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 ARAPOAHOE 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
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 teenagers, volunteers and non-volunteers, conduct simultaneous 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 a 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, with all due respect to Madam Carter, 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. We owe a debt of gratitude to these dedicated, service-minded young folks.

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 cannot abuse his powers precisely because of the powers accorded to the other.

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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. What is a local government supposed to do if the Secretary of Defense says that we aren’t spending $3.5 billion on that highway project because the Department of Defense wants to spend it on a different highway project? We can’t do both.

This 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. Peters.burg to pay St. Paul for projects St. Peters.burg 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. 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 be proven 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. 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 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, increased diversity on corporate boards. This is important to me and 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.

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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 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 Michael Mavalakis 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 irrereplaceable 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 the Bears to 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 77.

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 1984.

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

But let’s also be clear: Increasing diversity on corporate boards is not just a moral issue; it is good for business, too. 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 MARCOS MUNOZ

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

Mr. GARCIA 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, which 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 16. 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. Garcia) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARCIA 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 than 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 potentially create capability irreplaceable and potentially create capability and seriously hinder our national security against threats that are 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 a human being 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 week. 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 first time. We were the fifth, 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 lifetime, 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 testaments 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 gentleman 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 cannot 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 been in history. 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 many by job loss during the pandemic. This is partly because in 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.

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 include it in the 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 of any type 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 should 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 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 now 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 why on earth 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 Olympic-bound American Champion for 2019 and 2020. I also regarded for his feat in the clean and jerk. He is world respected and well regarded for his feat in the clean and jerk.

He was the IWF Youth 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 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.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARY DUFFY SHEAFFER BURTON

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 authorized 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 4,500 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.

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

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to 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 work 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. 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 want him 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.

By the way, from 2017 to 2019, the TCJA raised the median household income by $5,660. 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.

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:

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.:

The SPEAKER laid before the House that the Senate passed S. 475.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER:

That the Senate passed S. 475.

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.

Sincerely,

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER, The Chair will enter 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 hate, continue.

Yet, we—and the Senate in particular—have failed to enact common-sense gun violence prevention legislation that would stem bloodshed and end this loss. I implore the Senate to hear the cries of those in their community and 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.

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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.

Sincerely,

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk.

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 instability and destruction 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.

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 emancipated. 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 BRYCE GRAY

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

Mr. Gonzalez. 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 ability to make others laugh and bring 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 Craig, 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 sub-standard 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 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 180,694 persons. The U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency seized 934 pounds of freight 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.

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.

OPEN THE UNITED STATES–CANADA BORDER

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, it is long past time to reopen the United States–Canada border.

Since the pandemic began, thousands of Canadians have lost their jobs. If the United States is going to keep our economy strong, we need to reopen the border.

Today, I ask my colleagues to support me in passing legislation that will reopen the border with Canada.

OVERCOMING THE CRISIS

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, a day without children at risk is no victory. This is truly a disaster, and this issue has been solely facilitated by the destructive policies of President Joe Biden.

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OPEN THE UNITED STATES–CANADA BORDER

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

Mrs. 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.

This 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
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 southwestern border. This was not a recreation. 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 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 that have reached 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 hope that those who are fortunate to have careers will be worthy of all those Americans like him who every day put their community and their country first.

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. Mr. Speaker, Coach Jeff Gregory for a spectacular victory in the Division II College World Series.

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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 resources they need to contribute to the workforce, strengthen our economy, and set our children up for a stable and successful future.

MICHIGAN SHERIFF OF THE YEAR

(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. 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. Kim Cole fulfills 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.

MASON COUNTY IS A BETTER PLACE TO WORK, LIVE, AND RAISE A FAMILY

On behalf of the Mason County Sheriff’s Office and the community, 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 hope that those who are fortunate to have careers 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 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.

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 thank you. Mason County is a better place to work, live, and raise a family because of you.

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I am proud to remember Jerrod Withrow today in our Nation’s Capitol and hope that those who are fortunate to have careers will be worthy of all those Americans like him who every day put their community and their country first.
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 have 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 Pasco 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.”

SEC. 102. FINDINGS.

(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. 102. ESG DISCLOSURES.

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

(b) RULEMAKING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Securities and Exchange Commission (in this Act referred to as the “Commission”) shall amend section 10 of title 77, Code of Federal Regulations (as amended pursuant to section 37(a) 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 section 10 of title 77, Code of Federal Regulations (as 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.  

STATEMENT OF THE PROPOSED RULE

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 201 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor thereto) to require such information to be provided, the Commission may incorporate any internationally recognized, independent, multi-stakeholder, environmental, social, and governance disclosure standards.

5. LOCATION OF DISCLOSURE.—Any information required under section 10 of title 77, Code of Federal Regulations (as any successor thereto) shall be included in a section of the periodic report to which such information is to be disclosed.

6. DELAY FOR SMALL ISSUERS.—The Commission may implement 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 COMITTEE.

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 interests in sustainable finance.

“(3) MEMBERSHIP.—

“(A) MEMBERS.—The Committee shall consist of no more than 20 members who shall each serve for one four-year term.

“(B) REPRESENTATION.—Each member shall represent professional 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.

“(B) REPRESENTATION.—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.

“(C) MANDATORY MEMBERS.—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 utilized for the provision of financial assistance as 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.

“(G) 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 six months after the date of enactment of this section, submit a report to the Committee 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—

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

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

“(3) shareholders and the public have a right to know how corporate managers are spending company funds to make political contributions and expenditures, including reports by candidates, political parties, and political causes; and

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

“(5) shareholders and the public have a right to know how political contributions and expenditures affect Federal governance and public policy.

SEC. 203. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

“(2) reporting requirements relating to certain political expenditures.—

“(1) EXPENDITURE FOR POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.—

“(A) REPORTING.—In this subsection—

“(I) EXPENDITURE FOR POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.—The term ‘expenditure for political activities’ 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(h)(1) of that Act (52 U.S.C. 30104(h)(1))) and any other public communication (as defined in section 301(22) of that Act (52 U.S.C. 30104(h)(2))) 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 clause (1) or (II); and

“(IV) any 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; 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.—

“(1) the percentage increase in the median of the pay of the chief executive officer (as defined in section 953 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 701 note)) and the median of the pay of the median compensated employee (as defined in section 953 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 701 note)) for the fiscal year most recently ended; and

“(2) the median ratio of the total annual compensation of the chief executive officer (as defined in section 953 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 701 note)) for the fiscal year most recently ended to the median annual compensation of the employees of the issuer; and

“(b) the percentage increase in the median of the annual total compensation of all executive officers of the issuer.

“Sec. 205. REGULATORY SUBSTANTIVE EFFECT.—

“(A) the percentage increase in the median of the pay of the chief executive officer (as defined in section 953 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 701 note)) and the median of the pay of the median compensated employee (as defined in section 953 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 701 note)) for the fiscal year most recently ended; and

“(B) the percentage increase in the median of the annual total compensation of all executive officers of the issuer.
“(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) 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 health 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 increases in 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 effects 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 below 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 fiduciary duty to ensure that investors are aware of the risks that are attributable to climate change that are material to investors; “

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

“(7) including standardized, material climate change risk 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, reliable, 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—

“(I) 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 Secretary of the Interior; “

“(iii) the Secretary of Energy; and “

“(iv) the Secretary of the Treasury;

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

“(VI) changing markets;

“(G) COVERED ISSUER.—The term ’covered issuer’ means—

“(i) a company listed on the national securities exchange or trading market; “

“(ii) a company registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; “

“(J) GREENHOUSE GAS.—The term ’greenhouse gas’ includes—

“(I) carbon dioxide; “

“(II) hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, sulfur hexafluoride, nitrogen trifluoride, and chlorofluorocarbons; “

“(III) carbon dioxide equivalent; “

“(IV) methane; “

“(V) nitrous oxide; “

“(VI) any other anthropogenic greenhouse gas; “

“(VII) 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 “

“(VIII) the national and global implications of increased global temperatures and increased frequency of temperature extremes;

“(V) increased severity and frequency of extreme weather events;

“(VII) decreased availability of fresh water; and “

“(VIII) 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.


“(N) TRANSITION RISKS.—The term ’transition risk’ 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, includ- ing—

“(i) costs relating to—

“(II) federal, state, and local policies; “

“(III) new technologies; “

“(IV) changing markets; “

“(V) reputational impacts relevant to chang- ing consumer behavior; and “

“(VII) litigation; and

“(i) assets that may lose value or become stranded due to any of the costs described in subparagraphs (I) through (VII) of clause (i). “

“(O) VALUE CHAIN.—The term ’value chain’ means—

“(i) 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).

“(P) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

“(A) short-, medium-, and long-term financial and economic risks and opportunities relating to climate change; and “

“(B) 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;
(3) DISCLOSURE. Each covered issuer, in any annual report filed by the covered issuer under section 13(f) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and until such rules are issued, a covered issuer from including, in an annual report filed by the covered issuer under section 13(f) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, require that a covered issuer, with respect to a disclosure required under this subsection publicly available on the website of the Commission, in consultation with the appropriate climate principals;
(4) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION. Nothing in this Act, the Securities and Exchange Commission has not issued the rules required under section 13(u) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, require that a covered issuer include in such disclosure any other information, or use any climate-related greenhouse gas emissions metrics that the Commission determines is—
(1) a baseline scenario that includes physical impacts of climate change; and
(2) a 1.5 degrees scenario; and
(3) any additional climate analysis scenario considered appropriate by the Commission, in consultation with the appropriate climate principals;
(4) the total amount of fossil fuel-related assets of the covered issuer that the covered issuer is taking to address identified risks; and
(5) the percentage of the water described in item (ee) that comes from regions of water stress or that face wastewater management challenges; and
(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);
(6) FORMATTING.—The Commission shall require issuers to disclose information in an interoperable 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).
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 therein.

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 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 VARGAS, Representative BILL FOSTER, Representative Nydia Velázquez, 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’ 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’
Mr. CASTEN’s bill, the Climate Risk Disclosure Act, requires disclosures that encourage companies to plan for the impact of climate change on their companies and 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. H. R. CASTEN. 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 left-wing 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.
- 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 payments to multi-national 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 Election Commission 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 been affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court. It has, at the very least, 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 it 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. They do not know international tax law. That is the purview of the EPA, NOAA, the FERC, 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 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, the investors that the Democrats claim to 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.

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 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 risk.

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—we are also talking about 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 change. 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 responsible to shareholder engagement. Over the last two decades, they have dramatically improved the 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 significantly improved their 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 wait with business as usual, 18 percent.

Domestically, the CFTC has come to recognize the scale of climate change. They are projecting 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 this 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 wrong. They wrote down $20 billion because the free market is beating them.

Investors want to know how to re-allocate their capital in response to that risk. They want to know how to allocate it to more productive uses.

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Investors want to know how to re-allocate their capital in response to that risk. They want to know how to allocate it to more productive uses.
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; promote capital formation; and protect investors. 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 not 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 and misstatements, but also the 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.

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 losers in the stock market are 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 a series 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, 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 happened. 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 companies 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 and 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.

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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 standard was based on the requirement that these reports, which are exchanged between the IRS and other tax authorities, remain confidential.

The NEM 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 material-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.


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 better serve investors in a material, decision-useful information while eliminating the cost of burdensome and impractical mandates.

By imposing 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 for United States companies, 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 Indusirs, 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.

The Chamber recognizes the importance of ESG reporting frameworks prior to mandating new disclosures for public companies.

The Chamber has recommended a number of changes to strengthen the bill prior to its markup by the Financial Services Committee. We continue to believe the diversity objectives and benefits of improving the corporate disclosure framework for ESG information to investors in a com-
Judgments 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-remunerated attorneys, auditors, mega-asset managers, proxy advisors, index providers, standard setters and investment banks. This begs the question: why is Congress choosing to change a system that has been shown to work 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 this 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-fold mission of promoting effective, transparent, and efficient capital formation. Small, emerging growth, and mid-sized companies will only serve to further entrench the large and mega-cap companies in our market which 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 a bad company, and have their future be based off the opinions of the mob and not their business success. This is the exact opposite. It is nothing but 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 have mentioned. 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 protecting the investors that the Recess Act was meant to protect? Does it make our capital markets more efficient in the market? I know it does not. And it also doesn’t promote capital formation in these markets. 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.

The time of the gentleman has expired.

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 yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Flor- ida (Mr. Donalds), who is a new Mem- ber to this House Chamber and an out- standing 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. 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

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 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

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Flor- ida (Mr. Donalds), who is a new Mem- ber to this House Chamber and an out- standing Member.

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H.R. 1187 is inconsistent with the mission of the SEC. It does not protect investors; it is not fair or efficient. It

Mr. Speaker, 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
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 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 propose a broader ESG disclosure framework. The laundry list of possible disclosures underscores the problem. Requiring companies to account for an ever-changing list of social issues makes it difficult for investors to extract from disclosure's real, statutory purpose: giving the reasonable investor material information he needs to make investment decisions.

These proposals always tout purported benefits to investors, but mandatory disclosure of additional immaterial information would cost the SEC's mission to protect investors and facilitate capital formation. Instead, it would divert resources away from business operations and growth. It is a distraction, not a way to shape public companies into compliance with activists' demands.

As Mr. Perez put it, criticizing a proposal to divert 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 Ten- nessee (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 latest attempt by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to impose 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 gentleman 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 pushed by 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 harms. Settlements are prematurely offset 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 1½ minutes remaining, the gentleman from California has 16½ minutes remaining.

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Wis- consin (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 offset requirements.

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 to impose a 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 this bill.

It would only benefit large incumbent corporations while others may avoid going public altogether, limiting their growth.

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


Hon. Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of Representatives
Washington, DC.

Hon. Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader of the 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 di- rection of H.R. 1187, the “Corporate Govern- ance Improvement and Investor Protection Act,” which would require public companies to disclose material information on the link between environmental, social, and govern- ance (ESG) metrics and their long-term busi- ness strategy, as well as political expendi- tures, compensation practices, climate-re- lated 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 $665 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 specific, risk-adjusted returns that allow us to meet our commitments to pay benefits earned by these dedicated active and retired public servant employees for decades to come.

We fundamentally depend on the integrity and efficiency of financial markets to meet these commitments and rely upon financial regulators 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. With unprecedented economic growth, the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") has said in the past: "Openness through timely flow of timely, comprehensive, and accurate information can people make sound investment decisions. The result of this information flow is a far more fair 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 crucial to close the informational gap that occurs when management of a company is aware or should be aware of certain risks, yet such information is not available to shareholders. 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 upon the reporting requirements that enhance shareholder value over the long-term. We are pleased that the following measures that CalPERS has been advocating for in the record in supporting, are included in the Corporate Governance Improvement and Investor Protection Act:

- H.R. 1087, the 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 impacts its long-term strategy. We believe greater transparency and consistency in the format and scope of disclosures and measuring would bring clarity and consistency 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 our financial markets and ensure stronger long-term outcomes.

- In addition, we are supportive of including additional Corporate Governance Improvement and Investor Protection Act, such as the following disclosures related to human capital management, board diversity, and ESG:
  - H.R. 2570, the Climate Risk Disclosure Act, which would require companies to disclose their climate change financial risk in annual reports to the SEC. CalPERS believes the current quality and quantity of disclosures do not meet investor expectations. SEC rulemaking to adequately assess companies' value over the long-term, and the method by which the issuer determines how climate risk impacts its long-term strategy. We believe greater transparency and consistency in the format and scope of disclosures and measuring would bring clarity and consistency to adequately assess companies' valuations and risks.

In conclusion, we look forward to working with Congress to advance initiatives that 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.


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 are expected to come before the full House shortly.

H.R. 2570, THE CLIMATE RISK DISCLOSURE ACT
This bill requires firms that are traded on public exchanges to disclose in their quarterly public reports filed with the Securities 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 non-profits 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 un-
limited political expenditures, as long as they
are not directly given to candidates or par-
ties. 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 share-
holders might not be aware of this spending or
spending where the money was going. In re-
sponse, a bipartisan group of securities law
experts filed a petition with the SEC to re-
cquire corporations to disclose their pol-
icy spending activities. While 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 ensure that corporations be
required to disclose what they spent and how
it was spent.

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 compa-
nies ceased campaign contributions to cer-
tain lawmakers associated with the January
6; 2021 insurrection at the Capitol and in con-
nection to the voter suppression bills moving
through statehouses.

While some corporate political spending is
already voluntarily disclosed, a considerable
amount is funneled through trade associa-
tions. 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
individual companies find uncomfortable
they were associated with it openly, such as
to climate reform or worker safety measures. If
companies’ spending on backward issues be-
known to the public, it could lead to mate-
rual, reputational harm and ultimately sub-
tract from shareholder value.

Public Citizen heartily endorses this mea-
sure. H.R. 1188, THE GREATER ACCOUNTABILITY IN PAY
ACT (VELAZQUEZ)

This bill would require public companies,
including emerging growth companies, to
 disclose certain employee pay raise informa-
tion, comparing the CEO with the median-
paid employee at the firm. This measure builds
on the Dodd-Frank Act and the Wall Street
Reform and Consumer Protection Act
that first required identification of the me-
dian-paid worker at a firm. This requirement
would add transparency to what is already
required and add more item regarding employees to the sole requirement existing, namely, the number of employees.

For a half-century, the fruits of produc-
tivity gains have clotted in the C-suite, with
average workers receiving little or no in-
crease 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 av-
erage people lacked the savings to support a
temporary loss of employment. Disclosures of
these pay gaps can help lawmakers devise
more ambitious reforms to address the wid-
gaping pay gaps that we could have input.

Public Citizen urges you to support this
bill. H.R. 2570, THE CLIMATE RISK DISCLOSURE ACT
(CARTEN) and H.R. 1187, THE ESG DISCLOSURE
SIMPLIFICATION ACT (VARGA)

Both of these bills deal with the increasing
demand from investors and the public for in-
formation 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 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 overall strategy. This legislation
requires the SEC to establish a committee that
would provide advice to the commission on
sustainable

finance issues.

Given the existential and transition risks
inherent to the ongoing climate crisis and the
shift away from fossil fuels and carbon-in-
tensive industry, investors need more infor-
mation about companies’ efforts to manage
climate fin-
ancial 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 fa-
cilitate capital formation. Indeed, the agen-
cy has expressed its intention to explore a
climate disclosure rule. Adopting this legis-
lation would explicitly clarify the SEC’s au-
tority and provide the space and scope to
address the issue of po-
tential legal challenges from issuers and ide-
ological opponents alike.

At the same time, it is important to re-
member that climate change is not just an
environmental crisis, but one of social jus-
tice, wealth distribution, equity and human
rights. It is vitally important that dislo-
sures from issuers include elements of envi-
ronmental 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 assess-
ment of an issuer’s overall sustainability and
make more informed decisions.

Despite many firms reporting some ESG
data, the available information has not satis-
fied the needs of investors because it essen-
tially allows firms to self-determine and re-
port what climate risks are material. Many
firms provide only vague, boilerplate disclo-
sures or do not address climate risk at all.
Management is often overly optimistic about
a firm’s climate resilience, may not fully un-
derstand 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 infor-
mation that investors are provided.

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
requires companies to report the amounts and
close a number of specific tax-related items for each
of its subsidiaries, as well as on a consoli-
dated basis, such as total accrued tax ex-
cesses and deficiencies, and tax-related simul-
culated earnings. This legislation would ensure
investors and the public are provided with
enough information to discern if the company is par-
cipating in risky behavior like corporate tax
avoidance. Many U.S. multinational compa-

nies use accounting maneuvers to book their tax losses in foreign countries, or
“tax havens.” This legislation to mandate
country-by-country reporting would indeed aim to discourage and curb the trend
of companies hiding profits in tax havens.
I sincerly appreciate your attention to NASA's views.
Increasingly, investors view a company’s environmental, social, and governance, or “ESG,” material in making decisions determining whether to invest. To date, however, there are no uniform standards for the reporting of environmental and certain other ESG material by public companies. The absence of such standards, public companies lack clarity when making disclosures relating to ESG considerations. In some cases, they may use 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 Through Diversity Act, would require public companies to disclose in filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") and any proxy or solicitation material 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 strategy of the issuer. Further, the bill would express the non-binding “Sense of Congress” that “environmental, social, and governance [ESG] metrics should be material for the purposes of disclosure under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. The bill would also create a new permanent ‘Sustainable Finance Advisory Group’ within the SEC, which would, within 18 months of its first meeting, be required to submit “recommendations about what SEC 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 metrics 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 repeatedly 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, impacts, and goals. The bill also would provide that companies disclose whether their boards of directors have an abundance of opportunities to infiltrate business security networks to install malware, steal personally identifiable information ("PII"); and create other problems.

Incentivizing publicly traded companies to consider whether they have appropriate cybersecurity strategies to "increase gender, racial and veteran composition of their governing bodies" is a common-sense way to promote greater attention to cybersecurity risk by public corporations. Investors and customers who visit companies’ websites and/or interact with them 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 instead encourages companies in their own best interests by creating an incentive for them to prioritize cybersecurity expertise at the senior levels of leadership. NASAA shares the 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.

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 they have adopted any policy, plan, or strategy to promote diversity among these bodies, and would require the SEC’s Office of Minority and Women’s Policy and Government Affairs to publish "best practices," in order to help public companies comply with the new diversity reporting requirements.

In addition, the bill 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 business, 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 companies to consider diversity. In doing so, NASAA has noted that leading research indicates that greater board diversity correlates with sound corporate governance and enhanced performance for 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 there of, as well as information regarding the diversity of their corporate operations."

The Committee voted for 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 Maureen Croghan, NASAA’s Director of Policy and Government Affairs.

Sincerely,

LISA HOPKINS,
NASAA President,
General Counsel and Senior Deputy Commissioners of Secur-
ities, West Virginia.
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 definition; 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, if they 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 fiscal relevance 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 failings 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 agreement on, and I say to him: Amen, hallelujah, let’s talk about cop on the beat, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and flaws of humans. We are questioning 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, non-defined 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 16 1/2 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.

Pension funds, 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.

Issues related to climate risk, the ways companies invest in their workers and other 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 more 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 100 asset managers, pension fund 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.

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 majority 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 our demands.

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 made 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. VELÁZQUEZ. 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 would require 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 the disclosure of these pay ratios 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 to ensure that CEOs are in line with a corporation’s fundamentals. I urge my colleagues to vote YES on this 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 designee 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

Amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 117–59 does 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 designee 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.

Page 45, after line 19, insert the following:
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 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, 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’s amendment. This amendment is interesting to me because Republicans have, without fail, consistently cited the materiality standard 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 showed that 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 American 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 hard-working 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.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

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 Federal 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 tax increases.

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.
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 amendment was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4 of House Resolution 473, I offer amendments en bloc.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendments on the amendment table.

Amendments en bloc offered by Ms. WATERS of California:

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MRS. ANNE 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 technological skills required for some jobs has changed dramatically, the private and public partnership to hire workers at different education levels and invest in them has 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 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 de-emphasizing 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 less 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 workforce challenges presented by COVID-19.

(6) JUST Capital has been tracking the responses of the Standard and Poor’s 100 largest publicly traded companies and has found wide variation in the policies implemented, as well as with respect to the disclosure of those policies. Through different proposals to reduce layoffs and workplace safety to paid leave, the COVID-19 pandemic is exposing the myriad ways that workforce management practices of companies pose additional financial 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 companies that prioritize workers, such as how companies train, retain, and pay their workers, are correlated with long-term financial performance.

(8) Disclosure on workforce management policies should be part of a Government-wide economic recovery strategy. Just as a set of generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) or financial statements is an important part of the financial health of companies, disclosure is also an important part of the financial health of companies.

(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 performance.

(12) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, work-related stress and workplace safety to paid leave, the American Heart Association, and a Milken Institute study shows that employees 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.

(13) 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 able 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 work performed by 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 Act, the Commission, in consultation with the National Association of Securities Dealers, the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Attorney General, shall promulgate regulations that require each issuer required to file an annual report under subsection (a) or (b) to disclose information regarding workforce management policies, practices, and performance with respect to the issuer.

“(3) Consistent with the require—
workers, as compared with the previous annual report filed by the issuer under this subsection.

"(B) Workforce stability information, including—

(i) data on employee turnover, including the voluntary turnover rate, the involuntary turnover rate, and the internal attrition rate; and

(ii) the number of positions that were unoccupied for at least 30 days during the fiscal year.

(2) the term "insider" has the meaning given in section 16a of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78p(a)), and

(3) the term "issuer" has the meaning given in section 3(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78(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 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 the issuer complies with the disclosure standards 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. 606. SEC STUDY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms "Commission" and "issuer" have the meanings given in those terms in section 606(a).

(b) STUDY.—The Commission shall conduct a study about the value to investors of—

(1) information about the human rights commitments of issuers to file an annual report 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 management 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;

(3) 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 requirements required under section 13(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m(a)), including any 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 240.301 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation;

(2) the term "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), 78m(d)); and

(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

SEC. 604. BACKSTOP.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term "Commission" means the Securities and Exchange Commission;

(2) the term "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), 78m(d)); and

(3) the term "insider" has the meaning given in section 16a of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78p(a)), and

(b) COMPLIANCE.—If, as of the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission has not promulgated 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 the issuer complies with the disclosure standards 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.
(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 workforce; 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) a description of 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 for sexual harassment, 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 identified 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.


"SEC. 14C. CYBERSECURITY TRANSPARENCY.

"(a) Definitions.—In this section—

"(1) The term ‘cybersecurity threat’ 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;

"(B) in an unprivileged effort to adversely impact the security, availability, confidentiality, or integrity of an information system or information that is stored on, processed by, or transmitted an information system; and

"(B) does not include any action that solely involves the operation of a consumer term of service or a consumer licensing agreement;

"(3) the term ‘information system’—

"(A) has the meaning given in the term in section 3592 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 ‘issuer’ 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) of title 15, United States Code, to—

"(1) disclose whether any member of the governing body, any nominee for 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 and in such detail as necessary to fully describe the nature of the expertise or experience, discloses under section 13 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m), as amended by section 78l(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78l(a)), the total amount paid by the reporting company—

"(A) for the services of a consultant or other person to perform cybersecurity-related services for the reporting company; or

"(B) for training of employees of the reporting company in cybersecurity.

"(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, 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. MEKES OF NEW YORK

Add at the end the following:

TITLE VI—DATA RELATING TO DIVERSITY DISCLOSURE

SEC. 603. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Improving Corporate Governance Through Diversity Act of 2021.”

SEC. 604. 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 in the term in section 303A.01(f) of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the date of enactment of this subsection; and

"(B) the term ‘executive officer’ 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) Demographics on voluntary self-identification, on the racial, ethnic, gender identity, and sexual orientation composition of—

"(i) the board of directors of the issuer; and

"(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; and

"(ii) the executive officers of the issuer.

"(D) ANNUAL REPORT.—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 information statement that relates to the election of directors, the issuer shall disclose the information required under paragraph (2) in the first annual report of the issuer that the issuer submits to the Commission after the end of that 1-year period.

"(4) REPORTS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this section, 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. 605. 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’ means any company that is an issuer—

"(A) the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78a); or

"(B) the term ‘veteran’ means any company that is an issuer—

"(A) the Federal Government and State and local governments;

"(B) academic; and

"(C) the private sector.

"(C) STUDY AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Ad-

"(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)."

"(B) the term ‘veteran’ means any company that is an issuer—

"(A) the Federal Government and State and local governments;

"(B) academic; and

"(C) the private sector.

"(C) STUDY AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Ad-

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"(A) the Federal Government and State and local governments;

"(B) academic; and

"(C) the private sector.

"(C) STUDY AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Ad-
(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.

(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) includes 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 members of boards of directors of issuers.

(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; and

(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 justice, 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 15 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78p), 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 section, 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; or

(ii) 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.

(5) NOTIFICATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (d), the Commission shall not make a notification under this subsection unless the Commission determines that—

(A) the nature and extent of the commercial activity related to goods or materials described in paragraph (2) are significant enough to warrant such a notification; and

(B) the notification is in the best interest of investors.

(6) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The rules required under subsection (a) shall take effect not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

(7) AFFECTED ENTITIES.—The term ‘affected entity’ means—

(A) any entity engaged in the ‘mutual pairing assistance’ program which subsidizes the establishment of manufacturing facilities in XUAR; and

(B) 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).

(8) DETERMINATION.—The term ‘determination’ means the determination by the United States Government of non-compliance with the laws and regulations of the People’s Republic of China relating to forced labor.

(9) FIILING REQUIREMENTS.—The filing requirements under this subsection do not apply to—

(A) securities issuers; and

(B) any entity using convict labor, forced labor, or any other gross violations of human rights experienced by Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, and members of other persecuted groups in 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 4 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.

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 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 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 have 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 disclosure requirements 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 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 Chinese Communist Party’s human rights abusers. 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 not the right 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 provisions 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 out that regarding the conflict minerals portion of the Dodd-Frank law. Once again, Democrats are more comfortable with shaving the SEC into subject matter areas where they have zero expertise rather than getting the policies 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 specialization and cost the 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 human capital and, in part, on 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 constrained 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 left behind only the Senate vehicle for addressing those concerns.

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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 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.

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

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, they 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. 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(a) 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 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 RULE-MAKING 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 (b).
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 and less action on 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 risks 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 approaches, Mr. Speaker, 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 about 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 will analyze the differences and conflicting factors between the reporting frameworks. This information is what we need in Congress and what we need 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 the 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.

Amendment No. 8 Offered by Ms. Schriver

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

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

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

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

The outcome shows that 51 percent use one company, 14 percent use another, and 5 percent use another. Vastly different approaches, Mr. Speaker, 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 about disclosure frameworks related to the environment, social and governance metrics, as well as those particularly related to climate that
Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I urge those colleagues to support this amendment. And I urge my colleagues to support its adoption.

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

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

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

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Ms. SCHRIER's amendment, along with Mr. VARGAS's 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 access to markets with this critical information.

Ms. 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.

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 yeas appear to have the majority.

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 urge 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 the 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” means 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 by them.

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 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.

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 pay our taxes to the Internal Revenue Service and to the United States.

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 the Senate sees the Speaker of the House be recognized 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, 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 were free. In the years following, Black Texans began to celebrate Juneteenth, also known as Emancipation Day, Jubilee Day, and Juneteenth Independence Day. At this 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 festivals 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 me the opportunity to share what I know about the brutality of slavery, the legacy of enslavement people who contributed so much to our history and to address the lasting impacts of this cruel chapter in our history that for too long has been canceled."

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 reck- on with our past and continue to work toward creating a more equitable and inclusive society.

American history, 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 those 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. Speak- er, thank you and colleagues for recognizing Juneteenth as a national holiday by introducing legislation to federally recognize this historic day. In the 117th Congress, she, again, introduced H.R. 1230, 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 gentleman 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 fact 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 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 legisla- tion 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 cele- brate Black history; 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. 1230, 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.

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Ms. JACKSON LEE. How humbled I am to be on the floor of the House with fellow Americans who can speak eloquently about the fact 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 minuscule presence 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 stand here today to ask Senator MAJORITY Leader CORNYN, Senator SMITH, and my colleague of long-suffering, DANNY DAVIDS, 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, Senator CORNYN actually represents Galveston, and I want to share his name on the floor.

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 backbones upon which the way of human life and property 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, as it will be to you, 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 with 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 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 SPEAKER has expired. Ms. SCANLON, Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, the people of Texas are informed that in accordance with the 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 has 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 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, the 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 joyful celebration 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 of employer and hired labor." Juneteenth thus made real to the last persons living under the system of chattel slavery.

I want to say, with Senator MARKEY, Senator SMITH, and my colleague, my senior senator, Senator JOHN CORNYN of Texas, because we, too, are Americans, can Americans as it will be to America's Original Sin, and to celebrate our great nation the more conscious and accepting of 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 and remains the oldest known celebration of slavery's demise, commemorating freedom and 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 and remains the oldest known celebration of slavery's demise, commemorating freedom and the sacrifices and contributions made by courageous African Americans towards making our great nation the more conscious and accepting country that it has become.

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 celebration 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.

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.” True 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 suffering African Americans endured under slavery and 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 proclaims African American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures.

But it must always remain a reminder to us 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 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 standing, understanding and years, and 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 residential fighters 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 bill 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 question was taken; and the ayes appeared to have it.

The previous question was ordered.
Mr. ROONEY DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. STEFKANICK, and Ms. HINSON changed their vote from ‘‘yea’’ to ‘‘nay.’’

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.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RULE 4, 117TH CONGRESS

Ms. NEWMAN, Mr. BUCK, and Ms. JACKSON LEE changed their vote from ‘‘yea’’ to ‘‘nay.’’

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 RULE 4, 117TH CONGRESS

Ms. STEFKANICK, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. HINSON changed their vote from ‘‘yea’’ to ‘‘nay.’’

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the Table.
AMENDMENTS EN BLOC OFFERED BY MS. WATERS

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 amendment en bloc offered by the gentleman 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

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Castro of Texas and COSTA changed their vote from "yea" to "nay". 

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, 111TH CONGRESS

NAYS—225

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 SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman 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]

YEA—380

NAY—47

Not Voting—3

The vote was by roll call.
Mr. FEENSTRA changed his vote from "yea" to "nay."

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yeas</th>
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<td>207</td>
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Mr. BARR of Kentucky moves to recommit the bill H.R. 1187 to the Committee on Financial Services.

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.

Mr. BARR of Kentucky moves to recommence the bill H.R. 1187 to the Committee on Financial Services.

The material previously referred to by Mr. BARR is as follows:

[Roll No. 168]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yeas</th>
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<tr>
<td>207</td>
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## SECTION 1. SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AND FORCED LABOR THROUGH 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—

(i) engages in, or 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;

(ii) engages in, contributes to, or provides financial, material, or technological support for efforts to contravene United States laws in the context of the importing of forced labor goods from the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region;

(iii) builds or runs detention facilities for Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, and other members of Muslim minority groups in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of China;

(iv) is responsible for, or complicit in, or facilitates through the commission of an underlying conduct, the severe violation of human rights in Xinjiang Autonomous Region of China; or

(v) is responsible for, or complicit in, or facilitates through the commission of an underlying conduct, of terrorist activities in Xinjiang Autonomous Region of China.

The material previously referred to by Mr. BARR is as follows:

[Roll No. 168]

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Yeas</th>
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<td>207</td>
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<td>3</td>
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</table>
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question was taken; and the vote of the ayes appeared on the pass.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the ayes and nays.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 215, nays 214, not voting 2, as follows:

NAYS—214

Adams (GA)...
Barker...
Baxley...
Beller...
Blauel...
Boehlert...
Bonker...
Buckley...
Buckley (LA)...
Brown (GA)...
Brown...
Bryan...
Burgos...
Burr...
Butler...
Cadman...
Card...
Carter (GA)...
Carter (TX)...
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-tives 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. JUNETEETH NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE DAY AS A LEGAL PUBLIC HOLIDAY.

Section 1603(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 19th.”

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.

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 the remarks and insert extraneous material on S. 475.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentle-woman 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, to establish Juneteenth 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 toward 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 partisan-ship, 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 acknowledg-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 soci-ety.

I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this vitally im-portant 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 Afri-can 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 Abra-ham 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 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 the legislation would not 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 pro-cess, 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 Presi-dent 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 legis-lative hearing and committee mark-up, we do not fully understand the im-pacts of this new Federal holiday and the 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 holi-day.

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.

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 from Illinois, 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 very 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 back then, 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 work 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. COOPER. 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 Emancipation 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.

Ms. 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 of Texas. 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 tearful 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 CRYBURN, 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 is 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 to push the George Floyd 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 ethusiastic 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 urged 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 Joes 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 Majority Leader Hoyer 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 as July 4th 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 souls 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 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 bond 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, commmorating 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, 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, “I, too, sing America” in 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 promise of freedom?

African American labor leader A. Phillip Randolph with the mission to promote and cultivate knowledge and appreciation of African American history and culture.

Juneteenth Organizations have arisen to take the 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 traveled to get to this day, even longer that the
June 16, 2021

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

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 how 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 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 historic 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 know what happened. 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 the desire 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. MCFURIE), a member of the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

Mr. MCFURIE. 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 already 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 Congressman 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, sing 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 done 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 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 branch. 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 conformingly. It will pass 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 vote 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 help 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 great country great 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, was not effective.

Mr. DAVIDSON. Madam Speaker, the bill before us rightly commemorates June 19, 1865. This 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.

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 community.

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. But 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 truly really 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. 4, which is the Commission to Study and Develop Reparations 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 racism. And I take this moment and address this in a way that becomes a national holiday.

We must, again, take action to actually deliver for our Black neighbors.

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 recognize that wonderful day 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 that is not 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 it 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 ranking member 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 inhumane 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 each year. Today, 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 we discuss 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 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’s 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.

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.

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 you that's got 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 to this 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 gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. 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 U.S. 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. They are not perfect.

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, 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, 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 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?

Were there 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 government 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.

In joining my 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.

Ms. 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, SHELLA 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 H.R. 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 1959.

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 Chair of this advocacy effort which led to the establishment of the National Juneteenth Observatory 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 making Juneteenth 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 Enslavement, which includes the National Juneteenth Black Holocaust ‘Mama’ 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 communities. 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, Jr., 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 free. The bill currently under consideration is a step forward to securing the freedom 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.

The memory 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 preciously hard-won.

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 followed by opposition—perhaps even resistance—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 Granger, who had the honor of presiding 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 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.

Mr. 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 as follows:

(Roll No. 170)

YEAS—415

NAYS—14

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 the greatest neighborhood, and all families, and just-service 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, he graduated from the National Law School of the City and went on 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 told me his legislative sentiment was that the police violated my family and I hope they will take comfort that his life will never be forgotten.

MEMORABLY 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 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 $38 billion in grants to help parents afford childcare, and funding to help providers reopen 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 of 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 me 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 alike, 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
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.

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 Select Committee on the Climate Crisis.

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 and trepidation.

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.

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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 and 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 furniture buyers 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 cleaner 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 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 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, we 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 a vast amount 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 shine on the horizon 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 local 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, we must act in a way that passes 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 incentivize the transition to zero-emission vehicles. 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 vehicles are zero emissions by 2035, as envisioned under the Zero-Emission Vehicles Act that I introduced last Congress with Senator JEFF MERRICK.

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 when we consider these key 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 empowers 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 our 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 is an opportunity to reboot and re-energize 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 trees 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 lucky 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 all around 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.

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 in the industries our 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 infra-structure 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 dauntling task, 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 left, and the last 10 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 CO2 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, we will be judged a failure, a pret-ty. That is our challenge and it is our opportunity.

But this change in CO2 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 CO2 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 CO2 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 in-stead 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, chlorine and other chlorofluorocarbons, the 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 Amer-ica is good at. We do not need to be constrained by our ambition, my good-ness.

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 an-other? That is not climate.

The hard questions are how we allocate the gains 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 pay 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 Ameri-cans 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 for-ests that are on fire or derechoes that are coming across the Midwest.

Our obligation is to seize this chance and to make sure—this is a hard prob-lem, but it is a good problem—to make sure that opportunity is widely distributed throughout our society.

The President’s infrastructure pro-posal is just that. It isn’t just a chance for clean energy, it is a make-or-break
Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER).

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.

Airliner 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 can begin to lower carbon emissions and 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 appropiate 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, 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 passed 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 taking full advantage and leaning into our clean energy future.

I yield back to the gentleman.
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 going to be making, we're 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 railroads and steam plants and 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 swallow some, 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.

Mr. 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 have to keep in mind that 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 as we build our new 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 solar and 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 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. 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 this is the largest supplier of new labor.

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 very 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 that said 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 there were a lot of 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 structure primarily 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 care whether the share price 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 traveling 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-work 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 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 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 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 seashells 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 field of new, 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, more efficient gas plants, and the only new gas plants were combined cycle plants that are almost twice as efficient.

Since that bill was passed, the CO₂ 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 really don’t think it is because economics drives clean energy.

You know what people didn’t build since 1992?

Coal. It is a really lousy investment. In just 10 years, after 1992, we put 200,000 manufacturing 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 CO₂ 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 the hearing that what 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 here 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 are going to win 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 of us do not have to be 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
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 constant. There 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, we have 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 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.

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 defines 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. 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 free money.

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 present.

Mr. Speaker, 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 pain 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 nearly everywhere they buy, with consumer costs rising at the highest rate in nearly 13 years.

The 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 unwarrented, and 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 essentials 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 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 receding debt and that report 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. We are drown- ing 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, we 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 for what is happening with this administration.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GIMENEZ), the former mayor of Miami who represents Florid’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, aggressive fringe of our politics. Institutionally, we are facing a grave danger 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 accuse 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; and claims that to support a full investigation or even hold the China accountable.

While we are encouraged that several of my colleagues across the aisle have pointed out the dangers of anti-American comments and policy stances, the only excuse I offer is that we have the answers they desire.

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 referenced is contributing to the foreign policy crises that have developed rapidly over the last few months.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman 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, independent investigation into this virus, but the 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 purports to support 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 diminished 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 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.

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 has articulated it so clearly.

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 chooses the words “border crisis,” Americans and migrants alike are being raped, trafficked, kid-napped, 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 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 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 to do 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 taxing 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 demand it has enough. It is not 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 talked 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 on that custom house building site 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, with infected patients carried to Europe before a propaganda campaign to spread disinformation.

From manipulated statistics and the prevention of an investigation by international experts to officials and whistle blowers 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 from 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 or had cooperation 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 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 behaviors, without penalizing and holding 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 to upward 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, 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 may 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 great- ness 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. But I believe that we can create a nation where a man could breathe free, and instead we have it.

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 weaknesses of action and refusal to act in response to 1.1 million criminal crossings year to date.

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. The Brethren are falling into decline. We will not become judicious managers of our Nation's fall into decline. 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 heart- breaking, 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 reestablished 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, 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 lab. He let his 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 with 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 terror.

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 confusing to us when 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 price 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. In January, Mr. Speaker. The Federal Government is printing money at a breakneck pace, decreasing the purchasing power of our dollars.

When small businesses can't get folks to come back to work to the 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, that was his mama's and daddy's. 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 current 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
Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY), who represents Pennsylvania's 10th Congressional District.

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.

Mr. Speaker, the Biden administration does not agree with science. Even with this huge win to the American people, the administration and Democrats continue to have unemployed Americans dependent on the government by incentivizing them to remain unemployed with increased benefits that pay more than a small business can provide, destroying jobs.

Unfortunately, the Biden administration does not agree with science. Even with this huge win to the American people, the administration and Democrats continue to have unemployed Americans 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.

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 need 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 from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY), who represents Pennsylvania's 10th Congressional District.

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 products.

Well, guess what just happened this month? Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY), who represents Pennsylvania's 10th Congressional District.
Mr. FERRY 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 my 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 the 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.

Poisoned 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 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 yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOMERT) for the purpose of making some 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.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. 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 massive inflation, more job openings, 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 at 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 not work. 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 hasGovernor 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 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 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.

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 the third generation 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 42nd in the military intelligence service; and the 1399th Engineer Construction Battalion.

The rest, as they say, is legend. The 100th 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, told the story of血性・白石細江, and Aiko King—thought not, but perhaps.

The design is taken from a 1941 photo in the field of 422nd Private First Class Shiroku “Whitey” Yamamoto, a nisei born and raised in the plantation village of Nisette 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, persevering 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 the name 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 issuance of an historic stamp that honors the bravery and service of the 422nd 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 soapedoged 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-bylamed 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 unlawful imprisonment of 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 proved their allegiance and patriotism petitioned the U.S. Government for their right to serve.

President Roosevelt relented, allowing these men to form the 422nd 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 Nobli, 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 Nobli also shared what it was like to serve in the rescue of the Lost Battalion as a member of the 422nd. The rescue of the Lost Battalion took place in the Vosges Mountains of France in October of 1944. Eight hundred and twenty-four men volunteered for the mission to save 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 422nd 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.

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 I was running behind the clock. So I had all sorts of boards and information. I was going to drive the poor stenographer nuts because I was running behind the clock.

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 under-served 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 of the will 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 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 in the Southwest, for urban populations that have lots of diabetes issues, take a look at what a crappy year we 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 unbelievable 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 do something about 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. You put a chip 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 to 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. 2532. 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 June 16, 2021.
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 a 1-1/2-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. 509(a)(3)); (117 Stat. 295); 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. Hedlund, 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 James L. Jones 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 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 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 106-136, Sec. 506(a)(3)); (117 Stat. 1468); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1363. 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 106-136, Sec. 506(a)(3)); (117 Stat. 1468); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1364. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a semi-annual report titled, “Acceptance of contribution programs, projects, and activities; Defense Cooperation Account”, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2608; Public Law 101-403, title II, Sec. 202(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 103-160, Sec. 1105(b)(1)); (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 semi-annual report titled, “Acceptance of contribution programs, projects, and activities; Defense Cooperation Account”; pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2608; Public Law 101-403, title II, Sec. 202(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 103-160, Sec. 1105(b)(1)); (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 final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Utah; Source Category Exemptions [EPA-R08-OAR-2021-0056; FRL-10020-30-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 — Air Quality Designation; Tennessee; 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard Second Maintenance Plan [EPA-R08-OAR-2021-0057; FRL-10020-31-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; Texas; 2017-0548; FRL-10024-32-ORD (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-1370. 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-1371. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the AGENCY’s final rule — Air Quality Designation; California; 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard Second Maintenance Plan for the York-Adams Area [EPA-R03-OAR-2020-0267; FRL-10025-41-Region 9] 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 Quality Designation; Pennsylvania; 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard Second Maintenance Plan for the Youngstown-Warren- Sharon Area [EPA-R03-OAR-2020-0229; FRL-10025-79-Region 9] 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 Quality Designation; 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; Mississippi; 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R07-OAR-2019-0711; FRL-10023-22-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 Air Pollution Regulations and Scientific Information; Implementation of Vacatur [EPA-HQ-OA-2018-0529; FRL-10024-32-ORD (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-1376. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the AGENCY’s final rule — Air Quality Designation; California; 2017-0548; FRL-10024-32-ORD (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.
H2890

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE
June 16, 2021

By Mr. CICILLINE (for himself, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COOPER, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEAN, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. DEMPSEY of Georgia, Mrs. DILUCA of Illinois, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PANNETTA, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. EVANS, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. LANDGREN, Mr. QUADRI, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. NUGUISE, Mr. KIANA, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. MENG, Mr. RUSH, Ms. SCHAKOFSKY, Ms. BASS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. Breyer, Mr. VALESY, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mr. LOUIS FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. BLUNT ROECHTER, Ms. DEENTHAL, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Ms. HOULAHAN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. KILDIRE, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. HAYES, Mr. MEeks, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. POTTENBERGER, Mr. VAPALI, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. MOUTLON, Mr. PIECE of North Carolina, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. BARRACK, Ms. SKELLY, Mr. SHELTON, Ms. MOSCHOS, Mr. HECHT, Mr. DESALMI, Mr. VELASQUIZ, Mr. AGULAR, 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, Ms. LAWRENCE, Mr. LOPUREN, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. SHEPPARD, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. SIOZI, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. TITUS, Mr. WELCH, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. BRATY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CHIET, Mr. CROW, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. KAHELE, Ms. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. SHAWN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. PASCHELL, Mr. RYAN, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. KEATING, Mr. LIRU, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Ms. MARY LOUISE NAPOLITANO, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. TUNGO, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mrs. TURRES of California, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. CORREA, Mr. GORALVA, Mr. LRVIN of Michigan, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. NADLER, Mr. PAPPAS, Ms. ROYAL-BALLARD, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. NORCROSS, and Ms. ROSA).

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 Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. DELBENE (for herself, Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. PANNETTA, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. KILMER, Ms. SCHIEFER, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. SKELLY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. RYAN, Ms. SANCHEZ, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. TITUS, Mr. PASCHELL, Mr. CARSON, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. 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 Armed Services' Affairs.

By Mr. DOGGETT:
H.R. 3931. A bill to ensure that health professions opportunity demonstration projects train individuals 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. LAMBERT, Mrs. TORRES of California, and Mr. RAY)
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. WALITZ, and Mrs. HARTLEY):
H.R. 3934. A bill to maintain the ability of the United States Armed Forces to deny afait suit against 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 10, United States Code, to modify the exception from gross income for AmeriCorps educational award; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GROTHMAN (for himself, Mr. NEWHOUSE) :
H.R. 3936. 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 Mr. HOLUUAN (for herself, Mr. MERRICK, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. DRUDENHOFF, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. JACOBS of California, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. BERA, Mr. CONNOLLY of Illinois, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. KRETING, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. CARSON, Mr. COHEN, Ms. MANNING, Ms. MENG, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. KIRLY of Illinois, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. SHEARAN, Ms. SHOEMACK, Mr. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. NOERTON, Mr. EVANS, Mr. TONO, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Ms. MILLER of Pennsylvania, Mr. ESPIFAL, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. STRICKLAND, Ms. BÁNCHEZ, Mr. DEAN, Ms. MOORE of Georgia, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. NISHUZ, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. ROBACH, Ms. SARBANS, Ms. ROSS, Ms. CICILLINE, Mr. NADLER, Mr. RYAN, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. ESCH, Mr. KOPF, Ms. SCHNEIDER, Mr. CASE, Mr. KHSHNAMOOR, Ms. WASSHERN SCHULTZ, Ms. BASS, Mr. HINES, Ms. LAWRENCE, Ms. DREW, Mr. ALLRED, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. LOFREN, Mr. COSTA, Mr. PAPPAS, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. WILD, Mr. SHERILL, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. LEVIN of California, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. BOURDEAUX, Mr. CARDENAS, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. WENTZEN, Mr. KATSEFF, Mr. TRONE, Mr. OMAR, Ms. BLUMENAUER, Mr. SHRES, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. HAYES, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. FITZGERALD, Ms. NEWTON, Mr. TRAWSKE, Mr. KIM, Mr. SCHLEIFER, Mr. KELLEY, Ms. WELCH, Mr. CROW, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. VELASQUEZ of Texas, Ms. DINGELL, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. SIAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. LIU, Mr. CROW, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. VELASQUEZ of Texas, Mr. CARRAJAL, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. LAMBERT, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. KUSTER, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. TAKANO, Mrs. TORRES of California, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. 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. KING (for himself and Mr. REED):
H.R. 3939. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the use of renewable energy credits; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK (for himself 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. ROBERTSON):
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, Mr. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. LIESEK, Ms. MORELLE, Ms. HOUGHAN, Mr. KHALEH, 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. ESTRADA):
H.R. 3943. A bill to establish a commission to make recommendations for modernizing the Federal financing of education programs; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committees 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. TIFANY, Mr. NORMAN, and Mr. GOSAR):
H.R. 3945. A bill to prohibit using Federal funds to refer to the hate-harassment report 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 Appropriations.

By Mr. POCAN (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. KILMER, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. TONO, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. CARSON, Mr. BUSH, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. WELCH, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. KHANNA, Mrs. BRATTY, Ms. ROSS, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. OMAR, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. THLAB, Mr. DESAI, Mr. LANGFORD, Mr. MATSUI, Mr. NADLER, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. GALLAGHER, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. MENG, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. CARDENAS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. MUFUME, Mr. JONES, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. SCHUMACHER, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. NEWMAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. LEGRÉ FERNANDEZ, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. EVANS, Mr. SHRES, Ms. CICILLINE, 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 require the inclusion of mandatory predispute arbitration clauses and clauses limiting class action lawsuits in health insurance contracts; to the Committees 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 systematically important bank holding companies

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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 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 Committees 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, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. MCKINLEY):
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. FERNSTEIN):
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. DINGEL):
H.R. 3953. A bill to increase consumer protection with respect to negative option agreements entered into all media, including on and off-air, 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 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. SAHLAN):
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; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. WATERS (for herself, Mr. SHEARMAN, and Mr. PERLMUTTER):
H.R. 3958. A bill to amend the CARES Act to make certain to the Central Liquidity Facility permanent; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mrs. RASKIN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Mr. CLEAVIER):
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. 82. 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. AGUILERA of Texas, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. EVANS, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. 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. DEMING, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. KRATING, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. CRAWFORD, Ms. DEAN, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. PALLONE, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. QUIKLEY, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. NGRUSK, Ms. MASS, Mr. GALLEGZO, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. CARDIANS, Mr. BLUMENACER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. STRICKLAND, Ms. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. STEVENS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. LOFSTAD, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mr. RUIZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. WILSON of Florida, Mr. ALLRED, Ms. WELCH, Mr. TROY of New York, Mr. COHEN, Ms. KLINTON, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. TIERNEY of Massachusetts, Ms. BASS, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. GALLAGHER, Ms. CLARK of New York, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. B. GRAY, Mr. STEFFEN of Colorado, Mr. RICE, Mr. BAKER of Oregon, Ms. SANDERS of Vermont, Mr. HARRIS of California, Mr. JAYAPAL, Mr. SCOTT, Ms. ROY, Mr. ABBOTT, Mr. MURPHY of Wisconsin, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. COHEN, Ms. WATERS, Mr. K HANNA, Mr. T HOMPSON of Utah, Mr. AYOTTE, Mr. NIXON, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. VAUSE, Mr. GUIZON, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BUSH, Ms. KAPUR, Mrs. McBRATH, Ms. MANNING, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. MEKES, Ms. CRAWLEY, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. VELA, Ms. CHU, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. JONES, Mr. HINES, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mrs. BEATTY, Mrs. FLETCHER, Ms. WATERS, Mr. KHAHNA, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. WELCH, Mr. KILMER, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. FINGER, Ms. DELEVAUX, Mr. COOPER, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. JACOBS of California, Mr. RUIZ-PERSHERGER, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GIARRAYA, Mr. CARSON, Ms. ROSS, Mrs. SOUZZI, Mr. TRONE, Mr. BAUTISTA, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. ESHEO, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. SKAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, and Ms. JAYAPAL):
H.R. 3960. 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. CARDINAS, 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 establishing 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 I, 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 I, 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 I, 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 I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

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 P. 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 I, Section 8

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. GROTTHAN:
H.R. 3937.

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. 3938.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mrs. KIRKPATRICK:
H.R. 3939.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. KIRKPATRICK:
H.R. 3940.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. LAHRSON 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:

Clause 12, 13, 14, and 18 of Section 8 of Article I 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 I, 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 I, 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 I 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 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:
H.R. 3951.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. SHERILL:
H.R. 3952.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, 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 I, 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 . . . 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. WATERERS:
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 I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have Power To ... make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. 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. CHEN.
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. JOHNSTON of Ohio, Mr. KELLER, and Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 454: Mr. AGUILAR and Mr. CÁRDEZ.
H.R. 471: Mrs. LESSO.
H.R. 475: Mr. CASE, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MALINOWSKI, and Mr. FOSTER.
H.R. 477: Ms. SPAINDERGER.
H.R. 483: Mr. VAN DEER.
H.R. 554: Mr. EMMER.
H.R. 591: Mrs. HARTZLER.
H.R. 605: Mr. LONG.
H.R. 616: Mr. SHEERAN.
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 Ms. ROSARIO-DANNENMAYER.
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. 1086: Mr. RYAN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PHILLIPS of Texas, Mr. GALLIKO, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. KAHELE, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. McGovern, Mr. COHEN, and Ms. BERNARD.
H.R. 1115: Ms. STRICKLAND and Mrs. HARTZLER.
H.R. 1156: Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. KAHELE, and Mrs. MILLER-MEYERS.
H.R. 1177: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 1179: Ms. ESVOID, Ms. STRICKLAND, and Mrs. LEE of California.
H.R. 1193: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. HINSON, and Mr. ALLEN.
H.R. 1201: Mr. MORELLE, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. SHEARMAN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. COHEN, Mr. KILDREW, Ms. LOUIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. SIRES, Mr. NEAL, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. JACOBS of California, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. JONES, Mr. CONNOLLY, Miss RICK of New York, Mr. McCaChin, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. PORTER, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. FIORENTINO, Ms. SCHUFF, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. SATA, Mr. DELGADO, Ms. NEWMAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. TONKO, Mr. RUIZ,
Mr. Swalwell, Ms. Wilson of Florida, Mr. Phillipps, Ms. Manning, Ms. Houlanah, Ms. Smith of Washington, Ms. Jackson Lee, Mr. DeSaulnier, Mr. Welch, Mr. Price of North Carolina, Mr. Matsui, Ms. Strickland, and Ms. Jayapal.

H.R. 1255: Mr. Moore of Utah, Mr. Michael F. Doyle of Pennsylvania, Mr. Thompson of California, Mr. Bonamici, Mr. Posey, Ms. DeGette, Ms. Craig, Mr. Porter, Mr. Tonko, Ms. Wild, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Harder of California, Mr. Schiff, Mr. DeSaulnier, Mr. Gonzalez-Colon, Mrs. Napolitano, Mr. Price of North Carolina, and Mr. Bilirakis.

H.R. 1297: Mr. Stiel.

H.R. 1320: Mr. Pappas, Mr. courtsney, 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. Grotzman, 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: Ms. Lesko.

H.R. 1582: Mr. Newhouse.

H.R. 1583: 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. Kizer, Mr. Smucker, and Mr. Stiel.

H.R. 1888: Mr. Young.

H.R. 1916: Mr. Harris and Mr. Crawford.

H.R. 1936: Mr. Roy.

H.R. 1967: Ms. Dean and Mr. Bilirakis.


H.R. 1978: Mr. Mullin, Mr. Kinzinger, and Mr. Schrader.

H.R. 2035: Mr. Larson of Connecticut.

H.R. 2049: Mr. Schrader.

H.R. 2060: Mr. Cleaver and Mr. Lowenthal.

H.R. 2062: Mr. Smith of Washington, Mr. Casten, Mr. Sarranes, Ms. Dean, Mr. Danny K. Davis of Illinois, Ms. Ross, Ms. Strickland, Mr. Krishnamoorthi, Mr. Huffman, and Mr. Kind.

H.R. 2065: Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Loudermilk.

H.R. 2067: Mr. Garbarino.

H.R. 2079: Mr. Payne and Mr. Guest.

H.R. 2107: Ms. 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. Pascarella.

H.R. 2138: Mr. Tonko.

H.R. 2139: Waters, Mr. Garcia of Illinois, Ms. Bonamici, Mr. Levin of Michigan, and Mr. Jones.

H.R. 2140: Ms. Evans and Mr. Schiff.

H.R. 2146: Miss Gonzalez-Colon.

H.R. 2163: Mr. Perdue, Ms. Boudreaux, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Kinzinger, Ms. Schrier, Mr. Thompson of Pennsylvania, Mr. Perdue, Mr. Thomas of Georgia, Mr. Porter, Mr. Grotzman, 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. 3843: Mr. Donalds and Ms. Lepore.
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.

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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 from 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. 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.
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 members of the House, 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.

Nor will our Senate Democrats 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 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 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 frighteningly real when President Trump ordered an airstrike against an Iranian target in Iraq 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 roundly 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 2002 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 1982. 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, without objection.

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 headwinds.

Last week, we learned that inflation has accelerated its steep 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 workers.

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 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 than 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 warning 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 econom-
ist under both the last two Demo-
crats’ administrations, Larry Sum-
ers, 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.”

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 because we make 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.

In my State of Kentucky, the consequences of Democrats’ misguided spending are growing more serious. Small business owners in particular are bearing the brunt. 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 was forced 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 Ken-
considered all the bad that could happen when Democrats get carried away here in Washington. They know who end 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. Most are aware of 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 President’s party 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 celebra-
ted 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 contradic-
tion 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 unresolvable contradiction plunged America into civil war. Halfway through that war, President Abraham 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, slavery 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 or-
der to enforce the Emancipation Procla-
mation.

One year later, African Americans in Galveston held America’s first Juneteenth celebration to commemo-
rate that moment when they knew of

the end of slavery in America. For-
merly enslaved people wore their finest clothes, read the Emancipation Procla-
mation, 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 15th Amendment 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 utter 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, “During the 30 years between 1917 and 1947 which 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 does count and other major civil rights measures, such as the 1935 and then 1946, which passed only after lengthy filibusters by segregationist Senators.

Today, Senator MCCONNELL is vowing to use the filibuster, if necessary, to stop or block a Senate vote on voting rights, defend the integrity of elections, protect the right to vote, and protect the Senate’s own rules.

There are other major civil rights measures, such as the recently passed For the People Act, which includes provisions to protect against voter suppression, prevent billionaires from buying elections, and strengthening ethics.

Their opposition to protecting the right to vote doesn’t end there. Senator McConnell mobilized the Republican Conference to block 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 weapon of frequent mass obstruction into a weapon of frequent gridlock.

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—not, 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.”

Senator MCCONNELL is vowing to use the filibuster, if necessary, to stop the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, a bill that would dramatically increase 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.”

This November, America will face a choice of whether to invest in our collective well-being or to continue the systematic efforts to weaken 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 rejected the supermajority requirement for common legislation when they wrote the Constitution.

Defenders say the filibuster encourages bipartisan compromise. Look around anyone really believe that 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 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, many more 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.

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

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 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.


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. 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
Bennet
Blumenthal
Brown
Burr
Cardin
Carper
Casey
Collins
Coons
Cortez Masto
Cramer
Cromartie
Durbin
Feinstein
Gillibrand
Graham
Hassan

NAYS—43

Barrasso
Blackburn
Boucha
Boozman
Brown
Capito
Cassidy
Cassidy
Crapo
Cruz
Daines
Fischer
Fischer
Grassley

NOT VOTING—2

Booker
Peters

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas are 55, the nays are 43.

The motion is agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII 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.


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
Bennet
Blumenthal
Brown
Burr
Cardin
Capito
Cardin
Coons
Cortez Masto
Durbin
Feinstein
Gillibrand
Graham

NAYS—41

Barrasso
Blackburn
Boucha
Boozman
Brown
Capito
Cassidy
Cassidy
Crapo
Cruz
Daines
Fischer
Fischer

NOT VOTING—2

Booker
Peters

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas are 57, 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.

Lydia Kay Griggsby

Mr. President, today I rise to speak on the nomination of United States 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 11.

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 representative and better able to 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.” I have long advocated for 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 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 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 settle a 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 recognition of 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 will cherish 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 to continue the changes 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.

Throughout her nomination process, which I am the ranking member. At my committee hearing, 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.

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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.

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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—way more 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 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 power plant. And these numbers do not take into account that solar panels, as we know, don’t work 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 power plants. The industry is constantly evolving to make nuclear power plants 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 radioactive waste.

Now, I want to be clear. I still believe in fossil fuels. I am an “all of the above” energy advocate, but leading energy support, as do, I think, most Americans, is how safe nuclear energy is. Despite what some people may think, Homer Simpson does not run America’s nuclear power plants. The industry is constantly evolving to make nuclear power plants 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 radioactive waste.

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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 Havana’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.

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 Senate. 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, what he 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 in saying 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 President in the history of the United States. For the People Act 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 computer 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 a 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 has never happened before. 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 set that if people didn’t meet them, 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 whole parties 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. I was a local election official in our State.

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 precint. 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 that 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 would create chaos and 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 benefit 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 Valhalla of what the 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 vetted 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 Election Reform Act 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 $1.6 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 have been held in a terrible way in slavery, people who had been prevented from voting because of their race 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 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. CAPITTO. 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 bill is 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, 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, 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—it work through committee. These amendments have been hailed 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 news of this week was the administration of Rhode Island announcing 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 mandatorily adopt the dangerous practice of ballot harvesting, which is ripe for fraud. Now, I will tell you, some States have made ballot harvesting illegal. 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 the ballot 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 significantly cut 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 fundraising was matched for the first 3 months of that 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 third 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 elections 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 lines and would mandate automatic voter registration. Let’s be clear. President Trump was the first to 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 get the States to 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 signed:

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution recognizes the authority of the legislatures of each State to regulate the times, places, and manner of holding 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 restrict 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 are collected, received, or designated personsUPERIOR POST OFFICE, a ballot drop-off location, tribally designated building, or election office;” and
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 orderly and secure manner and replaces that approach out of Washington D.C.

Adopted the 10th day of June, 2021 in Canaan Valley, WV.

Expires: June 2029

CONNIE KAUFMAN, Barbour Co. Clerk.
ROGER TONEY, Boone Co. Clerk.
ELAINE C. MAUCK, Berkeley Co. Clerk.
SUE ANNE RUTCHES, Brooke Co. Clerk.
KIM BARBETTA, Brooke Co. Clerk.
JEAN SIMES, Calhoun Co. Clerk.
CATHER SLATTER, Doddridge Co. Clerk.
JEAN BUTCHER, Gilmer Co. Clerk.
ROBIN LOUDERMILK, Greenbrier Co. Clerk.
GEORGE FOLEY, Hancock Co. Clerk.
JOHN SPREES, Hardy Co. Clerk.
CYNTHIA S. ROWAN, Logan Co. Clerk.
JOHN A. TURNER, Logan Co. Clerk.
PHYLLIS SMITH, Lincoln Co. Clerk.
CONNIE WORKMAN, Clay Co. Clerk.
MICHELLE Z. HOLLY, Fayette Co. Clerk.
BUD FISHER, Grant Co. Clerk.
RENE W. SMITH, Hampshire Co. Clerk.
GREGORY L. ELY, Hardy Co. Clerk.
CHERLY A. BRIGHT, Jackson Co. Clerk.
VERA MCCORMICK, Kanawha Co. Clerk.
DEAN G. CADWALADER, Lincoln Co. Clerk.
JULIE KINCAD, Marion Co. Clerk.
JAN PAER, Marshall Co. Clerk.
DONALD L. HICKS, McDowell Co. Clerk.
LAURENCE ENZ, Mineral Co. Clerk.
DONALD J. EVANS, Monroe Co. Clerk.
ROHNER PETERS, Nicholas Co. Clerk.
ELISE M. WHITE, Pendleton Co. Clerk.
MEG MIRATOR, Pocahontas Co. Clerk.
BRIAN WOOD, Putnam Co. Clerk.
BRENDAN WINSLOW, Randolph Co. Clerk.
DIANA N. CROMLEY, Raleigh Co. Clerk.
KENNETH T. STEVENS, Mercer Co. Clerk.
LARRY CROAFF, Mingo Co. Clerk.
KIMBERLY WURLIES, Morgan Co. Clerk.
MICHAEL E. KELLY, Ohio Co. Clerk.
ELIZABETH G. MORGAN, Pleasants Co. Clerk.
LINDA HUGGINS, Preston Co. Clerk.
DANNY MOORE, Raleigh Co. Clerk.
TRACIE MCDONALD, Cabell Co. Clerk.
CHARLES B. WHITR, Roane Co. Clerk.
GEORGIANNA THOMPSON, Taylor Co. Clerk.
NEIL ARCHER, Tyler Co. Clerk.
RENNICK 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.
MARYLYN BALDRIDGE, 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, that they have spent a lot of money on, that would all be taken offline. You have to fully reprogram any 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 the right to vote. O, 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 all of that. They also fully reprogram any of that. They have the 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 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 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 political process. Just to be totally 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 he is concerned that 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 themselves? Just to be clear, my colleague and I have introduced the Voter Access Act and the Political Fraud Prevention Act.

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 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. They promised COVID relief, and they did some-thing 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 heard 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 erode 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 end voter fraud. This is not to say that Democrats are trying to do when it comes to voting.

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 heard that infrastructure bill and said: This is fantasyland.

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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
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, as well as 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.

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 voting 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 unparalleled 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 carrying out 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 together 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.

The national attempt 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 away from one vote, one step closer to falsifying 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 reminded them, 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 why Oklahoma is 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 everywhere.

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 small States. So if you just take 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.

But 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 there may very well 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, 230 years now—230 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—may I 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 room tonight, if I were 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.

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 Democ—democracy.

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 suburban neighbors work very hard for their dollars. That is why this Senator will be voting no on S. 1, the so-called For the People Act.

Ballot harvesting 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.

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 choose 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—use your voice, 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, putting their priorities ahead of yours.

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 also creates a Federal workaround of State voter ID laws by effectively eliminating the enforcement of State ID requirements at the polls.

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, putting their priorities ahead of yours.

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 also creates 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: 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 the 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—in 2018, in no uncertain terms, that ending the filibuster would be the end of the Senate as it was originally designed 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 my 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 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 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 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 chair along with SHELLEY CAPUTO 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 people 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 countless 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 of the Iowa Senate, who is here in his seat. And don’t forget 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 intertwined 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 Coastal Bend Water Authority—they are 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 oriented organizations 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 Mr. Beaudreau.

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 really 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 on 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.

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-U-D-R-O-H, 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 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 is familiar with the wide range of issues that come before it.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting in favor of his nomination.

The result was announced—yeas 55, nays 43, as follows:

[Vote Roll No. 236 Ex.]

YEAS—55

Baldwin Heinrich Reed
Bennet Hickenlooper Rosen
Blumenthal Graham Sansom
Brown Hyde-Smith Schatz
Burr Kaine Schumer
Canwell Kolby Sinema
Cardin King Shaheen
Carper Klobuchar Sinema
Casey Leahy Stabenow
Collins Lujan Manchin Tester
Coomes Mennen DeSantis
Cortez Masto Manchin Van Hollen
Cramer Menendez Warnock
Duckworth Merkley Warren
Durbin Murkowski Warren
Feinstein Murphy Whitehouse
Gillibrand Murray Wicker
Graham Ossoff Wyden
Hassan Padilla

NAYS—43

Barrasso Hargett Romney
Blackburn Hayley Rounds
Boozman Hoeven Rubio
Boozman Inhofe Sasse
Brown Johnson Scott (FL)
Capito Kennedy Scott (SC)
Cassidy Lankford Shelby
Cornyn Lee Sullivan
Cotton Lummis Thune
Crappo Marshall Tillis
Crapo McCain Toomey
Daines Moran Tuberville
Ernst Paul Young
Fischer Portman
Grassley Risch

NOT VOTING—2

Booker Peters

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Fox nomination?

The result was announced—yeas 59, nays 39, as follows:

[Vote Roll No. 237 Ex.]

YEAS—59

Baldwin Feinstein Merkley
Bennet Gillibrand Murkowski
Blumenthal Graham Murphy
Brown Grassley Murray
Burr Hassan Ossoff
Canwell Hickenlooper Padilla
Casey Heinrich Padilla
Cardin Hirono Romney
Carper Kaine Rosen
Casey Kolby Sanborn
Collins King Schatz
Coomes Klobuchar Schumer
Cortez Masto Leahy Shaheen
Duckworth Lujan Sinema
Durbin Manchin Smith
Ernst Menendez Stabenow

The result was announced—yeas 55, nays 43, as follows:

[Vote Roll No. 236 Ex.]

YEAS—55

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Bennet Hickenlooper Rosen
Blumenthal Graham Sansom
Brown Hyde-Smith Schatz
Burr Kaine Schumer
Canwell Kolby Sinema
Cardin King Shaheen
Carper Klobuchar Sinema
Casey Leahy Stabenow
Collins Lujan Manchin Tester
Coomes Mennen DeSantis
Cortez Masto Manchin Van Hollen
Cramer Menendez Warnock
Duckworth Merkley Warren
Durbin Murkowski Warren
Feinstein Murphy Whitehouse
Gillibrand Murray Wicker
Graham Ossoff Wyden
Hassan Padilla

NAYS—43

Barrasso Hargett Romney
Blackburn Hayley Rounds
Boozman Hoeven Rubio
Boozman Inhofe Sasse
Brown Johnson Scott (FL)
Capito Kennedy Scott (SC)
Cassidy Lankford Shelby
Cornyn Lee Sullivan
Cotton Lummis Thune
Crappo Marshall Tillis
Crapo McCain Toomey
Daines Moran Tuberville
Ernst Paul Young
Fischer Portman
Grassley Risch

NOT VOTING—2

Booker Peters

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Fox nomination?

The result was announced—yeas 59, nays 39, as follows:

[Vote Roll No. 237 Ex.]

YEAS—59

Baldwin Feinstein Merkley
Bennet Gillibrand Murkowski
Blumenthal Graham Murphy
Brown Grassley Murray
Burr Hassan Ossoff
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Cardin Hirono Romney
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Cortez Masto Leahy Shaheen
Duckworth Lujan Sinema
Durbin Manchin Smith
Ernst Menendez Stabenow

The result was announced—yeas 55, nays 43, as follows:

[Vote Roll No. 236 Ex.]

YEAS—55

Baldwin Heinrich Reed
Bennet Hickenlooper Rosen
Blumenthal Graham Sansom
Brown Hyde-Smith Schatz
Burr Kaine Schumer
Canwell Kolby Sinema
Cardin King Shaheen
Carper Klobuchar Sinema
Casey Leahy Stabenow
Collins Lujan Manchin Tester
Coomes Mennen DeSantis
Cortez Masto Manchin Van Hollen
Cramer Menendez Warnock
Duckworth Merkley Warren
Durbin Murkowski Warren
Feinstein Murphy Whitehouse
Gillibrand Murray Wicker
Graham Ossoff Wyden
Hassan Padilla

NAYS—43

Barrasso Hargett Romney
Blackburn Hayley Rounds
Boozman Hoeven Rubio
Boozman Inhofe Sasse
Brown Johnson Scott (FL)
Capito Kennedy Scott (SC)
Cassidy Lankford Shelby
Cornyn Lee Sullivan
Cotton Lummis Thune
Crappo Marshall Tillis
Crapo McCain Toomey
Daines Moran Tuberville
Ernst Paul Young
Fischer Portman
Grassley Risch

NOT VOTING—2

Booker Peters

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Fox nomination?

The result was announced—yeas 59, nays 39, as follows:

[Vote Roll No. 237 Ex.]

YEAS—59

Baldwin Feinstein Merkley
Bennet Gillibrand Murkowski
Blumenthal Graham Murphy
Brown Grassley Murray
Burr Hassan Ossoff
Canwell Hickenlooper Padilla
Casey Heinrich Padilla
Cardin Hirono Romney
Carper Kaine Rosen
Casey Kolby Sanborn
Collins King Schatz
Coomes Klobuchar Schumer
Cortez Masto Leahy Shaheen
Duckworth Lujan Sinema
Durbin Manchin Smith
Ernst Menendez Stabenow

The result was announced—yeas 55, nays 43, as follows:

[Vote Roll No. 236 Ex.]

YEAS—55

Baldwin Heinrich Reed
Bennet Hickenlooper Rosen
Blumenthal Graham Sansom
Brown Hyde-Smith Schatz
Burr Kaine Schumer
Canwell Kolby Sinema
Cardin King Shaheen
Carper Klobuchar Sinema
Casey Leahy Stabenow
Collins Lujan Manchin Tester
Coomes Mennen DeSantis
Cortez Masto Manchin Van Hollen
Cramer Menendez Warnock
Duckworth Merkley Warren
Durbin Murkowski Warren
Feinstein Murphy Whitehouse
Gillibrand Murray Wicker
Graham Ossoff Wyden
Hassan Padilla

NAYS—43

Barrasso Hargett Romney
Blackburn Hayley Rounds
Boozman Hoeven Rubio
Boozman Inhofe Sasse
Brown Johnson Scott (FL)
Capito Kennedy Scott (SC)
Cassidy Lankford Shelby
Cornyn Lee Sullivan
Cotton Lummis Thune
Crappo Marshall Tillis
Crapo McCain Toomey
Daines Moran Tuberville
Ernst Paul Young
Fischer Portman
Grassley Risch

NOT VOTING—2

Booker Peters

The nomination was confirmed.
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 Lujan, 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 shall be 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 ayes 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:

YEA—89

Baldwin Burr Cornyn
Barrales Carper Cortez Masto
Bennet Capito Cotton
Blackburn Cardin Cramer
Blumenthal Casey Duckworth
Blunt Casey Daines
Boozman Collins Durbin
Braun Coons Ernst

NAYS—9

Feinstein Lummis Schatz
Fischer Manchin Scott (FL)
Gillibrand Marshall Scott (SC)
Graham Menendez Shaheen
Grassley McConnell Sinema
Hagerty Menendez Smith
Hassan Merkley Stabenow
Heinrich Moran Tester
Hickenlooper Murkowski Thune
Hirono Murray Whitehouse
Hoeven Padilla Wicker
Hyde-Smith Padilla Wyden
Johnson Portman Young
Kaine Padilla Young
Kelly Romney Young
King Romney Young
Klobuchar Romney Young
Lankford Rubio Young
Leahy Rubio Young
Lujan SandersYoung

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 first-hand during my latest visit as Senator, which gave me a clear picture of Israel's proximity to its enemies—which gave me a clear picture of Israel’s proximity to its enemies. 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 unbowed 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 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.

I stand again today in support of Israel’s 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 the United States, and around the world.

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.

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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 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 agency 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 SCOTT of Iowa.

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 long-standing 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 at Israeli civilians 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 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 themselves 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 backers, Iran, poses to Israel.
- The administration must abandon its attempt 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.

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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 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 for 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.

This is a nonpartisan issue. Americans do not support terrorism, so they certainly should not have to subsidize it. 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 response, 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 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 Israeli children 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 am passionate about protecting the lives of Israel from their terrorist group, Hamas. This bill in question is not a serious attempt at legislating; it is a bill’s sponsors had a genuine interest 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, which is prima facie contrary to the laws and regulations, will not only be divisive among the rank and file but will also undermine the work of the President.

The language is written so broadly that, for example, before delivering clean water or 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 contained 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 without 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.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I am glad my colleague has acknowledged my 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 provides for 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 very 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. It 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.

Mr. BARRASSO. 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 Department 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 represented the Department and 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 their commitments. I believe 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, 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 historic 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 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 the 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 have put 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 in the Army. 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 killed the other way.

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 case. 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 arresting 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 with 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.

This 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 served 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 brave 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 co-sponsored 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 the consideration of the same; 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 the removal of 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 is one 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 harm 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 judges and advocates, imperils convictions, leads to convictions being overthrown 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 critical 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 assault 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 questionable in who gets prosecuted.

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 that 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 all sexual 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 could cost too much money, or that they don’t have sufficient resources or sufficient lawyers, it isn’t true. And those are the 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 just as 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 present its importance 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 owes 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 been more and more the interest each year. Senators who previously were skeptical have come around and realize 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 or to provide 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 pledge you for voting that.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from 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 periods of survival. 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 enjoy a meal, enjoy friendship, and bear one another’s burdens. It has 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 the burdens of the past 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 befriended or worked 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.

Every Friday, 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 enduring 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 refinshed. 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, civic leaders, 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 through-out 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 divided.

To honor the greatness of Utah, 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 working in the back of his car. One of the people for whom Tanner stoked the furnaces 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 student, and he 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, Tanner was a quick study. When 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 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. Through the difficulties of community building, the volunteers of Operation My Hometown endure, and they are succeeding.

Through 100 years of historic highs and unforgettable lows, the Idle Isle endures and, yes, the cafe is succeeding too. As goes the saying, those who endure conquer.

Similar to O.C. Tanner, volunteers of Operation My Hometown, the Idle Isle Cafe, and all Utahns have endured the difficulties of the last year. Utahns endured the challenges of COVID, and through it all, we have been a place of hope, perseverance, and recovery. 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 a near-constant 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 those 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.

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. CORKYNS. 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 2 1/2 years, until June 19, 1865. We were the first State to make Juneteenth a holiday and, of course, it coincides with 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 time 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.

IRAQ

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, change is 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 major 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 the driver, here: “Have you ever 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 puppet 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 Resistance's Grand Council. 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 Islamic 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 regime 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 another 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 two months, U.S. military assets 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 worsened. Iran's neighbors, the most directly affected, have seen over the last several years.

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 with impunity the Iranian-American professor. Iran is a state sponsor of terrorism in the world. We have also watched as Iran has blatantly ignored the restrictions on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the so-called 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 has the will to use nuclear weapons. There is a great danger that Iran could use its weapons, including nuclear weapons, against the United States and its allies.

In recent years, Iran has felt significant pressure from the United States and our allies. The Trump administration has withdrawn 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 has the will to use nuclear weapons. There is a great danger that Iran could use its weapons, including nuclear weapons, against the United States and its allies.

I am here to talk about the escalating crisis on our southern border. I am the ranking 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 affected by what happens down there.

The Biden administration has already loosened the pressure on Iran. President Biden has made it clear that he wants to revive the nuclear deal, even if it means compromising his national security interests. This is a dangerous mistake. The Biden administration should not continue its failed policy of engagement with Iran. Iran has continued to violate the terms of the JCPOA, Iran was led by President Hassan Rouhani, broadly supported the Administration's efforts to reduce tensions with Iran, and it was a key player in the Iran nuclear agreement.

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 think he is right. Iran has a track record of aggressive behavior and has shown no sign of changing its ways.

The Biden administration needs to resume the maximum pressure campaign and 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 have to say anything else.

In the face of these new pressure points, Iran has embarked on a more aggressive course. It is helping finance Iran's illicit activities, and it has also watched as Iran has blatantly ignored the restrictions on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the so-called 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 has the will to use its weapons, including nuclear weapons. There is a great danger that Iran could use its weapons, including nuclear weapons, against the United States and its allies.

This is about the immigration system not working properly, and we are looking at a huge surge of family members, unaccompanied kids. It is also about not having control of that border and having this contraband of drugs—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 our southern border.

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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 affected by what happens down there. I yield the floor.
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, perhaps 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—Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. So I went down to the border a couple of months ago and was able to go there with Secretary Mayorkas and my colleague on the committee, Senator Peters, who is the Democratic chair-colleague on the committee, Senator Peters, who is the Democratic chair.

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 administration of title 42 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. Come into the United States if you have skills that we want. We want to reunite families and kids, and that means come to the border. In fact, he said: We want to reunite families and kids, and that means come to the border. Come into the United States if you have skills that we want.

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 way for us 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, this Administration said that there would no longer be this 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. Come into the United States if you have skills that we want.

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they are going to be told not that "You have to turn back," but 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 stay there."

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 and the question is: Is this going to be handled? So, we have come here to secure the facilities, to make sure that they are not ready, and to 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 inauguration 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 Patrol detention facilities, you 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 holy places 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 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 around and under and over 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 learned that if they didn't have this surge, 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 the 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?

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, deporting them going to be there for them and provide them the resources they need to do their job. But if you don't do that, there is no way to tell. But one is allowing people who have not, but you can't then say: OK, they should have had all this infrastructure in place.

No. 2, I think we need to reinstate some asylum policies that were started in the Trump administration. They'd 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 going in an open border area, they didn't have any 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 that 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 destinations 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 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 apply for asylum and 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 then stay.

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 but, 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 people—perhaps 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 our nursing homes, or welfare, or the 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, 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, 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 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. They 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 based on the same model. 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 system in place 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 then stay.

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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. And 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 growth.

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. 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 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 us. You come with me. 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 are going 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, 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, are they 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, you just don’t 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 President Office 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, I believe, that 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 PRESIDENTING 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 PRESIDENTING 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 PRESIDENTING 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 Tuesday’s votes on motion to invoke cloture and confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 148, Radhika Fox, of California, to be an Assistant
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—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 his 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 and to serve his life to his 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 booted 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 and my principles were right.”

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.

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 second 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 through August. Rex Morgan, a life-long friend of Bunning, donated the material to the museum. “Jim Bunning was truly a local hero,” said Jack French, current owner of the exhibit 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 Philadelphia Phillies Baseball Wall of Fame in Induction Park in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Today, Batteries Plus Bulbs Bowling Green, KY, and Clarksville, TN. 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 high standards set by David and Dorothy. Solving a customer’s problem is prioritized over pushing a sale. Notably, Batteries Plus Bulbs Bowling Green is known for its

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 Kentuckian 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 high standards set by David and Dorothy. Solving 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 SWAG, 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. 468. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to permit the use of incentive payments to expedite certain federally financed airport 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. 567. 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 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. 1352. An act to direct the President to establish a task force on improvements for certain notices to armen, 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. 2093. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make all fact sheets of the Department of Veterans Affairs, including those that are written in English, Spanish, and Tagalog, and other commonly spoken languages, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2322. An act to prohibit consumer reporting agencies from furnishing a consumer report containing any adverse item of information commonly known or commonly spoken, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2323. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Administrator of Veterans Affairs to make all fact sheets of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2324. 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. 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 under the Government of Veterans Affairs pursuant to section 552 of title 5, United States Code, and for other purposes.


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 time, without previous 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 assistance provided to an individual or household, and for other purposes; 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. 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.
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. 2121. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program and purpose; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H. R. 2268. 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. 2508. An act to amend the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 to develop a study regarding and consolidate information collection and preliminary damage assessments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H. R. 2903. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make all fact sheets of the Department of Veterans Affairs available in English, Spanish, Chinese, 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 domestic, sexual, or other violence; 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 pediatric medicine in the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

H. R. 2728. 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 532 of title 5, United States Code, 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 who protected the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H. R. 3692. 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 Chair, 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 Secretary of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, 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–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 Chair of the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, 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 Government Accountability Office’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 Chair 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 Chair, 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 Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Tarmac Delay Rule” (RIN1209–AB72) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1216. 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 Antitrust Divestiture Opportunities in 2020 and Change Enrollment in the FEHB Program During a Lapse in Appropriations; Continuation of Certain Insurance Benefits During a Lapse in Appropriations” (RIN3206–AD199) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 9, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1217. 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 Limitation for the H–2B Temporary Non-Agricultural 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–1218. A communication from the Rules Administrator, Federal Bureau of Prisons, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Inmate cafeteria 2022; New Excluded 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–1222. A communication from the Chief of Staff, National Security Council, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Sponsorship Identification Requirements for Foreign Governmental Programs, Laboratory and Research, Where No RF Spectrum is Authorized” (B 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, pursuant to law, the report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, Department of Health and Human Services, 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 introduced:

By Ms. CANTWELL for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

• Coast Guard nomination of Vice Adm. Michael P. 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, 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 Lake 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.

• By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina for the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

• By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina for the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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• By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina for the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

• By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina for the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

**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. 2075. 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. 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.

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. 2076. 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 of AmeriCorps educational awards; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. YOUNC):

S. 2076. A bill to establish a program to develop antimicrobial innovations targeting the most challenging pathogens and most concerning infections; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCHUETZ:

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 visas or J visas to research 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. WITTSHouse, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. PALLIES, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. SHAHSEN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. LUCIAN, 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):
convenes, 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. 2083. 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. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 2084. A bill to terminate the order relating to the provision of 800,000 ventilators for personal protective equipment to the public health community in the United States, and for other purposes; 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 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. KELLY (for himself, Mr. Cramer, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2086. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, 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, Ms. CAPITO, Ms. Duckworth, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

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.

S. 2090. 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. KAIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. SMITH, Ms. CORTEZ MOORE, Mr. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WARREN, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 2091. A bill to amend the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to increase appropriations to the 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 American Medical 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. BOOZMAN) 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSEFF), 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.

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 45, 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.

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Ms. FEHLEN) 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.

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. 755

At the request of Mr. Cassidy, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. Brown) was added as a cosponsor of S. 755, a bill to require institutions of higher education to disclose hazing-related misconduct, and for other purposes.

S. 383

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. 866

At the request of Mrs. Gillibrand, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. Carper) was added as a cosponsor of S. 866, 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 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 XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of multi-cancer early detection screening tests.

S. 1385

At the request of Mr. Corbyn, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. Capito) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1385, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop both practices for the establishment and use of behavioral intervention teams at schools, and for other purposes.

S. 1393

At the request of Ms. Klobuchar, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. Duckworth) 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. 1401

At the request of Mr. Markey, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. Booker) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1401, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 23d Headquarters Special Troops and the 313d 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 Wyoming (Mr. Barrasso) 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. 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 (Ms. 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. 165

At the request of Mr. Merkley, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. Padilla) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 165, 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 since learned 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 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?

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 was funded by 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 in 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 articulated "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 and are 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, this is 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:

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 RELATIONSHIP-RELATED COORDINATING BODIES.

Title V of the Public Health Service Act is amended by inserting after section 520A (42 U.S.C. 290b-32) the following:
SEC. 520B. LOCAL COORDINATING BODIES TO ADDRESS COMMUNITY TRAUMA, PREVENTION, AND RESILIENCE.

(a) Grants.—(1) Definitions.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Assistant Secretary, shall award grants to State and local authorities, including Indian tribes or tribal organizations (as such terms are defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination Act and Education Assistance Act) or nonprofit 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 trauma-related services to children or youth; and

(B) community members who have experienced trauma or who represent or advocate for children or youth.

(c) Application.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, an entity shall submit 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 that have experience in addressing trauma and toxic stress in communities and propose strategies to prevent or mitigate the impact.

(d) To improve outcomes for infants, children, youth, and their families, as appropriate, that have experienced or are at risk of experiencing trauma.

(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, concerns about children's well-being, including through trauma-informed and resilience-focused training and public outreach campaigns;

(f) Fiscal year 2023, and each fiscal year thereafter, in each such fiscal year, the Secretary shall carry out this section $600,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2029.

(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, and, as part of that evaluation, the Secretary shall assess the outcomes of the grant activities carried out by each grant recipient, including outcomes that are related to health, education, child welfare, criminal justice involvement, or other measurable outcomes pertaining to wellbeing and social determinants of health.

(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(c) 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 hospital, settings, or community facilities, settings where health care providers, including primary care and pediatric providers, provide services, early childhood education and care settings, public health agencies, 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.

(j) EXPANSION OF PERFORMANCE PARTNERSHIP PILOT FOR CHILDREN WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED OR ARE AT RISK OF EXPERIENCING TRAUMA.

(a) In General.—Section 526 of the Department of Health and Human Services, Edu- cation, 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, youth, and their families as appropriate, who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing trauma. To improve 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), unem- ployed, or not enrolled in education, drop- ping out of an educational institution and live in a community that has faced acute or long-term exposure to substantial discrimi- nation, historical poverty, current poverty, generational poverty, civil unrest, a high rate of violence or drug overdose deaths, achieve success in meeting educational, employment, or housing outcomes, or improve 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 2027”;

(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”;

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE PILOTS.—Federal agencies may use Federal discretionary funds to provide training and technical assistance to eligible entities to deliver and sustain trauma-informed care interventions for children and youth, including children in foster care, and their families. Such funds shall include recommendations for experiences fostering successful hospital-based trauma interventions to improve outcomes and prevent re-injury or readmission for patients presenting after over-dosing, attempting suicide, or suffering violent injury or abuse.”

(3) in subsection (c), by striking “the Secretary” and inserting “an institution of higher education, or a Tribal college, as defined in section 101(a) 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. 1059b));”;

(4) in subsection (d), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “the Secretary;” and

(E) 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;

(F) by striking “such an institution of higher education;” and

(G) by inserting at the end the following:

“(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 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; SUCH INTERVENTIONS MAY BE FURNISHED IN COORDINATION WITH QUALIFIED PERFORMANCE PARTNERSHIPS. Such interventions may be furnished in coordination or partnership with qualified community-based organizations and may include or incorporate the best practices identified in section 712(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 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; SUCH INTERVENTIONS MAY BE FURNISHED IN COORDINATION OR PARTNERSHIP WITH QUALIFIED PERFORMANCE PARTNERSHIPS. Such interventions may be furnished in coordination or partnership with qualified community-based organizations and may include or incorporate the best practices identified in section 712(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 information to eligible entities on the opportunities for health insurance coverage and reimbursement for the activities described in paragraph (3).”

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 1003(b)(2) of the Public Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 254b-2(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (E), by striking “and” and inserting “; and”;

(2) in subparagraph (F), by striking the period and inserting “; and”;

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(G) $360,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2027, of which not more than 40% may 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 II of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290b-3) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 398V-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. 1064)); 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 serving as an affiliate 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 programs 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 in 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 inter-generational poverty, civil unrest, discrimination, or oppression, exposure to violence or other trauma as evidence 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 programs;

(C) the provision of scholarships, stipends, and trainee supports, including to enhance recruitment, retention, and career placement of students from under-represented populations in the mental health workforce; and

(D) the provision of mid-career training to develop the capacity of existing health practitioners.

(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are 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 PROGRAMS.—

(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) 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 and homeless youth) and in alternative education and high-quality proposal for trauma-informed and resilience-focused training programs for general education and special education teachers, including early childhood educators.’’;

(2) in subsection (d)(1)(A)—

(A) in subclause (I), by striking ‘‘and’’ after the semicolon;

(B) by redesigning subclause (II) as subclause (IV); and

(C) inserting after subclause (II) the following:

‘‘(IV) such 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 exposure to violence or other trauma as evidence of secondary trauma, through—

(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 exposure to violence or other trauma as evidence of secondary trauma, through—

(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 described in subsection (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 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 multiple types of violence and community-based organizations for appropriately identifying, responding to, and supporting infants, children, and youth, and their families, who have a risk of and are at risk of experiencing trauma or toxic stress. Such toolkits shall incorporate best practices described under section 7123(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 in those settings, including the development and strategies for addressing the impact of secondary trauma, compassion fatigue, and burnout among such front-line service providers.

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.

‘‘Section 1051. 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, and organizations (as such terms are defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination Act and Education Assistance Act), and nonprofit organizations to reduce children’s exposure to 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 experienced multiple types of 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;

‘‘(2) 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;

‘‘(3) emphasizing, responding to, and supporting 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 described in subsection (d) of the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act (Public Law 115–271); and

‘‘(4) 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 exposure to violence and substance use on children in their homes, schools, and communities.

‘‘(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 and community.

(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. HENRICH 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 and 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. HENRICH) 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 $736,000,000,000 in economic output in 2019, comprising approximately 3 percent of the current-dollar gross domestic product;

Whereas the Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account shows that, over the past 20 years, 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; and

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(c), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMMITTEE 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...
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 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. Boater Calhoun, who is an intern in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the Congress.

The PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE. 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 PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE. 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 PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE. 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 PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE. Objection having been heard, the bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

APPOINTMENT
The President pro tempore, Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 273) designating June 2021 as “Great Outdoors Month.”

The PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE. There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask of no further debate on the resolution.

The PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE. If there is no further debate, the question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 273) was agreed to.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be agreed to and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The preamble was agreed to.

(Great Outdoors Month Resolutions (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 PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE. There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 248) was agreed to.

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.
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 forty-fourth 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 fearing 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 our neighbors and our constituents representative helping with just a few words, and that he was welcomed with open arms. He even loved 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, Clay-Bear, 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 live 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...
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 Mennello 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.

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 academias. 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 serve and educate. 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.
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, Ohio. It has become a symbol of 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, Luke Williams whose monument we gather here this morning to dedicate. He delivered it in a speech on September 11, 1889 on the Gettysburg Battlefield during ceremonies dedicating the monument to his regiment, the 63rd PA Volunteers during Vicksburg 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 American mother. His family moved from Richmond to Pittsburgh in 1847 and from Pittsburgh to Etna one year later. The only day in the entire history of their office 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 Alexander Mitchell moved to Etna from Richmond to Pittsburgh in 1847 and from Pittsburgh to Etna one year later. The reason for this was that the home he built in 1877 for his second wife and their 3 sons and 1 daughter and her children from her first marriage.

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 soldiers apply for pensions such as the Edgewood of Edgewood whose husband had served with Williams and who came to Butler in 1906 accompanied by her two sisters to apply for a Civil War Widow’s Pension. The application presented Williams with the photo displayed in front of me taken just a few days before Williams’ 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 Presbyterian Church and for the last 12 years as the Choir Director of Butler’s First Presbyterian Church and for the last 12 years as the 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 solid in the Civil War, his funeral and burial were held on April 9th the same day only 58 years earlier that Robert E. Lee surrendered his Confederate Army to Union General Ulysses S. Grant at a place called Appomattox Court House 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 creating a welcoming place for the Latino community 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. She 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 inequalities 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. The Center Women’s Historical Society that will represent the rich artifacts donated by the Grafton Historical Society that will represent the rich

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.

RECOGNIZING THE GRAND OPENING OF THE AMBURL 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.

Today, 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.

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 I expressed my concern about 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 ROCKETEY 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 Rocketeey 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 Rocketeey 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 2023. 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 to 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 Chair 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 preeminent leaders in modern-day physical therapists, reconstruction aides were strong women who played an integral role in the recovery of many soldiers during World War II. 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 multiple sectors, 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.

REMEMBERING 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, Sr. 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 on 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 College 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 he served from 1987, 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 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 the $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 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—becoming 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-vulnerable 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 wildest fire 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 EPA 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 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 appearances 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 BERCII

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 enemy lines to Budapest and 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 his activities. 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 Cedars-Sinai’s Hospital in Los Angeles, teaching residents at the Women’s Guild Simulation
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

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.
SH-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 Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Subcommittee on Communication, Media, and Broadband
To hold hearings to examine building resilient networks.
SR-232

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 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. 1326, to establish the Chiricahua National Park in the State of Arizona as a unit of the National Park System, S. 1523, 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.”

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–366

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 Commerce.

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 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

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

Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, and Border Security
To hold hearings to examine immigration and citizenship policies for U.S. military service members, veterans, and their families.

SD–226
Tuesday, June 15, 2021

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.

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.

Great Outdoors Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 273, designating June 2021 as “Great Outdoors Month”.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Beaudreau Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Tommy P. Beaudreau, of Alaska, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Messages from the House:

Measures Referred:

Measures Read the First Time:

Executive Communications:

Executive Reports of Committees:

Additional Cosponsors:

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Additional Statements:

Authorities for Committees to Meet:

Privileges of the Floor:

Record Votes: Five record votes were taken today.

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 Steffansky 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

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.

Additional Cosponsors:

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).

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Dean to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Recess: The House recessed at 10:46 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon.

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. 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.

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.

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

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).

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

Hill amendment (No. 4 printed in H. Rept. 117–59) that sought to clarify 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).

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.

H. Res. 473, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 256) (H.R. 1187) was agreed to Monday, June 14th.


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.

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H2827.


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 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 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


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