for asylum, that is fine. Come to our consulate office and apply, or if you don't want to apply in your own country, perhaps because you do fear persecution, go to a third country and stay in a third country and apply. Doesn't that make sense?

Also, I think we should—and again, these should all be bipartisan ideas—give the Border Patrol the resources that they need. On third-country asylum applications, I know for a while there were a number of Democrats who strongly supported applying for asylum in your own home country. President Obama's administration did for some time.

But, third, I would require adjudication at the border. So when you come for asylum—and this is consistent with legislation that is bipartisan that Senator SINEMA and Senator CORNYN introduced and I support—you have regional processing centers on the border. This will take some funds. It will be expensive because we don't have a system in place right now. As I said, there is a 1.2, 1.3 million backlog in asylum claims. That is when people have to wait 4, 5, 6, 7, years. Instead, have these on the border. Have these operations where somebody can come, claim asylum, and go before an immigration official, someone who can judge whether that asylum claim is credible or not.

A little background for this, if you come from these Northern Triangle countries or come from Mexico and claim asylum, only about 15 percent—that is 1–5, 15 percent—of these asylum claims are ultimately successful. Why? Because most people who are coming are coming for economic reasons, which I totally understand. If I were a father in Honduras in a rural area and I had no prospects for a job, I would want to gather up my family and come to the United States, because you can get a lot more financial security here for yourself and your family. That is totally understandable, but that is not the basis for an immigration system because, unfortunately, there are billions of people around the world in that kind of a situation. So it needs to be based on an orderly system where, yes, people can apply, as they do every day from Honduras and come through the legal immigration system, or if they have a credible fear, they can apply for asylum. But why not do it in these safe third countries or, when you come up to the border, do it at the border?

Again, let's assume 15 percent in the end qualify. Those 15 percent would be able to come in as asylees, much as refugees come into this country. It is basically the same criteria. I am not against the refugee system. I think we should accept refugees in this country, as other countries do, who have a credible fear of persecution in their own country and need a place to land. We have a successful system to do that. We have a system to resettle these people. There are agencies that specialize in that. A lot of them are private sector agencies.

So I think on the border is where we ought to put the funding. These regional processing centers ought to be there to help make the decision quickly—quickly—so that people don't have to wait 4 years, but instead they get an answer, yes or no, to be able to come into this country if they apply for asylum and they qualify for asylum.

Finally, I would say that we need to put a system in place to discourage illegal immigration that goes to the employer. And I know this is somewhat controversial on both sides of the aisle for different reasons, but to me, if an employer can hire someone who is illegal, because that person has documentation—say, a driver's license or Social Security card or something else that is fraudulent—there will be more and more illegal immigration because that is the magnet.

I know some say that people come to this country to take advantage of our social services and not to work. There may be some of that, but I will tell you, if you go to the border and talk to these migrants—which I have done, and I did it again a couple of months ago and did it many times before—and ask them: Why are you coming to America? They are not saying they are coming to America to get on our social welfare system. They say they are coming to work because they know they can make 5 times, 10 times, maybe even from poor areas in Honduras 15 times what they can make in their own country. And they would like to bring their families and would like for them to have a better life and maybe send remittances back to their family. Well, again, that is an issue that we need to address in these third world countries, but in the meantime we need to have an orderly system of immigration, and if you allow employers to hire people without any consequence, then, this will continue to happen.

So what is the answer to that? Well, one is to have an E-Verify system that really works. That means you have to verify electronically whether someone is eligible to work in the United States. And the small business owner should not be the police officer. It should be easy to do. It should be a software system that enables them to find out immediately whether that Social Security card is fraudulent or not. That includes looking at the Social Security number online and deciding: Is this number connected to this person?

It also, I think, is going to have to require a photograph and looking at the photograph and determining whether the person is who the person says he or she is. But this can be done with the new technologies that we have. Right now we have E-Verify in place, but it is not mandatory. Don't you think it should be mandatory? Because if you dry up the job opportunities for people coming illegally, then you will not have this magnet of pulling people over the border.

Again, legal immigration ought to be encouraged. We ought to bring in refugees. Asylees who qualify ought to be given asylum in this country. That is who we are. We are a country that has always welcomed the stranger. But do it in an orderly and lawful way.

If we don't do that, we will continue to see a border being overwhelmed. We will continue to see this. There is no reason for this to change based upon current policy. These simple steps that I talk about could all be bipartisan. This is not a partisan issue. This is an issue of commonsense approaches that have been taken by Republican and Democrat administrations over the years. We can make a big difference here.

There is a small program called the Central American Minors Program, which was reinstated just this week, and it helps with regard to unaccompanied kids coming from Central America. I support that program. I am glad the Biden administration put it in place, and I have been told by Biden administration officials at the highest level at DHS that this is the answer. Well, we had something like 19,000 kids coming over the border in one month, and thousands a day. In that system in the Obama years, when it was in place, the Central American Minors Program only had 3,000 or 4,000 kids come through it over 10 weeks, or something like that. So we had more children coming over in 2 days than they did in that entire program.

I am not suggesting that the program is a bad idea. Let's do that. But if you don't do these other things, too, you are not going to make a dent in this issue.

And, again, our hearts go out to some of these individuals. They have a tough time in their countries, and we wish their countries were more like ours. We wish that they had more economic opportunities, more freedom, and that they had a democracy and a market system that actually works for the people. That is not the reality now.

I know the administration is focused on saying the answer to this question is dealing with the push-backers, dealing with, as Vice President KAMALA HARRIS said during her trip, the source of the problem, which is the poverty in Central America. Well, I will say, No. 1, there are migrants coming from all over the world, from Central America, of course—and that continues, and that

is a very poor part of our hemisphere—but also from many other countries, including Mexico, including people from Romania, from Yemen. I am just looking here—from Ecuador, from Colombia, from countries all over Latin America. So it is a big problem.

Again, there are billions of people in the world who unfortunately don't have the kind of lifestyle that we have in this country and aspire to it. So you have to have an immigration system of some kind.

Second, I would make the point that the administration is talking about spending $4 billion in Central America. I suppose that is over the next few years. It should be noted that we just spent $3.6 billion on economic development in those same countries over the past 5 years.

So I am for that. I think we should be helping these countries develop. I was for a trade agreement with these countries to try to encourage their economic development.

I am for helping to deal with the corruption and dealing with the kind of lack of transparency and lack of opportunity in these countries. That is all good. The judicial system and the rule of law need to be strengthened—no question about it. I am for doing that.

These countries are in our hemisphere. They should be treated, in my view, differently than even countries elsewhere in the world because they are close to us. They are our neighbors, essentially. But that is not going to solve the problem—certainly, not during my lifetime. It will take decades, and it doesn't mean we shouldn't do it. And we have been doing it. Some $3.6 billion of hard-earned taxpayer money has gone toward this in the last 5 years.

But I don't think it is honest to tell the American people: If we just spend a little more money in Central America, this problem will be solved.

Wouldn't that be nice, if we could wave a magic wand and it could be solved and suddenly those countries would be prosperous and free?

It is going to take a long time. It doesn't mean that we shouldn't be doing it, but in the meantime we have to come up with a system that is lawful, that is orderly, that is humane, and that deals with this problem. And by putting our heads in the sand or blaming the previous administration—again, here is their record—that is not going to solve the problem. In fact, it is going to create an impression that the problem is easy to solve, which it is not. It is a difficult problem—no question about it. And broader immigration reform is something that is needed—no question about that.

But, in the meantime, let's focus on the border. Let's do these simple things. Let's support the Border Patrol. Let's be sure that they have what they need in terms of technology. Let's be sure that we are doing all we can to have asylees apply in their country, or, if not, in a third country. If they come to our border, let's adjudicate those claims at the border, because then the next group will say: Well, I am not going to get to come into the United States and wait for 4 or 5 years and get embedded in the community. I am going to have to have my case decided at the border.

It is much more likely that those traffickers, those smugglers who are exploiting these people are not going to be able to say—again, with some credibility right now: Hey, you come with me. You pay me a lot of money. I will take you not just to the border, but you will get into America, and you will be able to have a life there because you won't be deported.

That is what they can say now. We want them instead to be saying: Well you are going to have to have your case adjudicated at the border, and you may be qualified.

Again, 15 percent have made it through, and those are people who should be taken care of, in my view, as asylees. But for those other individuals, they will know that it is much better to apply legally, to go through the system, and to have the opportunity to go through an orderly, legal process.

So I hope that the administration makes some of these changes quickly because I don't see this situation getting any better. In fact, in May it got worse, despite everyone saying from DHS, with whom I spoke: Don't worry. Things are getting better.

I don't see that. There is a looming date—I think it is the end of July—when title 42 will no longer apply to single individuals. Right now, title 42, which I talked about earlier, which is where, because of COVID, the United States government is turning people away at the border. Right now, this is happening with regard to single individuals. When title 42 ends, which it will at the end of what is the COVID–19 public health emergency, which expires soon, then what is going to happen?

Well, I can tell you, the Border Patrol is very, very nervous about that. That is one question they ask me repeatedly: What are we going to do when we can't use title 42 and when people know that, when they come into this country, they are not likely to get deported?

That is a short-term issue we have to deal with. Congress could extend title 42 for now. We still have a COVID issue, not just in this country. Thank goodness we are getting over it, but it is a much bigger issue, unfortunately, south of the border, in all of these countries we talked about, including some of these countries in South America that are having a serious issue right now with COVID. You could continue with it, in my view, as a public health emergency. But, in any case, let's not do this—get rid of, as an example, title 42 without preparing for it. Let's be sure there is in place something else, something better to be able to deal with the obvious surge that we have seen.

So I appreciate the fact that this is a tough issue, and I know that some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle would probably prefer that we not get into these difficult issues because they are hard.

I do see that the Presiding Officer has now arrived, with whom I have worked quite a bit on this issue, and we have a specific piece of legislation that helps to deal with this issue, that helps to deal with the surge.

That legislation is bipartisan. It creates a strategic plan and a contingency fund for immediate needs at the border when there is a surge to deal with the DHS issue I talked about earlier when the Border Patrol just gets overwhelmed.

That is another part of what we ought to do, is to be honest about the problem and to deal with it. It is called the Border Response Resilience Act, and it enables the Department of Homeland Security to respond to the worst immigration crisis that we have had in at least 20 years. I would hope that—again, that is a bipartisan approach—that we could at least pass that and then take the other four steps that I talked about to ensure that we have an orderly system that actually works and to be sure we can retain the sovereignty of our border, keeping the list of drugs out, like synthetic opioids and like fentanyl, that are killing so many Americans, and that we have an orderly and lawful and humane immigration system.

With that, I yield back.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KELLY). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

(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 votes on motion to invoke cloture and confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 148, Radhika Fox, of California, to be an Assistant

Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Had I been able to attend, I would have voted yea on the motion and yea on confirmation.

Mr. President, due to a family medical emergency, I was unable to attend today's votes on motion to invoke cloture and confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 173, Lydia Kay Griggsby, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland. Had I been able to attend, I would have voted yea on cloture and confirmation.

Mr. President, due to a family medical emergency, I was unable to attend today's vote on the motion to invoke cloture of Executive Calendar No. 123, Tommy P. Beaudreau, of Alaska, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior. Had I been able to attend, I would have voted yea on the motion.●

REMEMBERING JIM BUNNING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, 57 years ago on Father's Day, 1964, future U.S. Senator from Kentucky Jim Bunning pitched the perfect game—the seventh in Major League Baseball history—for a 6–0 win by the Philadelphia Phillies over the New York Mets. Jim would have been 90 years old this summer, and in recognition of his legendary career in baseball and politics, the Behringer-Crawford Museum in Covington, Kentucky is celebrating his life with an exhibit running from this Father's Day until August. Today, I recognize Senator Jim Bunning as an outstanding Kentuckian and a lifelong champion on both the pitcher's mound and the Senate floor.

It is fitting that Jim would be honored at the Behringer-Crawford Museum, which has celebrated everything great about northern Kentucky for over 70 years. The exhibit, entitled ''From the Mound to the Hill,'' encapsulates the essence of Jim's life as an all-around Kentucky hero. It is rare that leaders are able to excel in one, let alone two, fields, but Jim earned acclaim with grit, determination, and tenacity.

After his prodigious, 17-year baseball career with the Tigers and the Phillies, which included 224 wins and 2,855 strikeouts, Jim returned home to Campbell County to serve at all levels of local, State, and national government. He dedicated his life to the people of Kentucky, and our gratitude for his public service is apparent in tributes like the one at the Behringer-Crawford Museum.

I served with Jim in the Senate for his entire tenure and was proud to work alongside a man of deep conviction and strongly held principles. As he once said, ''I have been booed by 60,000 fans in Yankee Stadium, standing alone on the mound, so I never cared if I stood alone in Congress, as long as I stood by my beliefs and my values.'' Jim was never afraid to defend his ideals and fight for Kentuckians in the Senate, a trait his constituents wholeheartedly admired. He truly deserves his place in the Hall of Fame, not just for baseball, but for life.

No commemoration of Jim would be complete without also honoring his wife Mary, a truly remarkable woman who led her own admirable life.

The Northern Kentucky Tribune highlighted the Behringer-Crawford Museum's exhibit in a recent article. I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From Northern Kentucky Tribune, June 9, 2021]

BEHRINGER-CRAWFORD MUSEUM EXHIBIT CHRONICLES DUAL CAREER OF BASEBALL STAR, U.S. SENATOR JIM BUNNING

It will be 57 years to the day. Father's Day, Sunday, June 21, 1964.

That's the day Northern Kentucky's Jim Bunning, a member of the Philadelphia Phillies, pitched the seventh perfect game in major league history—a 6–0 win over the New York Mets at Shea Stadium.

It was the first perfect game in the National League since 1880 and Bunning's second no-hitter. His first came as a member of the Detroit Tigers on July 20, 1958, against the Boston Red Sox.

Behringer-Crawford Museum's From the Mound to the Hill exhibit, a pictorial history of the baseball life of Southgate's Jim Bunning, is on display now through August. Rex Morgan, a life-long friend of Bunning, donated the material to the museum.

''Jim Bunning was truly a local hero,'' said Jason French, curator of exhibits at Behringer-Crawford Museum. ''When we were given the opportunity to display such an extensive collection of Bunning memorabilia, it was less of a question of 'if' than 'when.' We felt that the summer of his 90th year would be a great way to honor his memory.'' Bunning was born October 23, 1931.

Bunning was the sole major league baseball athlete to be elected to both the United States Senate and the National Baseball Hall of Fame. He pitched from 1955 to 1971 for the Tigers, Phillies, Pittsburgh Pirates and Los Angeles Dodgers. When he retired, he had the second-highest total career strikeouts in major league history. He currently ranks 19th.

A graduate of St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati in 1949, Bunning received a bachelor's degree in economics from Xavier University in 1953. He was elected to the Philadelphia Phillies Baseball Wall of Fame in 1984, and in 1996, to the Baseball Hall of Fame via the Veterans Committee. In 2001, his uniform number, 14, was retired by the Phillies.

After retiring from baseball, Bunning returned to his native Northern Kentucky and was elected to the Fort Thomas city council, then the Kentucky State Senate, in which he served as minority leader. In 1986, Bunning was elected to the United States House of Representatives from Kentucky's 4th congressional district and served in the House from 1987 to 1999. He was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1998 and served two terms as the Republican junior senator. In July 2009, he announced that he would not run for reelection in 2010. Bunning gave his farewell speech to the Senate on December 9, 2010.

''When we were approached about being a permanent home to a massive Jim Bunning memorabilia collection, there was little chance that we were going to turn it down,'' French said. ''Jim was such an icon and local legend. He did so much for our community and was always there for Behringer-Crawford Museum, too. Housing his collection is quite natural for us and exemplifies our partnership with the Northern Kentucky Sports Hall of Fame.''

Hall of Fame members will be admitted to BCM free on Saturday, June 19 to view the Mound to the Hill Jim Bunning display, as well as adjunct displays featuring the Negro, Cuban and Mexican leagues.

Behringer-Crawford Museum opened to the public in 1950 as a natural history museum based on the collections of William Behringer, an avid collector, traveler, diarist and Covington resident, featuring fossils, minerals, animal specimen and other oddities from his world travels. It is the only museum totally dedicated to the people, history, culture and art of Northern Kentucky.

Admission to the museum: $9 for adults, $8 for seniors (over 60), $5 for children (3–17 years old) and free for children under 3. Hours of operation are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Sunday, 1 to 3:30 p.m.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING BATTERIES PLUS BULBS

● Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I will recognize an outstanding Kentucky small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize a family-owned small business, Batteries Plus Bulbs of Bowling Green, KY, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Since 2004, David Paschall has owned and operated a Batteries Plus Bulbs franchise in Bowling Green, KY. As a young man, David owned and operated a successful service station in Puryear, TN. After meeting his wife, Dorothy, David relocated to Bowling Green in 1988. Dorothy, who was working in Bowling Green at the time, is a Kentucky native and a graduate of Western Kentucky University. Over the next few years, David started working in the batteries industry. When local entrepreneur Steve Sheldon opened a Batteries Plus Bulbs franchise in 1999, David joined his friend as store manager. In 2004, when Steve moved on from the company, David and Dorothy purchased the store.

Today, Batteries Plus Bulbs Bowling Green continues to thrive under David and Dorothy's leadership. In addition to their original location, they own and operate Batteries Plus Bulbs franchises in Elizabethtown and Somerset, KY, and Clarksville, TN. David and Dorothy's care and attention to detail are evident in every aspect of their business. Their strong sense of family has built a tight-knit and supportive team, with several long-time employees working over a decade at the store. Customers are regularly greeted by name and treated according to the golden rule. Finding a solution to a customer's problem is prioritized over pushing a sale. Notably, Batteries Plus Bulbs Bowling Green is known for its

beloved mascot, Morris. A rescued cat, this 13-year-old orange tabby delights staff and visitors alike. The Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce recognized David's outstanding work, naming him the 2016 Small Business Person of the Year.

Together with his wife, Dorothy, David gives back to his community. Locally, Batteries Plus Bulbs has sponsored several sports teams and charitable organizations, including the Bowling Green/Warren County Humane Society. David and Dorothy are active within their local church community as well. Notably, Dorothy also served as executive director of the Barren River Area Development District and was involved with the Hospice of Southern Kentucky.

Like many small businesses, David and his team stepped up to keep their community supplied during the COVID–19 pandemic. As an essential business, they stayed open and adapted to State guidelines, ensuring all of their employees stayed healthy. Despite the challenges, at the end of 2020, Batteries Plus Bulbs Bowling Green was ranked No. 25 out of 740 franchises nationwide by the national corporate office.

Batteries Plus Bulbs is a notable example of the endurance and resilience of family-owned businesses. Small businesses like Batteries Plus Bulbs form the heart of towns and cities across Kentucky, regularly stepping up to support their communities. Congratulations to David, Dorothy, and the entire team at Batteries Plus Bulbs Bowling Green. I wish them the best of luck and look forward to watching their continued growth and success in Kentucky and beyond.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

At 12:42 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled joint resolution:

H.J. Res. 27. Joint resolution providing for the appointment of Barbara Barrett as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

The enrolled joint resolution was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

At 1:22 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 290. An act 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.

H.R. 293. An act 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.

H.R. 468. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to permit the use of incentive payments to expedite certain federally financed airport development projects.

H.R. 539. An act 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.

H.R. 587. An act 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.

H.R. 610. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to establish a grant program to support the restoration of San Francisco Bay.

H.R. 1144. An act 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.

H.R. 1257. An act 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.

H.R. 1262. An act to establish a task force on improvements for certain notices to airmen, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1703. An act 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.

H.R. 1921. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2008. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize certain programs relating to nonpoint source management, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2016. An act 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.

H.R. 2093. An act 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.

H.R. 2332. An act 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.

H.R. 2429. An act 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.

H.R. 2545. An act 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. 2726. An act 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.

H.R. 3325. An act to award four congressional gold medals to the United States Capitol Police and those who protected the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021.

H.R. 3642. An act 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.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 711) to amend the West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016 to authorize the use of certain funds received pursuant to leases entered into under such Act, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 2:37 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 49. An act to designate the National Pulse Memorial located at 1912 South Orange Avenue, Orlando, Florida, 32806, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 290. An act 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; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 293. An act 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; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 539. An act 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; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 587. An act 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; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 610. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to establish a grant program to support the restoration of San Francisco Bay; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 1144. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide assistance for programs and activities to protect the water quality of Puget Sound, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 1257. An act 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; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 1262. An act to establish a task force on improvements for certain notices to airmen, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 1921. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 2008. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize certain programs relating to nonpoint source management, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 2016. An act 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; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 2093. An act 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; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 2332. An act 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; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 2429. An act 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; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 2545. An act 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; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 2726. An act 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; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 3325. An act 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.

H.R. 3642. An act 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; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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–1190. A communication from the Senior Advisor, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 15, 2021; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–1191. A communication from the Chair, Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''June 2021 Report to Congress on Medicaid and CHIP''; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–1192. A communication from the Chairman, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''June 2021 Report to the Congress: Medicare and the Health Care Delivery System''; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–1193. A communication from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel of the Division of Regulatory Services, Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Eligibility To Receive Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students Under the Higher Education Emergency Relief Programs'' (RIN1840–AD62) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2021; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–1194. A communication from the Board Members of the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Congressional Justification of Budget Estimates Report for fiscal year 2022; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–1195. A communication from the Inspector General of the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Inspector General's Congressional Budget Justification for fiscal year 2022; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–1196. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Personnel Vetting Core Doctrine'' (RIN3206–ZA02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 9, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1197. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24–93, ''Green Food Purchasing Amendment Act of 2021''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1198. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24–94, ''D.C. Central Kitchen, Inc. Tax Rebate Amendment Act of 2021''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1199. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24–95, ''Commercial Insurance Claim Tolling Temporary Act of 2021''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1200. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24–97, ''Short-term Disability Insurance Benefit Protection Temporary Amendment Act of 2021''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1201. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report and the Management Response for the period of October 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1202. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24–84, ''Interim Term of the State Superintendent of Education Temporary Amendment Act of 2021''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1203. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24–85, ''Approval of the Transfer of Control of Open Video System Franchisee and Its Open Video System from Radiate Holdings, L.P. to Stonepeak Associates IV, LLC Temporary Act of 2021''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1204. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24–86, ''Equitable Impact Assistance for Local Businesses Temporary Amendment Act of 2021''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1205. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24–87, ''Closing of Public Streets and Alleys Adjacent to Squares 3039, 3040, and 3043 Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2021''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1206. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24–88, ''Medical Cannabis Temporary Amendment Act of 2021''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1207. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24–91, ''District of Columbia Retirement Board Leadership Temporary Amendment Act of 2021''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1208. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24–89, ''Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Temporary Amendment Act of 2021''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1209. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1210. A communication from the Chairman of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1211. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1212. A communication from the Chair of the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Inspector General's Semiannual Report for the six-month period from October 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1213. A communication from the Chairman of the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1214. A communication from the Chairman, Board of Governors, United States

Postal Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Postal Services' Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1215. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Reports from the Inspector General and Inspector General for Tax Administration for the period from October 1, 2020, through March 31, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1216. A communication from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's Semiannual Report of the Office of Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1217. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Designation of Certain Services as Emergency Services Under the Antideficiency Act; Opportunities to Enroll and Change Enrollment in the FEHB Program During a Lapse in Appropriations; Continuation of Certain Insurance Benefits During a Lapse in Appropriations'' (RIN3206–AN99) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 9, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1218. A communication from the Chief of the Regulatory Coordination Division, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''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'' (RIN1615–AC13) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2021; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–1219. A communication from the Rules Administrator, Federal Bureau of Prisons, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Inmate Discipline Program: New Prohibited Act Code for Pressuring Inmates for Legal Documents'' (RIN1120–AB72) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2021; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–1220. A communication from the Senior Attorney, Office of Aviation Consumer Protection, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Tarmac Delay Rule'' (RIN2105–AE47) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1221. A communication from the Deputy Chief, Office of Economics and Analytics, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Certification Adopted for Auction of Flexible-Use Service Licenses in the 3.45–3.55 GHz Band for Next-Generation Wireless Services (Auction 110)'' ((AU Docket No. 21–62) (DA 21–567)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1222. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Sponsorship Identification Requirements for Foreign Government-Provided Programming'' ((MB Docket No. 20–299) (FCC 21–42)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1223. A communication from the Senior Advisor, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, Department of Health and Human Services, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 15, 2021; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Ms. CANTWELL for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

*Coast Guard nomination of Vice Adm. Michael F. McAllister, to be Vice Admiral.

*Coast Guard nomination of Rear Adm. Paul F. Thomas, to be Vice Admiral.

*Pamela A. Melroy, of New York, to be Deputy Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

*Coast Guard nomination of Vice Adm. Linda L. Fagan, to be Admiral.

*Carlos Alberto Monje, Jr., of Louisiana, to be Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy.

*Richard W. Spinrad, of Oregon, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere.

*Coast Guard nominations beginning with Charles J. Clark and ending with Luke P. Strittmatter, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 27, 2021.

*Coast Guard nominations beginning with Lisa M. Thompson and ending with Tara E. Larkin, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 27, 2021.

By Mrs. MURRAY for the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

*Dawn Myers O'Connell, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, Department of Health and Human Services.

*Douglas L. Parker, of West Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

*Gwen Graham, of Florida, to be Assistant Secretary for Legislation and Congressional Affairs, Department of Education.

*Taryn Mackenzie Williams, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

*Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon, of Connecticut, to be Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, Department of Health and Human Services.

*Rajesh D. Nayak, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

By Ms. HASSAN for Mr. PETERS for the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

*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.

*Chris Inglis, of Maryland, to be National Cyber Director.

By Mr. WARNER for the Select Committee on Intelligence.

*Robin C. Ashton, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Central Intelligence Agency.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

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. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. THUNE, Mr. WARNOCK, and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 2072. A bill to increase consumer protection with respect to negative option offers in all media, including on the Internet, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HAWLEY (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2073. A bill to maintain the ability of the United States Armed Forces to deny a fait accompli by the People's Republic of China against Taiwan; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. ERNST:

S. 2074. A bill to require greater transparency for Federal regulatory decisions that impact small businesses; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 2075. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exclusion from gross income for AmeriCorps educational awards; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 2076. A bill to establish a program to develop antimicrobial innovations targeting the most challenging pathogens and most threatening infections; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCHATZ:

S. 2077. A bill to establish a bipartisan Presidential Commission to study the establishment of a National Museum of the American People to tell the story about the making of the American People, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 2078. A bill to prohibit the issuance of F or J visas to researchers affiliated with the Chinese People's Liberation Army; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TUBERVILLE:

S. 2079. A bill to limit donations made pursuant to settlement agreements to which the United States is a party, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 2080. A bill to amend title VII of the Tariff Act of 1930 to provide for the treatment of core seasonal industries affected by antidumping or countervailing duty investigations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REED, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 2081. A bill to improve the structure of the Federal Pell Grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 2082. A bill to mitigate drug shortages and provide incentives for maintaining, expanding, and relocating the manufacturing of active pharmaceutical ingredients, excipients, medical diagnostic devices, pharmaceuticals, and personal protective equipment in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 2083. A bill to waive the requirement to undergo a medical exam for aliens who are otherwise eligible for special immigrant status under the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida:

S. 2084. A bill to terminate the order requiring persons to wear masks while on conveyances and at transportation hubs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. HEINRICH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. REED):

S. 2085. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas and criteria air pollutant emission fees, provide rebates to low and middle income Americans, invest in fossil fuel communities and workers, invest in environmental justice communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 2086. A bill to improve the identification and support of children and families who experience trauma; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. TESTER, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. SMITH, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 2087. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the membership of the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans to include veterans who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender diverse, gender non-conforming, intersex, or queer; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. KELLY (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2088. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve the process by which a member of the Armed Forces may be referred for a mental health evaluation; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HOEVEN, and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 2089. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that grants provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for State veterans' cemeteries do not restrict States from authorizing the interment of certain deceased members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces in such cemeteries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 2090. A bill to prevent a person who has been convicted of a misdemeanor hate crime, or received an enhanced sentence for a misdemeanor because of hate or bias in its commission, from obtaining a firearm; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. ERNST, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 2091. A bill to amend the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to increase appropriations to Restaurant Revitalization Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TESTER, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 2092. A bill to permanently authorize the Native Community Development Financial Institutions lending program of the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 2093. A bill to expand Americans' access to the ballot box, reduce the influence of big money in politics, strengthen ethics rules for public servants, and implement other anti-corruption measures for the purpose of fortifying our democracy, and for other purposes; read the first time.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. HEINRICH:

S. Res. 272. A resolution expressing support for health and wellness coaches; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. KING, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. Res. 273. A resolution designating June 2021 as ''Great Outdoors Month''; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 189

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 189, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for annual cost-of-living adjustments to be made automatically by law each year in the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 194

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) 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. 283

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 283, a bill to establish a National Climate Bank.

S. 306

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 306, a bill to provide a process for granting lawful permanent resident status to aliens from certain countries who meet specified eligibility requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 311

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 311, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to include certain employment as a health care practitioner as eligible for public service loan forgiveness, and for other purposes.

S. 366

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 366, a bill to remove all statues of individuals who voluntarily served the Confederate States of America from display in the United States Capitol.

S. 377

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

S. 435

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 435, a bill to extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000.

S. 452

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 452, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Willie O'Ree, in recognition of his extraordinary contributions and commitment to hockey, inclusion, and recreational opportunity.

S. 454

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 454, a bill to provide health care and benefits to veterans who were exposed to toxic substances while serving as members of the Armed Forces at Karshi Khanabad Air Base, Uzbekistan, and for other purposes.

S. 595

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 595, a bill to prohibit the use of funds for the research and development, production, or deployment of the nuclear-armed sea-launched cruise missile and its associated nuclear warhead.

S. 773

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) were added as cosponsors of S. 773, a bill to enable certain hospitals that were participating in or applied for the drug discount program under section 340B of

the Public Health Service Act prior to the COVID–19 public health emergency to temporarily maintain eligibility for such program, and for other purposes.

S. 775

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 775, a bill to require institutions of higher education to disclose hazing-related misconduct, and for other purposes.

S. 834

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 834, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the distribution of additional residency positions, and for other purposes.

S. 868

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

S. 976

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 976, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and to expand eligibility for dependency and indemnity compensation paid to certain survivors of certain veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 1061

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1061, a bill to encourage the normalization of relations with Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 1084

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1084, a bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to provide for the portability of professional licenses of members of the uniformed services and their spouses, and for other purposes.

S. 1151

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1151, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a presumption of service connected disability for certain veterans who served in Palomares, Spain, and for other purposes.

S. 1312

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1312, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the waiting periods for disability insurance benefits and Medicare coverage for individuals with metastatic breast cancer and for other purposes.

S. 1383

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1383, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop best practices for the establishment and use of behavioral intervention teams at schools, and for other purposes.

S. 1385

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1385, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to establish additional requirements for dealers, and for other purposes.

S. 1393

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1393, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out training for employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs relating to exposure of veterans to toxic substances.

S. 1404

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1404, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 23d Headquarters Special Troops and the 3133d Signal Service Company in recognition of their unique and distinguished service as a ''Ghost Army'' that conducted deception operations in Europe during World War II.

S. 1450

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1450, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for expanded coverage of services furnished by genetic counselors under part B of the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 1613

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1613, a bill to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to establish a grant program for certain fitness facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 1848

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) 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. 1873

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1873, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of multi-cancer early detection screening tests.

S. 1899

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1899, a bill to prohibit any direct or indirect United States funding for the territory of Gaza unless certain conditions are met.

S. 2005

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2005, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to require alternative options for summer food service program delivery.

S. 2030

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2030, a bill to declare that any agreement reached by the President relating to the nuclear program of Iran is deemed a treaty that is subject to the advice and consent of the Senate, and for other purposes.

S. 2060

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2060, a bill to amend disclosure requirements of foreign gifts and contracts under the Higher Education Act of 1965.

S.J. RES. 10

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 10, a joint resolution to repeal the authorizations for use of military force against Iraq, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 105

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 105, a resolution condemning the coup in Burma and calling for measures to ensure the safety of the Burmese people, including Rohingya,

who have been threatened and displaced by a campaign of genocide conducted by the Burmese military.

S. RES. 269

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of 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.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION

By Mr. TUBERVILLE:

S. 2079. A bill to limit donations made pursuant to settlement agreements to which the United States is a party, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, today, I want to discuss an issue that many folks may not be familiar with, but they should be. After today, they will be. When I first heard about this, I couldn't believe it was true, but I have learned up here that just when you think you have seen or heard the worst, the swamp will always surprise you.

One of the many important roles of the Department of Justice is to represent the United States in civil and criminal trials. Sometimes the DOJ decides that a pretrial monetary settlement for a lawsuit is the best route to take. The DOJ directs the money from the settlement to the victims or to the Treasury. That is the way our system is supposed to work.

But during the Obama administration, the DOJ took a different course. Rather than direct settlement money to victims, the DOJ pushed the defendants to give money instead to third-party organizations favored by the Department. This was a slush fund for groups chosen by the DOJ. What is more, the DOJ would count the dollar amount of any donation as double toward the settlement. Money paid to the victims or the Treasury would only count dollar for dollar. So it was a huge incentive for these defendants to pay a third party, and these third parties often had nothing to do with the lawsuit.

When companies like JPMorgan, Bank of America, or Citigroup had to pay settlements based on mortgage lending practices, the DOJ intentionally directed millions of dollars to liberal activist groups. You don't have to take my word for it; here is an email from the Office of the Associate Attorney General in 2013 talking about the DOJ settlement with JPMorgan:

> Can you explain to Tony the best way to allocate some money toward an organization of our choosing?

Those are the key words there: ''of our choosing.''

Let me continue to quote: We have been discussing having the agreement provide that JPM agreed to pay $9 billion but that, if, by the time we sign the settlement agreement, JPM has given $60 million to X, they will have to pay only 8 billion.

I think that is OK. We understand that we would not have control over what X organization does with the money.

The ''Tony'' referred to there is Tony West, an Associate Attorney General, who was at that time No. 3 in the Department of Justice.

Two days later, the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights wrote to the Office of the Associate Attorney General to lobby on behalf of a group called VOICE. The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights includes the biggest activist arms of the political left, including the ACLU, Planned Parenthood, Big Labor's AFL–CIO, and the teachers unions.

On No. 3 here, but when the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights contacted the DOJ, it was because VOICE wanted funds from the JPMorgan settlement. Not surprisingly, VOICE ended up receiving $1 million from JPMorgan.

They had a listening ear in the Obama administration. This is what he wrote to Tony about the settlement with Citigroup. Chart 4.

They were concerned with the possibility of Citi picking a group like, ''The Pacific Legal Foundation does conservative property rights free legal services.'' The DOJ was clear: Conservative groups couldn't have the access to the same funds that liberal groups could. It was obvious.

Here was the result, chart No. 5.

From Bank of America alone, the National Council of La Raza, now known as UnidosUS, received $1.5 million. The National Urban League received $1.2 million. VOICE got another million dollars, on top of the first million.

This won't shock you, but both La Raza and the Urban League were big supporters of President Obama's agenda. They are also both members of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights today. La Raza consistently lobbied Congress to pass President Obama's misguided immigration reform bill. Urban League was a routine cheerleader of the Obama administration's Big Government approach to public housing. They were rewarded for their advocacy with millions of dollars from the DOJ.

In total across the Federal Government, the money directed to third parties added up to a total of $668 million, according to the nonpartisan Regulatory Transparency Project.

On chart No. 6, out of the $668 million, at the end of the day, they could only locate $9.5 million, which is 1.4 percent of the total money given. We don't even know exactly where or how the rest of the money was spent.

Folks, I have one word for you on this. This is called corruption. This is the swamp. The fact that this practice ever existed should make Americans' blood boil. Political appointees at one of the most powerful Departments in the country used their position of power to extract money from companies, and then they gave that money to their like-minded friends. That is what is wrong with Washington, DC.

We have grown used to hearing about this type of behavior from dictatorships around the world, like Russia or Venezuela. We should not, we cannot accept this type of behavior here in the United States of America.

Well, President Trump didn't. His administration, very early in his tenure, put a stop to this practice. They were right to do so. It should never have happened in the first place. But now, with a new President in office and with so many high-profile Obama administration retreads throughout the administration and in the White House, this corrupt practice could and probably will return. Congress cannot allow this to happen. I don't care if it is a Republican or a Democrat or an Independent in the White House; the power of the purse lies with us, the folks in this building. It is called the 117th U.S. Congress—elected officials, not bureaucrats.

We need a permanent fix. If the Federal Government is diverting settlement funds away from victims into politically connected groups, they are undermining Congress's role. There is a way to stop this. Earlier today, I introduced the Stop Settlement Slush Funds Act. This bill would ensure that all settlement funds would go first to the victims and then to the Treasury—no third party. No administration should be allowed to force donations to politically connected groups at the direct expense of victims.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this commonsense solution. Let's ensure our Federal Government works on behalf of all of its citizens, not just the ones with connections to people in power.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 2086. A bill to improve the identification and support of children and families who experience trauma; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

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

S. 2086

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 ''Resilience Investment, Support, and Expansion from Trauma Act'' or the ''RISE from Trauma Act''.

TITLE I—COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING

SEC. 101. TRAUMA AND RESILIENCE-RELATED COORDINATING BODIES.

Title V of the Public Health Service Act is amended by inserting after section 520A (42 U.S.C. 290bb-32) the following:

"SEC. 520B. LOCAL COORDINATING BODIES TO ADDRESS COMMUNITY TRAUMA, PREVENTION, AND RESILIENCE.

''(a) GRANTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Assistant Secretary, shall award grants to State, county, local, or Indian tribe or tribal organizations (as such terms are defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination Act and Education Assistance Act) or nonprofit private entities for demonstration projects to enable such entities to act as coordinating bodies to prevent or mitigate the impact of trauma and toxic stress in a community, or promote resilience by fostering protective factors.

''(2) AMOUNT.—The Secretary shall award such grants in amounts of not more than $6,000,000.

''(3) DURATION.—The Secretary shall award such grants for periods of 4 years.

''(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, an entity shall include 1 or more representatives from at least 5 of the categories described in paragraph (2).

''(2) COMPOSITION.—The categories referred to in paragraph (1) are—

''(A) governmental agencies, such as public health, mental health, human services, or child welfare agencies, that provide training related to covered services or conduct activities to screen, assess, provide services or referrals, prevent, or provide treatment to support infants, children, youth, and their families as appropriate, that have experienced or are at risk of experiencing trauma;

''(B) faculty or qualified staff at an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965) or representatives of a local member of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network, in an area related to screening, assessment, service provision or referral, prevention, or treatment to support infants, children, youth, and their families, as appropriate, that have experienced or are at risk of experiencing trauma;

''(C) hospitals, health care clinics, or other health care institutions, such as mental health and substance use disorder treatment facilities;

''(D) criminal justice representatives related to adults and juveniles, which may include law enforcement or judicial or court employees;

''(E) local educational agencies (as defined in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801)) or agencies responsible for early childhood education programs, which may include Head Start and Early Head Start agencies;

''(F) workforce development, job training, or business associations;

''(G) nonprofit, community-based faith, human services, civic, or social services organizations, including participants in a national or community service program (as described in section 122 of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12572)), providers of after-school programs, home visiting programs, family resource centers, agencies that serve victims of domestic and family violence or child abuse, or programs to prevent or address the impact of violence and addiction; and

''(H) the general public, including individuals who have experienced trauma who can appropriately represent populations and activities relevant to the community that will be served by the entity.

''(3) QUALIFICATIONS.—In order for an entity to be eligible to receive the grant under this section, the representatives included in the entity shall, collectively, have training and expertise concerning childhood trauma, resilience, and covered services.

''(c) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, an entity shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

''(d) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to entities proposing to serve communities or populations that have faced or currently face high rates of community trauma, including from intergenerational poverty, civil unrest, discrimination, or oppression, which may include an evaluation of—

''(1) an age-adjusted rate of drug overdose deaths that is above the national overdose mortality rate, as determined by the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

''(2) an age-adjusted rate of violence-related (or intentional) injury deaths that is above the national average, as determined by the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

''(3) a rate of involvement in the child welfare or juvenile justice systems that is above the national average, as determined by the Secretary.

''(e) USE OF FUNDS.—An entity that receives a grant under this section to act as a coordinating body may use the grant funds to—

''(1) bring together stakeholders who provide or use services in, or have expertise concerning, covered settings to identify community needs and resources related to covered services, and to build on any needs assessments conducted by organizations or groups represented on the coordinating body;

''(2)(A) collect data, on indicators to reflect local priority issues, including across multiple covered settings and disaggregated by age, race, and any other appropriate metrics; and

''(B) use the data to identify unique community challenges and barriers, community strengths and assets, gaps in services, and high-need areas, related to covered services;

''(3) build awareness, skills, and leadership (including through trauma-informed and resilience-focused training and public outreach campaigns) on covered services in covered settings;

''(4) develop a strategic plan, in partnership with members of the served community or population, that identifies—

''(A) policy goals and coordination opportunities to address community needs and local priority issues (including coordination in applying for or utilizing existing grants, insurance coverage, or other government programs), including for communities of color and relating to delivering and implementing covered services; and

''(B) a comprehensive, integrated approach for the entity and its members to prevent and mitigate the impact of exposure to trauma or toxic stress in the community, and to assist the community in healing from existing and prior exposure to trauma through promotion of resilience and fostering protective factors;

''(5) implement such strategic plans in the local community, including through the delivery of covered services in covered settings; and

''(6) identify funding sources and partner with community stakeholders to sustainably continue activities after the end of the grant period.

''(f) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Amounts made available under this section shall be used to supplement and not supplant other Federal, State, and local public funds and private funds expended to provide trauma-related coordination activities.

''(g) EVALUATION.—At the end of the period for which grants are awarded under this section, the Secretary shall conduct an evaluation of the activities carried out under each grant under this section. In conducting the evaluation, the Secretary shall assess the outcomes of the grant activities carried out by each grant recipient, including outcomes related to health, education, child welfare, criminal justice involvement, or other measurable outcomes pertaining to wellbeing and societal impact.

''(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $600,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2029.

''(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) COVERED SERVICES.—The term 'covered services' means culturally responsive services, programs, models, or interventions that are evidence-based, evidence-informed, or promising best practices to support infants, children, youth, and their families as appropriate by preventing or mitigating the impact of trauma and toxic stress or promoting resilience by fostering protective factors, which may include the best practices developed under section 7132(d) of the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act (Public Law 115–271).

''(2) COVERED SETTING.—The term 'covered setting' means the settings in which individuals may come into contact with infants, children, youth, and their families, as appropriate, who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing trauma, including schools, hospitals, settings where health care providers, including primary care and pediatric providers, provide services, early childhood education and care settings, home visiting settings, after-school program facilities, child welfare agency facilities, public health agency facilities, mental health treatment facilities, substance use disorder treatment facilities, faith-based institutions, domestic violence agencies, violence intervention organizations, child advocacy centers, homeless services system facilities, refugee services system facilities, juvenile justice system facilities, law enforcement agency facilities, Healthy Marriage Promotion or Responsible Fatherhood service settings, child support service settings, and service settings focused on individuals eligible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; and''.

SEC. 102. EXPANSION OF PERFORMANCE PARTNERSHIP PILOT FOR CHILDREN WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED OR ARE AT RISK OF EXPERIENCING TRAUMA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 526 of the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2014 (42 U.S.C. 12301 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

''(4) 'To improve outcomes for infants, children, and youth, and their families as appropriate, who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing trauma' means to increase the rate at which individuals who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing trauma, including those who are low-income, homeless, involved with the child welfare system, involved in the juvenile justice system, have been victims of violence (including community, family, or sexual violence), unemployed, or not enrolled in or at risk of dropping out of an educational institution and live in a community that has faced acute or long-term exposure to substantial discrimination, historical oppression, intergenerational poverty, civil unrest, a high rate of violence or drug overdose deaths, achieve success in meeting educational, employment, health, developmental, community reentry, permanency from foster care, or other key goals.'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking ''FISCAL YEAR 2014'' and inserting ''FISCAL YEARS 2022 THROUGH 2026'';

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and by moving such subparagraphs, as so redesignated, 2 ems to the right;

(C) by striking ''Federal agencies'' and inserting the following:

''(1) DISCONNECTED YOUTH PILOTS.—Federal agencies''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE PILOTS.—Federal agencies may use Federal discretionary funds that are made available in this Act or any appropriations Act, including across different or multiple years, for any of fiscal years 2022 through 2026 to carry out up to 10 Performance Partnership Pilots. Such Pilots shall—

''(A) be designed to improve outcomes for infants, children, and youth, and their families as appropriate, who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing trauma; and

''(B) involve Federal programs targeted on infants, children, and youth, and their families as appropriate, who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing trauma.'';

(3) in subsection (c)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''2018'' and inserting ''2025''; and

(B) in subparagraph (F), by inserting before the semicolon '', including the age range for such population''; and

(4) in subsection (e), by striking ''2018'' and inserting ''2025''.

(b) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 9 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, working with the Attorney General and the Secretary of Labor, Secretary of Health and Human Services, Secretary of Education, and Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and any other appropriate agency representative, shall, with respect to carrying out this section—

(1) explore authorities to enable the issuance of appropriate start-up funding;

(2) issue guidance documents, template waivers and performance measurements, best practices and lessons learned from prior pilot programs, recommendations for how to sustain projects after award periods, and other technical assistance documents as needed; and

(3) align application timing periods to provide maximum flexibility, which may include the availability of initial planning periods for awardees.

SEC. 103. HOSPITAL-BASED INTERVENTIONS TO REDUCE READMISSIONS.

Section 393 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280b-1a) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(c) HOSPITAL-BASED INTERVENTIONS TO REDUCE READMISSIONS.—

''(1) GRANTS.—The Secretary shall award grants to eligible entities to deliver and evaluate hospital-based interventions to improve outcomes and reduce subsequent reinjury or readmissions of patients that present at a hospital after overdosing, attempting suicide, or suffering violent injury or abuse.

''(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection and entity shall—

''(A) be a hospital or health system (including health systems operated by Indian tribes or tribal organizations as such terms are defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination Act and Education Assistance Act); and

''(B) submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, which shall include demonstrated experience furnishing successful hospital-based trauma interventions to improve outcomes and prevent reinjury or readmission for patients presenting after overdosing, attempting suicide, or suffering violent injury or abuse.

''(3) USE OF FUNDS.—An entity shall use amounts received under a grant under this subsection to deliver, test, and evaluate hospital-based trauma-informed interventions for patients who present at hospitals with drug overdoses, suicide attempts, or violent injuries (such as domestic violence or intentional penetrating wounds, including gunshots and stabbings), or other presenting symptoms associated with exposure to trauma, violence, substance misuse, or suicidal ideation, to provide comprehensive education, screening, counseling, discharge planning, skills building, and long-term case management services to such individuals, and their guardians or caregivers as appropriate, to prevent hospital readmission, injury, and improve health, wellness, and safety outcomes. Such interventions may be furnished in coordination or partnership with qualified community-based organizations and may include or incorporate the best practices developed under section 7132(d) of the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act (Public Law 115–271).

''(4) QUALITY MEASURES.—An entity that receive a grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary a report on the data and outcomes developed under the grant, including any quality measures developed, evaluated, and validated to prevent hospital readmissions for the patients served under the program involved.

''(5) SUSTAINABLE COVERAGE.—The Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, shall evaluate existing authorities, flexibilities, and policies and disseminate appropriate and relevant information to eligible entities on the opportunities for health insurance coverage and reimbursement for the activities described in paragraph (3).''.

SEC. 104. TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION GUIDELINES FOR COMMUNITY FIGURES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall study and establish guidelines for use by States with respect to standards for training, certification, and partnership or supervision from licensed clinical professionals as appropriate, of community figures, including community mentors and trusted leaders, peers (including young adults and youth) with lived experiences, faith-based leaders, coaches and arts program leaders, and community paraprofessional providers such as out-of-school providers, to—

(1) educate and promote an understanding of trauma, toxic stress, and resilience;

(2) promote resilience by fostering protective factors and providing peer support services;

(3) provide case management services and promote linkages to community services; and

(4) deliver appropriate, culturally responsive, and trauma-informed practices.

(b) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Training and certification guidelines under subsection (a) shall include recommendations for experience, education, and supervision requirements for, and partnerships between, such trained and certified community figures and other health care providers such that the trained and certified community figures may be reimbursed through the State Medicaid plan under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.) for furnishing services to individuals enrolled in such plan.

TITLE II—WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SEC. 201. TRAINING AND RECRUITMENT OF INDIVIDUALS FROM COMMUNITIES THAT HAVE EXPERIENCED HIGH LEVELS OF TRAUMA, VIOLENCE, OR ADDICTION.

Part B of title VII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 293 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 742. INDIVIDUALS FROM COMMUNITIES THAT HAVE EXPERIENCED HIGH LEVELS OF TRAUMA, VIOLENCE, OR ADDICTION.

''In carrying out activities under this part, the Secretary shall ensure that emphasis is provided on the recruitment of individuals from communities that have experienced high levels of trauma, violence, or addiction and that appropriate activities under this part are carried out in partnership with community-based organizations that have expertise in addressing such challenges to enhance service delivery.''.

SEC. 202. FUNDING FOR THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS.

Section 10503(b)(2) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 254b–2(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (E), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (F), by striking the period and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(G) $360,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026, of which $50,000,000 shall be allocated in each such fiscal year for awards to eligible individuals whose obligated service locations are in schools or community-based settings as described in section 338N of the Public Health Service Act.''.

SEC. 203. INFANT AND EARLY CHILDHOOD CLINICAL WORKFORCE.

Part P of title III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280g) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 399V–7. INFANT AND EARLY CHILDHOOD CLINICAL WORKFORCE.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Associate Administrator of the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, shall establish an Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Clinical Leadership Program to award grants to eligible entities to establish a national network of training institutes for infant and early childhood clinical mental health.

''(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, an entity shall—

''(1) be—

''(A) an institution of higher education as defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, including historically Black colleges and universities (as defined for purposes of section 322 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061)), and Tribal colleges (as defined for purposes of section 316(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c)).; or

''(B) be a hospital with affiliation with such an institution of higher education, or a State professional medical society or association of infant mental health demonstrating an affiliation or partnership with such an institution of higher education; and

''(2) submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

''(c) USE OF GRANT.—An entity shall use amounts received under a grant under this section to establish training institutes to—

''(1) equip aspiring and current mental health professionals, including clinical social workers, professional counselors, marriage and family therapists, clinical psychologists, child psychiatrists, school psychologists, school counselors, school social workers,

nurses, home visitors, community health workers, and developmental and behavioral pediatricians with specialization in infant and early childhood clinical mental health, and those pursuing certification or licensure in such professions; and

''(2) emphasize equipping trainees with culturally responsive skills in prevention, mental health consultation, screening, assessment, diagnosis, and treatment for infants and children, and their parents as appropriate, who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing trauma, including from intergenerational poverty, civil unrest, discrimination, or oppression, exposure to violence or overdose, as well as prevention of secondary trauma, through—

''(A) the provision of community-based training and supervision in evidence-based assessment, diagnosis, and treatment, which may be conducted through partnership with qualified community-based organizations;

''(B) the development of graduate education training tracks;

''(C) the provision of scholarships, stipends, and trainee supports, including to enhance recruitment, retention, and career placement of students from populations under-represented populations in the mental health workforce; and

''(D) the provision of mid-career training to develop the capacity of existing health practitioners.

''(d) 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.''.

SEC. 204. TRAUMA-INFORMED TEACHING AND SCHOOL LEADERSHIP.

(a) PARTNERSHIP GRANTS.—Section 202 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1022a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(6)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (H) through (K) as subparagraphs (I) through (L), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (G) the following:

''(H) how the partnership will prepare general education and special education teachers, including early childhood educators, to support positive learning outcomes and social and emotional development for students who have experienced trauma (including students who are involved in the foster care or juvenile justice systems or runaway or homeless youth) and in alternative education settings in which high populations of youth with trauma exposure may learn (including settings for correctional education, juvenile justice, pregnant, expecting and parenting students, or youth who have re-entered school after a period of absence due to dropping out);'';

(2) in subsection (d)(1)(A)(i)—

(A) in subclause (II), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon;

(B) by redesignating subclause (III) as subclause (IV); and

(C) by inserting after subclause (II) the following:

''(III) such teachers, including early childhood educators, to adopt evidence-based approaches for improving behavior (such as positive behavior interventions and supports and restorative justice practices), supporting social and emotional learning, mitigating the effects of trauma, improving the learning environment in the school, preventing secondary trauma, compassion fatigue, and burnout, and for alternatives to punitive discipline practices, including suspensions, expulsions, corporal punishment, referrals to law enforcement, and other actions that remove students from the learning environment; and''; and

(3) in subsection (d), by adding at the end the following:

''(7) TRAUMA-INFORMED AND RESILIENCE-FOCUSED PRACTICE AND WORK IN ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION SETTINGS.—Developing the teaching skills of prospective and, as applicable, new, early childhood, elementary school, and secondary school teachers to adopt evidence-based trauma-informed and resilience-focused teaching strategies—

''(A) to—

''(i) recognize the signs of trauma and its impact on learning;

''(ii) maximize student engagement and promote the social and emotional development of students;

''(iii) implement alternative practices to suspension and expulsion that do not remove students from the learning environment; and

''(iv) engage with other school personnel, including administrators and nonteaching staff, to foster a shared understanding of the items described in clauses (i), (ii), and (iii); and

''(B) including programs training teachers, including early childhood educators, to work with students with exposure to traumatic events (including students involved in the foster care or juvenile justice systems or runaway and homeless youth) and in alternative academic settings for youth unable to participate in a traditional public school program in which high populations of students with trauma exposure may learn (such as students involved in the foster care or juvenile justice systems, pregnant and parenting students, runaway and homeless students, students exposed to family violence or trafficking, and other youth who have re-entered school after a period of absence due to dropping out).''.

(b) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—Section 203(b)(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1022b(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon;

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) to eligible partnerships that have a high-quality proposal for trauma-informed and resilience-focused training programs for general education and special education teachers, including early childhood educators.''.

(c) GRANTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS.—Section 202(f)(1)(B) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1022a(f)(1)(B)) is amended—

(1) in clause (v), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in clause (vi), by striking the period and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(vii) identify students who have experienced trauma and connect those students with appropriate school-based or community-based interventions and services.''.

SEC. 205. TOOLS FOR FRONT-LINE PROVIDERS.

Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in coordination with appropriate stakeholders with subject matter expertise which may include the National Child Traumatic Stress Network or other resource centers funded by the Department of Health and Human Services, shall carry out activities to develop accessible and easily understandable toolkits for use by front-line service providers (including teachers, early childhood educators, school and out-of-school program leaders, paraeducators and school support staff, home visitors, mentors, social workers, counselors, health care providers, child welfare agency staff, individuals in juvenile justice settings, faith leaders, first responders, kinship caregivers, domestic violence agencies, child advocacy centers, homeless services personnel, and youth development and community-based organization personnel) for appropriately identifying, responding to, and supporting infants, children, and youth, and their families, as appropriate, who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing trauma or toxic stress. Such toolkits shall incorporate best practices developed under section 7132(d) of the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act (Public Law 115–271), and include actions to build a safe, stable, and nurturing environment for the infants, children, and youth served in those settings, capacity building, and strategies for addressing the impact of secondary trauma, compassion fatigue, and burnout among such front-line service providers and other caregivers.

SEC. 206. CHILDREN EXPOSED TO VIOLENCE INITIATIVE.

Title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10101) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''PART OO—CHILDREN EXPOSED TO VIOLENCE AND ADDICTION INITIATIVE

''SEC. 3051. GRANTS TO SUPPORT CHILDREN EXPOSED TO VIOLENCE AND SUBSTANCE USE.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General may make grants to States, units of local government, Indian tribes and tribal organizations (as such terms are defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination Act and Education Assistance Act), and nonprofit organizations to reduce violence and substance use by preventing children's trauma from exposure to violence or substance use and supporting infants, children, and youth, and their families, who have been harmed by violence, trauma, or substance use to heal.

''(b) USE OF FUNDS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A grant under subsection (a) may be used to implement trauma-informed policies and practices that support infants, children, youth, and their families, as appropriate, by—

''(A) building public awareness and education about the importance of addressing childhood trauma as a means to reduce violence and substance use and improve educational, economic, developmental, and societal outcomes for infants, children, and youth;

''(B) providing training, tools, and resources to develop the skills and capacity of parents (including foster parents), adult guardians, and professionals who interact directly with infants, children, and youth, in an organized or professional setting, to reduce the impact of trauma, grief, and exposure to violence on children, including through the best practices developed under section 7132(d) of the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act (Public Law 115–271); and

''(C) supporting community collaborations and providing technical assistance to communities, organizations, and public agencies on how they can coordinate to prevent and mitigate the impact of trauma from exposure to violence and substance use on children in their homes, schools, and communities.

''(2) PRIORITY.—Priority in awarding grants under this section shall be given to communities that seek to address multiple types of violence and serve children who have experienced poly-victimization.

''(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $11,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.''.

SEC. 207. ESTABLISHMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT CHILD AND YOUTH TRAUMA COORDINATING CENTER.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General, in coordination with the Civil Rights Division,

shall establish a National Law Enforcement Child and Youth Trauma Coordinating Center (referred to in this section as the ''Center'') to provide assistance to adult- and juvenile-serving State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies (including those operated by Indian tribes and tribal organizations as such terms are defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination Act and Education Assistance Act) in interacting with infants, children, and youth who have been exposed to violence or other trauma, and their families as appropriate.

(2) AGE RANGE.—The Center shall determine the age range of infants, children, and youth to be covered by the activities of the Center.

(b) DUTIES.—The Center shall provide assistance to adult- and juvenile-serving State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies by—

(1) disseminating information on the best practices for law enforcement officers, which may include best practices based on evidence-based and evidence-informed models from programs of the Department of Justice and the Office of Justice Services of the Bureau of Indian Affairs or the best practices developed under section 7132(d) of the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act (Public Law 115–271), such as—

(A) models developed in partnership with national law enforcement organizations, Indian tribes, or clinical researchers; and

(B) models that include—

(i) trauma-informed approaches to conflict resolution, information gathering, forensic interviewing, de-escalation, and crisis intervention training;

(ii) early interventions that link child and youth witnesses and victims, and their families as appropriate, to age-appropriate trauma-informed services; and

(iii) preventing and supporting officers who experience secondary trauma;

(2) providing professional training and technical assistance; and

(3) awarding grants under subsection (c).

(c) GRANT PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General, acting through the Center, may award grants to State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies or to multi-disciplinary consortia to—

(A) enhance the awareness of best practices for trauma-informed responses to infants, children, and youth who have been exposed to violence or other trauma, and their families as appropriate; and

(B) provide professional training and technical assistance in implementing the best practices described in subparagraph (A).

(2) APPLICATION.—Any State, local, or tribal law enforcement agency seeking a grant under this subsection shall submit an application to the Attorney General at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Attorney General may require.

(3) USE OF FUNDS.—A grant awarded under this subsection may be used to—

(A) provide training to law enforcement officers on best practices, including how to identify and appropriately respond to early signs of trauma and violence exposure when interacting with infants, children, and youth, and their families, as appropriate; and

(B) establish, operate, and evaluate a referral and partnership program with trauma-informed clinical mental health, substance use, health care, or social service professionals in the community in which the law enforcement agency serves.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Attorney General—

(1) $6,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026 to award grants under subsection (c); and

(2) $2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026 for other activities of the Center.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 272—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR HEALTH AND WELLNESS COACHES

Mr. HEINRICH submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 272

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention considers chronic diseases to be ''the public health challenge of the 21st century'';

Whereas decades of research have linked lifestyle factors, such as inactivity, poor diet, tobacco smoking, and sustained stress, with increased risk for major illnesses and death;

Whereas the costs associated with the treatment of many chronic diseases are high and often preventable;

Whereas a health and wellness coach is a new type of healthcare worker who serves as a supportive mentor to motivate individuals to make positive health choices and move toward specific wellness goals;

Whereas health and wellness coaches support clients in achieving good health—

(1) based on the goals of each client; and

(2) in a manner consistent with the treatment plan recommended by a healthcare provider for the client;

Whereas health and wellness coaches assist clients in making healthy lifestyle changes by encouraging them—

(1) to use insight;

(2) to use personal strengths and resources;

(3) to set goals;

(4) to create action steps; and

(5) to hold themselves accountable;

Whereas health and wellness coaches play a vital role in improving individual wellness that complements, and does not replace, the work of healthcare professionals; and

Whereas an increasing number of studies demonstrate how health and wellness coaches help—

(1) to improve individual health and wellness; and

(2) to reduce healthcare costs: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports the efforts of the health and wellness coaches of the United States in their important work to improve the health and wellness of the people of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 273—DESIGNATING JUNE 2021 AS ''GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH''

Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. KING, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 273

Whereas hundreds of millions of individuals in the United States participate in outdoor recreation annually;

Whereas Congress enacted the Outdoor Recreation Jobs and Economic Impact Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–249; 130 Stat. 999) to assess and analyze the outdoor recreation economy of the United States and the effects attributable to the outdoor recreation economy on the overall economy of the United States;

Whereas the Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account, updated in September 2020 by the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the Department of Commerce, shows that outdoor recreation generated more than $788,000,000,000 in economic output in 2019, comprising approximately 2.1 percent of the current-dollar gross domestic product;

Whereas the Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account shows that, in 2019, the outdoor recreation sector experienced faster growth in real gross output, compensation, and employment than the overall economy of the United States, while also providing 5,200,000 jobs across the United States;

Whereas the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019 (Public Law 116–6; 133 Stat. 13) encouraged the Department of Commerce to continue its work with the Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account;

Whereas the Great American Outdoors Act provides billions of dollars over the next 5 years to help improve infrastructure on public lands and waters and expand access to outdoor recreation for all people of the United States;

Whereas regular outdoor recreation is associated with economic growth, positive health outcomes, and better quality of life;

Whereas many outdoor recreation businesses are small businesses, which have been heavily impacted by the COVID–19 pandemic;

Whereas outdoor recreation businesses are cornerstones of rural communities and outdoor recreation is part of the national heritage of the United States; and

Whereas June 2021 is an appropriate month to designate as ''Great Outdoors Month'' to provide an opportunity to celebrate the importance of the great outdoors: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 2021 as ''Great Outdoors Month''; and

(2) encourages all individuals in the United States to responsibly participate in recreation activities in the great outdoors during June 2021 and year-round.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I have 14 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 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing nominations.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 16, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet

during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 16, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing nomination.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 16, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 16, 2021, at 12 p.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 16, 2021, at 9:30 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 Wednesday, June 16, 2021, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

The Committee on Rules and Administration is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 16, 2021, at 2: 15 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 16, 2021, at 3:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 16, 2021, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 16, 2021, at 2 p.m., to conduct a closed hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

The Subcommittee on Strategic Forces of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 16, 2021, at 4:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, FORESTS, AND MINING

The Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 16, 2021, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND BORDER MANAGEMENT

The Subcommittee on Government Operations and Border Management of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 16, 2021, at 2:30 p.m. to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, with me today is one of my colleagues, Mr. Elad Vaida, and I also ask unanimous consent that Mr. Boatner Calhoun, who is an intern in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the Congress.

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

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Will Taylor, an intern in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of Congress.

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

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2093

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2093) to expand Americans' access to the ballot box, reduce the influence of big money in politics, strengthen ethics rules for public servants, and implement other anti-corruption measures for the purpose of fortifying our democracy, and for other purposes.

Mr. SCHUMER. I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

APPOINTMENT

The Presiding Officer. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, and upon the recommendation of the Republican Leader, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2761, as amended, appoints the following Senator as Vice Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the British-American Interparliamentary Group Conference during the 117th Congress: The Honorable John BOOZMAN of Arkansas.

RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING THE 225TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENTRY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE INTO THE UNITED STATES AS THE 16TH STATE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 248.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 248) recognizing and celebrating the 225th anniversary of the entry of the State of Tennessee into the United States as the 16th State.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 248) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of May 27, 2021, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consideration of S. Res. 273, 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. 273) designating June 2021 as ''Great Outdoors Month''.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I know of no further debate on the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 273) was agreed to.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that 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 preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 2021

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Thursday, June 17; 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 Beaudreau nomination, postcloture; further, that the cloture time on the Beaudreau nomination expire at 11:30 a.m.; that the Senate recess following the cloture vote on the Tien nomination until 1:45 p.m.; that if cloture is invoked on the Tien nomination, all postcloture debate time be expired at 1:45 p.m.; 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 actions.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. SCHUMER. 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 7:25 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, June 17, 2021, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate June 16, 2021:

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

RADHIKA FOX, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.

THE JUDICIARY

LYDIA KAY GRIGGSBY, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

GO FOR BROKE STAMP

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the toughness and resiliency of the Japanese American soldiers of the four forty-second regimental combat team during World War II. Men and women who stepped up to fight for American prosperity while their families were simultaneously forced into confinement camps.

This stamp, which displays their motto ''Go For Broke,'' honors the patriotism Japanese American soldiers exemplified despite the betrayal they faced at home. Under these charged circumstances, the 442nd proved itself as one of the most decorated unit of its size and length of service in the entire history of the U.S. Military.

As a community with a shared, and at times, painful history, it is important to have a symbol. A national symbol of perseverance.

Many Americans don't know the stories of their own family tree . . . they likely don't know the bravery of the Japanese American soldiers during WWII, soldiers of the 442nd and others, who helped save our country while our own government was tearing apart our families.

The stamp will shine a light on this chapter of history. And to teach that we are all Americans. To see the United States soldier's face on the stamp, an Asian American face.

This stamp is also the symbol of the tireless efforts of three wonderful women—FUSA Takahashi, AIKO King and CHIZ Ohira, who truly drove the effort to make this a reality.

The story behind the creation of this stamp speaks to the dedication and strong fabric of the Japanese American community. This was a community-led effort, started over 15 years ago, that brought together many generations. I saw up close how hard it was to convince their fellow colleagues that this is important, to work with the community, to talk to their legislators.

Just earlier this month, I had the pleasure to see its unveiling in Sacramento and speak to Fusa about the importance of this community symbol. We all shared our stories from that chapter of time.

I know that many families who were incarcerated did not tell their stories once they were allowed back home. It was painful to be incarcerated, to live behind barbed wire and lose your homes, businesses and even loved ones.

We remembered when our community stood up and shared our painful past with Congress and across the country, fought for redress and the Civil Liberties Act. We recounted the many efforts of educating our neighbors and our children, to remind them that we are everyday Americans and what happened was wrong.

And now, recently, we understand how important it is to continue to teach about our history because people are hurting, especially with the horrific events that have targeted the AAPI community. Looking at the past, one thing we've learned is that we have to stand up for each other.

As we continue to strive to become a more tolerant nation, we must do our part in overcoming societal wrongs, and we must also remember the strength of our nation when we come together toward a shared goal.

The Go For Broke Stamp is a symbol of education, of healing, and of community. The Japanese American experience is a vital piece of American history, and in order to have a stronger democracy, we must lift each other up and tell our stories.

I am glad that this stamp will serve as a reminder of the Japanese American story, and the bravery and patriotism of these American heroes.

HONORING ARMY VETERAN AND WOUNDED WARRIOR ALEXANDER LOFGREN

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a friend, not only to myself, but to his colleagues and to this country. I rise today to honor United States Army veteran, Alexander Lofgren. Alex served the veteran community on behalf of my office in Arizona's Third Congressional District. Born March 10, 1989 in Exeter, California, he spent many years of his life traveling and living in different states as his father served in the military. Alex followed in his father's footsteps and joined the military in 2011. He served as a Combat Engineer in the Army and only months after he joined, he was deployed to Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom. During his service in the Army he lost 4 friends, who we also honor today. SFC Bobby L. Estle, PFC Jose O. Belmontes, 2LT David E. Rylander, and SPC Junot M. L. Cochilus.

After being honorably, medically discharged in October 2014, Alex began his studies at Arizona State University. He graduated with a degree in Political Science and a minor in Anthropology. Shortly after graduating, he worked at the Crisis Response Network where he did case management answering calls of veterans in crisis and helping them with immediate crisis intervention. He later served on then-Congresswoman Kyrsten Sinema's Veteran's Advisory Council and Legislative Committee. In July 2019, Alex joined our District office in Tucson, AZ through the Wounded Warrior Fellowship Program. Alex worked as a constituent services representative helping local constituents resolve issues with federal agencies, serving as a liaison to local Veterans Service Organizations (VSO), and attending local events and meetings on behalf of my office.

Alex loved his plants, enjoyed nature, golf, greenhouses, cooking, and local coffee and donut shops. He was an avid photographer and always on an adventure that often included enjoying time with his partner, Emily, and their dogs, Gunner, Jane, and Nora. Alex had visited over 20 national parks. He was passionate about using outdoor activities as a means of helping other veterans and embraced the activities and serenity nature had to offer. Tragically he passed away on April 4, 2021 in a visit to Death Valley National Park.

We find comfort in knowing that Alex spent his last days doing what he enjoyed alongside a person he loved. We have no doubt that his heroic actions during the hike that ended so tragically helped keep his partner, Emily, alive until search and rescue brought her to safety.

I want to thank the community from Tucson and beyond for the outpouring of support during these difficult months, as well as the National Park Service and other federal and local partners who deployed every available resource to locate Alex and Emily. To know Alex was to know someone who had boundless energy for life and who was focused on making a difference in the lives of others. His loss has left a void in the hearts of his colleagues and his family. He will forever be a part of our family, and my heart is with his parents, Joe and Ruth, and his loving partner Emily. Our Nation has lost a hero. I am thankful to have known Alexander Lofgren.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE OF CLAYTON EDWARD FRANCIS DERDERIAN

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Clayton Edward Francis Derderian, who passed away at his home on May 16, 2021, at the very young age of 15, having fought a long battle against a devastating form of brain and spinal cancer for 12 years of his much-too-short life.

Clay was known to family and friends as Clay-Bear, Chili Bean, Mr. Dunderfuss, and Busby. He was an aspiring chef, inventor, and entrepreneur. He was a braille reader but always preferred to be read to, ideally ''in character''. At mealtime he often announced: ''I am not hungry, what's for dessert?'' He loved a good joke or a good story and despite his disease, somehow managed to love life and especially the people around him.

Clay leaves his mother, Mary Bannon, father, JD Derderian, sister Grace Derderian and grandmothers Rainette Bannon and Inez Derderian, as well as loving aunts, uncles and cousins.

The tributes paid to Clay by those who knew him well say he was wise beyond his years, that he could make a whole room smile with just a few words, and that he was welcoming and always smiling. He was an amazingly funny person with a great sense of

humor and brought joy and sweetness to every interaction.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in expressing our deepest condolences to Clay's family on their profound loss. May they take solace from knowing that their beloved son was given the best care possible and that he was loved deeply. I believe he is now with the angels, making them laugh and brightening heaven, just as he did during his life with us on earth.

COMMEMORATING THE ''GO FOR BROKE'' FOREVER STAMP

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join Congressmember ED CASE and my colleagues in the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus to commemorate the ''Go For Broke'' Forever Stamp issued by the U.S. Postal Service earlier this month. This stamp honors the over 30,000 Japanese American soldiers of the 100th Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team who bravely served our country during World War II. Despite facing intense racism and discrimination, these soldiers fought valiantly to defend our nation and went on to become the most highly decorated military unit in U.S. history.

The courage of this all Japanese American military unit is exemplified in their work to ensure that no American solider was left behind during the war. In late 1944, Allied troops were pushing towards Germany, facing some of the fiercest resistance yet, and liberating French territory along the way. Looking to take advantage of these gains, the men of the 141st Regiment—made up of mostly Texans—moved quickly through dense forests and mountains until they unknowingly became separated from the rest of their fellow soldiers. Surrounded by Germans, with both temperatures and supplies running low, and special orders from Hitler himself not to let these troops escape no matter the cost, the situation was desperate.

And so, to save these men, we turned to the one division we knew had what it would take to push through: the 442nd Regimental Combat Team—a segregated unit consisting entirely of Japanese American troops. For six days, this unit fought with almost no rest until they pierced the German lines. When one of the trapped Texans finally saw who was coming to their rescue he said, ''To our great pleasure it was members of the 442nd Combat Team. We were overjoyed to see these people for we knew them as the best fighting men in [the European theater].''

One of the men from the 442nd who was there that day, Ted Ohira, says that was no accident. Because of the prejudice of the time and the assumption that Japanese Americans could not be trusted, Ohira says these Japanese American soldiers were subjected to some of the roughest basic training. But he was proud of what he went through, saying it meant they were able to take more, endure more, and go further than anyone. They called this their ''Go For Broke'' mentality, which is exactly what they did in risking everything to rescue the 221 men of the famous ''Lost Battalion.''

And yet, even as men like Ted Ohira were risking and losing their lives for our country, their families back home were facing unbelievable discrimination. In fact, while Ted Ohira was in Europe, his future wife Chiz and her family were being forced onto a bus just down the street from their Los Angeles grocery store and driven to a prison camp in Arizona. Chiz and her family were just some of the over 120,000 Japanese Americans to be wrongfully imprisoned at this time due to President Roosevelt's shameful Executive Order 9066.

But for these ''Go For Broke'' Japanese Americans, their patriotism was more important than somebody else's prejudice. And in 2011, the U.S. Congress awarded these Japanese American Nisei veterans with the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor that Congress can bestow. And yet, too many still do not know about their incredible service to our nation.

That is why, in 2016, I led a letter along with the late Congressmember Mark Takai, signed by 33 Members of the House and Senate, urging the U.S. Postal Service to preserve and share this inspiring story through a commemorative stamp. This was not only to recognize and honor the service and sacrifice of some of our most heroic soldiers. It was also to inspire others through their example of courage, loyalty, and undying patriotism. And I'm so glad that we now have a ''Go For Broke'' Forever Stamp to honor the thousands of Japanese Americans who signed up to defend freedoms they themselves could not enjoy.

This stamp was so important to me because it sent a powerful message that even when our government is not living up to our values, there are millions of Americans from all backgrounds who will risk their lives for those values. And I am proud that I am not alone. Starting in 2005, people like Chiz Ohira and the Nisei movement have been tireless in their work to make sure more Americans understand the service of the Japanese American soldiers in World War II.

I'm grateful for their years of hard work in helping make this stamp a reality, and I'm so proud that future generations will continue to be inspired by this patriotic service.

TRIBUTE TO BRIG. GEN. MILFORD BEAGLE, JR.

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a good friend and one of our Nations great military leaders as he transfers command. Brigadier General Milford Beagle, Jr., a native son of South Carolina, has led Fort Jackson in his home state since 2018, and is leaving to take on his next assignment as commanding general of the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division (Light) at Fort Drum in New York.

A native of Enoree, South Carolina, and a graduate of Woodruff High School, Gen. Beagle is the great-grandson of Private Walter Beagles, who trained at Camp Jackson in a segregated labor battalion in 1918. One hundred years later, Gen. Beagle served three years as commander of the Army base where his greatgrandfather faced discrimination. The twist of fate is not lost on Gen. Beagle, who has said, ''I am a Buffalo Soldier, I am a Harlem Hellfighter—you see, I am what a Black soldier set out to be in the early 1900s and even beyond that point. They wanted to be viewed as equal, they wanted to dispute the myths about Blacks being soldiers. They wanted to prove they were worthy enough to wear the uniform of our nation.'' I believe he has fulfilled the dreams and aspirations of so many Black soldiers who came before him.

Gen. Beagle's path to leadership began at my alma mater, South Carolina State University. There he was a track athlete and graduated with military distinction in 1990. He is part of S.C. State's tremendous legacy as one of the largest educators of minority Army officers in the country. He went on to earn two master's degrees from Kansas State University and the U.S. Army School of Advanced Military Studies.

During his 31-year career, Gen. Beagle has served with five regiments, the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, the 6th Infantry, the 9th Infantry, the 35th Infantry, and the 41st Infantry Regiment, and with five divisions, the 2nd Infantry Division, the 2nd Armored Division, the 5th Infantry Division, the 10th Mountain Division (Light), and the 25th Infantry Division. His key staff assignments include service as a planner and operations officer at battalion and brigade level, and as Chief Plans Branch, G3, Eighth Army, Republic of Korea. On the Joint and Army Staff, he served as the Joint Strategic Planner and later Executive Assistant to the Director, J–7, as well as the Division Chief, J–5, Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization. On the Army Staff, he served as the Executive Officer to the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army.

Gen. Beagle's combat and operational experience include tours with Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

Gen. Beagle is married to the former Pamela Jones, a native of Blackville, South Carolina. The couple has two children, Jordan and Jayden, one an Army Lieutenant and the other a college student.

During his years at Fort Jackson, Gen. Beagle has become a community leader and role model. He helped secure the greater Midlands area the recognition as a ''Great American Defense Community.'' He has earned the accolades of Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin and Columbia Chamber of Commerce CEO Carl Blackstone. I join them in commending his tremendous involvement in the community.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in saluting the extraordinary service of Brigadier General Beagle. He has distinguished himself as a leader in the military and in the community. He commands the respect of those he leads and those he serves. I am proud to call him a friend, and I wish him well as he continues his service to this great country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANDY BIGGS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Mr. BIGGS. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, I missed the vote on passage

of H.R. 239. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 160 (H.R. 239).

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JOHN LOWNDES

HON. STEPHANIE N. MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor my constituent, John Foy Lowndes, who passed away on February 12, 2021, at the age of 90, after a long and illustrious life.

John was born in Medford, Massachusetts and raised in Durham, North Carolina. He graduated from Durham High School in 1949 and went to work as an assistant foreman in a tobacco factory. Later that year he gave up the tobacco job and enrolled at Duke University.

Early in his freshman year, John joined the Marine Corps Reserve and was given the rank of Corporal in the Platoon Leaders group. When he graduated from Duke in 1953, he was made a Second Lieutenant.

After a brief stint as a traveling soap salesman for Proctor & Gamble, John accepted a Marine Corps invitation to The Basic School and then went on to Air Control School. He was stationed in Miami, among other places, and he fell in love with Florida.

In 1955, John left Miami and active duty with the Marine Corps and returned to Durham to attend the Duke University School of Law, graduating first in his class.

After law school, John moved to Central Florida. He practiced law in Daytona Beach, and then in Orlando with the Anderson and Rush law firm.

In 1969, John and three of his law partners decided to launch their own firm. The firm would flourish, becoming one of the largest and most prestigious in the state.

Beyond his work as an attorney, John was a pillar of his Central Florida community.

He chaired—or served on—many boards, including the Orange County Bar, the Orlando Museum of Art, Winter Park Memorial Hospital (now AdventHealth Winter Park), the Winter Park Health Foundation, Friends of the Mennella Museum, the Holocaust Center of Florida, and the UCF Foundation.

John shared an enthusiasm for arts and culture with his wife Rita, and they were instrumental in building and naming the John & Rita Lowndes Shakespeare Center in Loch Haven Park, which opened in 2001.

John lived a rich and full life, doing well and doing good, contributing his time and energy to the causes he cared about, and always making a positive difference.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring John Foy Lowndes.

JAMES GOLDEN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud James Golden for receiving the Gold Medalist Congressional Award for 2021.

The Congressional Award is a prestigious award from the United States Congress and is awarded to young Americans who demonstrate excellence in four program areas: Voluntary Public Service, Personal Development, Physical Fitness and Expedition/Exploration. The program recognizes young people who strive to challenge themselves and reach new goals.

James received this award because of his determination, hard work and achievements in these program areas. This year, James is being awarded the Gold Medalist Congressional Award—the highest honor and a tremendous accomplishment.

This type of achievement can only be attained with hard work and perseverance, both of which have been exemplified by James. I applaud students like James who work to make the most of their education, commit to being lifelong learners and develop a work ethic and new skills which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to James Golden for his work to earn the Gold Medalist Congressional Award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF ORLAND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

HON. MARIE NEWMAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Ms. NEWMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of the brave first responders of the Orland Fire Protection District.

This exemplary fire district has shown tremendous dedication to protecting the lives and property of the residents of Orland Park, Orland Hills, and unincorporated areas of Orland Township. Due to their excellence, Orland Fire Protection District is recognized as one of the best fire department organizations in Illinois and the country. Chief Michael Schofield's First Command Team and his first responder units have won national awards for their quick response times, high cardiac save rates, and efficient processes and procedures. Further, Orland Fire is 1 of 84 internationally recognized agencies with both an ISO Class 1 rating and accredited agency status with the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI). They displayed their commendable service during the COVID–19 Pandemic when they created a first of its kind response model to address the immediate needs of the community.

I honor their strong leadership, resourcefulness, and innovation in dealing with the effects of COVID–19 directly and swiftly. Their drive to share knowledge, equipment, and resources will cut inefficiencies and save even more lives. I thank the Orland Fire Protection District for their service, resiliency, and bravery. I honor their dedication, not only today, but every day. They are our heroes.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF DR. THOMAS J. HYNES, JR.

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary Georgian and a great American, Dr. Thomas J. Hynes, Jr., outgoing President of Clayton State University.

Dr. Hynes is retiring as President of Clayton State University (CSU) after over ten years of serving the institution with honor and distinction. During this time, he has led the University to success and growth and helped secure Clayton State's position at the forefront of Peach State academics. Beloved by Lakers across campus, the leadership of Dr. Hynes has empowered students and greatly strengthened the CSU community.

Throughout his career, Dr. Hynes has committed himself to service through education. He previously served as Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs and Professor of Mass Communication at the University of West Georgia. Prior to his time at West Georgia, he served in various departments at the University of Louisville for eighteen years. Outside of his university experience, Dr. Hynes has greatly benefitted our community. He has served as the overall Chair for the Clayton County Chamber of Commerce, the Chair of the Chamber's Education Committee, a member of the Fayette County and Metro Atlanta Chambers of Commerce, and on the Atlanta Regional Commission, amongst many other local and national positions. I express my deepest appreciation for the dedication that Dr. Hynes has given to the Thirteenth District and the state of Georgia.

Throughout his various tenures, Dr. Hynes has instilled his students and others around him with exemplary values. He has led by example to reflect the importance of service to our communities. He has facilitated and encouraged an open exchange of ideas, a principle too often overlooked in a contentious world. Dr. Hynes has taught his students to pursue excellence through knowledge and to uplift themselves through a quest to reach their full potential. I am deeply grateful to Dr. Hynes for the impact he has left on future generations and I thank him for his ability to connect with his students in such a powerful way.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Dr. Hynes on his retirement from Clayton State University and I wish him continued success, health, and happiness in the future. CSU is also prepared for continued greatness, thanks to Dr. Hynes' commitment to Strategic Plan 2022, an initiative that will give students the resources they need to succeed in a changing world, with an emphasis on community involvement.

May God continue to bless Dr. Thomas J. Hynes, Jr., and Clayton State University.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MEYER SHANK RACING

HON. TROY BALDERSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Mr. BALDERSON. Madam Speaker, congratulations to Meyer Shank Racing on winning this year's Indianapolis 500! Based in Licking County, Meyer Shank Racing launched in 1994 and is currently expanding operations in Pataskala. It's taken a lot of hard work and determination to get to this point, and this team deserves every bit of success. Helio Castroneves excelled behind the wheel during a riveting race this year. Mike Shank is remarkable and has led this team to many accomplishments. It's such a joy to watch this team thrive, and I wish them all the best in their future competitions.

GREENWOOD DESIGNATION

HON. KEVIN HERN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Mr. HERN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize that Tulsa's Greenwood Business District has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Nearly erased by the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre, the Greenwood Business District helped provide a foundation for African American resilience and success. Today, the business district has more than 30 African American owned businesses in the last brick buildings on Greenwood Avenue in Tulsa.

Placement on the National Register for Historic Places opens possibilities for business and property owners to seek historic preservation and property improvement.

The preservation of history is critical, and I'm glad to see this portion of Tulsa receive the historical recognition it deserves.

HONORING CAPTAIN ANDREW G. WILLIAMS

HON. MIKE KELLY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I would like to include in the RECORD the following speech that was written by local Butler, Pennsylvania historian and my constituent, Bill May. It was delivered at a headstone dedication ceremony for Civil War veteran Andrew Gomer Williams. Mr. Williams was a longtime resident of Butler where he practiced law. Born in Richmond, Virginia, Williams fought for the Union in the Civil War as a member of the 63rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. He also attended Duff's Business College and was a tradesman, nail-maker, bookkeeper, and notary public. Williams served the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a member of the state House of Representatives and state Senate as well as the Soldiers' Orphans School Commission. After a long life of service to his community and our Nation, Mr. Williams died on April 6, 1923 in Butler and was interred in the North Side Cemetery.

Mr. Williams is an American hero, which is why Chad Slater began placing the ''Grand Army of the Republic'' star and flag at his grave. The Grand Army of the Republic was a fraternal organization composed of veterans of the American Civil War. However, since Williams was not identified on his headstone as a veteran, the star and flag were routinely removed. As a result, Mr. Slater, Jason Tindall, and VFW 249 began a quest to install a proper headstone that would appropriately recognize Mr. Williams' service to the people of Butler, Western Pennsylvania, and our country. I thank each of them for working to preserve this vital piece of American history for future generations.

(By Bill May)

''Monuments are as old as our race and all along the history of the dim and dusty age down to the bright and joyous present we have been perpetuating the memory of heroic men''. These eloquent words, so very appropriate this morning, are not mine, but were the actual words of Andrew Gomer Williams whose monument we gather here this morning to dedicate. He delivered them in a speech on September 11, 1889 on the Gettysburg Battlefield during ceremonies dedicating the monument to his regiment, the 63rd PA Volunteers, who fought during the famous battle on July 1 through the 3rd of 1863. Much like they gathered on that field 132 years ago, we gather here today on this field to perpetuate the memory of a heroic man.

Ironically, Williams, who had fought for the Union, was born in Richmond VA, the Capital of the Confederacy on September 8, 1840 to a Welsh immigrant father and an Eastern Maryland mother. His family moved from Richmond to Pittsburgh in 1847 and from Pittsburgh to Etna one year later. The recipient of very little education, Andrew Williams went to work as a nail cutter in the local factory at the young age of 10.

Maybe it was the sense of patriotism that swelled in Andrew Williams heart or maybe it was wanting to escape the dullness of factory work for the great unknown adventure of war, but regardless of the reason, we do know that at age 21 in 1861, Williams was helping to raise three companies of men to become part of the newly created 63rd PA Volunteers and leave the smoky city for the battlefields of his native South. He was elected Captain of Company E, but declined the honor and the rank to initially serve as their 3rd Sargent when their 3 years of service began on September 9 of 1861.

He was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant on the field during the Second Battle of Bull in 1862 and then in the Spring of 1863 he was promoted to the rank of Captain of Company E of the 63rd PA Volunteers. He fought in over a dozen battles and was wounded four times including at the Charles City Crossroads on June 30, 1862 and again at The Battle of Fredericksburg on December 13, 1862. 1863 would find Williams leading his men at the Battles of Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg. During the Battle of the Wilderness on May 5, 1864 Williams was thought to have been mortally wounded after being struck in the left temple by a Confederate minie' ball and left for dead. Miraculously he was found barely alive four days later on the Wilderness Battlefield. He was mustered out with the rest of his regiment on August 6, 1864. Williams would carry the external scars from the near fatal wound for the rest of his life.

After his return home to Etna, he was unable to work for the next 3 years due to his wounds. He entered Duff's Business College in Pittsburgh to become a bookkeeper and also read law at home. In 1868, following his father's death in a boiler explosion at the Fort Pitt Foundry, he was forced to return to cutting nails in the Etna Rolling Mill to help support his family while continuing his law studies at night. Besides his father's tragic death, Williams throughout his life experienced the deaths of 13 members of his family by explosions, railroad accidents, burnings and drowning.

In spite of all the personal and family trauma, Andrew G. Williams marched on and came to Butler in 1875 and upon being admitted to the Butler Bar the following year he immediately formed a partnership with Alexander Mitchell. This partnership would last until Mitchell's death 40 years later. During these four decades together the men claimed to never have had an argument or ever having signed a lease for their office on the Diamond with their word as their bond. The only day in the entire history of their practice they did not open was when both men's Civil War Regiments were holding reunions on the same date in Pittsburgh. The two lawyers closed up shop each afternoon at precisely 4:45 p.m. It was said that people along their walking route home could set their watches by their passing. The house Andrew Williams came home to each night was the home he built in 1887 for his second wife and their 3 sons and 1 daughter and for his 3 children from his deceased first wife.

Williams' military service in the Civil War continued to play an important role in his life with his membership in the local chapter of the Grand Army of the Republic or GAR, a Civil War veterans' group and contributing his time to help those survivors scarred by the effects of the war. He helped Civil War soldier spouses such as a Mrs. Kettenburgh of Edgewood whose husband had served with Williams and who came to Butler in 1908 accompanied by her two sisters to apply for a Civil War Widow's Pension. Kettenburgh presented Williams with the photo displayed in front of me taken just a few days before William's near fatal wounding at the Wilderness. He also volunteered serving on the Board of Directors of the Civil War Orphans Home that was located on Butler's Institute Hill from 1867 until moving to Mercer County in 1905.

Outside of his legal practice and his Civil War related activities, Williams served one term in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and four years in the Pennsylvania State Senate. He also served for 20 years as the Choir Director of Butler's First Methodist Church and rose to the rank of Grand Commander Knights of Templar of the State of Pennsylvania in the Masons.

After a full life, devoted to his nation, his church, his community and most importantly his family, Andrew Gomer Williams died in his North McKean Street home on April 6, 1923 from pneumonia at the age of 83 @ 10:40 p.m. Fittingly for a man who had been a soldier in the Civil War, his funeral and burial were held on April 9th the same day only 58 years earlier that Robert E. Lee had surrendered his Confederate Army to Union General Ulysses S. Grant at a place called Appomattox Courthouse Virginia.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF MS. RAFAELA ''LALI'' GARCIA

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to commemorate the

life of Ms. Rafaela Garcia and to pay tribute to her monumental legacy in Kansas City, Missouri. Ms. Garcia, known as ''Lali'' to her family, friends, and neighbors, lived a life of service, selflessness, and passionate advocacy. She was ambitious and tenacious, with the goal of improving life for the Latino community guiding her work every step of the way. As I stand here today, I can confidently say that we all owe Lali an enormous debt of gratitude for the progress she fostered towards racial equality, advancing the cause of a historically marginalized population by championing equal opportunity and political representation. Lali's dedication to serving the Latino community as an activist, community member, and office holder defined her 93 years spent on this earth and improved the lives of thousands. Lali uplifted the voices of those in need and left a profound impact on every person who crossed her path.

Born in 1927, Lali observed and experienced discrimination against the Latino community along with the severe lack of political representation for non-white citizens. During her youth, Lali used the discrimination she faced in everyday life as a source of motivation to fight for change. Years later, Lali shared stories from this time in her life to remind us of our history and the progress we have made. Lali remembered movie theaters with segregated seating, jails without due process for people of color, restaurants that barred admission for Latinos, and inferior educational opportunities for Latino students. Lali's passion for social advocacy started young, at the age of 13, when she first visited the Guadalupe Center in Kansas City, Missouri. The Center, at that time, was dedicated to administering a school and clinic for underprivileged immigrants who settled in the midwestern city. Even at this young age, Lali saw the potential for the Center to become a vibrant community gathering place, a structure to fight against the social inequities she witnessed, and a pillar of the Latino community. As Lali served for forty-six years on the Center's Board of Directors, this vision came to fruition, with three terms as the Board President. She oversaw a massive expansion of the services provided by the Center, advancing opportunities, services, and protection for the Latino community. Today, largely in part to Lali's commitment, the Center has grown to provide healthcare, education, financial assistance, childcare, workforce development, and more. We are forever indebted to Lali's work to transform this organization as it continues to provide opportunities, support, and stability for newly arrived immigrants and Kansas City natives alike. Her legacy challenges each of us to continue making Kansas City a welcoming place for immigrants to find a home, celebrate their culture, and become part of the community. As we follow in her footsteps, we must strive to ensure that all those who make the journey to the United States feel valued, cherished, and loved—the same way Lali made all of us feel.

Beyond her immeasurable work at the Center, Lali was a fierce advocate for political equality and representation for the Latino community. Lali understood the importance of responsive leaders who use their positions in the halls of government to protect and uplift all members of the community, regardless of race or ethnicity. She also recognized the need for leaders who would advocate for the fair and equal treatment of the Latino community. In 1989, Lali founded La Raza Political Club. Under her leadership, La Raza elected many of the first Latinos to public office in Kansas City, finally creating a seat at the table for her community. During her time with La Raza, Lali registered new voters, fought back against discrimination at the polls, and proved the importance of perceptive leadership. By registering hundreds of Latino voters, Lali amplified their voices and worked to create a more just, equitable, and accepting nation. We are called to pick up this duty where Lali left off and to emphasize the importance of political engagement in all communities.

A short recognition cannot adequately describe the breadth of Lali's tireless work building community resources, political representation, and cultural acceptance. At the end of her life, amidst a global pandemic, her work never ceased. Lali served as a member of the Guadalupe Centers Board of Directors; the Jackson County Ethics, Human Relations, & Citizen Complaints Commission; and the Civil Rights Consortium. She was also a member of the Union Cultural Mexicana Ladies Auxiliary and a full-time volunteer at the Casa Felix Senior Center. Lali was also appointed to the Guadalajara Sister City Commission and the Port Authority Board of Commissioners and has served on the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast Committee since 1987. Intentional acts of humble service filled each minute of her life. Lali's commitment to those around her teaches us what it means to be an outspoken and selfless advocate and to meaningfully participate in the community.

Lali's life reminds us that a single individual relentlessly fighting for what is right can, in fact, change the world around us. Change requires a person with the courage to acknowledge the unjust, the persistence to carry on through hardship, the will to protest loudly, and the spirit to fight until all are seen as equal. For Lali, this all came naturally, and her leadership has left a legacy that will continue to change lives for generations to come. Madam Speaker, let us rise each day and ask ourselves, as Lali Garcia did, how we can positively impact our community. Today, and every day, let us be fervent in service, gentle in heart, and motivated by love—just like Lali before us.

RECOGNIZING THE GRAND OPENING OF THE EDWARD AMBURG HISTORY MUSEUM

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Grand Opening of the Edward Amburg History Museum in Grafton, Illinois, which will take place on Saturday, June 19, 2021.

At age 83, Edward Amburg passed away in November of 2018. He is remembered by the community for his dedication to historical research of his beloved community.

Thanks to Ed's efforts the City of Grafton received funding to build a museum focused on its storied past. The museum will include documents and artifacts donated by the Grafton Historical Society that will represent the rich boat making, manufacturing, and farming history that Grafton is known for.

Ed's passion and dedication for the history of Grafton will carry on through the museum that bears his name.

Again, I thank Ed for the legacy he left behind and congratulations to his wife Bobbie and the entire community. I look forward to visiting this great addition to the City of Grafton.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MAYOR RUDY DURHAM

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the public service career of Rudy Durham, the former mayor of Lewisville, Texas. Mayor Durham devoted almost 30 years of his life in service to his hometown.

Mayor Durham's second 3-year term as mayor of Lewisville concluded in May 2021, ending 27 consecutive years of service in public office. Prior to his election to the Lewisville City Council in 1994, he volunteered as a member of the Planning and Zoning commission. He served as a city councilman for ten years prior to his first run for mayor.

In his business career, he was a Professional Appraiser and Real Estate Broker, and he retired as Chief Appraiser for the Denton Central Appraisal District in 2019. Mayor Durham takes great pride in being a fourth-generation Lewisville resident and he is the fifth Lewisville High School alumnus to serve as the city's mayor. During his high school athletic career, Mayor Durham qualified for two state meets in shotput and played on the 1972 state finalist football team. His work on behalf of his community since his graduation in 1974 has merited him a place in the Lewisville High School Hall of Fame.

Under his leadership, Lewisville has continued to grow and thrive, even under the difficult circumstances of the COVID–19 pandemic. I am pleased to join the residents and businesses of Lewisville in commending Mayor Durham for his efforts to protect his constituents and enhance their quality of life. As Mayor Durham returns to private life, I would like to thank him for his longstanding devotion to his community and wish him the very best in all his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, yesterday, due to unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to vote in Roll Call number 162 on H.R. 1443. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call number 162.

CONGRATULATING CAMAS HIGH SCHOOL ON COMPETING IN THE FINALS OF THE 2021 AMERICAN ROCKET CHALLENGE

HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Madam Speaker, today, I would like to recognize Camas High School for its exemplary achievements in the 2021 American Rocketry Challenge. The Camas High School team qualified for the National Finals and competed at the highest level against other high schools across the country.

I am so proud of our students for pursuing their passions in STEM and dedicating their extra-curricular time to learning and innovating. The American Rocketry Challenge allowed the students to design, build, and launch model rockets, which exposed the team to different forms of engineering, problem solving, and teamwork. And of course, the product of all their hard work was that they reached new heights that I'm sure many thought wasn't possible. It always amazes me what our high school students are able to accomplish.

Congratulations to our Camas High School team for earning this great honor. I would like to thank the students, teachers, and parents for their commitment to STEM education in Southwest Washington.

RECOGNIZING SAMANTHA AND ALEXANDER EDWARDS' ACHIEVEMENTS

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, one of the great honors that I have as a United States Congressman is to nominate young adults from my District for admission to our Nation's service academies, and during my time in Congress I have become acquainted with many fine young persons who have sought a nomination to one of the service academies. Today, I rise to give recognition to two such young persons who are my constituents, Samantha Scott Edwards and Alexander Thompson Edwards, from Mercer Island, Washington.

In 2018, I nominated Samantha to the United States Military Academy Class of 2022, and this spring I nominated Samantha's brother Alex to the United States Military Academy Class of 2025. This coming academic year Samantha will be a senior at West Point, while Alex will be a freshman plebe, and both Alex and Samantha will be competing on the West Point varsity swim team. While it is not unusual for West Point cadets to have relatives who have attended West Point, it is uncommon for a brother and sister to attend West Point at the same time, let alone compete on the same athletic team.

Samantha and Alex are incredibly talented in the pool and classroom and both have been named as Academic All Americans by USA Swimming.

Samantha now holds two West Point records in relay events and is in the all-time Academy top 10 rankings for her individual times in the 100 yard and 200 yard freestyle events. For her Senior year at West Point, Samantha has been appointed as a Team Academic Mentor, which is a recognition of Samantha's own scholarship as well as her ability to provide scholastic mentorship to other team members.

In addition to earning Academic All-American status from USA Swimming for his scholastic achievements, Alex served as Captain of his high school swim team and received his high school's 2020 ''Excellence in Elective Studies in History'' Award. In recognition of his accomplishments in the pool, the National Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association has twice designated Alex as an All-American swimmer.

As their Congressman and Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, I am pleased that Alex and Samantha have each chosen to attend West Point to become officers in the United States Army. Given their academic achievements, as well as their athletic talents, these outstanding young adults could have gone to any number of fine universities—that they have chosen to attend West Point and serve our Nation's Armed Forces speaks volumes about their character and commitment.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Samantha and Alex. I am proud they are my constituents, look forward to great things from them, and wish them the very best in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the American Physical Therapy Association.

The APTA is the leading professional membership organization for the physical therapy profession, with a mission to build a community that advances the profession and improves the health of society.

As the predecessors to modern-day physical therapists, reconstruction aides were strong women who played an integral role in the recovery of many soldiers during World War I. Through their work, they demonstrated the value of the physical therapy and the impact it would have in the future of American healthcare.

The vision of the physical therapy profession is to transform society by optimizing movement to improve the human experience. The efforts to launch a physical therapy education program began in 1960, with the first two classes of physical therapist assistants entering the workforce in 1969. Throughout its history, physical therapy has had a role in military hospitals, on the response team during the polio epidemic, and is currently helping those recovering from the novel coronavirus.

The work of a physical therapist spans many settings, from hospitals to homes, schools to veteran facilities. Physical therapy has been effective at reducing pain and being a first-line approach that has assisted countless Americans. During these difficult times, physical therapists and physical therapist assistants have faced their challenges head on, treating the most vulnerable and working with those recovering from the severe effects of COVID–19.

Please join me in commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the American Physical Therapy Association.

REMEMBER1NG DR. SAMUEL L. MYERS, SR.

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, my district, the State of Maryland, and our country have lost an extraordinary citizen, an outstanding contributor to education and leader for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Dr. Samuel L. Myers, who was a trailblazer for equality and a pioneer in economics and higher education, passed away at the age of 101 on January 8 and will be remembered at a memorial service later this month. I was honored to know him and work closely with him over the years to advance the important causes he championed.

Born in Baltimore, Dr. Myers was the son of Jamaican immigrants and grew up in a home that strongly valued education and public service. After earning his undergraduate degree in 1940 from Morgan State University and a master's degree from Boston University in 1942—both in economics—he was drafted into the U.S. Army and rose to the rank of Captain while serving in the Pacific Theater. At the time, of course, our military was segregated, and Dr. Myers was a trailblazer in speaking out against the injustices facing African-American servicemembers, risking court martial. Following his honorable discharge from service in 1946, he studied at Harvard University and completed his doctorate in economics in 1949, studying with some of the most renowned scholars at that time, including John Kenneth Galbraith.

As an economist, Dr. Myers focused on inequalities and the effects of segregation on African-American businesses and families. That interest led him into government service, and he worked as a research economist for the Bureau of Labor Statistics while teaching at his alma mater of Morgan State. Recognizing his leadership abilities and his deep commitment to education, Bowie State University selected him as its fourth president in 1968. During his tenure, which lasted until 1977, Dr. Myers reshaped Maryland's oldest HBCU and laid the groundwork for its success, preparing graduates to seize the opportunities of our twenty-first century economy. While pioneering the launch of computer science programs and new educational practices, he worked to secure funding for new buildings to replace those that were crumbling and dilapidated, and he supported students who had protested against unfair budgets that disadvantaged historically African-American campuses in Maryland and nationwide.

In 1977, Dr. Myers stepped down as President of Bowie State University but continued his passionate commitment to HBCUs. He became President of the National Association for

Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO) and continued to lead that organization for eighteen years. In that capacity, he lobbied for HBCUs and was instrumental in the 1980 Executive Order, signed by President Carter, directing that federal funding for higher education be prioritized for HBCUs, a principle that has since been expanded to include institutions serving Hispanic and Native American tribal communities. The recipient of many awards and recognitions for his contributions to equality in education, Dr. Myers continued even after his retirement from overseeing NAFEO to be a leader in this national effort, chairing the board of Minority Access, which helps build partnerships between minority-serving institutions and major research universities. He was also a longstanding supporter of foreign language programs and cultural exchanges that expand young Americans' views of our world and help build bridges with students and scholars from other nations.

Dr. Myers will be remembered as a man of vision and of service. His legacy will not be forgotten by the millions of students who were able to access high-quality undergraduate and graduate programs and pursue their dreams because of his tireless efforts. Maryland will long remember Dr. Samuel L. Myers among the pantheon of our great native sons and daughters who dedicated their lives and careers to the improvement of our society, the expansion of opportunities, and the cause of justice and equality for all.

I offer my condolences to his children, Dr. Yvette Myers and Dr. Samuel Myers, Jr., along with their families. Their father now joins their wonderful mother Marion Myers—who was his partner for sixty-four years—and their sister Judge Tama Clark, who passed away last year, in peaceful eternal rest. May his memory continue to bless and inspire so many in Maryland and in our country to pursue service and help build a more perfect union for future generations of Americans.

RECOGNIZING GARY T. JOHNSON ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Gary T. Johnson on concluding a lengthy and illustrious career as President and CEO of the Chicago History Museum.

After nearly three decades of legal practice in Chicago, Gary made his arrival at the Chicago History Museum in 2005, beginning his tenure as President by transitioning the Chicago Historical Society into the Chicago History Museum as we know it today.

For more than 15 years, Gary spent his time as President focusing on community outreach and strengthening the institution's financial capacity. Along the way, he also headed Museums in the Park, a group of 11 museums on land owned by the Chicago Park District.

During his time as President, Gary brought significant improvements to the museum. He completed a $27 million campaign and implemented the Museum's 2006 ''reinvention,'' which included renovating 75 percent of its space, announcing a name change, and installing the highly praised Exelon Crossroads exhibition, the Museum's foundational overview of Chicago history. Additionally, he increased the museum's annual attendance by 89 percent over a 10-year period and extended school visits to 60,000 students annually.

One of Gary's most important and more recent accomplishments was the completion of the landmark five-year, $50 million This Is Chicago campaign, an effort which involved raising $11 million for the museum's endowment, acquiring millions of artifacts, increasing education program offerings, and more.

Educated at Yale College, Oxford University, and Harvard Law School, Gary never lost his commitment to supporting the educational aspirations of students in Chicago and beyond. For over ten years, he led the Rhodes Scholarship selection process for the district that includes Illinois, while also dedicating his time to visiting over 300 of Chicago's grade schools—bringing with him artifacts from the Museum's collection to ensure that all Chicagoans had access to the city's greatest treasures.

Madam Speaker, please join me and all of our colleagues in the House of Representatives in recognizing Mr. Gary T. Johnson's years of service to the City of Chicago and congratulating him on his retirement.

CONGRATULATING VANCOUVER iTECH PREPARATORY STUDENTS ON THE INCLUSION OF THEIR NATIONAL HISTORY DAY EXHIBIT SHOWCASED BY THE SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY AT THE SMITHSONIAN LEARNING LAB

HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jonah Campbell, Clark Hegewald, and Grant Myers of Vancouver iTech Preparatory on having their National History Day project showcased by the Smithsonian National Museum of American History at the Smithsonian Learning Lab.

Their project, titled ''No Need for Translation: The Apollo-Soyuz Mission'', focuses on the bilateral cooperation between the United States and the Soviet Union in ending the Space Race through the construction of the first space station. The team placed particular emphasis on the unprecedented collaboration between Americans and Soviets at the height of the Cold War.

For over 40 years, National History Day has been a stellar opportunity for students across the country to engage in and expand their knowledge of American history through research-based projects. I hope that participating in National History Day has allowed these students to deepen their appreciation for the great American history that unites us all.

Once again, I want to congratulate Jonah, Clark, and Grant on a job well done.

ARTHROGRYPOSIS MULTIPLEX CONGENITA AWARENESS DAY

HON. NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Day of Arthrogryposis Multiplex Congenita (AMC) on Wednesday, June 30, 2021. This condition is present in 1 in 3,000 babies a year, which causes many joints of the body to be stiff and crooked at birth. There are over 400 different types of AMC, which is an umbrella diagnosis that derives from many syndromes. This condition is not curable, but it is treatable. A newborn with AMC lacks the range of motion in one of more joints, but with early intervention, therapies can help children achieve their cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development goals. New York State has one of the most active AMC awareness organizations with grassroots efforts located in my district, the borough of Staten Island, NY. My constituent, Valerie Pepe, was born with AMC on June 11, 1967. Valerie now hosts the AMC Music Festival which helps raise money and awareness for those affected by AMC. Thank you for allowing me to recognize her efforts and to bring awareness to the families affected by AMC. As a member of the Rare Disease Caucus, it is my hope that Congress will continue to encourage research and medical innovation to treat AMC.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed a vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 161.

IN HONOR OF ROY LESLIE FOR 50 YEARS AT SHONEY'S OF KNOXVILLE, INC.

HON. TIM BURCHETT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Roy ''Slick'' Leslie, who has had an admirable career at Shoney's of Knoxville, Inc. for 50 years.

When Roy was in high school, he started working at The Lamp Post Restaurant washing dishes, sweeping the parking lot, and cooking, all while helping on the family farm. In 1970, he married his wife, Donna, and together they had four children and 11 grandchildren.

In 1971, Roy started working for Shoney's of Knoxville, Inc. as a bus boy. He worked his way up through the ranks to become Manager, Area Supervisor and then Vice President & Chief Operating Officer. In 2016, he was promoted to President & Chief Executive Officer.

In addition to employing thousands of Tennesseans throughout his career, Roy approved many financial gifts from Shoney's of Knoxville, Inc. focusing on children's charities, healthy living, and strong families.

Roy has the respect of everyone who passes through Shoney's. People in the community admire him for his leadership, kindness, and generosity. I'm pleased to commend him on a successful career full of service and leadership.

ENACTING CLIMATE INFRASTRUCTURE AND THE AMERICAN JOBS PLAN

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about the importance of including climate change focused provisions in any forthcoming infrastructure package.

My district of Sacramento, one of the most flood-prone cities in the nation, relies on modernized flood control infrastructure to protect against the threat of inundations intensified by climate change. Just last year, my home state of California experienced the wildfire season on record and this year, we are bracing for what will be one of the worst droughts in recent decades. All of these are testaments that the climate crisis is here . . . and we have no time for half measures.

As we make the most consequential generational investments on our nation's crumbling infrastructure, Congress must prioritize bold investments in resilience, clean energy, jobs, and environmental justice while lowering our carbon footprint to avert the worst impacts of the climate crisis. The President's American Jobs Plan does just that.

As a leader in clean transportation and strong vehicle emission standards, I am thrilled to see that the American Jobs Plan will spark the electric vehicle revolution. The AJP would build a network of five hundred thousand EV chargers, replace fifty thousand diesel transit vehicles with cleaner vehicles, create a million jobs in the auto industry, and help consumers purchase the vehicles of tomorrow. These infrastructure improvements are critical to lower transportation emissions, the largest source of carbon pollution in the United States, and to decrease tailpipe pollution which disproportionately impacts communities of color.

Further, the American Jobs Plan will help us meet this moment with a visionary agenda that elevates every community-creating at least 2.7 million jobs in the new green economy and investing 40 percent of infrastructure funds in disadvantaged communities.

It is time for Congress to follow the President's leadership and pass an infrastructure package that will help us build a cleaner economy that values workers, communities of color, and all Americans who need environmental, climate, and economic justice. In 2021, we cannot address infrastructure without addressing climate change.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT HILLER

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the service of Robert Hiller, also known as ''Racecar Bob'', on his efforts to raise money for the Sedalia, Missouri Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program.

Bob has been serving his community and the region for over three decades, working with law enforcement agencies across seven different states. He has done this with the help of his iconic racecar—he offers rides and appears in the program's annual car show in order to raise money as well as spread awareness. Next year will be Bob's 31st appearance in the car show—the same number as his racecar.

The Sedalia D.A.R.E. Officers, through Bob's efforts, have been able to serve around 20,000 students without having to rely on public tax money, and they will be able to do so for another seven years without needing future funding. Additionally, the program has been able to establish two $500 scholarships for local high school students.

Bob has had an incredible impact in educating young people about the dangers of substance abuse and making sure they stay safe and healthy. We are incredibly grateful for his service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, I inadvertently missed Roll Call vote number 161 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 3325. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 161.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DR. GEORGE BERCI

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Mr. LIEU. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of the tremendous contributions of Dr. George Berci, a beloved American and resident of California's 33rd Congressional District. With decades of work as an inventor, engineer, professor and author, Dr. Berci's innovative genius and generous spirit has impacted not only the world of medicine but also laid the foundation for future advancement in surgical technologies.

Born in Hungary in 1921, Dr. Berci's family immigrated to Vienna where he studied the violin. They returned to Hungary in the late 1930's when the rise of Nazi Germany forced thousands of Jewish people to emigrate from Austria. He re-learned Hungarian, graduated from high school, and studied mechanical engineering for three years.

In 1942, Dr. Berci was conscripted into a forced labor camp in his native Hungary. Near the end of the war, George escaped a Nazi march toward Auschwitz and returned behind German lines to Budapest to find his mother. He joined the underground where he used his German language skills to save many still in the ghetto.

In war ravaged, communist-controlled Hungary, Dr. Berci attended Medical School and completed his surgical residency. During this time, he was arrested for confronting the Communist Party, wrote his first research papers, and escaped during the 1956 Hungarian Revolution to Melbourne, Australia. Following his escape, he was awarded a Rockefeller Fellowship in surgery in Vienna, Austria. After working many years in a laboratory, Dr. Berci became an Associate Professor of Surgery in the Department of Surgery at the University of Melbourne.

Dr. Berci performed a one-year fellowship at the University of Seattle and in 1970, accepted the position of Director of Surgical Endoscopy and Surgical Research at Cedars of Lebanon Hospital and later Cedars-Sinai Medical Center under the chairmanship and mentorship of the great Leon Morgenstern. He was later named Clinical Professor of Surgery at the University of California, Los Angeles and the University of Southern California.

In his 70-year career, Dr. Berci changed the face of surgery and anesthesiology by pioneering many endoscopic and laparoscopic techniques that provide the basis for virtually all minimally invasive surgeries performed today. George's many major contributions to the science and medical communities include his notable leadership as a part of the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons' laparoscopic safety and efficiency training programs. Through this program he developed the first miniature endoscopic video camera, creating a video intubation scope and invented the VITOM surgical video microscope. George also developed other endoscopic instruments and procedures used in urology, gynecology, general, and thoracic surgery, operative laryngology, office laryngology, and pediatric surgery—where his miniature endoscopes allowed endoscopic surgery in children.

Dr. Berci has been widely recognized for his work, having been awarded 21 major prestigious awards, including: the Glissan Prize (Australia) and the American College of Jacobson Innovation Award. In addition, Karl Storz Endoscopy endowed a Chair in Surgery position in his honor, the University of Hungary awarded him an honorary PhD, and Cedars-Sinai Medical Center presented him with their 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award.

As a prolific speaker, writer, and researcher, Dr. Berci has delivered hundreds of lectures, published 12 books and 238 publications in peer reviewed journals worldwide. His revolutionization of the field of minimally invasive surgery, and his impact as a mentor to a generation of surgeons, has made a lasting mark on the entire medical community.

At 100 years of age, Dr. George Berci continues to serve the medical community at Cedar-Sinai's Hospital in Los Angeles, teaching residents at the Women's Guild Simulation

Center for Advanced Clinical Skills, while continuing his lifelong work creating surgical advancements in the laboratory. He is truly a pioneer in the medical field and a great American.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, June 17, 2021 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 22

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Subcommittee on Rural Development and Energy

To hold hearings to examine renewable energy, focusing on growth and opportunities for our rural economies.

SD–562

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Subcommittee on Rural Development and Energy

To hold hearings to examine renewable energy, focusing on growth and opportunities for rural economies.

SD–562

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the posture of the Department of the Navy in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2022 and the Future Years Defense Program; to be immediately followed by a closed session in SVC–217.

SD–G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Defense

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the Army.

SD–192

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Brian Eddie Nelson, of California, to be Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Crimes, and Elizabeth Rosenberg, of Vermont, to be Assistant Secretary for Terrorist Financing, both of the Department of the Treasury.

SD–538

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine vaccines, focusing on America's shot at ending the COVID–19 pandemic.

SD–430

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine D.C. statehood.

SD–342/VTC

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine Federal sentencing for crack and powder cocaine.

SD–106

2:15 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider S. J.Res. 10, to repeal the authorizations for use of military force against Iraq, S. 1041, to advance the strategic alignment of United States diplomatic tools toward the realization of free, fair, and transparent elections in Nicaragua and to reaffirm the commitment of the United States to protect the fundamental freedoms and human rights of the people of Nicaragua, S. 65, to ensure that goods made with forced labor in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China do not enter the United States market, S. 2000, to promote the United States-Greece defense partnership, S. 93, to amend the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act to modify the foreign persons subject to sanctions and to remove the sunset for the imposition of sanctions, S. 1061, to encourage the normalization of relations with Israel, S. 14, to identify and combat corruption in countries, to establish a tiered system of countries with respect to levels of corruption by their governments and their efforts to combat such corruption, and to evaluate foreign persons engaged in grand corruption for inclusion as specially designated nationals under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act, S. Res. 67, calling for the immediate release of Trevor Reed, a United States citizen who was unjustly found guilty and sentenced to 9 years in a Russian prison, S. Res. 165, calling on the Government of the Russian Federation to provide evidence or to release United States citizen Paul Whelan, S. Res. 107, expressing the sense of the Senate relating to the 10th anniversary of the March 11, 2011, earthquake and tsunami in Japan, S. Res. 154, congratulating the people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on the centennial of the founding of the Jordanian state, S. Res. 176, urging all parties in Georgia to seek prompt implementation of the agreement signed on April 19, 2021, and reaffirming the support of the Senate for Georgia, the territorial integrity of Georgia, and the aspirations of Georgians to join the Euro-Atlantic community, the nomination of Michele Jeanne Sison, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Organization Affairs), routine lists in the foreign service, and other pending calendar business.

SH–216

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Airland

To hold hearings to examine modernization efforts of the Department of the Air Force in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2022 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR–232A

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Communication, Media, and Broadband

To hold hearings to examine building resilient networks.

SR–253

Committee on Finance

Subcommittee on International Trade, Customs, and Global Competitiveness

To hold hearings to examine the strategic benefits of a multilateral approach to trade policy in the Asia-Pacific region.

SD–215

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Intellectual Property

To hold hearings to examine protecting real innovations by improving patent quality.

SD–226

JUNE 23

9:30 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine pending nominations.

SH–216

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the Department of Energy, including the National Nuclear Security Agency.

SD–192

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Subcommittee on National Parks

To hold hearings to examine S. 31, to limit the establishment or extension of national monuments in the State of Utah, S. 172, to authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, S. 192, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain river segments in the State of Oregon as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 270, to amend the Act entitled ''Act to provide for the establishment of the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site in the State of Kansas'' to provide for inclusion of additional related sites in the National Park System, S. 491, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain river segments in the York River watershed in the State of Maine as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 535, to authorize the location of a memorial on the National Mall to commemorate and honor the members of the Armed Forces that served on active duty in support of the Global War on Terrorism, S. 753, to reauthorize the Highlands Conservation Act, to authorize States to use funds from that Act for administrative purposes, S. 1317, to modify the boundary of the Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument in the State of Arizona, S. 1320, to establish the Chiricahua National Park in the State of Arizona as a unit of the National Park System, S. 1321, to modify the boundary of the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument, S. 1526, to authorize the use of off-highway vehicles in certain areas of the Capitol Reef National Park, Utah, S. 1527, to amend title 54, United States Code, to provide

that State law shall apply to the use of motor vehicles on roads within a System unit, S. 1769, to adjust the boundary of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to include the Rim of the Valley Corridor, and S. 1771, to authorize reference to the museum located at Blytheville/Eaker Air Force Base in Blytheville, Arkansas, as the ''National Cold War Center''.

SD–366

2 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

SD–192

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the Department of the Treasury.

SD–138

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Cybersecurity

To hold hearings to examine recent ransomware attacks..

SR–222

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Subcommittee on Energy

To hold hearings to examine examine existing programs and future opportunities to ensure access to affordable, reliable, and clean energy for rural and low-income communities.

SD–366

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Aviation Safety, Operations, and Innovation

To hold hearings to examine aviation infrastructure for the 21st century.

SR–253

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, and Border Safety

To hold hearings to examine immigration and citizenship policies for U.S. military service members, veterans, and their families.

SD–226

3 p.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine pending calendar business.

SR–418

JUNE 24

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Defense

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the Navy and Marine Corps.

SD–192

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S4557–S4598

Measures Introduced: Twenty-two bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2072–2093, and S. Res. 272–273. **Pages S4589–90**

Measures Passed:

225th Anniversary of the State of Tennessee: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 248, recognizing and celebrating the 225th anniversary of the entry of the State of Tennessee into the United States as the 16th State, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S4597**

Great Outdoors Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 273, designating June 2021 as ''Great Outdoors Month''. **Page S4597**

Appointments:

British-American Interparliamentary Group Conference: The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, and upon the recommendation of the Republican Leader, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2761, as amended, appointed the following Senator as Vice Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the British-American Interparliamentary Group Conference during the 117th Congress: Senator Boozman. **Page S4597**

Beaudreau Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Tommy P. Beaudreau, of Alaska, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior. **Pages S4574–85**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 89 yeas to 9 nays (Vote No. EX. 238), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S4574**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 10 a.m., on Thursday, June 17, 2021; that the cloture time on the nomination expire at 11:30 a.m.; that if cloture is invoked on the nomination of John K. Tien, of Georgia, to be Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security, all post-cloture debate time expire at 1:45 p.m. **Pages S4597–98**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 55 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. EX. 236), Radhika Fox, of California, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. **Pages S4557–61, S4573**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 55 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. EX. 234), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S4561**

By 59 yeas to 39 nays (Vote No. EX. 237), Lydia Kay Griggsby, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland. **Pages S4561–74**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 57 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. EX. 235), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S4561**

Messages from the House: **Page S4587**

Measures Referred: **Pages S4587–88**

Measures Read the First Time: **Page S4597**

Executive Communications: **Pages S4588–89**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S4589**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S4590–92**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S4592–96**

Additional Statements: **Pages S4586–87**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S4596–97**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S4597**

Record Votes: Five record votes were taken today. (Total—238) **Pages S4561, S4573–74**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10:30 a.m. and adjourned at 7:25 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday,

June 17, 2021. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on pages S4597–98.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: DOI

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the Department of the Interior, after receiving testimony from Deb Haaland, Secretary of the Interior.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the Department of Education, after receiving testimony from Miguel Cardona, Secretary of Education.

APPROPRIATIONS: MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND FAMILY HOUSING

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for military construction and family housing, after receiving testimony from Paul Cramer, performing the duties of Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment, Lieutenant General Jason Evans, Deputy Chief of Staff, G–9, Vice Admiral Ricky Williamson, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Fleet Readiness and Logistics, Lieutenant General Charles Chiarotti, Deputy Commandant, Installations and Logistics, and Lieutenant General Warren Berry, Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, Engineering, and Force Protection, all of the Department of Defense.

APPROPRIATIONS: DOT

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the Department of Transportation, after receiving testimony from Peter Buttigieg, Secretary of Transportation.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Caroline Diane Krass, of the District of Columbia, to be General Counsel, who was introduced by Senator Bennet, Gina Maria Ortiz Jones, of Texas, to be Under Secretary of the Air Force, who was introduced by Senator Duckworth, 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, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

NUCLEAR DETERRENCE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces concluded a hearing to examine United States nuclear deterrence policy and strategy, after receiving testimony from Tom Z. Collina, Ploughshares Fund, Madelyn R. Creedon, George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs, Lisa E. Gordon-Hagerty, former Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration, Matthew Kroenig, Georgetown University Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security, and Sharon K. Weiner, American University School of International Service, all of Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

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, with an amendment;

S. 1890, to require the Federal Trade Commission to conduct a study on scams that target travelers during the COVID–19 pandemic, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1894, to designate Regional Ocean Partnerships of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1995, to amend the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act with respect to sport fish restoration and recreational boating safety;

S. 2016, to authorize elements of the Department of Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and

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.

LEGISLATION

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining concluded a hearing 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, after receiving testimony from Senators Murray, Cramer, Bennet, and Romney; Nada Wolff Culver, Deputy Director, Policy and Programs, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior; Chris French, Deputy Chief, National Forest System, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; Utah Representative Keven Stratton, Salt Lake City; Marci Henson, Clark County Department of Environment and Sustainability, Las Vegas, Nevada; Pat Pitney, University of Alaska, Fairbanks; and Jocelyn Torres, Conservation Lands Foundation, North Las Vegas, Nevada.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Jeffrey M. Prieto, of California, who was introduced by Senator Padilla, and Jane Toshiko Nishida, of Maryland, who was introduced by Senator Cardin, 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, who was introduced by Representative Espaillat, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

BUDGET

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2022, after receiving testimony from Janet L. Yellen, Secretary of the Treasury.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported 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.

SOUTHWEST BORDER SECURITY

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Government Operations and Border Management concluded a hearing to examine improving security, trade, and travel at land ports of entry at the southwest border, after receiving testimony from Kevin K. McAleenan, former acting Secretary of Homeland Security, McLean, Virginia; Anthony M. Reardon, National Treasury Employees Union, Washington, D.C.; Sam F. Vale, Starr-Camargo Bridge Company, Rio Grande City, Texas, on behalf of the Border Trade Alliance; and Guillermo Valencia, Valencia International, Inc.,

Nogales, Arizona, on behalf of the Greater Nogales Santa Cruz County Port Authority.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee ordered favorably reported 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.

WOMEN'S HEALTH PROTECTION ACT

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on the Constitution concluded a hearing to examine the Women's Health Protection Act, after receiving testimony from Michele Bratcher Goodwin, University of California, Irvine; Jamila Perritt, Physicians for Reproductive Health, and Catherine Glenn Foster, Americans United for Life, both of Washington, D.C.; Melissa Ohden, The Abortion Survivors Network, Kansas City, Missouri; and Tohan, Texas.

USCP OVERSIGHT FOLLOWING JANUARY 6 ATTACK

Committee on Rules and Administration: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the United States Capitol Police following the January 6th attack on the Capitol, after receiving testimony from Michael A. Bolton, Inspector General, United States Capitol Police.

VA BUDGET

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2022 and 2023 advance appropriations requests for the Department of Veterans Affairs, after receiving testimony from Denis McDonough, Secretary, and Jon Rychalski, Assistant Secretary for Management and Chief Financial Officer, both of the Department of Veterans Affairs; and Shane Liermann, Disabled American Veterans, Patrick Murray, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Roscoe Butler, Paralyzed Veterans of America, all of Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Robin C. Ashton, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Central Intelligence Agency.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 37 public bills, H.R. 3923–3959; and 4 resolutions, H.J. Res. 52; and H. Res. 480–482 were introduced.

Pages H2890–92

Additional Cosponsors: Pages H2893–95

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 479, providing for consideration of the bill (S. 475) to amend title 5, United States Code, to designate Juneteenth National Independence Day as a legal public holiday (H. Rept. 117–62).

Page H2890

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Dean to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. Page H2821

Recess: The House recessed at 10:46 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. Page H2826

ESG Disclosure Simplification Act of 2021: The House passed H.R. 1187, to provide for disclosure of additional material information about public companies and establish a Sustainable Finance Advisory Committee, by a yea-and-nay vote of 215 yeas to 214 nays, Roll No. 169. Pages H2830–55, H2859–63

Rejected the Barr motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Financial Services by a yea-and-nay vote of 207 yeas to 218 nays, Roll No. 168.

Pages H2862–63

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117–5 shall be considered as adopted, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services now printed in the bill. Page H2830

Agreed to:

Waters en bloc amendment No. 1 consisting of the following amendments printed in H. Rept. 117–59: Axne (No. 2) that increases disclosures from

public companies about their workforce, including information about workforce health and safety, pay, diversity, turnover and promotion rates, and training, as well as companies' use of contractors and outsourcing; Frankel (No. 3) that requires publicly-traded companies to disclose the number of settlements, judgments, and aggregate settlement amounts in connection with workplace harassment in their annual SEC filings; Himes (No. 5) that requires publicly traded companies to report annually on whether members of their governing bodies (such as general partners or members of a board of directors) have cybersecurity expertise and the nature of that experience; Meeks (No. 6) that (1) requires public companies to annually disclose the racial, ethnic, gender identity, sexual orientation, and veteran status of their board directors, nominees, and senior executive officers; (2) empowers the SEC's Office of Minority and Women Inclusion to publish best diversity disclosure practices; and (3) creates an advisory group that would study and report on increasing corporate diversity; Phillips (No. 7) that requires the SEC to study the emergence and viability of coalitions among shareholders who wish to preserve and promote critical employment, environmental, social, and governance standards (EESG) and the significance of shareholder networks with the SEC issuing a report to Congress with its findings, guidance on shareholder engagement activities that are not considered to involve questions of corporate control, and provide recommendations on regulatory safe harbors for engagement with respect to sustainability guardrails; and Wexton (No. 9) that directs the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to issue rules requiring U.S. publicly traded companies to disclose annually imports of manufactured goods and materials that originate in or are sourced in part from Xinjiang Province (by a yea-and-nay vote of 215 yeas to 211 nays, Roll No. 165); and **Pages H2847–52, H2860**

Schrier amendment (No. 8 printed in H. Rept. 117–59) that requires the Commission, in conjunction with the Office of the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation and the Office of the Investor Advocate, to conduct a study and issue a report on the issues small businesses face in reporting ESG disclosures with the report including recommendations for the Commission to consider, and should be completed within 1 year of the enactment of the bill (by a yea-and-nay vote of 380 yeas to 47 nays, Roll No. 167). **Pages H2853–54, H2861–62**

Rejected:

Burgess amendment (No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 117–59) that sought to require publicly traded companies to disclose the negative impacts of federal corporate tax increases (by a yea-and-nay vote of 209 yeas to 218 nays, Roll No. 164); and **Pages H2845–47, H2859–60**

Hill amendment (No. 4 printed in H. Rept. 117–59) that sought to strike the underlying legislation with a study that must be conducted by the SEC to summarize and describe any inconsistencies by the different ESG and climate disclosure frameworks before requiring any type of disclosure from public companies (by a yea-and-nay vote of 204 yeas to 225 nays, Roll No. 166). **Pages H2852–53, H2860–61**

Withdrawn:

Plaskett amendment (No. 10 printed in H. Rept. 117–59) that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that sought to clarify that a 'tax jurisdiction' includes a country or a jurisdiction that is not a country but that has fiscal autonomy. **Pages H2854–55**

H. Res. 473, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 256) (H.R. 1187) was agreed to Monday, June 14th.

Juneteenth National Independence Day Act: The House passed S. 475, to amend title 5, United States Code, to designate Juneteenth National Independence Day as a legal public holiday, by a yea-and-nay vote of 415 yeas to 14 nays, Roll No. 170. **Pages H2863–72**

H. Res. 479, the rule providing for consideration of the bill (S. 475) was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 214 yeas to 208 nays, Roll No. 163, after the previous question was ordered without objection. **Pages H2855–59**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H2827.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Eight yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H2858–59, H2859, H2860, H2860–61, H2861–62, H2862–63, H2863, and H2872.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 10 p.m.

Committee Meetings

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Agriculture: Full Committee held a 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. The committee print was approved.

1890 LAND GRANT INSTITUTIONS: INVESTING FOR AGRICULTURAL RESILIENCY, EQUITY, AND GLOBAL IMPACT

Committee on Agriculture: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''1890 Land Grant Institutions: Investing for Agricultural Resiliency, Equity, and Global Impact''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET REQUEST

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Department of the Air Force Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Request''. Testimony was heard from John P. Roth, Acting Secretary of the Air Force; General Charles Brown, Chief of Staff of the Air Force; and General John Raymond, Chief of Space Operations, U.S. Space Force.

EXAMINING THE POLICIES AND PRIORITIES OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Committee on Education and Labor: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Examining the Policies and Priorities of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services''. Testimony was heard from Xavier Becerra, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change held a 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''. H.R. 3291 and H.R. 3293 were forwarded to the full Committee, as amended. H.R. 2467 was forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment.

FLEXIBLE FEDERAL FUNDING: EXAMINING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM AND ITS IMPACT ON ADDRESSING LOCAL CHALLENGES

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Housing, Community Development and Insurance held a hearing entitled ''Flexible Federal Funding: Examining the Community Development Block Grant Program and Its Impact on Addressing Local Challenges''. Testimony was heard from Joseph Jaroscak, Analyst in Economic Development Policy, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress; George Mensah, Director, Department of Housing and Community Development, Miami, Florida; London Breed, Mayor, San Francisco, California; and public witnesses.

SCHEMES AND SUBVERSION: HOW BAD ACTORS AND FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS UNDERMINE AND EVADE SANCTIONS REGIMES

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on National Security, International Development and Monetary Policy held a hearing entitled ''Schemes and Subversion: How Bad Actors and Foreign Governments Undermine and Evade Sanctions Regimes''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S PRIORITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''The Biden Administration's Priorities for Engagement with the United Nations''. Testimony was heard from Linda Thomas-Greenfield, Ambassador to the United Nations, Department of State.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Office of Insular Affairs Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 2070, the ''Puerto Rico Self-Determination Act of 2021''; and H.R. 1522, the ''Puerto Rico Statehood Admission Act''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

JUMPSTARTING MAIN STREET: BRINGING JOBS AND WEALTH BACK TO FORGOTTEN AMERICA

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Subcommittee on Environment held a hearing entitled ''Jumpstarting Main Street: Bringing Jobs and Wealth Back to Forgotten America''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

JUNETEENTH NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE DAY ACT

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on S. 475, the ''Juneteenth National Independence Day Act''. The Committee granted, by nonrecord vote, a closed rule providing for consideration of S. 475, the ''Juneteenth National Independence Day Act''. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Reform or their designees. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill. The rule provides one motion to commit.

SUPPORTING SMALL ENTITIES THROUGH INVESTMENTS IN THE NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE: BROADBAND

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Underserved, Agricultural, and Rural Development held a hearing entitled ''Supporting Small Entities through Investments in the National Infrastructure:

Broadband''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

STARSHIPS AND STRIPES FOREVER—AN EXAMINATION OF THE FAA'S ROLE IN THE FUTURE OF SPACEFLIGHT

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Aviation held a hearing entitled ''Starships and Stripes Forever—An Examination of the FAA's Role in the Future of Spaceflight''. Testimony was heard from Wayne R. Monteith, Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation; Heather Krause, Director, Physical Infrastructure, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

VETERAN HOMELESSNESS IN THE WAKE OF COVID–19

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing entitled ''Veteran Homelessness in the Wake of COVID–19''. Testimony was heard from Keith Harris, National Director of Clinical Operations, Homeless Programs Office, Department of Veterans Affairs; Anthony Love, Interim Executive Director, U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness; Richard Cho, Senior Advisor for Housing and Services, Department of Housing and Urban Development; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 2021

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the Department of Defense, 10 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the posture of the Department of the Air Force in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2022 and the Future Years Defense Program; to be immediately followed by a closed session in SVC–217, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to examine National Collegiate Athletic Association student athletes and name, image, and likeness rights, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2022 for the U.S. Forest Service, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy, to hold hearings to examine building the U.S.-Taiwan relationship, focusing on strength through partnership, 10 a.m., SD–419/VTC.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine COVID–19 response and recovery, focusing on supporting the needs of students in higher education and lessons on safely returning to campus, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight, to hold hearings to examine addressing emerging cybersecurity threats to state and local government, 10:15 a.m., SD–342/VTC.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider S. 807, to permit the televising of Supreme Court proceedings, S. 818, to provide for media coverage of Federal court proceedings, and the nominations of Tiffany P. Cunningham, of Illinois, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Federal Circuit, Margaret Irene Strickland, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico, Ur Mendoza Jaddou, of California, to be Director of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, and David H. Chipman, of Virginia, to be Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Anne Milgram, of New Jersey, to be Administrator of Drug Enforcement, and Kenneth Allen Polite, Jr., of Louisiana, to be an Assistant Attorney General, all of the Department of Justice, 9 a.m., SH–216.

Special Committee on Aging: to hold hearings to examine 21st century caregiving, focusing on supporting workers, family caregivers, seniors, and people with disabilities, 9:30 a.m., VTC.

House

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, hearing entitled ''Department of the Navy Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Request for Seapower and Projection Forces'', 11 a.m., 2118 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Homeland Security, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''A Review of the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Request for the Department of Homeland Security'', 8:30 a.m., Webex.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, hearing entitled ''Undoing the Damage of the War on Drugs: A Renewed Call for Sentencing Reform'', 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States, hearing entitled ''Examining Federal Facilities in Indian Country'', 12 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Ways and Means, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''President's Proposed Fiscal Year 2022 Budget'', 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth and Webex.

Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Building a More Civil and Collaborative Culture in Congress'', 9 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Thursday, June 17

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Tommy P. Beaudreau, of Alaska, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation thereon at 11:30 a.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Tommy P. Beaudreau, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of John K. Tien, of Georgia, to be Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security. If cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 1:45 p.m.

(Senate will recess following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of John K. Tien, of Georgia, to be Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security until 1:45 p.m.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Thursday, June 17

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Consideration of H.R. 256—To repeal the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002.

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