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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 24, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RUBEN GALLEGO 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.

THE NEED FOR 2002 AUMF REPEAL AND THE PEACE ACT

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

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, it is past time for Congress to reassert its role in the war powers discussion.

I proudly joined many of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle last week in voting to repeal the 2002 AUMF. This AUMF provided for military operations in Iraq, an Iraq that is far different from the one we know today.

The goal was to defend the United States against the threat posed by an Iraq of 20 years ago, specifically, that of Saddam Hussein. Saddam Hussein was captured in December of 2003 and executed 3 years later.

Despite ousting Saddam Hussein, the 2002 AUMF has remained on the books. Less than one-fifth of the current Members of the House of Representatives were present on that original AUMF vote. As you can imagine, many Members have entered Congress and left the Halls of Congress without ever taking a vote on the 2001 or 2002 AUMFs.

Repealing the existing AUMFs, like the one from 2002, can be a step in the right direction in Congress reasserting its Article I powers, but we should not stop there. We need to rethink how we approach military authorizations.

A few weeks ago, I introduced the Preventing Endless Armed Conflict and Engagement Act, or the PEACE Act for short. The goal of this bill is to ensure regular oversight is being conducted on future military authorizations.

First, this bill would require each military authorization, or AUMF, to terminate after 2 years. This is because the Constitution stipulates that military funding should not extend past 2 years. This would also ensure that every Member of Congress has the opportunity to weigh in on current military operations.

The PEACE Act would also set standards for drafting military authorizations. For instance, each authorization would need to set a geographic scope on where the military force can be used. A clear objective would need to be established for each authorization, and the countries and groups that the U.S. troops are authorized to fight must be listed.

Additionally, the Department of Defense and the State Department would be charged with publishing an annual, unclassified report on existing military operations. This report will include information such as whether the military is meeting their objective, the number of casualties, and total cost. This will assist Congress in making the needed decisions that we have to make regarding AUMF reauthorizations. Finally, the DOD and State Department will be required to brief Members of Congress on the contents of this report once every 6 months.

It is critical that new Members of Congress, with new constituencies, have their chance at providing input into military operations. Many Members came to the floor last week to reiterate the importance of updating these existing AUMFs instead of repealing them. While I supported the repeal, I do hope that any updated or future AUMF incorporates elements from the PEACE Act.

Future AUMFs should be more concise and relied on for only a few years, not for a couple decades.

I look forward to working with Members from both sides of the aisle on future reforms to Congress' war powers authority.

NO CLIMATE, NO DEAL

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

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, we are living in a climate emergency. The carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere have reached the highest levels in human history.

In California, we have our worst drought in decades. Last week, we were hit by a heat wave that stretched from the West Coast to the Great Plains. This combination of unforgiving drought and relentless heat sets the conditions for another severe wildfire season. New Federal data shows the number of new wildfires this year is at a 10-year high.

In recent years, our country has also faced record floods, deep freezes, and hurricanes. And deadly wildfires have hit States beyond California.

Climate disruption is here. Congress has a responsibility to act boldly in response. The American Jobs Plan is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to meet the moment with a transformative investment in infrastructure.

We have the opportunity to build a clean-energy future that uplifts the communities who now suffer from the impacts of the fossil fuel industry. We must do it.

We must also recognize that communities of color have been hit first and worst by climate change. They must be at the front of the line for these investments. They must be represented in discussions on any infrastructure agreement.

We can afford to protect our planet, clean our air and water, and provide a better quality of life for communities all over the country.

We cannot afford an infrastructure bill that doesn't have climate at its center. We cannot afford a bill that doesn't invest in infrastructure that will create millions of jobs and serve the needs of our communities.

We need: clean energy, a resilient electric grid, electric vehicle charging, green affordable housing, zero-emissions public transit, climate smart ports, and more.

Our constituents did not send us here to back down when faced with climate deniers and deniers of taking any meaningful climate action.

If we don't do it now, when will it ever happen? This is our opportunity. Now is the time to stand up for the health and the well-being of our communities and our planet to say: No climate, no deal.

RECOGNIZING DISTRICT DIRECTOR BRIAN McDONALD AND THE MINNESOTA OFFICE OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

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

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Brian McDonald and his entire team at the Small Business Administration's Minnesota District Office.

In May 2020, at the height of the COVID pandemic, Brian took on an enormous challenge when he rose to the role of district director for the SBA's Minnesota region.

Brian and his team were charged with supporting Minnesota's 500,000 small businesses and their 1.3 million employees through one of the most challenging economic crises in our Nation's history. Under Brian's leadership, the SBA's Minnesota district office team facilitated critical loans, provided valuable training, and served as true warrior advocates for businesses of all sizes during this difficult time.

At the outset of the COVID–19 outbreak, Brian and I hosted a joint town hall where he helped my constituents understand how they could keep their small businesses afloat. Brian's participation was crucial, and his willingness to offer guidance and expertise is characteristic of his office's impressive work throughout the crisis.

Brian and his team in the SBA's Minnesota district office continue to work around the clock to help businesses in our State survive. We are grateful for all of their work, and we are fortunate to have such a dedicated SBA district presence in our State. I thank them for all they do.

CONGRATULATING MINNESOTA ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR ANGIE CHARBONEAU-FOLCH

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Angie Charboneau-Folch, assistant principal at Big Lake High School.

In April, Angie was named this year's Minnesota Assistant Principal of the Year by the Central Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals. She received this honor after 15 years of service as a school administrator, including a decade at Big Lake.

Angie has been a longtime advocate for both students and educators during her tenure. As leader of Big Lake High School's Student Targeted Instruction and Goals program, better known as STING, she has ensured that students receive the additional instruction time and support they need. She has also worked to open the channels of communication between teachers and families through her Being Your Own Champion initiative.

I congratulate Angie on this remarkable achievement. I thank her for her years of dedication to the Big Lake community, and I know Minnesota students are better off because of her support.

HONORING THE WORK AND BRAVERY OF HALO TRUST AFGHANISTAN

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the bravery and sacrifice of the HALO Trust employees who were recently attacked in Afghanistan. Earlier this month, 110 demining workers in the northeastern Afghanistan province of Baghlan were attacked. Ten HALO Trust workers lost their lives and 16 more were injured.

HALO Trust staff is comprised of locals who work alongside American citizens around the world to clear the debris of war, especially landmines. Their work is vital in Afghanistan, where nearly 40 years of conflict has left the land littered with explosives and citizens living under constant threat of detonation. This forces locals to make an unimaginable choice: either let their families starve or risk their lives to farm dangerous land.

Thanks to the work of HALO Trust and the entire demining community, war-torn nations across the globe are being revitalized. Within the Herat province alone, HALO Trust workers have cleared over 600 minefields and provided steady employment to 2,600 Afghan locals.

This devastating attack was an act of cowardice from an organization that feeds off instability and fear. I commend the profound bravery of the workers who face down death to rebuild their communities. I hope everyone will join me in recognition of their sacrifice.

THANKING TAMMY BIERY AND CAREER SOLUTIONS

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tammy Biery, the executive director of the employment agency Career Solutions.

Electrolux had a long legacy in our home State, employing Minnesotans since 1946. In 1998, the plant produced 75 percent of all freezers sold in the United States.

In 2018, the business was St. Cloud's eighth largest employer, with nearly 900 employees. However, a year later, Electrolux consolidated their freezer production to South Carolina. Despite our efforts and the efforts of the community urging Electrolux to reconsider, approximately 760 employees faced layoffs.

To support these workers who faced separation from employment, Tammy and her employment agency, Career Solutions, went to work. After receiving an award from the State Dislocated Worker program, Career Solutions offered career counseling, on-the-job training, and interview coaching to 513 former Electrolux employees. By the end of 2020, 159 of those trainees were gainfully employed.

Thanks to the work of Tammy and the Career Solutions team, St. Cloud was able to weather the largest layoff in our history. I thank Tammy for that.

TERESA BOHNEN: A CAREER OF SERVICE

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of Teresa Bohnen. Teresa is retiring this year as president of the St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce.

Teresa led the chamber for the past 23 years. During that time, she has been a staunch advocate for small business.

Under Teresa's leadership, the St. Cloud Area Chamber earned a five-star accreditation from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce the first year it became eligible and has maintained that rating ever since.

I thank Teresa for her service to St. Cloud, and she should enjoy her well-earned retirement.

HONORING REVEREND RONALD V. MYERS, SR., M.D.

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

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Reverend Dr. Ronald Myers, who was one of the real reasons that President

Biden was able to sign into law Juneteenth as a national holiday.

Reverend Myers was 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, Louisiana, to work for greater national recognition of Juneteenth, a holiday celebrating the end of slavery. Dr. Myers was elected chairman of this advocacy effort, which led to the establishment of the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation and his recognition as the leader of the modern Juneteenth movement in America. Doc was instrumental in the passage of 45 of the 49 State and District of Columbia pieces of legislation naming Juneteenth as a day of observance in this country.

Working with the Congressional Black Caucus, which included Illinois Senator Barack Obama and Representative DANNY DAVIS, he sought legislation to recognize Juneteenth independence, hosting the annual Juneteenth prayer breakfasts.

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He established the Washington Juneteenth National Holiday Observance and the National Day of Reconciliation and Healing from the Legacy of Enslavement, which includes the National Juneteenth Black Holocaust ''Maafa'' Memorial Service.

Dr. Myers organized the National Association of Juneteenth Jazz Presenters and the Fellowship of Creative Christian Jazz Musicians. Under his leadership, the Washington Juneteenth congressional event was held by the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation, Juneteenth America, Inc., and the National Association of Juneteenth Jazz Presenters.

An accomplished jazz pianist, trumpeter, and composer, Dr. Myers performed across the country promoting ''June is Black Music Month!''—Celebrating Juneteenth Jazz—''Preserving Our African American Jazz Legacy!''

For over 20 years, he met with State politicians, local Juneteenth organizations, and community leaders.

Charles Taylor, author of Juneteenth, said: ''Doc would give a copy of my Juneteenth book to every Governor who made Juneteenth a holiday or observance. He even gave Sarah Palin a copy when she was the Governor of Alaska after her State recognized Juneteenth.''

At an award ceremony at the Beverly Hills Temple of the Arts at the Saban Theatre, founder Rabbi David Baron said: ''Reverend Dr. Ronald V. Myers is an outstanding living model of all the values for which Martin Luther King stood.''

Thanks to Steve Williams, who has carried on Dr. Myers' work; and my staffer, Dr. Caleb Gilchrist, who has worked closely with him.

Thank you, Dr. Myers, and may you rest in peace.

KANSAS IS THE BREADBASKET OF THE WORLD

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

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kansas farmers for their long hours during this year's wheat harvest and for their work to produce food for people all over the world.

With more than 15,000 wheat farms across the State and 5 million acres of wheat in the Big First District alone, Kansas leads the Nation in wheat production, is the largest exporter of hard red winter wheat, and is aptly named the breadbasket of the world.

The United States exports that wheat to more than 100 countries around the world, and some of that wheat from Kansas ends up abroad under the U.S. food assistance programs, like Food for Peace. In fact, it was the Kansas Farm Bureau who began sending surplus grain to those in need around the world, continuing U.S. leadership in addressing world hunger.

As I reflect on my own time on our family farm in Quinter, Kansas, I am reminded that harvest season is about more than just harvesting the crop. For Kansas farm families and communities, harvest is about coming together.

Harvest is when we share tractors and other equipment with our neighbor when theirs gets stuck. Harvest is when a grandmother takes food to the field so the rest of her family doesn't have to leave the field for a lunch break. It is when a father takes his child out on the combine to show him how the work is done. And it is when we reflect on our advancements in agriculture, thanks to land-grant universities, like the wheat breeding research at Kansas State University, yielding high-quality and plentiful harvests around the world.

Wheat harvest is a time for Kansas to be proud of the great strides they take to feed, fuel, and clothe the world. At the end of the season, we look back and know that each agricultural success is inexplicably tied to our Kansas values of faith, family, community, and grit. While we are at work here in Washington, they are back at home making the world go round, and for that we owe farmers our sincerest thank you.

THE RIGHT TO LIFE IS SELF-EVIDENT

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I also rise today in support of one of the most basic functions of any government, the right to life.

Our Founding Fathers wrote 245 years ago, ''We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.''

To them, the right to life was so overly obvious that they called it self-evident.

But, today, in America, some policymakers insist on denying the right to life to millions of Americans. Instead, they diminish that right through murderous abortion policies, policies that fail to recognize life until a child lets out his or her first cry in the delivery room, policies that justify abortion based on the belief that any unborn child may have Down syndrome, and policies that funnel taxpayer dollars to funding abortions and abortion services.

Today's technology and science has shown us proof of life inside the womb. We see 3D ultrasounds of a baby sucking her thumb and moving around. We know unborn babies can experience pain as early as 12 weeks. At 20 weeks, we can reveal if a baby is a boy or a girl.

Yet some of our country's leaders still proceed to support policies that devalue and eliminate the innocent child's life. For decades, these elected officials have spent more time protecting the right of potentially endangered species, like the lesser prairie-chicken or sea turtle eggs, than they do protecting unborn babies, human babies.

But not to me. I strongly believe life begins at conception. I believe every life matters. I support adoptions, foster care, and crisis pregnancy centers that work tirelessly to care for mothers and their babies. I have cosponsored pro-life legislation, including H.R. 18, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, permanently prohibiting Federal funding for abortions and abortion services. I even introduced my own, H.R. 714, which would require the executive branch to notify Congress and the American public before issuing any new executive order pertaining to pro-life provisions and the right to life guaranteed by the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

Devaluing the life of unborn children has desensitized our Nation, and I pray we soon wake up and realize the horrors it has done. It is time to stop using taxpayer dollars to fund abortion services and focus on lifesaving resources that value the life of both the mother and the child. The right to life is self-evident, and I will fight to protect it at all costs.

REMEMBERING ROBERT KALEIMOMI KEKAULA

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

Mr. KAHELE. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I stand before you to share the passing of a legendary news and sports broadcaster, an accomplished musician, a father, friend, and son of Hawaii, Robert Kaleimomi Kekaula, who unexpectedly passed away last Saturday in Hawaii at 56 years of age.

In order to tell you about Robert, I must do so with great respect to his chosen career path and success as the consummate communicator.

Where, when, and how quickly he acquired his excellent skills, whether at his high school alma mater, the Kamehameha Schools, the University of Hawaii, where he earned a bachelor's degree in communications, or throughout his experience as a Native Hawaiian growing up on Hawaii Island, I can't say.

Yet what I can say with certainty is that Robert held the powerful ability of talking to people; not about people, but to people. And he did it exceedingly well, with thousands, including myself, for 35 years in the broadcast industry.

It is quite possible that his talents were not learned skills at all, but, rather, God-given gifts that he so willingly shared with all of us. I would be hard-pressed to find a living room or dining table in Hawaii that did not at some point during that time welcome in Robert Kekaula and his daily evening news and sports reports.

The reason, Robert connected with people. For him, people came first, before the stories, before the news. He understood that the primary role of the news, of the media was to improve people's lives. It was not to be sensational. It was not to stoke conflict. It was to inform.

That sincerity, that genuine care, from a man with that unmistakable baritone voice and dominant presence, made people comfortable to watch him; moreover, comfortable to share the details of their lives with him, and the audience who leaned in to listen and learn.

Described as a perfectionist, he held himself and others to three requirements in the newsroom. What went out of his newsroom and into the living rooms had to be correct, pertinent, and helpful to Hawaii.

He had a photographic memory for detail. He was a wordsmith. He had the ear of key figures in Hawaii sports. He was proud of the local kids who made it. He was all about Hawaii.

His reach into our homes did not stop with him, however, because Robert made it a point to share his knowledge. As a mentor, he could see in young journalists what others could not see.

He opened his door to those who otherwise had doors closed in their faces. And just as folks welcomed him into their homes, Robert would welcome aspiring broadcasters into his home of sports and news.

Many young men and women he mentored went on to become sports anchors, as well as news reporters, and every single one of them was better for having Robert in their lives.

His bright Aloha shirts became his mainstay. He became synonymous with them. He was rarely seen without one. And on the national circuit, the Daily Show with Trevor Noah shared a shot of Robert in his Aloha shirt, and Noah commented: ''Even their newscasts are so chill.''

The brightness of Robert's shirts only mirrored the brightness of his smile and the endless radiance of his Aloha spirit.

Within this skilled communicator and mentor lived a Native Hawaiian who inspired others, including myself. To see Robert on the news and the small screen gave way to other Native Hawaiians to believe they could have a career on TV, too.

In public, he was just as approachable, and friends tell me he often covered the tab for those he didn't know.

His legacy lives on through the people fortunate enough to learn from him and work with him and in the music he composed, produced, and performed alongside his daughter, Tiera, and through his family and friends whom he loved dearly.

'''A'ohe mea nana e ho'opuhili, he moho no ka la makani,'' ''there is no one to interfere, for he is a messenger of a windy day,'' said in admiration of a person who lets nothing stop him from carrying out the task entrusted to him.

To me and to so many others, that is the essence of Robert, who carried out the task as the consummate communicator with extreme love for Hawaii and its people.

Mahalo, Robert Kaleimomi Kekaula, for your immeasurable contributions to Hawaii. We are forever grateful, and you will be forever missed.

DR. DREW VAN HORN IS A TREMENDOUS ASSET

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the president of Young Harris College, Dr. Drew Van Horn.

In 2017, Dr. Van Horn was selected as the 23rd president of Young Harris College and has been a tremendous addition to the school with his wealth of knowledge and expertise.

Dr. Van Horn has brought more than 30 years of experience in higher education to Young Harris College, including nine years as president of Brevard College in North Carolina.

As a graduate of Young Harris College, and a friend of Dr. Van Horn, I appreciate his dedication and his work on behalf of Young Harris College. I know the entire Mountain Lion community joins me in thanking Dr. Van Horn for his service to our beloved college.

Dr. Van Horn, we love you and appreciate you.

CONGRATULATING FORT STEWART

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fort Stewart as the winner of the Army Environmental Award for Natural Resources Conservation for a large installation.

Located southwest of Savannah, Georgia, Fort Stewart is the largest Army post east of the Mississippi River. Fort Stewart is home to the 3rd Infantry Division and seven species protected by the Endangered Species Act on 284,000 acres of pine forest, wetlands, and blackwater rivers.

The Fort's land is managed by a team tasked with balancing military readiness and environmental stewardship. This dedicated team ensures that conditions are set for soldiers to train and prepare for deployment, while also managing environmental assets that include wildlife management and cultural resource management.

The Army Environmental Award for Natural Resources Conservation reflects the hard work of Fort Stewart's leadership, staff, and personnel in defending not only the people of the United States, but its environment as well.

I am proud to rise today to recognize this tremendous achievement and commend the hard work of Fort Stewart soldiers.

FREDDIE'S GARAGE AND TOWING CELEBRATES 75 YEARS IN BUSINESS

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of Freddie's Garage and Towing in Tybee Island, Georgia.

In August of 1946, Freddie's opened on Tybee Island, Georgia. Although Freddie's transitioned from a gas station to a garage over the years, Freddie's continues to operate in their original location.

Residents of the Tybee Island community have trusted Freddie's through multiple generations. For 75 years, customers are relieved to know that Freddie's dependable service will always be there to keep their car running.

Freddie's Garage and Towing is a perfect example of a hardworking American business. As a small business owner for more than 30 years, I commend the hard work and dedication that Freddie's Garage and Towing has shown to their customers.

The team at Freddie's Garage and Towing works hard to maintain the trust of the Tybee Island community, and I congratulate them for 75 years of success.

CHECK YOUR ELIGIBILITY

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

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues who worked diligently to pass the advanced child tax credit, which will cut child poverty in half in just one year. We have a responsibility to make this money accessible to every child.

While our elder daughter, Emmy, is accounted for, our pandemic baby,

Caroline, is not. In my district, the IRS estimates that more than 6,000 children are unaccounted for.

My team has worked tirelessly to get relief to our constituents. I encourage our constituents to visit the IRS website to check their eligibility. There is even a tool for nonfilers.

The IRS is underfunded, and we need to fix that, but they have done a phenomenal job getting this set up.

While our caseworkers are always happy to help, our constituents shouldn't leave money on the table. So, check your eligibility and find out what makes sense for your family.

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AMERICA NEEDS TO DO THE RIGHT THING

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Speaker, our Afghan allies and friends risked their lives, not just for their country, but for ours. They put their lives on the line, not just for Afghanistan, but for America. And they are not just Afghan heroes, but American heroes, too.

They risked their lives because we made a solemn promise to them: We have your backs. Because we said that we have their backs, they now have a target on theirs.

Today, the Biden administration has heard the call of veterans across America who have said: Save our allies. Do the right thing by the promise that we made.

They have heeded our calls to pursue an evacuation because there simply is not enough time for special immigrant visas to be processed. It is 80 days until our withdrawal. The average time to process an SIV is 800 days.

Today is, therefore, a bright chapter in the long story of the advocacy of veterans all over this country, Democrat and Republican, who have called on the administration to execute a plan for evacuation.

But the story is far from over. We need to see a detailed operational plan, including a way to collect our allies from across this war-torn country, a way to ensure that their family members are saved as well, and a clear plan to get them COVID vaccines so they can travel safely to other countries, or to Guam, and not carry a risk of carrying the disease.

We also need to see an operational commander named to lead this effort, and we need a guarantee that this evacuation mission will continue until it is complete.

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Milley, said yesterday that we have a moral obligation to fulfill this promise. I would add that that moral obligation is not just to our Afghan friends and allies. It is to every future young American on the ground in some conflict overseas who needs a friend, who needs an interpreter, who needs an ally and makes that promise once again: Come work with us. Come risk your life for us because we have your back.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHRIS OBERHEIM

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

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of Champaign Police Officer Chris Oberheim.

Our communities in Illinois and across the Nation continue to mourn the loss of this fallen hero.

Officer Oberheim was called home to be with the Lord on May 19, 2021. Officer Oberheim was on duty when he was shot and killed while attempting to protect a mother and her children.

Officer Oberheim put his life on the line and made the ultimate sacrifice. As Champaign Police Chief Anthony Cobb stated, the debt of gratitude we owe Officer Oberheim and his family goes beyond written and spoken word.

Throughout his career, Officer Oberheim put the people of his community first, and he was a true credit to the badge he wore, receiving two medals of valor for courageous acts of selfless bravery, as well as countless letters of accommodation.

Officer Oberheim's life and service will not and should not be forgotten. My prayers are with his wife, Amber, as well as his four daughters, Hannah, Avery, Addison, and Aubrey.

I had the great honor of speaking with Amber Oberheim, a devoted wife and a strong woman of faith. She told me that her husband had a servant's heart. His life revolved around his family and protecting others.

Chris was a son, brother, coach, friend, and leader, but his family was his first priority.

To honor her husband, Amber Oberheim wants to create change. She started a foundation, Peacemaker Project 703, to support brothers and sisters in blue. Amber's goal is to promote the support of our law enforcement officers and their families and to shine a light on their service and sacrifice.

These are dangerous times. Please love and appreciate our officers. May God bless the Oberheim family.

ANTI-SEMITISM IS UNACCEPTABLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. HOULAHAN). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BACON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BACON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the very concerning uptick in hate crimes against members of the Jewish community in recent weeks. To be clear, these incidents have not been isolated, and their sheer volume should frighten us all.

We must do more to acknowledge these crimes against our Jewish brothers and sisters and ensure the perpetrators of these crimes are held accountable.

Perhaps the most telling sign of how dangerous things have gotten is the statistical data. Those who clearly identify as Jews, with their garb and outward trappings, have been viciously and frequently targeted.

According to the ADL, there has been an 80 percent increase in anti-Semitic incidents in the United States. Some include Nazi propaganda in public parks and synagogues as well as suspensions in schools related to anti-Semitic attacks.

In Lincoln, Nebraska, the South Street Temple was spray-painted with swastikas and racial epithets. In Omaha, about 75 headstones were toppled and more than $50,000 in damage caused at the Temple Israel Cemetery.

I have repeatedly condemned this behavior and stand with Nebraska's Jewish community and all of those across the U.S. who have experienced similar situations.

Recently, I had the pleasure of meeting one of the most prominent leaders of the orthodox Jewish community, Rabbi Dovid Hofstedter, the son of Holocaust survivors who founded the Dirshu, the largest Torah organization in the world.

Rabbi Hofstedter was compelled to come to Washington to address my colleagues and me about the very serious issues related to the safety and security of the State of Israel, including the hatred toward Israel that has manifested itself in many cases toward the entire Jewish people.

I committed to Rabbi Hofstedter that we, in Congress, will do everything in our power to continue standing up for the Jewish people and ensuring their safety, from New York to Nebraska and all across the United States.

During his address to my colleagues and I, Rabbi Hofstedter remarked that perhaps at no time since the 1930s have we found ourselves in a more similar situation. Jewish lives are being threatened both domestically and on a global scale. However, after watching the hate crimes against our Jewish brothers and sisters over the last few weeks, it is abundantly clear that the rabbi's words were sadly and tragically understated.

It is time for all of us in Congress to wake up to the reality of the hatred that is being directed toward the Jewish people and ensure that ''never again'' truly means ''never again.''

Cowardice emboldens the enemy. What Rabbi Hofstedter and Dirshu represent is the true antidote to this venomous hatred that has been exhibited toward the community he leads.

We must not buckle under fear but, rather, call out the haters and show that the Jewish people as a community will never stand down. They will continue to practice their Jewish heritage with their heads held high.

Out of the darkness of the Holocaust, Rabbi Hofstedter decided to dedicate his life to reviving the levels of Jewish scholarship and education to the levels that were predating the Holocaust. As the son of Holocaust survivors, Rabbi Hofstedter's personal life's mission

that he has chosen to undertake and execute upon ought to serve as a source of inspiration for every Member of this legislative body. Just as Martin Luther King once said: ''Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.''

I thank Rabbi Hofstedter for all that he and the members of the Dirshu continue to do to advance Jewish scholarship and education in the face of the evil that has been perpetrated on their community in recent weeks. May God bless them all. May God bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF SERVICE OF W.L. PATE

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

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the exemplary life of one Mr. W.L. Pate from Beaumont, Texas.

Words cannot adequately express how deeply saddened Brenda and I were to hear of W.L. Pate's passing just the other day. As I think back, Madam Speaker, we are hard-pressed to remember anyone who gave more to their community than W.L. did to his—or ours, for that matter.

The list of W.L.'s considerable accomplishments and contributions are far too numerous to be listed here, but here are just a few.

W.L. was a two-term mayor of Beaumont. He was an Army veteran and had 14 years of service as a city councilman. W.L. was the past president of the Texas Association of Mayors, Council Members and Commissioners. W.L. was on the board of the Texas Municipal League and served as TML president for Region 16.

Never missing a chance to give back, W.L. assisted the District 14 office every single year with military service academy nominations, and he was good at it and proud to be able to do it.

I am particularly proud of W.L.'s passion project in recent years. W.L. was the driving force behind obtaining the Presidential Medal of Freedom that was posthumously awarded to Babe Didrikson Zaharias, a fantastic female athlete, given by President Donald Trump.

I recognize and thank W.L. Pate for his servant leadership. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his family and friends, especially his daughters, Jennifer and Suzanne.

This is a tremendous loss for Beaumont and the Nation. W.L.'s remarkable legacy of service and sacrifice is the epitome of what it means to be a great American. Our country would be well-served to have many more with such a servant's heart.

Rest in peace, my friend. W.L. Pate, you done good.

REMEMBERING THE INCREDIBLE LIFE OF LOUISE DUNLAP

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the incredible life of Louise Dunlap.

A native of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Louise was a dedicated advocate for coal communities, our environment, and especially the reclamation of our historic abandoned mine lands.

Louise's career began with the grassroots, advocating for more support for the environment and Pennsylvania's mine lands. In 1972, Louise cofounded the Environmental Policy Institute and the Environmental Policy Center. There, she spent years working to pass legislation to support mine reclamation in Pennsylvania and was an important advocate for the passage of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977.

This law created the first Federal standards on the reclamation of new and subsequent surface mining. Importantly, it also established the Abandoned Mine Land Trust, which was created to provide consistent funding for the reclamation of coal mines that were abandoned prior to the law's enactment in 1977.

For over 40 years, this trust has been the central funding source for the reclamation of abandoned mine lands in 20 States, generating over $11.6 billion since its creation by Congress.

Beginning in 2004, she joined the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds, where she continued her life's work. In 2006, she again played a key advocacy role when Congress authorized the AML for an additional 15 years.

This September, the Abandoned Mine Land Fund is set to expire. The trust must be reauthorized in order to continue opportunities in funding to clean up these un-reclaimed lands, not only in Pennsylvania but around the country. Congress has the opportunity to do right by our coal communities by reauthorizing this fund and also expediting the release of the existing balance.

Reauthorizing the AML was a project close to Louise's heart. She fought for coal communities up until her final days. She spent the last few weeks continuing to secure support for the reauthorization of the Abandoned Mine Land Fund.

□ 1045

In Pennsylvania, there are over 5,500 miles of streams polluted due to legacy mining, and over 280,000 acres remain toxic. Nationwide, the unfunded liabilities exceed $12 billion, with $5 billion in Pennsylvania alone. Louise made it her mission to work toward restoring these areas.

My district alone has the most abandoned mine land in the country. I understand the urgency in reauthorizing the AML fund, which is why I am an original cosponsor of the RECLAIM Act and the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act Amendments of 2021 with fellow Pennsylvanian, Representative MATT CARTWRIGHT. We both worked closely with Louise on this act.

Louise Dunlap was an inspiring force as she spent her life advocating to reclaim and revitalize former mining communities. She was a friend and marshaled key legislation victories over the span of a 50-year career.

In honor of her legacy, it is important that we continue her life's work and continue to support our historic coal communities.

My heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Louise Dunlap. She was so fiercely passionate, and she will be greatly missed.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILBUR L. ''W.L.'' PATE, JR.

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

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend of more than 65 years, Lieutenant Colonel Wilbur L. ''W.L.'' Pate, Jr.

W.L. and I grew up together in Beaumont, Texas, where he was better known by his nickname, ''Bubba.'' We became close friends playing football together at Austin Junior High School, and eventually, my family moved across town, which, unfortunately, sent us to different high schools. I still remember the football game in 1965 when French High School—led by W.L. Pate at quarterback—dealt me and my team, Forest Park High School Trojans, a close loss.

The final score of 8–7 stung, but I couldn't help but be proud of the skill and sportsmanship demonstrated by W.L. and his French High Buffalos.

A year later, W.L. and I both ended up at Lamar University in Beaumont and served in the same unit in the Army Reserves, as well. In 1969, he was commissioned as an infantry officer, and in 1978, he graduated from Command and General Staff College.

After leaving the military as a lieutenant colonel in 1994, he dove into another form of public service—serving his community on Beaumont's City Council as mayor pro tempore, and on several boards, including the Beaumont Rotary Club, Better Business Bureau, the American Legion, Lamar Institute of Technology, and many more.

One of Bubba's most significant accomplishments was his advocacy for the late Babe Didrikson Zaharias to be awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Babe was from our hometown of Beaumont, Texas, and was a gold medal Olympian, and later, professional golfer, winning ten LPGA major tournaments. She is considered by many to be one of the world's greatest female athletes.

I was honored to attend the White House ceremony with W.L. when he

proudly accepted this award from President Trump on behalf of the Babe Zaharias Foundation in Beaumont, Texas. W.L. Pate was the very man who inspired me to run for Congress back when he nearly threw longtime incumbent Representative Jack Brooks into a runoff. Bubba certainly got Brooks' attention.

W.L. was a dear friend and a respected leader. My heart goes out to his loved ones, his daughters, Suzanne and Jennifer; fiancee, Sherrene; brother, Robert; sister, Pam; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. My prayers are with all of them.

RPM ACT

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

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to direct the House's attention to H. Res. 3281, the RPM Act.

The RPM Act is necessary because of a gross abuse of the Administrative Procedures Act by unelected, unaccountable, unrecallable bureaucrats.

Madam Speaker, most people aren't aware that the chances are better than a thousand to one if you are ever hauled into Federal court under charges, it is more than likely you will be subject to a violation of rules, administrative rules, that are enforceable as laws.

Most Members of Congress seem oftentimes to forget that, and we have allowed the rule-makers, the unelected, unaccountable people, to make an incredible amount of laws that become a heavy burden on our society.

So we are hoping, with the RPM Act, H. Res. 3281, we can right some of those wrongs.

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

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

Sovereign God, speak to us this day. Speak to us in words that we can hear and understand. Give us humbleness of spirit that we would be receptive to the promises You provide.

Open our ears to Your word, even as You speak through the voices of those around us, both in the compassion of our friends and in the criticism of our counterparts.

May we not just take the time to heed guidance that comes from the counsel of our colleagues, but to listen to concerns You would have us hear, even when it comes from the mouths of our adversaries.

Then, having listened for Your truth and discerned Your voice amid the commotion and the calm, may we not just hear, but listen carefully to the perfect law of liberty You have established. Inspire us to obey Your guidance and put Your wisdom into practice.

We ask Your blessing on the work You have called us to do this day. In the strength of Your name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

THREE MILLION FREE MEALS

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

Mr. SIRES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the West New York School Nutrition Service Department and Nu-Way Concessionaires for serving the West New York, New Jersey, community throughout the pandemic.

Nu-Way Concessionaires was founded in 1958 by a longtime West New York resident, Joseph Pantaleo, who sadly passed away in December at the age of 90. Joe understood the importance of giving back to his community and fully embodied the spirit of service.

It is in this light that I wish to recognize the West New York School Nutrition Service Department, managed by Nu-Way, which has provided over three million free meals to the West New York community since the beginning of the pandemic and will continue providing meals throughout this summer.

Free breakfast and free lunch have been provided every day, including weekends, and have provided a lifeline during a turbulent and uncertain year.

I would also like to commend Sal Valenza and Jose Sabater and their 21 employees who have worked tirelessly every day for their community to ensure students have access to healthy and locally sourced meals.

CONGRATULATIONS TO EDWARD BURR AND THE MONIQUE BURR FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN

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

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Edward Burr and the Monique Burr Foundation for Children located in northeast Florida.

Established in 1997, the Monique Burr Foundation works to prevent abuse, bullying, cyberbullying, exploitation, and human trafficking of children.

They have trained more than 5,000 facilitators in schools all across 67 Florida counties, 28 other States, and 3 foreign countries.

Madam Speaker, as the former sheriff of Duval County, I can personally attest to the difference the Monique Burr Foundation is making in the lives of children across Florida and across our country.

Recently, Mr. Burr received the Hearthstone BUILDER Humanitarian Award in recognition of his decades of public service to support and protect children in need.

On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Florida, I congratulate Edward Burr for his well-deserved honor, and I thank the Monique Burr Foundation for Children for their excellent work in our community.

BIPARTISAN AMERICAN GOALS

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

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise to lament the failure of the For the People Act, H.R. 1, in the United States Senate. It is a sad week that this has happened.

H.R. 1, the For the People Act, ought to be a bipartisan American goal. It ought to be a bipartisan American goal that we get big secret money out of politics. It ought to be a bipartisan American goal that we protect people's right to vote throughout this land. It ought to be a bipartisan American goal that we end gerrymandering and let the people choose the politicians instead of the politicians choosing their voters.

I am here to say that we are not done with the For the People Act and its goals. Let's make it bipartisan and let's make it an American goal.

CHINA LIED, AMERICANS DIED

(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. Madam Speaker, after a year of belittling Wuhan virus reports, incredibly, The New York Times published a front-page admission last Tuesday acknowledging that the Wuhan virus could be a lab leak.

With the headline ''Lab-Leak Theory Flourishes,'' it cited: '' . . . whether the world will ever learn if the virus . . . escaped from a Chinese lab. . . . The idea that the virus may have escaped from a lab had long been . . . dismissed . . . and shunned . . . for its connection with former President Donald J. Trump.''

The article accurately reviews the refusal of China to allow an independent investigation, ultimate control by the Chinese Communist Party, 2017 creation of hybrid bat coronaviruses at the Wuhan lab, the bizarre U.S. taxpayer lab funding by the National Institutes of Health through EcoHealth Alliance, Wuhan researchers in November 2019 being hospitalized, 2012 bat viruses withheld, and an attack in July by Dr. Shi Zhengli on President Trump and others demanding that they should ''shut their stinky mouths.''

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism. Our sympathy to the family of Milton Moore and his wife, Jean, who are beloved civic leaders of South Carolina.

ZIP CODE 61605 DESERVES BETTER

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

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise to support the Social Determinants Accelerator Act.

The community that lives in the 61605 ZIP Code in Peoria, Illinois, is vibrant and beautiful, but they face significant challenges. It is one of the most distressed ZIP Codes in the entire Nation, a food desert. And soon its only pharmacy will shut their doors, leaving them with fewer options for basic healthcare.

Each of these factors can have a big impact on the health of every person in the community. All 14 of the counties in the district that I serve face healthcare provider shortages. Half of those counties face provider shortages for mental, physical, and dental healthcare.

That is why I introduced the Social Determinants Accelerator Act, to empower our local communities to address the day-to-day factors that affect their lives. Today, the Energy and Commerce Committee heard my bill. I thank Chairman PALLONE for his leadership on this issue. I urge my colleagues to support it because communities like 61605 in Peoria, Illinois, deserve better.

A UNIQUE RECIPE FOR DISASTER

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

Mr. NEHLS. Madam Speaker, after months of record taxpayer spending, the Biden administration has underperformed job growth expectations in back-to-back months. Inflation is higher than any point in more than a decade, and people across our country are still being paid to sit home and not work.

When you pay people not to work and pump untold amounts of money into liberal special interests, you get a unique recipe for disaster.

The Biden economic model is failing, and now the administration is fighting crises on two fronts, border and economic. The American people and small businesses across our country need real leadership that puts the American people first.

We will not spend our way out of this Biden-made economic crisis. We will get out of it if we reduce regulations, lower taxes, and increase economic freedom. This model did work under President Trump, and it will work again if only the Biden administration and Democrats would put the American people first and not special interests.

CONGRATULATING MIA NEAL

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

Mr. MRVAN. Madam Speaker, it is with great admiration that I rise today to congratulate Mia Neal of Gary, Indiana, and celebrate her noteworthy achievement of winning an Oscar in the 93rd Academy Awards for best makeup and hairstyling.

Mia Neal attended Horace Mann High School in Gary, Indiana, and after graduating in 1997, Mia's interest in hairstyling and makeup blossomed as she attended Merrillville Beauty College and Columbia College in Chicago.

I would note that Mia's family has been actively involved in northwest Indiana's community, as her mother, Dena Holland Neal, was pastor of Peace United Church in Merrillville; and her grandfather, James Holland, taught at Roosevelt High School for more than 15 years and served as Gary's first deputy mayor from 1976 to 1988.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing Mia Neal on her historic Oscar award and again congratulate her for this outstanding accomplishment.

HONORING THE SACRIFICE OF NEAL TODD

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

Mr. STAUBER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of a true American hero. Neal Kenneth Todd of Akeley, Minnesota, enlisted as a Fireman First Class in the U.S. Navy and was stationed on the USS *Oklahoma* in Pearl Harbor.

He tragically lost his life on Sunday, December 7, 1941, when Japanese torpedoes caused the ship to capsize.

Initially, Neal Todd was reported missing in action, and his family went almost 3 months without answers before learning of his death. To make matters worse, his body was never identified, leaving his family without the closure that they deserved.

After nearly 80 years of unimaginable grief and unanswered questions, Neal's remains have finally been identified, beginning the process of returning him home to Minnesota.

On July 10, Neal Todd will be buried with full military honors next to his brother and parents. It will be my distinct privilege to join his family in Akeley when he returns home.

Witnessing this American hero laid to rest after decades will be an honor, but it will also be a somber reminder that freedom comes at such a heavy price.

Madam Speaker, we can never forget the sacrifices made by heroes like Neal Todd. Americans like him are the reason that this Nation is known as the land of the free and the home of the brave.

God bless Neal Todd and God bless his family.

LIFTING FAMILIES OUT OF POVERTY

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

Ms. STANSBURY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share in the relief that families across New Mexico will be receiving starting next month.

Thanks to the American Rescue Plan, about 95 percent of New Mexico's children will be eligible to get money through the child tax credit. Working families with kids will get payments of up to $300 monthly per child. That means more money for childcare and to put food on the table and to support our hardworking families.

I personally know the struggles that many New Mexican families face, and that is why here in Congress I am continuing to work to tackle childhood hunger and create more opportunities to lift our families out of poverty. We must make these tax credits permanent and put more money into the pockets of hardworking parents so they can get back to work and fuel our economy.

□ 1215

KEEP OUR POLLINATORS BUZZING

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today during National Pollinators Week to recognize the important work of our natural pollinators.

Each year, Pollinator Week focuses on promoting the health of pollinators, critical to food and ecosystems, through conservation, education, and research.

It is time we protect natural pollinator species, such as honeybees, native bees, birds, bats, and butterflies, as essential partners of farmers and ranchers in producing food.

These pollinators are vital to keeping items like fruits, nuts, and vegetables in our diets. And healthy pollinator populations are crucial to the continued economic well-being of rural America and the U.S. economy.

Pollinators provide pollination services to over 180,000 different plant species and more than 1,200 crops. This equates to one out of every three bites of food eaten being there because of pollinators.

In addition, pollinators added $217 billion to the global economy, and honeybees alone are responsible for between $1.2 and $5.4 billion in agricultural productivity in the United States.

Madam Speaker, as someone who has a beehive in his backyard, I fully support efforts to raise awareness and keep our pollinators buzzing for generations to come.

CONGRESS MUST PROTECT THE UNBORN

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

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to voice my deep disappointment with President Biden's fiscal year 2022 budget request—more specifically, the President's removal of longstanding pro-life protections such as the Hyde amendment.

The Hyde amendment prohibits Federal funds from being used to pay for abortions. Historically, this policy has shared strong bipartisan consensus in the House.

I made a promise to my constituents to protect the unborn and to give a voice to those who have no voice. Since coming here to Congress, I have consistently supported pro-life policies. This is a value in the First District of Michigan that is shared across party lines.

Yet, this President's budget request forces American taxpayers to fund abortions, a denial of the basic human right to life.

I strongly urge my colleagues in the House to not follow in those footsteps and to oppose this proposal.

As we work through the Federal appropriations process, it is imperative Congress maintains these basic protections and opposes any other policies that would promote abortions here in the United States and throughout the world.

Let us, the United States of America, be an example to the rest of the world that, no matter how much we may disagree, we can come together for the protection of human life both before and after birth.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF CAROL CLEWS

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

Mr. HARRIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Carol Clews, a pro-life leader in Maryland who passed away from cancer this spring. Archbishop Lori, without exaggeration, called her a ''towering figure'' in the pro-life movement.

Carol's vocation was to help women in their crisis pregnancies by directing the faith-based Greater Baltimore Center for Pregnancy Concerns, where pregnant women could go for support until and after their children were born. Her pregnancy center, staffed mostly by volunteers, helped thousands of women and their children in a time of need.

When the City of Baltimore decreed that her pregnancy center had to display a poster that promoted abortion, she refused to do so and took the case to Federal district court, where she prevailed. On appeal, the Fourth Circuit upheld the important religious protections and free speech rights of pregnancy centers from attacks by pro-abortion governments that want to deny the choice of life for women during one of the most vulnerable times of their lives.

The pro-life and pregnancy center movements in Maryland will greatly miss Carol Clews and her faith and courage. The thousands of women and their children who were helped by her pregnancy centers are her legacy.

SEEKING URGENT RESPONSE TO CALIFORNIA'S DROUGHT

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

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to request an urgent response to California's drought.

Since returning to Congress, I have introduced two pieces of critical water legislation. I have stood here before my colleagues asking the House majority to address the drought. I have requested hearings be held and sent letters. Yet, the majority has done nothing to help those suffering from this crisis.

Communities in my district, like Avenal, Coalinga, and Huron, totally rely on 100 percent of their water from the delta. That is about 37,000 of my constituents relying solely on the delta for water.

My bill, the NEED Water Act, would allow communities like these and communities growing our food the ability to purchase and transfer water more easily.

As if water wasn't scarce enough, now communities in my district, like Teviston, are completely out of water. They are forced to rely on bottled water delivery programs to receive water because their wells have failed. It is only a matter of time before there are more towns in my district in the same situation as Teviston.

I implore my colleagues across the aisle to work with me to combat this crisis. This is an emergency, and it is unacceptable to stand back and watch these communities suffer and completely run out of water while the real solutions available can bring immediate relief.

CONGRESS MUST INVESTIGATE COVID–19

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, we know that more than 600,000 Americans and 3.8 million people worldwide have died as a result of COVID–19. A recent study found that cases could have been significantly reduced around the globe if interventions in China could have been conducted just weeks earlier.

It is a widely accepted fact that China's obstruction and coverup cost lives. It is simple: China lied and Americans died.

Also, despite mounting credible evidence that COVID–19 may have actually originated from a Chinese lab, Congress has not held a single hearing on the origins of COVID–19.

I am proud to be one of 200 Republican Members calling for these necessary investigations. Americans have a right to know the truth, and we must hold China accountable for their COVID coverup.

RECOGNIZING TRAVIS BURROW

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

Mr. ROSENDALE. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Detective Travis Burrow for his remarkable contributions to his community as general case detective for the Great Falls Police Department.

This past week, Detective Burrow was named Officer of the Year by the Montana Police Protective Association for his service as lead investigator for major criminal activity in Great Falls. His investigations included high-profile cases such as homicides, kidnappings, robberies, arson, missing persons, and suspicious death investigations.

Detective Burrow's competence and experience has made him a valuable resource to the department, where he consults on his coworkers' cases and serves as a leader and mentor to his colleagues.

Detective Burrow continues to serve the Great Falls Police Department with honor and distinction.

I commend Detective Burrow for his outstanding service to Great Falls and the State of Montana and wish him and the department continued success.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. PINGREE) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 24, 2021.

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on June 24, 2021, at 9:47 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 2184.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE REPUBLICAN LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable KEVIN MCCARTHY, Republican Leader:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 23, 2021.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to Section 104(c)(2)(C)–(D) of Title I, Division T of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 (Public Law 116–260), I am pleased to appoint the following Members to the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum Council:

Mrs. Jackie Walorski of Elkhart, Indiana

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Republican Leader.

EQUAL ACCESS TO CONTRACEPTION FOR VETERANS ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 486, I call up the bill (H.R. 239) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for limitations on copayments for contraception furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 486, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 239

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act''.

SEC. 2. LIMITATION ON COPAYMENTS FOR CONTRACEPTION.

Section 1722A(a)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''to pay'' and all that follows through the period and inserting ''to pay—''; and

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

''(A) an amount in excess of the cost to the Secretary for medication described in paragraph (1); or

''(B) an amount for any contraceptive item for which coverage under health insurance coverage is required without the imposition of any cost-sharing requirement pursuant to section 2713(a)(4) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg–13(a)(4)).''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and the ranking minority member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs or their respective designees.

The gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 239.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, this is not the first time I speak in favor of Representative BROWNLEY's bill, H.R. 239, the Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act, but I continue to advocate for this bill because it is an essential component of supporting the fastest-growing population of our Nation's heroes, our 2 million women veterans.

Last week, this bill was defeated on the suspension calendar when the Family Research Council mobilized efforts with my colleagues in the Freedom Caucus who suggested that the bill pushes a ''harmful ideology.'' Distorting this debate into one about abortion, frankly, does not make any sense at all.

I again remind my colleagues that this legislation passed out of our committee with the support of Ranking Member BOST and through the House last Congress with the support of former Ranking Member Dr. Roe. I know that Dr. Roe is a fierce pro-life advocate, but as an OB/GYN, he understood the importance of access to contraception.

Let me be clear. This bill brings veterans' contraception coverage on par with care they received while on Active Duty from the Department of Defense and coverage required by private health insurance providers to all women in the United States since 2010—all women except those who seek care from the VA.

Now, this bill is about healthcare. This bill is about access. This bill is about equity, especially for our women veterans.

I thank Ranking Member BOST and Minority Leader MCCARTHY for their leadership in support of this bipartisan bill.

Simply put, a ''no'' vote today is saying directly to veterans that they deserve less healthcare than all other Americans. To me, the choice is easy. Vote ''yes'' on H.R. 239. We cannot permit veterans to be made second-class citizens.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 239, the Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act. This bill is sponsored by Congresswoman JULIA BROWNLEY. I thank her for introducing it.

The Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act passed the House last year with the support of the Trump administration.

It would eliminate copays for birth control at the VA healthcare system. In doing so, it would remove a barrier to care for women veterans. It would bring VA in line with the Department of Defense and the private sector. It would correct a fundamental unfairness that means women pay more for birth control at the VA than elsewhere. And it would not in any way contradict or undermine the prohibition against abortion and abortion counseling at the VA that already exists in law and regulation.

Women are the fastest-growing group of servicemembers and veterans. They are raising their right hands to serve this country in record numbers. Ensuring they are cared for as veterans is one of my top priorities as the lead Republican on the VA Committee.

We have made progress in making the VA safer and more welcome to women, but we still have a long way to go. Women veterans die by suicide at two times the rate as nonveteran women. Most of the veterans who die by suicide are not engaged in VA care at the time of their death. That is why connecting more veterans with the VA is key to stopping veteran suicide.

□ 1230

One of the primary ways we can connect more veterans with VA is by removing barriers that prevent them from seeking the care and benefits they have earned. This bill will help to do that.

Women seeking birth control in the private sector do not pay copays.

Women seeking birth control on Active Duty do not pay copays.

This bill will make it so women seeking birth control at VA do not pay copays either. That is all this bill does. Once again, that is all this bill does.

Why would we want a woman to pay more for birth control as a veteran than she did while on Active Duty?

Why would we want a woman to pay more for birth control at the VA than she would in the private sector?

Is that any way to thank her for serving her country and defending our freedoms? I don't think so.

Neither does Leader MCCARTHY, neither did the Trump administration. Neither do many of my conservative pro-life lawmakers both in this Congress and last Congress.

To be clear, this bill does not require allowing VA to provide any additional form of birth control other than those already available at the VA.

And once again, it does not in any way contradict or undermine the prohibition against VA providing abortions and/or abortion counseling to veterans. That is vitally important to me. I know it is for many of my colleagues, as well.

I have really weighed this out and prayed this out and sought the language and read the language. My life has been a pro-life life. I am not changing those positions, and this bill doesn't change that position either. I have taken the counsel of doctors who are familiar with the mechanics of birth control that are being afforded here. They are not abortion.

I am confident that supporting this bill is the right thing to do for our Nation's veterans. I am confident that it is consistent with pro-life principles.

Madam Speaker, I hope all of my colleagues join me in voting this afternoon, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BROWNLEY), my good friend from my home State, and the chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Health, and also the author of this very important piece of legislation.

Ms. BROWNLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 239, the Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act.

Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman and Ranking Member BOST for their support. This bill is a simple one. It only addresses the disparity between veterans who must pay for contraception, and civilians and women currently serving in uniform, who do not have to pay for contraception.

As the chairwoman of the Women's Veterans Task Force and chair of the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health, I have worked to identify disparities in healthcare for our women veterans, and where necessary, introduce, advocate for, and pass legislation that eliminates those gaps.

Madam Speaker, I was proud to work with my Republican colleagues to pass the bipartisan Deborah Sampson Act last Congress. This legislation, which was the most comprehensive bill to address the needs of women veterans in more than a decade, received overwhelming bipartisan support. But there are still far too many areas where women veterans have to pay more for their healthcare than men; and in this case, they have to pay more than nonveteran women.

These inequities create an environment that perpetuates the notion that women are not equal to men, and in this case, veteran women are not even equal to other women. This bill passed through the House last Congress by voice vote. It also passed out of the VA Committee this Congress with strong bipartisan support.

It was deeply troubling that misinformation and politics got in the way of helping our women veterans last week, when the bill failed to pass under suspension, which is why we are back here again this week.

Let us be clear, this was a direct slap in the face to nearly 2 million women veterans living in the United States. Because of the Affordable Care Act, women using civilian health insurance may access basic contraceptive services, like the pill, or an IUD without any copay. Additionally, Active Duty servicemembers receive contraceptive care without any copays. So current law is specifically penalizing our women veterans. As we know, choosing when, or if, to have a family is essential to women's health and to their economic security.

Madam Speaker, 87 percent of Americans agree that everyone deserves access to the full range of birth control methods, no matter who they are, where they live, what their economic status is. The vast majority of the American people believe veteran women deserve to be recognized and deserve to be treated with the respect they have earned. The vast majority of the American people also believe that birth control should be a basic part of women's healthcare.

I am particularly disappointed that this bipartisan commitment to supporting our women veterans seems to have hit a roadblock this Congress. Our veterans, both men and women, have sacrificed so much for our country. It is past time that we ensure they get the equitable healthcare they have earned and deserve.

Let us do the right thing today on behalf of our women veterans, for their equality, for their liberty, for their healthcare, and for their economic security.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on H.R. 239.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ROSENDALE).

Mr. ROSENDALE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois for yielding to me.

Madam Speaker, my constituents sent me here to Washington to fight tooth and nail on behalf of the unborn.

I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 239, the Equal Access to Contraception Act for Veterans. This radical piece of legislation would require taxpayers to subsidize the full cost of all contraception through the Department of Veterans Affairs, including Plan B and Ella.

Let me be clear, drugs like Plan B and Ella are not contraception, they are abortifacients. These chemical drugs prevent a newly conceived embryo, a human embryo, from implanting in the uterus and continuing to develop as a child. Again, that is not contraception, that is abortion.

Using taxpayer funding for abortions is not only wildly unpopular, it is immoral. It forces tens of millions of people who have personal or religious objections to abortion and abortifacient drugs to fund the termination of life. That must not and should not be the public's obligation. The true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable, especially the unborn.

Since the ruling of Roe v. Wade, well over 62 billion abortions have occurred in the United States. To put it in perspective, that is more than the amount of worldwide casualties directly caused by World War II, the most deadly military conflict in the history of the world.

The loss of life on such a tragic, massive scale due to abortion is heinous. If passed, this legislation will increase abortions committed in the United States, and that is at the taxpayer's expense. This is absolutely unacceptable. We must do better as a Nation.

When this bill was considered in committee last month, a majority of the Republicans voted against it. Last week, we considered this bill under suspension of the rules, and fortunately, 187 of my Republican colleagues joined me and stood for life. Due to this strong showing of opposition, we were able to prevent the two-thirds supermajority needed to pass this bill under the suspension of the rules, dealing Speaker PELOSI a significant legislative defeat.

That is why Democrats—and even some Republicans, unfortunately—have brought this bill back to the floor today under a rule for debate. I hope the Republicans will be just as unified in opposition of this bill today. Another strong vote would send a message that the Republican Party is the party of life.

Our constituents expect us not to compromise in our defense of the unborn. To support legislation like H.R. 239, which promotes the killing of the unborn, at taxpayers' expense, is the ultimate betrayal.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I just want to say that extremism in the defense of nonsense is not conservatism, it is still nonsense.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MRVAN), my good friend, and member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and the chairman of the Subcommittee on Technology and Modernization.

Mr. MRVAN. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman TAKANO for yielding me the time.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H.R. 239, the Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act of 2021. I first commend my colleague on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Congresswoman

BROWNLEY, for her leadership and perseverance to see that this critically important legislation is passed by the House.

It is not acceptable that today women veterans do not have access to the same contraception coverage all Americans currently have available through the Affordable Care Act or private insurance, and all Active Duty servicemembers have through the Department of Defense.

Women veterans are the fastest growing group of veterans enrolling in the Department of Veterans' Affairs healthcare system, and it is time that our policies for women veterans show them the support, respect, and fairness that they deserve.

Madam Speaker, I thank my chairman, again, for the time, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. GREENE).

Mrs. GREENE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I would like to just take a minute to remind everyone that words matter, and their meanings need to be exactly clear.

Contraception stops a woman from becoming pregnant. The Plan B pill kills a baby in the womb once a woman is already pregnant. You see, the Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act is not contraception, it is providing, with taxpayer dollars, the ability for women to have an abortion. The government should not be paying for abortion. The VA should not be paying for abortion. The American taxpayer should not be paying for abortion. So this is why this is very important for all of us to do what we are called to do and not play a part in killing a baby in the womb.

Madam Speaker, this is why I am asking all of my colleagues to vote against the Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act. It is time to defend life in the womb.

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

Madam Speaker, I thank both Congressman ROSENDALE and Congresswoman GREENE, and I appreciate their comments on the sanctity of life, and as freshman Members, their commitment to our Nation's veterans.

Now, I agree with both of their comments on life. I disagree on this bill. This is a bill that we have discussed many times, and the fact is, the emergency contraception is available to veterans at VA today and has been for many, many years.

You mentioned some of the groups who are opposed to this legislation, and I respect their viewpoints, and most often agree with them. But I do think it is appropriate to note right now, however, that just a couple hours ago, the Heritage Action for America clarified their position on this bill.

Importantly, Heritage Action noted that the emergency contraception is not—I repeat—is not a chemical abortion drug and cannot be used to induce abortion. I think it is important for our Members to keep that in mind today.

And I also think it is important that you understand that many of our colleagues who are pro-life should not be questioned on this bill because it has been people who are pro-life that have not only worked on this bill this session, but last. And it is vitally important that not only the Members know this, but the American people know it as well.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1245

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. UNDERWOOD), my good friend and a member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and also a very active member of the Health Subcommittee.

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 239, the Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act, led by the chairwoman of the Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health, Congresswoman JULIA BROWNLEY.

Chairwoman BROWNLEY and I have worked together on this issue for years. It is about fairness, fairness for the nearly 2 million women veterans who currently don't have access to the same healthcare as civilian women.

The Affordable Care Act requires private insurance plans to provide contraceptive services without copays, but veterans using VA care have to pay out of pocket for those same services. It is unacceptable that women who have served our country bear financial burdens that most other Americans don't have to worry about.

This fix is long overdue. And last week's unconscionable delay by our Republican colleagues harmed our veterans even more.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to put partisanship aside and vote for H.R. 239.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California has 22 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Illinois has 20 minutes remaining.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. LOIS FRANKEL), my good friend and new member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, where she also serves on the Health Subcommittee.

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. TAKANO and Ms. BROWNLEY for their magnificent leadership advancing the health and safety of our women veterans.

Madam Speaker, my, my, my, this bill, which passed unanimously last session, is just mind-boggling that now some Republicans are opposing it.

Really?

I am going to say this: As a very proud mother of a son of a United States Marine Corps veteran, I know the risks and sacrifices of our brave military. So I say without hesitation, after service to our country is completed, no veteran of the United States Armed Forces should be forced to pay out-of-pocket expenses for preventative care, including contraception, that their civilian counterparts do not pay.

Small copays can be prohibitive for veterans struggling to make ends meet. In fact, studies show that costs associated with contraception, even when small, lead some people to forego it completely, to choose less effective methods, or use it inconsistently.

Here is the thing, Madam Speaker; the decision about whether or when or how to become a parent is one of the most important decisions a person can make. Our veterans were willing to stand up and take bullets for our freedom, so we need to stand up for theirs. Let's make it clear, today we are focused on access to birth control.

The Republican position conflating abortion and contraception is part of a broader extreme effort to block access to any type of reproductive healthcare. So let's eliminate the barriers and get the veterans the healthcare they need.

Madam Speaker, I call on my colleagues to demonstrate their commitment to the patriotic people who make up our military and veteran communities by passing this very good bill, Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN), my good friend and a member of the Financial Services Committee, where he is chairman of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, when I arrived here in Congress in 2005, there was a necessary facility, also known as the men's room, right across diagonally from me outside of this Chamber. There was no such facility for women. In fact, it was the Parliamentarian's office to my left, just outside of this facility.

Madam Speaker, it was under the leadership of the Honorable NANCY PELOSI that we now have equal facilities for men and women just off the floor of the House. Things change, but they don't change on their own volition. The arc of the universe, the moral universe, bends because of the hands of women and men.

Today, we have an opportunity to again treat women with the same level of dignity and respect who are in the military as we do those who are without the military, and, to a certain extent, the same way we were treating men when I arrived in this Congress.

Things change. This is an opportunity to be a part of an historic change. It may seem small to you, but

to the people who have to bear the burden of this invidious discrimination, it is not the same.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN).

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I greatly appreciate it. I shall be terse and laconic and pithy and concise.

It is time for change to again come to the House of Representatives. I support this legislation, and I beg that my colleagues would do so. It is time for change.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU), my good friend and the chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus.

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, as the chair of the Pro-Choice Caucus' Contraception and Family Planning Task Force, I rise in strong support of Congresswoman BROWNLEY's Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act.

Every day, servicemembers are willing to sacrifice their lives for our constitutional rights. So we must ensure that those rights are available to them when they come home, and that includes the right to contraception.

That is what this bill does, by ensuring that veterans, just like their civilian neighbors, have access to the contraception that works best for them, without the burden of copays. And since we know that not every method of birth control works for every person, this bill requires the VA to cover all FDA-approved contraception, including emergency contraception, which is an especially important option in sexual assault.

Contraception helps people plan for their futures, for their families, and for themselves. This bill removes unnecessary barriers to care for our veterans who have already given this Nation so much.

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

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

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

Madam Speaker, let me just say that this bill by Ms. BROWNLEY is about providing equal access to contraceptions for our Nation's veterans. To oppose this bill is to advocate for a situation where veterans are made second-class citizens.

This bill is about contraception. Nowhere in the bill's text or in the title does the word ''abortion'' even appear. I would ask my colleagues who are in opposition to the bill to read the one-page text very carefully. I think they will see that there is no reference to, in any way, the word ''abortion.''

Madam Speaker, I would also say, I think it was H.L. Mencken who said that consistency is often the hobgoblin of little minds.

For those Members who voted against this bill, you know, in fear of the moment, they can reconsider their vote and, I think, get on the right side of the issue in terms of equality for our veterans.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), my colleague and very good friend, the chairwoman of the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I thank the chair for his friendship and for letting me speak.

Madam Speaker, you know, I rise with great enthusiastic support for the Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act.

No veteran of the United States of America should be forced to pay out of pocket for basic preventative care. You know, this is 2021. Birth control should not be controversial. Veterans' access to healthcare should not be controversial.

And I really think, how dare Members on the other side even consider shutting down this bill on suspension.

Our veterans deserve access to all of the healthcare services that they need, and that would include every method of birth control.

Really? Are we still arguing this?

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

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to just say—this is something that is basic right now, we all believe that contraception should be available. And, you know, it can end up actually being quite expensive.

And why?

I don't understand. So I think this legislation is long overdue. Let's pass it today.

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

Madam Speaker, if I may, I just want to reiterate to my friends and colleagues that I am pro-life. Many of the people that have supported this and will support this are pro-life, even groups now that are saying and mentioning this is contraception. It is contraception. It is not abortion.

Let me also say that this includes no other drugs or expansion of drugs that are available. We want to be very, very clear on that. It does not change the position of VA on abortion in any way, shape, or form. This is only doing what is right for our veterans and allowing them the opportunity to receive exactly what someone in the private sector receives and/or someone on Active Duty receives.

I am hoping that my colleagues will understand this and understand those of us who support this and why.

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

□ 1300

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

Madam Speaker, I appreciate the honor and courage with which my counterpart, Ranking Member BOST, has defended and stood up for the truth. And the truth is, H.R. 239 by Chairwoman BROWNLEY is about providing equal access to contraception to America's veterans.

A ''no'' vote on this bill—and I will say it again—a ''no'' vote on this bill is a vote to make our veterans second-class citizens.

Every other American under every other plan in this country, whether it is in private healthcare, because we passed the Affordable Care Act and said that every American is entitled to preventative services, including contraception, since 2010, or Active Duty servicemembers under the Department of Defense who are able to access contraception without copays—Ms. BROWNLEY's bill simply makes veterans on equal footing with all other Americans.

A ''no'' vote on this bill is to make our veterans second-class citizens, and I say of those who make that vote: Shame on them.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote ''yes,'' and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 486, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

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

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

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

LGBTQ BUSINESS EQUAL CREDIT ENFORCEMENT AND INVESTMENT ACT

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 486, I call up the bill (H.R. 1443) to amend the Equal Credit Opportunity Act to require the collection of small business loan data related to LGBTQ-owned businesses, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 486, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services printed in

the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117–7 is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

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

H.R. 1443

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''LGBTQ Business Equal Credit Enforcement and Investment Act''.

SEC. 2. SMALL BUSINESS LOAN DATA COLLECTION.

Section 704B of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (15 U.S.C. 1691c–2) is amended—

(1) by inserting ''LGBTQ-owned,'' after ''minority-owned,'' each place such term appears;

(2) in subsection (e)(2)(G), by inserting '', sexual orientation, gender identity'' after ''sex''; and

(3) in subsection (h), by adding at the end the following:

''(7) LGBTQ-OWNED BUSINESS.—The term 'LGBTQ-owned business' means a business—

''(A) more than 50 percent of the ownership or control of which is held by 1 or more individuals self-identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer; and

''(B) more than 50 percent of the net profit or loss of which accrues to 1 or more individuals self-identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer.''.

SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled ''Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation'' for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

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

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1443 and to insert extraneous material thereon.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1443, the LGBTQ Business Equal Credit Enforcement and Investment Act, for the second time this month.

As we discussed on the floor last week, this bill, led by Representative RITCHIE TORRES, would provide much-needed transparency in lending to LGBTQ-owned businesses by updating the Equal Credit Opportunity Act to ensure financial institutions report the sexual orientation and gender identity of applicants for business loans.

This legislation is needed because research shows that LGBTQ individuals have experienced discrimination when applying for a mortgage or other forms of credit. However, due to a lack of data collection, we do not know the extent of discrimination when it comes to business loans, who has been affected, and, more importantly, how it can be corrected.

According to one estimate, there are approximately 1.4 million LGBTQ-owned businesses across our country. These entrepreneurs should be treated fairly, and the data collected on small business owners by Mr. TORRES' bill will help to identify and prevent discrimination and will enable communities, policymakers, and lenders to support the development and investment needs of LGBTQ-owned businesses.

I thank Representative TORRES for his leadership on this important bill.

But I also want to express my disappointment that so many of our Republican colleagues decided to vote down this bill last week when it was considered under suspension of the rules. This bill passed the committee on a voice vote, and we worked with the ranking member, Mr. MCHENRY, to address concerns he had.

I thank Ranking Member MCHENRY for working with us and for his support.

I hope my colleagues who voted ''no'' will reconsider their position and vote ''yes'' on H.R. 1443. Whether or not they do, let me assure our friends, neighbors, constituents, and colleagues in the LGBTQ community that, one way or the other, this House will pass this bill. After all, this is the people's House, and we simply cannot let lending or other forms of discrimination against any of our people stand.

As we discussed last week, this is Pride Month and a time to celebrate all the wonderful contributions the LGBTQ community has given to our economy and our country.

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

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

Madam Speaker, we can all agree that data is important, but we need to recognize, particularly as it relates to obtaining data on companies, that each one is unique.

Mandatory reporting metrics do not accurately measure progress. Just look at the mandatory disclosure bills that we had on the floor last week. The only outcome we can expect to see is higher compliance costs on companies, leaving fewer resources to build our workforce and invest in research and technology to compete globally. Simply put, one size fits all does not work.

However, this bill, the bill we have before us today, does not impose a mandatory reporting regime. Data is collected on a voluntary basis. Any loan applicant who does not want to provide information can decline to provide it, meaning there are fewer concerns over privacy because it is voluntary and fewer concerns over one-size-fits-all data reporting.

I appreciate my Democratic colleagues having offered a solution to promoting diversity inclusion without imposing requirements on businesses or business owners that do not effectively measure their success.

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

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN).

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, it has been a preeminent privilege to serve under Chair WATERS' leadership on the Financial Services Committee. I think I can say without question, reservation, hesitation, or equivocation that, under the gentlewoman's leadership, we have seen great change. But I also know this: that under her leadership, there is greater change to come. It is my honor to serve under the gentlewoman's leadership.

And still I rise, Madam Speaker, and I rise today to support H.R. 1443, the LGBTQ Business Equal Credit Enforcement and Investment Act. And I rise to thank the ranking member for his support of this legislation. He has been steadfast, and he has been true to his word.

I am honored to support this legislation, and I think that it is appropriate for me to address, first, the question of whether invidious discrimination exists.

Madam Speaker, if you deny that invidious discrimination exists, then you have to deny the existence of the KKK. To deny the existence of invidious discrimination would necessitate a denial of those who were in Charlottesville screaming: ''Blood and soil,'' ''Jews will not replace us.''

I believe the case is self-evident: invidious discrimination exists.

Currently, we have a system that allows us to collect the empirical evidence necessary to not only identify the invidious discrimination but also help us to prevent the invidious discrimination. This legislation is absolutely necessary to acquire the empirical intelligence so that we may go forward and prevent invidious discrimination.

By acquiring this intelligence, I might add, we will also deter some of the people who have good sense such that they won't commit invidious discrimination because they will be aware of the intelligence acquisition.

How do we do this? Here is how it happens: Currently, when you make your application, Madam Speaker, there is a place for you to indicate whether you are a minority person. If I

am filling out the application, I would probably indicate that I am a minority person, although I don't like the term. I use it only to communicate. I do not like the term ''minority.'' But for the purpose of communicating today, I would indicate that I am a minority person.

The only thing this bill will do, as it relates to acquiring the intelligence, is give us another space so that we can now indicate that, if you so choose, Madam Speaker, you are a member of the LGBTQ-plus community.

In filling out this form, if I chose not to indicate I was a minority person, I wouldn't have to. I would just sign it, completing the other aspects of it, and I would be done with it.

It only allows for the placement of additional language on the document so that persons who desire to—and it is important to note, Madam Speaker, that you must have the desire; it is with intentionality, and you voluntarily do this—would indicate, if you choose to, that you are a member of the LGBTQ-plus community.

□ 1315

I must say, candidly, I really don't see how this can become the debate that it has become. At some point in this country, we have to understand that discriminating against people because of who they are is inappropriate. It is unlawful.

I am the son of a segregated South, where I was lawfully discriminated against. I know what it looks like. I know what it smells like. I know what it sounds like. I know what invidious discrimination tastes like. I drank from filthy colored water fountains in my lifetime.

I don't wish any of this type of behavior that I had to endure on anyone else, so I rise today in support of this legislation as a continuation of my mission to do all that I can to help others avoid the horrors of invidious discrimination.

I am so grateful to Chairwoman WATERS for all she has done. She has always been a friend, not only to me, but to those who are among the least, the last, and the lost. And I thank the gentlewoman for all that she has done.

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

Madam Speaker, I think my colleague Mr. GREEN outlines this well. This is not a mandatory reporting bill, but data collection. Though the terms may not be perfect to Chairman GREEN's points and perhaps we need to look at the language of this reporting, for sure, but this is not a mandatory reporting bill. This is voluntary information that borrowers can offer up or not. Data is a good thing, especially if it is provided voluntarily.

For those reasons, I support this bill and I urge its adoption.

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

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, this bill takes necessary action to help ensure that LGBTQ-owned businesses are treated fairly by financial institutions and protected against lending discrimination. The bill passed unanimously out of the House Financial Services Committee with a voice vote. So I am pleased that the majority leader has worked with me to bring this bill back up for a vote quickly.

This bill is supported by the Human Rights Campaign, the National Center for Transgender Equality, Out Leadership, the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, and many others.

Although some of my colleagues did not support this bill last week, I urge them to reconsider, to support all small businesses this week, and vote ''yes'' on H.R. 1443.

I would like to thank the ranking member for his consideration, his support. In closing, I would just like to add that, as Mr. GREEN identified, I, too, am a victim of discrimination for most of my life, and all of my family and my dear friends and sometimes the entire neighborhood that I have lived in.

So we know what it feels like, and we know that there is, for example, today, a huge wealth gap because of discrimination, a lack of being able to borrow from the banks that were making credit available to so many others. It was not made to us. So oftentimes we were not able to buy a home. We were not able to get a loan for the basic kind of things that any family would need.

So we cannot, and I cannot be a part of public policy and systems and protocols that would exclude the LGBTQ community from being able to get loans in the ways that others are doing. It is pure discrimination. It must stop.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote ''yea'' on H.R. 1443, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, in the United States, there are 1.4 million LGBTQ businesses contributing more than $1.7 trillion to the American economy. We have a vested interest in sustaining and strengthening these businesses with equal access to credit, which is the beating heart of the American economy.

As a former New York City Council Member, I partnered with the National LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce to establish the nation's largest municipal certification program for LGBTQ business enterprises, enabling those businesses to enjoy equal access to a $25 billion pool of government procurement.

The legislation before us, H.R. 1443, builds on a foundation laid by several statutes and regulations. The Equal Credit Opportunity Act (ECOA) prohibits credit discrimination, including but not limited to sex discrimination. A new interpretive rule from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) clarifies that the ECOA's prohibition against sex discrimination applies to sexual orientation and gender identity. Section 1071 of the Dodd-Frank Act, which exists to enable and enhance the enforcement of the ECOA, requires financial institutions to report information about the race, ethnicity, and sex of credit applicants who serve as principal owners of small businesses. My legislation would expand the 1071 reporting requirements to include not only sex but also sexual orientation and gender identity. It would enable anti-discrimination enforcement where none might exist.

Even though the United States has made substantial strides toward LGBTQ equality, the mission is far from accomplished. Seventy percent of the LGBTQ community remains unprotected by anti-discrimination laws. When it comes to credit, according to the Williams Institute, more than 7.7 million LGBTQ adults live in states that offer no protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

It is often said that knowledge is power. Knowledge affords us the power to detect discrimination that might otherwise go undetected. Take, as an example, the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act, which is analogous to the legislation before us. Both the National Community Reinvestment Coalition and Iowa State University reviewed data from the HMDA and found that same-sex couples were denied loans at higher rates than heterosexual couples, despite having comparable creditworthiness. It also found those same-sex couples paid higher fees and interests. The lesson of the HMDA is that sunlight can be a powerful disinfectant against discrimination.

H.R. 1443 would make credit more accessible, credit laws more enforceable, and creditors more accountable. It would represent a triumph of transparency in the service of economic opportunity for all, regardless of who you are and whom you love.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 486, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

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

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

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

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER OF CURRENCY RELATING TO ''NATIONAL BANKS AND FEDERAL SAVINGS ASSOCIATIONS AS LENDERS''

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 486, I call up the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 15) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by

the Office of the Comptroller of Currency relating to ''National Banks and Federal Savings Associations as Lenders'', and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 486, the joint resolution is considered read.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

S.J. RES. 15

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress disapproves the rule submitted by the Office of the Comptroller of Currency relating to ''National Banks and Federal Savings Associations as Lenders'' (85 Fed. Reg. 68742 (October 30, 2020)), and such rule shall have no force or effect.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The joint resolution shall be debatable for one hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services or their respective designee.

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on S.J. Res. 15 and to insert extraneous material thereon.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of S.J. Res. 15, a resolution to invalidate the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency's so-called True Lender Rule under the Congressional Review Act.

This resolution would end a dangerous Trump-era rule that would allow predatory lenders to evade State usury laws and target consumers with high interest rate loans of 150 percent or higher through sham partnerships with banks.

I would like to thank Representative GARCÍA from Illinois for introducing the House companion to this measure and for his leadership in fighting to protect consumers from predatory lending schemes.

My committee has held several hearings that have exposed the consumer harm that results from these rent-a-bank schemes and explored how the Trump administration's harmful rule erodes the consumer protections.

The OCC's rule undoes centuries of case law that ensured that nonbank financial institutions were subject to State interest rate caps when they partnered with banks, so long as they held the primary economic interest in a consumer loan.

Trump's OCC allowed nonbanks to launder their loans through OCC-chartered banks, as long as the bank is listed on the loan origination documents, effectively allowing nonbanks to ignore State usury laws.

Simply put, before this Trump-era rule was finalized, if a nonbank in California, which has an interest rate cap of, for example, 36 percent, wanted to make a loan to a customer in California, the nonbank can't charge more than 36 percent. OCC's True Lender Rule turns this commonsense legal doctrine on its head.

What the Trump-era rule says is that this nonbank can now partner with a national bank that is based in, for example, Utah, which doesn't have an interest rate cap, to now legally charge virtually any interest rate to the consumers in California.

This is true even if the bank in Utah has done nothing but put its name on the loan paperwork and intends to immediately transfer the loan to the nonbank in California. We have seen interest rates of more than 150 percent charged to consumers in this way.

The committee's work has shone a spotlight on heartbreaking stories of the harm that this rule has caused to consumers and small business owners. Let me give you a real-world example of a Black-owned small business that was harmed by one of these rent-a-bank schemes authorized by Trump's OCC.

A recent news report detailed the case of Carlos and Markisha Swepson, who were the owners of Boulevard Bistro, a restaurant in Harlem, New York. As they told NBC News, they took out several business loans for $67,000 and were charged a whopping 268 percent APR.

For all intents and purposes, their lender was World Business Lenders, a nonbank lender that has a partnership with Axos Bank. This is a bank in New York State. Even though the loan was made by World Business Lenders, because Axos Bank's name was on the loan documents, the nonbank could bypass the New York usury limit of 25 percent APR.

Due to the pandemic, the Swepsons are now behind on their loan payments. They are now facing foreclosure proceedings filed by World Business Lenders on a home they own that acts as collateral for the high interest rate loans. If not for Trump's rule, the Swepsons would have only been charged a 25 percent interest rate and would probably not be facing financial ruin.

If Congress lets this Trump-era rule stand, these kinds of predatory, triple-digit interest rate loans will continue to be made through these kinds of rent-a-bank schemes, and lenders will continue to take advantage of small business owners and other consumers desperate to stay afloat.

Additionally, let's not forget that during the last election, Nebraska joined 45 States and the District of Columbia that have already passed legislation to limit usury rates for small-dollar installment loans.

The Trump-era True Lender Rule is a backdoor way for nonbanks to charge triple-digit interest rates on loans at the expense of consumers in States where voters turned out to pass interest rate cap laws.

No wonder some called this the ''fake lender'' rule.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support this bill. And for those who did not understand what we were talking about when we talked about the True Lender Rule, I think I have laid it out in such a way that you understand this is predatory. This is a rip-off. And for these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this resolution.

Earlier this week, President Biden met with financial regulators. From the four-sentence recap released by the White House, we know one of the topics they discussed was ''promoting financial inclusion and responsibly increasing access to credit.''

I agree with that concept, and I think we should all agree with that concept. Unfortunately, my Democrat colleagues here in the House and the Senate don't seem to be on the same page with the Biden administration. This resolution we are considering today would actually make financial services more expensive and credit less available to consumers and to small businesses and families across the country.

So why are my Democrat colleagues strong-arming this resolution through Congress?

Well, the answer is pretty simple. It is politics. That is what it is. Let's call this what it is. It is blue States and their leftwing, so-called consumer protection advocates who want to, again, limit the reach of national banks and partnerships under the guise of ''consumer protection.''

Democrats are more interested in scoring political points with leftwing activists than supporting the borrowers and small businesses that this OCC True Lender Rule helps.

□ 1330

We have witnessed Democrats work for decades to limit the scope of national banks through one measure or another.

The National Bank Act was signed into law in 1864. We have national banks. We have had national banks for 157 years in this country similar to today. What they are striking at is opposition to what we have lived with for over 157 years of well-regulated national banks doing business across the country.

The left, my colleagues on the opposite side of the aisle, will provide misleading statements about interest rates and spurious arguments about State versus Federal regulation. They will argue consumers are harmed and this so-called partisan rule that they are driving invites bad banking practices.

Above all else, my colleagues across the aisle see this as an opportunity to rebuke the last administration, simply because they don't like the former President. I understand that. There is plenty of debate about that. But we should not tinker with existing law that is longstanding and predates this President or any other President. We should be talking about the contents of that law.

I would like to remind my friends as well that it was the Obama administration who supported the risk-management principles underlying the true lender rule. It was an effort to regulate, to ensure that instead of having shadow banking provide these services, that you have well-regulated consumer protection laws at the Federal level as a part of this process.

So once again, we have the opportunity to come together to support good, bipartisan policy, rather than doing what the Democrats would rather do, which is appease the woke left.

So let's stop the political theatrics and talk about what the true lender rule actually does, not what my Democrat colleagues claim it does.

The rule specifies that when a bank makes a loan, the bank is the true lender if, as of the date of origination, it is named as the lender in the loan agreement or funds the loan. That loan would be regulated by the entity making the loan, funding the loan, and the regulation would fall upon them. So the consumers have Federal consumer protection laws that would act on that loan. That is what it does.

My friends that created the Consumer Protection Bureau, I thought you wanted that, and yet you are arguing against that with this rule today. It is pretty straightforward; it is a pretty straightforward law. It shouldn't be political.

This rule also clarifies that as the true lender of a loan, a bank holds the responsibility of complying with Federal law. This eliminates the greatest risk associated with abuse of rent-a-charter schemes, which we agree are bad, and I think we could be doing something about that rather than this spurious argument we have today.

In October of last year, the OCC finalized the true lender rule that is being debated today. This was a second step in a decades-long process to clarify the bank-third-party relationship when issuing a loan. It has been longstanding practice, but there have been lawsuits, a great deal of uncertainty about it, a lot of questions in particular jurisdictions around the country on the nature of those partnerships, and it clarifies those partnerships in a rules-based regime.

This legal clarity enables bank and fintech partnerships to provide their customers with the financial products they want and need.

Consider this: According to the New York Federal Reserve, one in four African-American-owned firms used fintechs to access PPP loans, one in four. And they did so using this legal doctrine that enabled that to happen in partnerships with national banks.

Technology helps create greater financial inclusion. So why are my Democrat colleagues so afraid of technology, so afraid of innovation?

Per usual, my Democrat colleagues are willing to ignore facts in favor of myths that back up their preferred narrative. That is unfortunate, especially for something this important.

The left likes to say that banks can charge whatever interest rate they want. That is simply not true. Federal law gives national banks and Federal savings associations the same authority that State banks have regarding exportation of interest rates.

Now, both Federal- and State-chartered banks must conform to applicable interest rate limits in those States. States retain the authority to set interest rates, which varies from State to State.

Here is another myth: Third-party bank partnerships will use this rule to skirt State supervision and usury laws. Simply not true.

The truth is, banks primarily partner with third parties to reach additional markets, benefiting from a particular expertise or technology to improve their efficiency. Partnerships with third parties do not change the bank's authority or expose interest rate differentials.

And last, but not least, progressive activists cite the interest rate as a real problem with the true lender rule. They are pushing a 36 percent best rate cap. They have even pushed it at the national level. The math simply doesn't back up this falsehood.

The true lender rule was not some sinister plan by the previous administration to trick borrowers. It was not. It simply was not the case. This legal principle was established in 1864 with the National Bank Act. It is being undermined by an attempt at politics rather than sound policy, and what we should support is good, bipartisan policy that provides clarity to banks and fintechs so they can better serve our constituents and the consumers of America. That is it.

We have a well-regulated banking system. We do. It is not perfect. We have States that have various laws that are operable in their States, but we also have a national system here as well.

We have worked harmoniously, not perfectly, over the last 157 years since we established the national banking system. But why undermine a key principle of that national banking system by spurious arguments that actually don't have to do with the true lender rule? They don't. There are other elements that the left opposes that actually, on a bipartisan basis, we oppose, but the true lender rule is not it.

It is a question of whether or not the bank that is providing you the loan is, in fact, the true lender. That is it. It is not fancier than that, people. That is what it is. That is what we are arguing about today, and that is kind of the absurdity of this stuff that we are debating right now, because it is that simple.

So let's promote financial inclusion the way that the President outlined, which was promoting financial inclusion, making rates more competitive and the cost of credit cheaper for individuals. Let's do that. Let's oppose this resolution before us so we can have sound principles, so we can drive that inclusion that is necessary and very important.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her leadership in bringing this important legislation, more than one piece of legislation, to the floor today.

As I rise to speak in support of reversing the anti-consumer fake lender rule pushed through in the final weeks of the previous administration, I just want to take a moment to put it in perspective.

Madam Speaker, in November, the people elected Democratic majorities in the Congress that would be for the people, fighting for the public interests, not the special interests.

To that end, they elected majorities that would reverse the damage inflicted on their health and financial security by the last administration.

That mission is why the House this week is passing legislation under the Congressional Review Act to reverse three of the past President's most egregious assaults on families' well-being.

The Congressional Review Act is one of Congress' most important tools to reassert the power of the people's House to deliver for the people and to reclaim our authority under the Constitution, upholding the balance of powers that is the foundation of our American democracy.

With the gentlewoman's permission, I wish to speak to the anti-consumer fake lender rule, but also speak to two other issues under the Congressional Review Act this afternoon.

On the floor today is legislation, again, to reverse the anti-consumer fake lender rule pushed through in the final weeks of the previous administration.

This fake lender rule greenlights rent-a-bank schemes in which predatory lenders evade bank interest rate limits to swindle vulnerable consumers. This is done by putting a bank

name on loan paperwork and claiming that the bank, not the predatory lender, issued the loan.

To take one example, in California, where the interest rate on a 2-year $2,000 loan is capped at 25 percent, lenders can use rent-a-bank partnerships to make loans with rates up to 225 percent.

This bipartisan resolution to end the fake lender rule is supported by many: a bipartisan coalition of 25 State attorneys general; faith leaders, including the National Latino Evangelical Coalition, the National Association of Evangelicals, the National Baptist Convention USA, hundreds of banking law and consumer finance regulation scholars, and Americans across the country and across parties, urging us to support this Congressional Review Act reversal of the anti-consumer fake lender rule.

Also today, we are considering legislation to undo the antiworker, pro-discrimination rule forced through in the final week of the past administration.

The EEOC was established to protect working people from discrimination and ensure that discrimination charges are resolved fairly. But this rule would impose draconian new obligations that bias the conciliation process against employees, toward employers; escalate the potential for retaliation, because retaliation claims make up half of EEOC's charges filed at the EEOC last year; siphon off scarce EEOC resources and saddle the EEOC with wasteful collateral litigation, prolonging harm to workers through delays; and contravene both the Supreme Court precedent and Congressional intent.

This month, civil rights and workers' rights organizations wrote to Congress in support of S.J. Res. 13, writing: ''The EEOC must be able to conduct its work efficiently . . . to prevent and remedy workplace discrimination.

''This mission is even more critical in the middle of a global pandemic that continues to have severe economic repercussions for women, people of color, and other marginalized communities.

''The final rule will only deepen the barriers working people face coming forward to report discrimination and obtain justice.''

This Congressional Review Act legislation passed the Senate. Hopefully, it will pass the House today.

Finally, tomorrow we take up bipartisan legislation that paves the way to restore the Obama-era protections against harmful methane pollution, which the most recent past President rolled back.

Briefly, these safeguards are key protections for public health that will also make a serious difference in combating the climate crisis. Methane is responsible for at least one-quarter of the warming of the planet. And it is 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide in trapping heat in the atmosphere.

This resolution passed on a bipartisan basis in the Senate and in the Energy and Commerce Committee. It builds on the commitment of the President and the Democratic Congress to tackle the climate crisis.

As the administration has stated, addressing methane pollution is an urgent and essential step.

Madam Speaker, with that, as Speaker, I am proud to be able to use the Speaker's prerogative to speak beyond the item on the floor right now.

I am proud to support these important actions to reverse the Trump damage and to deliver results that make a difference in the lives of hardworking American families.

I thank all of our leaders for this legislation for the people: Chair BOBBY SCOTT and Representative SUZANNE BONAMICI on the EEOC resolution; Representative CHUY Garcia for his work on the true lender resolution; Representative DIANA DEGETTE and Chairman FRANK PALLONE, and many others, on the methane resolution from the Energy and Commerce Committee.

I urge strong votes for S.J. Res. 13, 14, and 15.

Coming back to the resolution on the floor right now, I thank the distinguished chair of the Financial Services Committee for her leadership in looking out always for the consumer, for competition, for fairness, for the people.

□ 1345

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER), who is the ranking member on the Consumer Protection and Financial Institutions Subcommittee of the Financial Services Committee, and also the ranking member on the Small Business Committee.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss S.J. Res. 15, House Democrats' attempt to limit the ability of our Nation's banks to serve consumers by overturning the true lender rule.

The true lender rule was finalized by the OCC in 2020, in an effort to clarify who was the true lender in national bank third-party relationships. By providing this clarity, these third-party entities were able to provide financial services in partnership with financial institutions with the protections of legal precedence.

Partnering with third parties like fintechs gives financial institutions the ability to increase access to credit, especially for low- and moderate-income consumers and small businesses.

Unfortunately, the bill before us is nothing more than a politically motivated attempt by Democrats to make it more expensive and difficult for banks to serve customers, and its passage will have long-term consequences.

According to the Congressional Review Act, if this legislation is passed, the OCC will not have the ability to issue a similar rule down the road. This will leave bank-fintech partnerships in limbo with a great deal of uncertainty regarding the loans they make and who is the true lender in the relationship.

Democrats are constantly putting their disdain for America's banks ahead of the needs of their constituents, and this bill is another prime example of this unfortunate practice.

I firmly oppose this bill and its prevention of widespread financial inclusion, especially for low- and moderate-income consumers.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GARCÍA), who is also the sponsor of the House companion to this legislation.

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of S.J. Res. 15, a resolution to repeal the OCC's so-called true lender rule.

Earlier this year, my State, Illinois, passed a law that protects our consumers from predatory, high-interest loans. Eighteen other States have done the same.

I introduced the House version of this resolution because the true lender rule undermines laws like ours, laws that keep working-class people out of cycles of debt they can't pay back.

The rule is a rubber stamp for rent-a-bank schemes, where a lender can dodge State law by having a bank's name on the loan paperwork. That is all. No skin in the game, no investment in our communities; just a name on the paperwork.

This rule doesn't encourage innovation. It encourages playing games. This isn't a partisan issue. As a matter of fact, last year, 82 percent of Nebraska voters joined States like Arkansas and South Dakota to protect their communities from unpayable debt, and this rule from the OCC provides bad actors with a new tool to ignore them.

So a broad coalition of over 400 organizations—rural, urban, suburban—have come together in support of this measure, and they include consumer advocates, labor advocates, veterans, credit unions, and many other actors, including evangelical congregations.

Madam Speaker, I urge this body to pass this resolution and empower working-class communities like mine that are targeted by predatory lenders, and voters across the country who support consumer protections.

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

Madam Speaker, I would reference my colleagues the Federal Code, the Federal Register, that actually has the contents of this rule.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the actual rule that we are debating here, and I would highlight one piece in particular.

''The OCC agrees that rent-a-charter schemes have no place in the Federal financial system but disagrees that this rule facilitates such schemes. As noted above, instead, this proposal would help solve the problem by (1) providing a clear and simple test for determining when a bank makes a loan and (2) emphasizing the robust supervisory framework that applies to any

loan made by a bank and to all third-party relationships to which banks are a party. As noted above, if a bank fails to satisfy its obligations under this supervisory framework, the OCC will use all the tools at its disposal, including its enforcement authority.''

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
Office of the Comptroller of the Currency
12 CFR Part 7
[Docket ID OCC–2020–0026]
RIN 1557–AE97
National Banks and Federal Savings Associations as Lenders

AGENCY: Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Treasury.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) is issuing this final rule to determine when a national bank or Federal savings association (bank) makes a loan and is the ''true lender,'' including in the context of a partnership between a bank and a third party, such as a marketplace lender. Under this rule, a bank makes a loan if, as of the date of origination, it is named as the lender in the loan agreement or funds the loan.

DATES: The final rule is effective on December 29, 2020.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Lending partnerships between national banks or Federal savings associations (banks) and third parties play a critical role in our financial system. These partnerships expand access to credit and provide an avenue for banks to remain competitive as the financial sector evolves. Through these partnerships, banks often leverage technology developed by innovative third parties that helps to reach a wider array of customers. However, there is often uncertainty about how to determine which entity is making the loans and, therefore, the laws that apply to these loans. This uncertainty may discourage banks from entering into lending partnerships, which, in turn, may limit competition, restrict access to affordable credit, and chill the innovation that can result from these relationships. Through this rulemaking, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) is providing the legal certainty necessary for banks to partner confidently with other market participants and meet the credit needs of their customers.

However, the OCC understands that there is concern that its rulemaking facilitates inappropriate 'rent-a-charter' lending schemes—arrangements in which a bank receives a fee to 'rent' its charter and unique legal status to a third party. These schemes are designed to enable the third party to evade state and local laws, including some state consumer protection laws, and to allow the bank to disclaim any compliance responsibility for the loans. These arrangements have absolutely no place in the federal banking system and are addressed by this rulemaking, which holds banks accountable for all loans they make, including those made in the context of marketplace lending partnerships or other loan sale arrangements.

On July 22, 2020, the OCC published a notice of proposed rulemaking (proposal or NPR) to determine when a bank makes a loan. Under the proposal, a bank made a loan if, as of the date of origination, it (1) was named as the lender in the loan agreement or (2) funded the loan.

As the proposal explained, federal law authorizes banks to enter into contracts, to make loans, and to subsequently transfer these loans and assign the loan contracts. The statutory framework, however, does not specifically address which entity makes a loan when the loan is originated as part of a lending partnership involving a bank and a third party, nor has the OCC taken regulatory action to resolve this ambiguity. In the absence of regulatory action, a growing body of case law has introduced divergent standards for resolving this issue, as discussed below. As a result of this legal uncertainty, stakeholders cannot reliably determine the applicability of key laws, including the law governing the permissible interest that may be charged on the loan.

This final rule establishes a clear test for determining when a bank makes a loan, by interpreting the statutes that grant banks their authority to lend. Specifically, the final rule provides that a bank makes a loan when it, as of the date of origination, (1) is named as the lender in the loan agreement or (2) funds the loan.

II. Overview of Comments

The OCC received approximately 4,000 comments on the proposal, the vast majority of which were from individuals using a version of one of three short form letters to express opposition to the proposal. Other commenters included banks, nonbank lenders, industry trade associations, community groups, academics, state government representatives, and members of Congress.

Commenters supporting the proposal stated that the judicial true lender doctrine has led to divergent standards and uncertainty concerning the legitimacy of lending partnerships between banks and third parties. They also stated that, by removing the uncertainty, the OCC would help ensure that banks have the confidence to enter into these lending relationships, which provide affordable credit to consumers on more favorable terms than the alternatives, such as pawn shops or payday lenders, to which underserved communities often turn. Supporting commenters also observed that the proposal would enhance a bank's safety and soundness by facilitating its ability to sell loans. These commenters also noted that the proposal (1) makes clear that the OCC will hold banks accountable for products with unfair, deceptive, abusive, or misleading features that are offered as part of a relationship and (2) is consistent with the OCC's statutory mission to ensure that banks provide fair access to financial services.

Commenters opposing the proposal stated that it would facilitate so-called rent-a-charter schemes, which would result in increased predatory lending and disproportionately impact marginalized communities. Other opposing commenters stated that the proposal is an attempt by the OCC to improperly regulate nonbank lenders, a role they consider to be reserved exclusively to the states. Opposing commenters also asserted that the OCC did not have sufficient legal authority to issue the proposal and that the proposal violated the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) and 12 U.S.C. 25b.

Both supporting and opposing commenters recommended changes. These recommendations included (1) adopting a test that requires the true lender to have a predominant economic interest in the loan; (2) providing additional ''safe harbor'' requirements to enhance consumer protections (e.g., interest rate caps); (3) clarifying that certain traditional bank lending activities do not fall under the funding prong of the rule (e.g., indirect auto lending and mortgage warehouse lending); (4) providing additional details on how the OCC would supervise these relationships; and (5) stating that the rule will not displace certain federal consumer protection laws and regulations.

The comments are addressed in greater detail below.

III. Analysis

As noted in the prior section, commenters raised a variety of issues for the OCC's consideration. These are discussed below.

A. OCC's Authority To Issue the Rule

Some commenters argued the OCC lacks the legal authority to issue the rule because it would contravene the unambiguous meaning of 12 U.S.C. 85. These commenters believe that section 85 incorporates the common law of usury as of 1864, which they view as requiring courts to look to the substance rather than the form of a transaction. In a similar vein, commenters argued that section 85 incorporates all usury laws of a state, including its true lender jurisprudence. One commenter also argued that the proposal contradicts judicial and administrative precedent interpreting sections 85 and 86.

The OCC disagrees. The rule interprets statutes that authorize banks to lend—12 U.S.C. 24, 371, and 1464(c)—and clarifies how to determine when a bank exercises this lending authority. The OCC has clear authority to reasonably interpret these statutes, which do not specifically address when a bank makes a loan.

Banks do not obtain their lending authority from section 85 or 12 U.S.C. 1463(g). Nor are these statutes the authority the OCC is relying on to issue this rule. The proposal referenced sections 85 and 1463(g) in the regulatory text to ensure that interested parties understand the consequences of its interpretation of sections 24, 371, and 1464(c), including that this rulemaking operates together with the OCC's recently finalized 'Madden-fix' rulemaking. When a bank makes a loan pursuant to the test established in this regulation, the bank may subsequently sell, assign, or otherwise transfer the loan without affecting the permissible interest term, which is determined by reference to state law.

Other commenters questioned the OCC's authority on different grounds. Some asserted the OCC lacks authority to (1) exempt nonbanks from compliance with state law or (2) preempt state laws that determine whether a loan is made by a nonbank lender. One commenter also asserted that the proposal is an attempt by the OCC to interpret state law. A commenter further argued that the OCC's statutory interpretation is not reasonable, including because the proposal (1) would allow nonbanks to enjoy the benefits of federal preemption without submitting to any regulatory oversight and (2) violates the presumption against preemption, especially in an area of historical state police powers like consumer protection.

This rulemaking does not assert authority over nonbanks, preempt state laws applicable to nonbank lenders, or interpret state law. It interprets federal banking law and has no direct applicability to any nonbank entity or activity. Rather, in identifying the true lender, the rule pinpoints key elements of the statutory, regulatory, and supervisory framework applicable to the loan in question. As noted in the proposal, if a nonbank partner is the true lender, the relevant state (and not OCC) would regulate the lending activity, and the OCC would assess the bank's third-party risk management in connection with the relationship itself.

Furthermore, because commenters expressed concern that this rule would undermine state usury caps, it is also important to emphasize that sections 85 and 1463(g) provide a choice of law framework for determining which state's law applies to bank loans and, in this way, incorporate, rather than eliminate, state law. These statutes require that a bank refer to, and comply with, the usury cap established by the laws of the state where the bank is located. Thus, disparities between the usury caps applicable to

particular bank loans result primarily from differences in the state laws that impose these caps, not from an interpretation that section 85 or 1463(g) preempt state law.

A commenter also asserted that the OCC's interpretation is not reasonable because it (1) does not solve the problem it claims to remedy, arguing that the proposal itself is unclear and requires banks to undertake a fact-specific analysis and (2) departs from federal cases holding that state true lender law applies to lending relationships between banks and nonbanks.

The OCC believes that this rule provides a simple, bright-line test to determine when a bank has made a loan and, therefore, is the true lender in a lending relationship. The only required factual analysis is whether the bank is named as the lender or funds the loan. The OCC has evaluated various standards established by courts and has determined that a clear, predictable, and easily administrable test is preferable. This test will provide legal certainty, and the OCC's robust supervisory framework effectively targets predatory lending, achieving the same goal as a more complex true lender test.

Several commenters also asserted that the proposal contravenes 12 U.S.C. 1, which charges the OCC with ensuring that banks treat customers fairly. One commenter also argued that the proposal is inconsistent with the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) because it encourages predatory lending. As the OCC explained in the proposal, the rule's purpose is to provide legal certainty to expand access to credit, a goal that is entirely consistent with the agency's statutory charge to ensure fair treatment of customers and banks' statutory obligation to serve the convenience and needs of their communities.

B. 12 U.S.C. 25b

Several commenters asserted that the agency should have complied with 12 U.S.C. 25b, which applies when the OCC issues a regulation or order that preempts a state consumer financial law. Some of these commenters argued that the proposal fails to meet the preemption standard articulated in Barnett Bank of Marion County, N.A. v. Nelson, Florida Insurance Commissioner, et al. (Barnett), as incorporated into section 25b. Commenters also argued that (1) section 25b(f) does not exempt the OCC's proposal from the requirements of section 25b because the rule is not limited to banks charging interest and (2) the proposal undermines or contravenes section 25b(h) because it extends preemptive treatment to subsidiaries, affiliates, and agents of banks.

The OCC disagrees: The requirements of section 25b are inapplicable to this rulemaking. Section 25b applies when the Comptroller determines, on a case-by-case basis, that a state consumer financial law is preempted pursuant to the standard for conflict preemption established by the Supreme Court in Barnett, i.e., when the Comptroller makes a preemption determination. This rulemaking does not preempt a state consumer financial law but rather interprets a bank's federal authority to lend. Furthermore, commenters arguing that section 25b(f) (which addresses section 85) does not exempt this rulemaking from the procedures in section 25b and that sections 25b(b)(2), (e), and (h)(2) (which address bank subsidiaries, affiliates, and agents) preclude the agency from issuing this rule are mistaken; this rulemaking is not an interpretation of section 85, nor does it address the applicability of state law to bank subsidiaries, affiliates, or agents.

C. Administrative Procedure Act

Several commenters asserted that, for various reasons, the proposal is arbitrary and capricious and, therefore, in violation of the APA. Some commenters argued that the proposal lacks an evidentiary basis, either entirely or with respect to certain assertions, such as the existence of legal uncertainty. The OCC disagrees. The APA's arbitrary and capricious standard requires an agency to make rational and informed decisions based on the information before it. Furthermore, the standard does not require the OCC to develop or cite empirical or other data to support its rule or wait for problems to materialize before acting. Instead, the OCC may rely on its expertise to address the problems that may arise.

The OCC has decided to issue this rule to resolve the effects of legal uncertainty on banks and their third-party relationships. In this case, the OCC's views are informed by courts' divergent true lender tests and the resulting lack of predictability faced by stakeholders. While the OCC understands its rule may not resolve all legal uncertainty for every loan, this is not a prerequisite for the agency to take this narrowly tailored action. Taking these considerations into account, the OCC has made a rational and informed decision to issue this rule.

Commenters also argued that the OCC's actions violate the APA because the agency has not given notice of its intention to reverse an existing policy or provided the factual, legal, and policy reasons for doing so. Specifically, these commenters referenced the OCC's longstanding policy prohibiting banks from entering into rent-a-charter schemes. This rulemaking does not reverse the OCC's position. The OCC's longstanding and unwavering opposition to predatory lending, including but not limited to predatory lending as part of a third-party relationship, remains intact and strong. In fact, this rulemaking would solve the rent-a-charter issues raised and ensure that banks do not participate in those arrangements. As noted in the proposal, the OCC's statutes and regulations, enforceable guidelines, guidance, and enforcement authority provide robust and effective safeguards against predatory lending when a bank exercises its lending authority. This rule does not alter this framework but rather reinforces its importance by clarifying that it applies to every loan a bank makes and by providing a simple test to identify precisely when a bank has made a loan. If a bank fails to satisfy its compliance obligations, the OCC will not hesitate to use its enforcement authority consistent with its longstanding policy and practice.

Furthermore, the final rule does not change the OCC's expectation that all banks establish and maintain prudent credit underwriting practices and comply with applicable law, even when they partner with third parties. These expectations were in place before the OCC issued its proposal and will remain in place after the final rule takes effect. For these reasons, the final rule does not represent a change in OCC policy.

D. Comments on the Proposed Regulatory Text

As noted previously, the OCC's proposed regulatory text set out a test for determining when a bank has made a loan for purposes of 12 U.S.C. 24, 85, 371, 1463(g), and 1464(c). Under this test, a bank made a loan if, as of the date of origination, it was named as the lender in the loan agreement or funded the loan.

Some commenters supported the rule without change, stating that the proposal provided the clarity needed to determine which entity is the true lender in a lending relationship. Other commenters supported the proposal as a general matter but suggested specific changes, including clarifying that the funding prong does not include certain lending or financing arrangements such as warehouse lending, indirect auto lending (through bank purchases of retail installment contracts (RICs)), loan syndication, and other structured finance.

These commenters are correct that the funding prong of the proposal generally does not include these types of arrangements: They do not involve a bank funding a loan at the time of origination. For example, when a bank purchases a RIC from an auto dealer, as is often the case with indirect auto lending, the bank does not ''fund'' the loan. When a bank provides a warehouse loan to a third party that subsequently draws on that warehouse loan to lend to other borrowers, the bank is not funding the loans to these other borrowers. In contrast, and as noted in the proposal, the bank is the true lender in a table funding arrangement when the bank funds the loan at origination.

Another commenter recommended that the OCC consider the ''safe harbor'' established in the recent settlement between the Colorado Attorney General and several financial institutions and fintech lenders. While we are aware of this settlement, the OCC believes that our approach achieves the goal of legal certainty while providing the necessary safeguards.

One commenter requested that the OCC expressly state in the final rule that the rulemaking is not intended to displace or alter other regulatory regimes, including those that address consumer protection. Another commenter requested that the OCC clarify how account information in true lender arrangements should be reported to consumer reporting agencies under the Fair Credit Reporting Act. As the preamble to the proposal noted, the OCC's rule does not affect the application of any federal consumer financial laws, including, but not limited to, the meaning of the terms (1) ''creditor'' in the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) and Regulation Z (12 CFR part 1026) and (2) ''lender'' in Regulation X (12 CFR part 1024), which implements the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 (12 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.). Similarly, the OCC's rule does not affect the applicability of the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (12 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.), the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (15 U.S.C. 1691 et seq.), the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.), or their implementing regulations (Regulation C (12 CFR part 1003), Regulation B (12 CFR part 1002), and Regulation V (12 CFR part 1022)), respectively. The OCC recommends that commenters direct questions regarding these statutes and regulations to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Some commenters stated that the two prongs in the proposal's test would produce contradictory and absurd results. For example, several commenters noted that, under the proposal, two banks could be the true lender (e.g., at origination, one bank is named as the lender on the loan agreement and another bank funds the loan). In response to this comment, we have amended the regulatory text to provide that where one bank is named as the lender in the loan agreement and another bank funds the loan, the bank named as the lender in the loan agreement makes the loan. This approach will provide additional clarity and allow stakeholders, including borrowers, to easily identify the bank that makes the loan. Otherwise, the OCC adopts the regulatory text as proposed.

E. Rent-a-Charter Concerns; Supervisory Expectations

The OCC received multiple comments expressing concern that the proposal would facilitate rent-a-charter relationships and

thereby enable nonbank lenders to engage in predatory or otherwise abusive lending practices. These commenters noted that nonbanks are generally not subject to the type of prudential supervision that applies to banks and that usury caps are the most effective method to curb predatory lending by nonbanks. They argued that the OCC's rule would effectively nullify these caps and facilitate the expansion of predatory lending.

As explained above, in a rent-a-charter arrangement, a lender receives a fee to rent out its charter and unique legal status to originate loans on behalf of a third party, enabling the third party to evade state and local laws, such as usury caps and other consumer protection laws. At the same time, the lender disclaims any responsibility for these loans. As a result of these arrangements, consumers can find themselves in debt to an unscrupulous nonbank lender that is subject to very little or no prudential supervision on a loan at an interest rate grossly in excess of the state usury cap.

The OCC agrees that rent-a-charter schemes have no place in the federal financial system but disagrees that this rule facilitates such schemes. As noted above, instead, this proposal would help solve the problem by (1) providing a clear and simple test for determining when a bank makes a loan and (2) emphasizing the robust supervisory framework that applies to any loan made by a bank and to all third-party relationships to which banks are a party. As noted above, if a bank fails to satisfy its obligations under this supervisory framework, the OCC will use all the tools at its disposal, including its enforcement authority.

Although the proposal discussed this supervisory framework in detail, it bears repeating because of its importance to this rulemaking. Every bank is responsible for establishing and maintaining prudent credit underwriting practices that: (1) Are commensurate with the types of loans the bank will make and consider the terms and conditions under which they will be made; (2) consider the nature of the markets in which the loans will be made; (3) provide for consideration, prior to credit commitment, of the borrower's overall financial condition and resources, the financial responsibility of any guarantor, the nature and value of any underlying collateral, and the borrower's character and willingness to repay as agreed; (4) establish a system of independent, ongoing credit review and appropriate communication to management and to the board of directors; (5) take adequate account of concentration of credit risk; and (6) are appropriate to the size of the institution and the nature and scope of its activities. Moreover, every bank is expected to have loan documentation practices that: (1) Enable the institution to make an informed lending decision and assess risk, as necessary, on an ongoing basis; (2) identify the purpose of a loan and the source of repayment and assess the ability of the borrower to repay the indebtedness in a timely manner; (3) ensure that any claim against a borrower is legally enforceable; (4) demonstrate appropriate administration and monitoring of a loan; and (5) take account of the size and complexity of a loan. Every bank should also have appropriate internal controls and information systems to assess and manage the risks associated with its lending activities, including those that provide for monitoring adherence to established policies and compliance with applicable laws and regulations, as well as internal audit systems.

In addition, a bank's lending must comply with all applicable laws and regulations, including federal consumer protection laws. For example, section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (FTC Act) provides that ''unfair or deceptive acts or practices in or affecting commerce'' are unlawful. The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act also prohibits unfair, deceptive, or ''abusive'' acts or practices. The OCC has taken a number of public enforcement actions against banks for violating section 5 of the FTC Act and will continue to exercise its enforcement authority to address unlawful actions.

Banks also are subject to federal fair lending laws and may not engage in unlawful discrimination, such as ''steering'' a borrower to a higher cost loan on the basis of the borrower's race, national origin, age, or gender. If a bank engages in any unlawful discriminatory practices, the OCC will take appropriate action under the federal fair lending laws. Further, under the CRA regulations, CRA-related lending practices that violate federal fair lending laws, the FTC Act, or Home Ownership and Equity Protection Act, or that evidence other discriminatory or illegal credit practices, can adversely affect a bank's CRA performance rating.

The OCC has also taken significant steps to eliminate predatory, unfair, or deceptive practices in the federal banking system, recognizing that ''[s]uch practices are inconsistent with important national objectives, including the goals of fair access to credit, community development, and stable homeownership by the broadest spectrum of America.'' To address these concerns, the OCC requires banks engaged in lending to take into account the borrower's ability to repay the loan according to its terms. In the OCC's experience, ''a departure from fundamental principles of loan underwriting generally forms the basis of abusive lending: Lending without a determination that a borrower can reasonably be expected to repay the loan from resources other than the collateral securing the loan, and relying instead on the foreclosure value of the borrower's collateral to recover principal, interest, and fees.''

Additionally, the OCC has cautioned banks about lending activities that may be considered predatory, unfair, or deceptive, noting that many such lending practices are unlawful under existing federal laws and regulations or otherwise present significant safety, soundness, or other risks. These practices include those that target prospective borrowers who cannot afford credit on the terms being offered, provide inadequate disclosures of the true costs and risks of transactions, involve loans with high fees and frequent renewals, or constitute loan ''flipping'' (frequent re-financings that result in little or no economic benefit to the borrower that are undertaken with the primary or sole objective of generating additional fees). Policies and procedures should also be designed to ensure clear and transparent disclosure of the terms of the loan, including relative costs, risks, and benefits of the loan transaction, which helps to mitigate the risk that a transaction could be unfair or deceptive. The NPR also highlighted specific questions that the OCC evaluates as part of its robust supervision of banks' lending relationships.

In addition to this framework targeted at banks' lending activities, the OCC has issued comprehensive guidance on third-party risk management. These standards apply to any relationship between a bank and a third party, including lending relationships, regardless of which entity is the true lender. Pursuant to this guidance, the OCC expects banks to institute appropriate safeguards to manage the risks associated with their third-party relationships.

Under the final rule, this robust supervisory framework will continue to apply to banks that are the true lender in a lending relationship with a third party. Rather than allowing banks to enter into rent-a-charter schemes, the final rule will ensure that banks understand that the OCC will continue to hold banks accountable for their lending activities.

IV. Regulatory Analyses

Paperwork Reduction Act. In accordance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), 44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq., the OCC may not conduct or sponsor, and respondents are not required to respond to, an information collection unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. The OCC has reviewed the final rule and determined that it will not introduce any new or revise any existing collection of information pursuant to the PRA. Therefore, no submission will be made to OMB for review.

Regulatory Flexibility Act. The Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), 5 U.S.C. 601 et seq., requires an agency, in connection with a final rule, to prepare a Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis describing the impact of the rule on small entities (defined by the Small Business Administration (SBA) for purposes of the RFA to include commercial banks and savings institutions with total assets of $600 million or less and trust companies with total assets of $41.5 million or less) or to certify that the final rule would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

The OCC currently supervises approximately 745 small entities. The OCC expects that all of these small entities would be impacted by the rule. While this final rule could affect how banks structure their current or future third-party relationships as well as the amount of loans originated by banks, the OCC believes the costs associated with any administrative changes in bank lending policies and procedures would be de minimis. Banks already have systems, policies, and procedures in place for issuing loans when third parties are involved. It takes significantly less time to amend existing policies than to create them, and the OCC does not expect any needed adjustments will involve an extraordinary demand on a bank's human resources. In addition, any costs would likely be absorbed as ongoing administrative expenses. Therefore, the OCC certifies that this rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. Accordingly, a Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis is not required.

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act. Consistent with the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (UMRA), 2 U.S.C. 1532, the OCC considers whether a final rule includes a federal mandate that may result in the expenditure by state, local, and tribal governments, in the aggregate, or by the private sector, of $100 million adjusted for inflation (currently $157 million) in any one year. The final rule does not impose new mandates. Therefore, the OCC concludes that implementation of the final rule would not result in an expenditure of $157 million or more annually by state, local, and tribal governments, or by the private sector.

Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act. Pursuant to section 302(a) of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994 (RCDRIA), 12 U.S.C. 4802(a), in determining the effective date and administrative compliance requirements for new regulations that impose additional reporting, disclosure, or other requirements on insured depository institutions, the OCC must consider, consistent with principles of safety and soundness and the public interest, any administrative burdens that such regulations would place on depository institutions, including

small depository institutions, and customers of depository institutions, as well as the benefits of such regulations. In addition, section 302(b) of RCDRIA, 12 U.S.C. 4802(b), requires new regulations and amendments to regulations that impose additional reporting, disclosures, or other new requirements on insured depository institutions generally to take effect on the first day of a calendar quarter that begins on or after the date on which the regulations are published in final form. This final rule imposes no additional reporting, disclosure, or other requirements on insured depository institutions, and therefore, section 302 is not applicable to this rule.

Congressional Review Act. For purposes of the Congressional Review Act (CRA), 5 U.S.C. 801 et seq., the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) of the OMB determines whether a final rule is a ''major rule,'' as that term is defined at 5 U.S.C. 804(2). OIRA has determined that this final rule is not a major rule. As required by the CRA, the OCC will submit the final rule and other appropriate reports to Congress and the Government Accountability Office for review.

Administrative Procedure Act. The APA, 5 U.S.C. 551 et seq., generally requires that a final rule be published in the Federal Register not less than 30 days before its effective date. This final rule will be effective 60 days after publication in the Federal Register, which meets the APA's effective date requirement.

List of Subjects in 12 CFR Part 7

Computer technology, Credit, Derivatives, Federal savings associations, Insurance, Investments, Metals, National banks, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Securities, Security bonds.

Office of the Comptroller of the Currency

For the reasons set out in the preamble, the OCC amends 12 CFR part 7 as follows.

PART 7—ACTIVITIES AND OPERATIONS

1. The authority citation for part 7 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 12 U.S.C. 1 et seq., 25b, 29, 71, 71a, 92, 92a, 93, 93a, 95(b)(1), 371, 371d, 481, 484, 1463, 1464, 1465, 1818, 1828(m) and 5412(b)(2)(B).

2. Add §7.1031 to read as follows:

§7.1031 National banks and Federal savings associations as lenders.

(a) For purposes of this section, bank means a national bank or a Federal savings association.

(b) For purposes of sections 5136 and 5197 of the Revised Statutes (12 U.S.C. 24 and 12 U.S.C. 85), section 24 of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 371), and sections 4(g) and 5(c) of the Home Owners' Loan Act (12 U.S.C. 1463(g) and 12 U.S.C. 1464(c)), a bank makes a loan when the bank, as of the date of origination:

(1) Is named as the lender in the loan agreement; or

(2) Funds the loan.

(c) If, as of the date of origination, one bank is named as the lender in the loan agreement for a loan and another bank funds that loan, the bank that is named as the lender in the loan agreement makes the loan.

Brian P. Brooks,
Acting Comptroller of the Currency.

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BILLING CODE 4810–33–P

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, additionally, I would highlight for you that the outline here and the arguments by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle really strikes at the nature of national banking.

So just repeal the National Banking Act rather than trying to undermine it by taking away the legal principle by which a bank can make a loan. That is what this rule does, and that is the absurdity of this debate. That is why I oppose this attempt on the floor today.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LOUDERMILK), my colleague and friend.

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague from North Carolina for managing the opposition to this.

Look, it is simple. The reason we are here today is to debate the Democrats' latest episode in their anti-financial technology agenda, but also their rush to undo any policy of the previous administration, whether it was good or bad.

Now, here are the facts: More than 30 percent of adults are unbanked or underbanked, 40 percent do not have enough savings to cover a $400 emergency expense, 42 percent have a subprime credit score and are rejected for bank loans at a rate four times higher than those with prime credit.

Now, fintech has been instrumental in expanding access to credit for consumers who have little or no credit history. Online lending has grown to $90 billion a year.

So what do consumers typically use these loans to pay for?

Funerals, weddings, car repairs, and home improvement.

Fintech is particularly important for minorities. In fact, fintechs were the top PPP lenders to Black-owned businesses and Hispanic-owned businesses during the pandemic.

But there is an issue that has caused difficulty when banks and fintech companies partner to make loans, and that is the question of which entity is considered the true lender. Until recently, this question was attempted to be settled in a series of confusing and conflicting lawsuits. The courts are divided on it. But, last year, the OCC finalized a rule to provide much-needed certainty. It is no surprise that the organizations calling for the rule to be overturned are the so-called consumer groups that, for the most part, are funded by trial lawyers.

The Democrats are attempting to overturn this rule because some imaginary lenders could rent a bank charter to engage in predatory lending, but as the ranking member has just stated, that is clearly prohibited in the existing rule. This resolution is devastating to minority consumers and businesses, those with subprime credit, and the unbanked.

Instead of giving those people options, this resolution would direct them to payday lenders, or in States like Georgia where payday lending is illegal, they will have no access to credit.

Madam Speaker, I urge opposition to this disastrous resolution.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB).

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, we know it is expensive to be poor in our country; that we live in a country with a system that continues to put profit before our people, and it must stop.

In my home State of Michigan, communities that are more than a quarter Black and Latino have 50 percent more payday lenders than anywhere else in the State. These lenders target our communities, the most financially vulnerable communities. Payday lenders in Michigan are 62 percent more common in low-income Census tracts compared to statewide average.

That is what folks mean when they say that we need to abolish structural racism in our country.

You cannot justify loans of 100 percent APR or higher as providing access to credit when they trap borrowers in destructive cycles of debt and ruin their credit. World Business Lenders offered loans of upwards of 268 percent of APR, despite the fact that its rent-a-bank partner was regulated by the OCC. They found a way around the rules, and that is unacceptable.

OCC's rules leave States like our State of Michigan no ability to enforce their own State rate caps, giving predatory lenders free rein to exploit our neighbors with outrageous APRs.

Repealing the true lender rule is the first step toward protecting borrowers from predatory lenders, and I am proud to support it.

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MOORE), a great new Member of the Congress.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in opposition to the CRA before us.

Innovation in our financial industry lifts Americans across all levels of the socioeconomic spectrum. A great example of this has been the emergence of the fintech industry, which has helped more Americans access secure, affordable credit.

Unfortunately, government regulation has stymied innovation as regulatory uncertainties have imposed artificial barriers to our creativity. Recent court rulings have only exacerbated this uncertainty by creating confusion about who the true lender of a loan is when a bank works with a third party.

In 2020, the Office of the Comptroller sought to clarify this uncertainty by finalizing the true lender rule. This rule allowed our local community and regional banks to provide expanded access to banking services and lower the cost of banking to consumers across the Nation. It is that simple.

Commonsense reforms that help banks and the fintech industry do business, in turn, make life easier for families, individuals, and businesses. Unfortunately, my Democrat colleagues are seeking to roll this rule back.

Nullifying the rule will decrease credit accessibility for underserved communities, hurt community banks' ability to utilize new technologies, and dissuade innovation in the financial services sector.

Madam Speaker, I oppose S.J. Res. 15, and I encourage my colleagues to vote ''no.''

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN), who is also the chair of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. And still I rise, Madam Speaker. Again, I thank the chairwoman for the time and the opportunity.

I would say to all, I recall the debate around the yield spread premium, wherein a loan originator could say to a person, ''Here is a loan, you are lucky to get it for 10 percent'' when the person qualified for a loan at 5 percent.

We eliminated the dastardly yield spread premium and the harm that it caused. We have a similar circumstance with the rent-a-bank scheme that steals the American Dream, such that people who qualify for better loans will likely get higher loans because they don't always understand the scheme.

So I rise today, and I thank Mr. GARCIA for what he has done to bring this bill to fruition. I thank the Chairwoman, and I absolutely support the legislation.

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR), who is the ranking member on the Subcommittee on National Security, International Development, and Monetary Policy of the Financial Services Committee. He is also a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

□ 1400

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today also in opposition to S.J. Resolution 15, the Congressional Review Act repeal of the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency's true lender rule.

The United States has the most vibrant and innovative financial system in the world. Recent advancements in technology have fostered products and partnerships that expand access to credit to large swaths of the population that previously couldn't access basic financial services.

Many of these innovations faced challenges from regulatory red tape or confusing and often conflicting rules. The OCC's true lender rule gave needed clarity to banks and their partners, fixing the disastrous Madden rule.

The OCC's true lender rule gave that clarity, but unfortunately, the effort in the House today threatens to undermine the progress that we have made and compromise underbanked individuals' and small businesses' access to financial services.

I spoke with a local Kentucky bank that partners with a nonbank fintech lender to provide credit to consumers, including many underbanked populations. They told me that absent the true lender rule, they will once again be buried in compliance costs to keep track of the patchwork of cases that dictate the rules of the road.

Rather than embrace innovation to deliver cost savings to their customers, many of whom have trouble accessing traditional financial services to begin with, the bank will need to retain thousand-dollar-an-hour New York lawyers just to keep everything straight. And guess what? Those costs get passed on to the consumer through higher prices or reduced product availability.

This is yet another example of the Democrats sacrificing good policy for the sake of political points, all under the guise of consumer protection.

Contrary to some of the rhetoric from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, a vote for this CRA will actually harm the very people they purport to be helping.

Madam Speaker, one final point. I include in the RECORD an April 14, 2021, letter to the chair of the Financial Services Committee from the former OCC Acting Comptroller Blake Paulson.

OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER
OF THE CURRENCY,
Washington, DC, April 14, 2021.

Hon. MAXINE WATERS,
Chairwoman, Committee on Financial Services, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. PATRICK MCHENRY,
Ranking Member, Committee on Financial Services, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN WATERS AND RANKING MEMBER MCHENRY: On March 26, 2021, H.J. Res. 35 was introduced, providing for Congressional disapproval under the Congressional Review Act of the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency's (OCC) final rule, entitled ''National Banks and Federal Savings Associations as Lenders,'' commonly referred to as the ''True Lender'' rule. As you and other members consider the resolution, I want you to be aware of the rule's intended effect and the adverse impact of overturning the rule.

On October 27, 2020, the OCC issued its final true lender rule to provide legal and regulatory certainty to national banks' and federal savings associations' (banks) lending, including loans made in partnerships with third parties. The OCC's rule specifies that a bank makes a loan and is considered to be the true lender of the loan if, as of the date of origination, it (1) is named as the lender in the loan agreement or (2) funds the loan. The rule clarifies that as the true lender of a loan, the bank retains the compliance obligations associated with making the loan, even if the loan is later sold, thus negating concerns regarding harmful rent-a-charter arrangements. Our rulemaking prevents potential arrangements in which a bank receives a fee to ''rent'' its charter and unique legal status to a third party with the intent of evading state and local laws, while disclaiming any compliance responsibility for the loan. These schemes have absolutely no place in the federal banking system, and this rule helps address them.

The rule makes clear banks' responsibility and accountability for the loans they make and facilitates the OCC's supervision of this core banking activity. Disapproval of the rule would return bank lending relationships to the previous state of legal and regulatory uncertainty, which, as nearly 50 preeminent economic and finance scholars explained in January 2021, adversely affects the function of secondary markets and restricts the availability of credit.

Legal and regulatory certainty facilitates access to responsible credit and clarifies responsibility and accountability in lending involving third-party partnerships. Bank third-party partnerships help banks better serve their communities by expanding access to affordable credit products from mainstream financial service providers. Such access is particularly important as individuals and small businesses across the country work to recover from effects of the COVID–19 pandemic. Banks seek partnerships with third parties for a variety of legitimate reasons, including reaching additional markets, benefiting from specific expertise or technology, and improving the efficiency and cost of their own operations. The OCC's third-party risk management guidance and supplemental exam procedures make clear to banks that they retain the risks for activities conducted through relationships with third parties.

With the legal and regulatory certainty provided by the rule, lending by banks made in partnership with third parties can be assessed as part of the ongoing supervision of these banks, including as part of the OCC's examinations to evaluate bank compliance with applicable laws and regulations that ensure consumer protection, Bank Secrecy Act and anti-money laundering compliance, required disclosures, and other obligations associated with making loans. The OCC clarified examiner responsibilities in assessing true lender activities in third-party relationships in 2021. This clarification addressed considerations related to assessing banks' due diligence on the lending product or activity (e.g., terms and scope) and the third party; credit risk management, including underwriting practices; model risk management; compliance management systems; and ongoing monitoring of the lending activity and the third party's performance.

If a bank fails to satisfy any of its compliance obligations, the OCC will not hesitate to use its supervisory and enforcement authorities to correct the deficiencies, protect consumers, and ensure the federal banking system operates in a safe, sound, and fair manner.

As you consider the Congressional Review Act resolution, you should be confident that the OCC issued this rule with the intent to enhance its ability to supervise bank lending. The rulemaking conformed to the Administrative Procedure Act, and the agency considered all stakeholder comments provided during the rulemaking process. The resulting rule is consistent with the authority granted to the agency by Congress.

It is also important to dispel misperceptions of the rule, many of which are repeated by opponents of the rule. To be clear, the rule does not change banks' authority to export interest rates. That authority is granted by federal statute. Nor does the rule permit national banks to charge whatever rate they like; national banks and federal savings associations have the same authority as state banks regarding the exportation of interest rates. Both federal and state-chartered banks must conform to applicable interest rate limits. Disparities of interest rates from state to state result from differences in the state laws that impose these caps, not OCC rules or actions. States retain the authority to set interest rates, and rates vary from state-to-state.

The rule does not limit states' ability to regulate the conduct of state-licensed and regulated nonbank lenders, which engage in the vast majority of predatory lending. States are the primary regulators of nonbank lenders, including payday lenders. Nonbank lenders are generally also subject to the rules and enforcement actions of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB).

It is also important to understand why demand exists for short-term, small-dollar credit products and why many consumers rely on nonbank sources of such credit, including payday lenders. Unfortunately, mainstream service providers, including commercial banks, largely abandoned short-term small-dolJar lending over the past two decades. The resulting lack of choice and fewer options pushed up the cost of these products and forced consumers to seek services on less favorable terms. Because millions of U.S. consumers do not have sufficient savings or access to traditional credit, they borrow nearly $90 billion each year in short-term small-dollar loans typically ranging from $300 to $5,000 to make ends meet and to address things like emergency car repairs and other unexpected expenses. That is why the OCC has remained vocal about encouraging banks to provide consumers with more safe and affordable options to meet these small-dollar needs. In providing these products, banks should consider the ''Interagency Lending Principles for Offering Responsible Small-Dollar Loans,'' published in May 2020. Banks should also consider the full and actual cost of a credit product and its affordability. Fees associated with short-term loans may range from $10 to $30 per $100 borrowed, and the imputed annual percentage rate (APR) of those loans can appear to exceed 100 percent or more. But often, the fees and total cost of these loans to the consumer can be less than that of loans made with a 36 percent APR, when such loans are available at all.

As you consider the Congressional Review Act resolution, please keep in mind what may be an unintended consequence of a Congressional Review Act disapproval. Disapproving the OCC's true lender rule will constrain future Comptroller ability to address the true lender issue and may limit the OCC's ability to take supervisory or enforcement actions against banks that would have been deemed to have ''made'' the loan under the true lender rule. Rather than vacate the rule, limit future Comptrollers from taking up similar rules or possibly hamstring the OCC's enforcement authority, changes to the rule, if any, should be made through the agency's rulemaking process and in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act.

Enclosed is a fact sheet that provides additional information for your awareness. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me or Carrie Moore, Director, Congressional Relations.

Sincerely,

BLAKE J. PAULSON,
Acting Comptroller of the Currency.

Mr. BARR. The point I want to highlight is that the former Acting Comptroller was making the point that disapproving the OCC's true lender rule will constrain a future Comptroller's ability to address the true lender issue and limit the OCC's ability to take supervisory or enforcement actions against banks that would have been deemed to have made the loan under the true lender rule; meaning that the way the CRA law operates, if the House passes this resolution, we will have a permanent problem in the credit markets that will deprive low- and moderate-income Americans of the financial products that they desperately need.

That is why I urge all my colleagues to reject this misguided proposal.

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

Ms. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I express my gratitude to Chairwoman WATERS for allowing me to speak in support of invalidating the predatory true lender rule.

In our home State, the legislature passed an interest rate cap of 36 percent on loans of up to $10,000 about 2 years ago.

Before California Governor Newsom had even signed this bill into law, predatory online lenders began plotting during their shareholder earnings calls to evade the new law through rent-a-bank arrangements. Companies like Speedy Cash and CashNetUSA went so far as to gloat about the California law creating a huge opportunity for them by driving out their competition, subprime title lenders based in California.

Since the founding of the United States, States have chosen to impose their own limits on interest rates that lenders may charge consumers. The Trump administration's true lender rule greenlit these rent-a-bank schemes and, in doing so, undermined the will of Californians who, through the democratic process, chose to prohibit abusive interest rates.

The true lender rule violates our federalist democracy, and it must be invalidated.

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DONALDS), who has been a great new Member of Congress.

Mr. DONALDS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to allow me to speak on this matter.

It is important to understand, Madam Speaker, that having access to financial products is critical for not only the innovation of our markets but for the future expansion of our markets. It is time to take the pettiness out of politics and actually prioritize policy that puts Americans first and puts America first.

True lender is not being discussed in a way that considers people. If that were the case, we would be recognizing the incredible ways it has spurred innovation in our markets and has provided more access to credit and other financial products for Americans.

Instead of Congress working together to create financial equity in a sustainable way or ensuring that the United States remains a global leader, Democrats are working to undo anything accomplished under the Trump administration, even if it means sacrificing the good of the people.

I support assessing harmful financial policies of the past and working to undo some of the mistakes that have been made. In fact, we could benefit from assessing legislation like Dodd-Frank, which has put tremendous downward pressure on community banks being formed in the United States. But that is not what is being done here.

We are not having honest conversations. My peers across the aisle are undoing good policy without an objective view to determine how it helps or hurts Americans.

Fintech has played a significant role in transforming our markets, helping smaller banks become more competitive, and creating more products and access for Americans. The true lender rule has supported that because it clarifies the legal framework that allows these bank and nonbank partnerships to be successful for consumers.

We should be prioritizing fair access to financial services for Americans and work to protect and promote innovation in our markets so that consumers have as many pathways as possible to prosperity and achieving the American Dream.

If we scrap the true lender rule, we will disrupt our market, stifle innovation, and hinder access to accountable and affordable credit for consumers and small businesses. This is not the precedent we should set in this body. It is a gross abuse of power and a knife in the back of consumers.

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

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

The true lender rule specifies that when a bank makes a loan, the bank is the true lender. The rule clarifies what was uncertain and, therefore, made those loans more expensive.

This gives certainty to the marketplace. It is a good thing. The true lender rule is a good thing.

Under the true lender rule, we have fintechs that have been enabled to make loans in coordination with banks and regulated like the people that they work with, like the banks that they work with, which means the loans fall under Federal consumer protection laws, under Federal usury laws, under Federal laws.

One case in point, what the true lender rule enabled was one out of four African American-owned businesses accessing credit through fintechs.

I would ask Members to review a few pieces of evidence that I have here.

Madam Speaker, I would refer the Members to a study conducted by NYU highlighting the important role that fintechs play in supporting African American-owned small businesses.

I would also refer the Members to letters in opposition to S.J. Res. 15: a June 8 letter from the American Bankers Association, Consumer Bankers Association, Electronic Transactions Association, Independent Bankers of America, Midsize Bank Coalition of America, and National Bankers Association; an April 2, 2021, letter from FreedomWorks, Americans for Tax Reform, National Taxpayers Union, Center for a Free Economy, American Commitment, and Citizens Against Government Waste; a letter from the Structured Finance Association; a letter from the Independent Community Bankers of America; a May 11, 2021, letter from the American Bankers Association; a May 7, 2021, letter from the

Americans for Prosperity; and a June 22, 2021, letter from the Competitive Enterprise Institute, which consists of a number of additional signatories.

None of those people are payday lenders, by the way, which is the most spurious argument about the true lender rule. If you want to get at payday lending, go talk about valid when made. That would be the sound argument from there. At least it has some relationship tangentially to payday lending. True lender does not. These are different loans that are being described by my colleagues across the aisle.

Let's be clear. The National Banking Act enacted in 1864 established the principle by which and explicitly granted national banks the ability to transfer loans State-by-State. If you don't like that model, then repeal the 1864 National Banking Act instead of making these false arguments about the true lender rule, which simply provides clarity about the National Banking Act.

My colleagues across the aisle would have you believe that this is a complex scheme cooked up by the previous administration to get around consumer protection laws. That is not true. We are talking about 157 years of banking law here in the United States, and my colleagues across the aisle are arguing about that.

My Democratic colleagues also ignored this basic fact: They have made misleading statements about national banks versus State banks. They have implied falsehoods on State interest rates. They have cited protecting consumers when now they are just leaving them out to dry. That is not consumer protection.

I get it, Democrats are now so politically motived that the facts and longstanding precedent no longer matter. I think facts matter. In fact, Democrats are so blinded by partisanship, some can't even seem to differentiate between that doctrine of valid when made versus what we are discussing today, which is true lender. I think we should be rooted in fact, and our policy debates should be rooted in fact.

Make no mistake, the true lender rule provides necessary consumer protections and supports affordable credit to more communities. The rule does nothing to change interest rates, plain and simple. States retain that authority.

The actions in 2020 to clarify true lender are very different than codifying and clarifying valid when made. Both were important clarifications, though.

The argument today is about true lender, not some massive shift away from congressional intent, not something new, something longstanding.

Regardless, the Democrats will push through whatever they can in the House today. But as former Acting Comptroller Brooks recently stated, nullifying the true lender rule does nothing to undo payday lending—nothing. And it seems to be what my colleagues across the aisle have a real problem with.

Deal with that. Don't create needless pain for consumers. Don't drive up the cost of credit and make it less available by repealing this true lender rule.

This is another moment where my colleagues are working against the national banks for politics rather than protecting consumers and creating a more vibrant, competitive, and innovative marketplace.

We should do what is good for consumers in the financial system. Technology and innovation facilitate financial inclusion, which should be our goal.

Let's not waste further time here. Let's vote this idea down that we are debating right now. Let's get back to actually driving a more competitive marketplace and doing what is right for our constituents, what is right for consumers, and what is right for families.

Madam Speaker, I urge a ''no'' vote on this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, may I inquire how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. MCCOLLUM). The gentlewoman has 18 minutes remaining.

□ 1415

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

Madam Speaker, this resolution would take the necessary action to reverse the harmful Trump-era true lender rule that preys on small business owners and individuals when they need assistance the most. This rule is a back door for nonbanks to charge triple digit interest rates that trap consumers.

Last month, the Senate passed this resolution on a bipartisan vote with all Democrats voting in support. They were joined by Republican Senators LUMMIS, RUBIO, and COLLINS. This resolution is also supported by more than 400 consumer, civil rights, veterans, small businesses, and other organizations, including the American Civil Liberties Union, Americans for Financial Reform, the Center for Responsible Lending, Faith for Just Lending, the NAACP, National Association of Federally-Insured Credit Unions, the National Consumer Law Center, Conference of State Bank Supervisors, and 25 State attorneys general from both red and blue States, among many others.

Madam Speaker, and Members, small businesses and underbanked consumers do not benefit from the rule. Instead, the rule allows nonbank lenders to launder loans through banks in order to charge those with limited access to credit triple digit interest rates and trap these consumers in devastating cycles of debt. These predatory rent-a-bank schemes disproportionately prey on communities of color, draining wealth from these communities and, in turn, perpetuating the racial wealth gap.

A disproportionate share of payday borrowers come from communities of color even after controlling for income. Communities of color have historically been left out of the banking system. Black and Latinx consumers are much less likely to have a checking account than White consumers, which is typically a requirement for a payday loan. About 17 percent of Black and 14 percent of Latinx households are unbanked compared to 3 percent of White households.

Payday lenders target communities of color. The communities most affected by redlining are the same who are saturated by payday lenders today, which are more likely to locate in more affluent communities of color than in less affluent White communities.

One borrower, a single mother living below the poverty line from California, submitted a complaint to the CFPB about Elevate's RISE.

''I was misled by RISE Credit to believe that they were unlike other predatory loan companies. By the time,'' she says, ''I understood what I had signed, I had paid them thousands of dollars in interest.

''I have recently become temporarily unemployed and called them to ask for help during my time of financial hardship. They refused any solution and my account is headed to collections now.

''The total paid is far over the amount initially borrowed from RISE. This is robbery, and all of the necessities I have for myself and my children are suffering because of it.

''How is it that they can do this? I am asking for help for not only my family, but for all of the families targeted by these predatory loans meant to target those living in poverty and struggling to live paycheck to paycheck.''

The fake lender rule protects lenders that not only destroy small businesses but also threaten to take business owners' homes.

In New York, Jacob Adoni, a realtor, has been facing foreclosure threats on a $90,000 loan with an interest rate of 138 percent APR.

In a court case—that is Adoni et al. v. World Business Lenders, LLC, Axos Bank and Circadian Funding filed in New York in October 2019—Adoni said he received threats that the lender would foreclose on his home after receiving a $90,000 loan at 138 percent APR, secured by his personal residence.

''Adoni was contacted by Circadian Funding with an offer of a personal loan that would be funded by WLB and Axos Bank. He was told that the loan documents would be provided to him at 12 p.m. and he must execute them by 6 p.m. or the offer would no longer be valid.

''Adoni was told by Circadian that the loan was meant to be a personal loan to him, but it was necessary for the loan documents to make reference to his business.''

He has received multiple threats to foreclose on his home and the mortgage.

Madam Speaker, let me just respond to some of what I have heard from the opposite side of the aisle. I am absolutely overcome by the great interest that my Republican colleagues have in helping minorities. I am so moved about the fact that all this is about helping minorities who have been put into trouble because they are subprime lenders. Now if they are, it is because they were the victim of predatory lenders who put them in a subprime position.

But I hardly think that this is all about taking care of minorities and these small businesses. This is about protecting the big banks. This is about protecting the national banks. You heard what the ranking member said. The big national banks have been in business for years, and we ought to let them operate the way that they have historically operated and not interfere with them.

I don't know where they get away with protecting these big national banks. And the constituents in their own district who are being misused because they happen to get money, money that was lent to them by a nonbank, and that nonbank partnered with a national bank, they are now having to pay the interest rates of another State, perhaps—like it was explained in California, why we have usury laws and there is a cap on those interest rates.

When they do this kind of partnering, it is all about getting to a State where they are made to pay whatever that big bank is allowed to collect from them.

Madam Speaker, this is a rip-off. This is about hurting the people who most need our help. This is about allowing this partnering to go on. And many of those people who are borrowing from these payday lenders and other nonbanks don't even know that they are going to be the victims of the big banks and the interest rates that they charge. This is absolutely ridiculous, and there is not a credible argument from the other side of the aisle about why they should disadvantage these minorities and small businesses that they claim that they are protecting. This is outrageous.

Madam Speaker, I am so pleased that the Senate passed this bill. And I am so pleased that the Republicans on the other side of the aisle—not on the other side of the aisle, on the other side of Congress—decided to join with the Democrats in order to do the right thing on behalf of our constituents.

Madam Speaker, when they talk about, Oh, this is just because they didn't like Trump and they want to undo whatever he has done, that is their talking point for the day. This is not about that.

This committee, the Committee on Financial Services, is a new and different kind of committee. We are not owned by the banks. We are not here to protect the big banks and the national banks. We are here because we are here to take care of what is right and what is fair. And this committee is not going to be about the business of ripping off the least of these.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the previous question is ordered on the joint resolution.

The question is on the third reading of the joint resolution.

The joint resolution 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 joint resolution.

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

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

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

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

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION RELATING TO ''UPDATE OF COMMISSION'S CONCILIATION PROCEDURES''

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, pursuant to section 7 of House Resolution 486, I call up the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 13) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission relating to ''Update of Commission's Conciliation Procedures'', and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 486, the joint resolution is considered read.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

S.J. RES. 13

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress disapproves the rule submitted by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission relating to ''Update of Commission's Conciliation Procedures'' (86 Fed. Reg. 2974; published January 14, 2021), and such rule shall have no force or effect.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The joint resolution shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Labor or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials on S.J. Res. 13.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of S.J. Res. 13, a Congressional Review Act resolution disapproving the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, or EEOC, Conciliation Rule.

This resolution will help ensure fairness for those who bring forth charges of unlawful workplace discrimination.

When the EEOC has found that an employer likely violated the law, it is required under title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1984 to engage in conciliation before filing a lawsuit. This conciliation process is meant to be an informal and confidential opportunity for parties to settle a charge of discrimination in lieu of going to court.

Unfortunately, in the final weeks of the Trump administration, the EEOC issued a final rule that imposed onerous new requirements on the conciliation process.

Under the new rule, the EEOC must provide an employer with a written summary of the facts and the nonprivileged information the EEOC relied on to determine that the employer violated the law. Notably, the rule requires the EEOC to expose the identities of workers or groups of workers for whom relief is being sought unless they proactively request anonymity, and their witnesses.

This new rule will put a thumb on the scale in favor of employers in cases where the EEOC found that they likely violated workers' civil rights. Specifically, the rule incentivizes employers to focus litigation on whether the EEOC failed to satisfy the rule's new requirements instead of whether the employer engaged in unlawful discrimination.

In fact, on settlement—settlements had been more likely since the Supreme Court ruled that this conciliation process should be informal, unlike the rule that was promulgated late in the Trump administration. This will allow unscrupulous employers to drag out the conciliation process, possibly for years—and even avoid accountability altogether—by just litigating over whether the EEOC complied with the conciliation rule rather than correcting the discriminatory process.

□ 1430

The EEOC rule conflicts with the Supreme Court's 2015 decision in Mach Mining v. EEOC. It was a unanimous decision. It held that the EEOC must

have the discretion to use whatever informal means of settlement are appropriate in each individual case. However, under the new rule, a rigid conciliation process will apply across the board, one-size-fits-all, in every case of workplace discrimination.

This solution will likely lead to increased retaliation against victims of discrimination and witnesses, as well as needless delays in justice for workers. We know that justice delayed is justice denied. This is why civil rights leaders and worker advocates across the country have called on Congress to pass this Congressional Review Act resolution and restore fairness for victims of workplace discrimination.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD a Statement of Administrative Policy from the Biden administration in support of this resolution.

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

S.J. RES. 13—A JOINT RESOLUTION FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION RELATING TO ''UPDATE OF COMMISSION'S CONCILIATION PROCEDURES''—SEN. MURRAY, D–WA, AND NO COSPONSORS

The Administration supports Senate passage of Senate Joint Resolution 13 to nullify the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's (EEOC) recently promulgated ''Update of Commission's Conciliation Procedures,'' which became effective on February 16, 2021, under the Congressional Review Act. The rule that S.J. Res. 13 would nullify imposed onerous and rigid new procedures on the EEOC's obligation to conciliate or ''settle'' meritorious claims of employment discrimination, that risks unduly delaying and diverting limited resources from agency efforts to investigate and resolve meritorious claims of employment discrimination. The rule increases the risk of retaliation by making it easier for employers to demand the identities of those with information about unlawful discrimination, which will likely-have a chilling effect on the willingness of victims and witnesses to come forward. S.J. Res. 13 would nullify the rule's unnecessary and burdensome standards that would likely result in increased charge backlogs, and lengthier charge investigation, resolution and litigation times. The resolution will also ensure that EEOC has the flexibility to tailor settlements to the facts and circumstances of each case, thus increasing the likelihood of voluntary compliance. The resolution will furthermore ensure that justice for workers subject to discrimination is not delayed, or potentially denied, due to costly and time-consuming collateral litigation.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to S.J. Res. 13, which negates a recent U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, EEOC, rule. I urge Members to reject this misguided resolution.

The rule in question, often referred to as the conciliation rule, is fair, increases transparency, reduces senseless litigation, and upholds a Federal statute.

There are dozens of pressing problems demanding Congress' attention. Our southern border is being run over by drug dealers and human traffickers. America is vulnerable to cyberattacks from adversarial foreign nations, like China and Russia. Our children are months behind in their schoolwork because of Democrats' insistence on putting teachers' union leadership demands before students' interests.

We could be addressing those problems, but Democrats are choosing to elevate the repeal of this commonsense rule before all those other immediate issues.

Let's examine the facts of the matter. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 requires EEOC to engage in conciliation. Before the EEOC can pursue court proceedings against an employer for a discrimination claim, the agency must work with the business to resolve the dispute.

There are good reasons Congress established this requirement. Successful conciliations provide immediate relief to employees who suffered discrimination. Conciliations also save these employees time and money. Court cases are adversarial and can last years. Individuals who experience discrimination should not have to wait years for justice.

Nothing in the regulation prohibits the EEOC from using the court system if conciliation fails. For over four decades, EEOC's conciliation process remained largely ineffectual and unaltered. Antiquated bureaucratic systems deserve scrutiny, and this opaque practice was long overdue for improvement.

Prior to the rule's promulgation, a paltry 41 percent of the conciliations were successful. One out of every three employers declined to participate in this broken process.

In 2015, the Supreme Court reprimanded the EEOC for its inadequate conciliation process, which included failing to communicate basic information about the alleged discrimination to employers. The mounting evidence of a failed conciliation process grew harder and harder for the EEOC to ignore. That is why the conciliation rule was issued on January 14, after an extensive notice-and-comment rulemaking.

Under the rule, the core tenets of conciliation remain unchanged. Conciliation stays voluntary, does not favor either the employer or the worker, and protects individuals' privacy.

The rule requires the EEOC to provide employers with basic but important information in support of the agency's findings, including simple underlying facts, the legal basis for the finding, an explanation of the monetary relief calculations, and whether the EEOC designated the case for a class of individuals.

The rule also does not increase costs to taxpayers. EEOC is on the record saying its operating budget will absorb any minor costs associated with implementing the rule.

In summary, S.J. Res. 13 harms the victims of discrimination; encourages the EEOC to pursue needless, combative, and expensive litigation; and turns the EEOC back into a politically driven, runaway bureaucracy.

Madam Speaker, I urge Members to vote ''no'' on S.J. Res. 13, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI), the chair of the Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services, and cosponsor of the House version of this resolution.

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S.J. Res. 13, a resolution to repeal a harmful rule from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission that threatens to delay or potentially deny justice for individuals who face workplace discrimination.

As chair of the Education and Labor Committee's Civil Rights and Human Services Subcommittee, I am pleased to co-lead the House companion to this resolution because far too many workers still experience workplace discrimination. The Civil Rights Act helps workers seek redress by directing the EEOC to engage in conciliation, which provides an opportunity for settlement before going to court.

But the EEOC's new rule added burdensome requirements, and it gives employers unfair advantages in the conciliation process. Under the rule, the EEOC discloses confidential information, analysis, and even the identities of workers to employers, increasing the likelihood of retaliation.

By passing this resolution, we can direct the EEOC to revert to its prior practices, which were upheld by the Supreme Court.

Madam Speaker, I want to note that in the Mach Mining decision from the U.S. Supreme Court in 2015, the Court held that ''Every aspect of the Title VII's conciliation provision smacks of flexibility. To begin with, the EEOC need only to 'endeavor' to conciliate a claim, without having to devote a set amount of time or resources to that project.''

We can direct the EEOC to revert to those prior practices that were upheld and that better support the needs of workers.

Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman SCOTT for his leadership, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

Madam Speaker, Democrats have claimed that EEOC's conciliation rule could subject employees to retaliation. This claim could not be further from the truth.

First, the rule explicitly states that employees may remain anonymous in the conciliation process if they so choose. In such cases, settlement discussions would proceed with the employee or employees making claims of discrimination remaining anonymous.

Second, the existing statutes to which the conciliation rule applies all make it illegal for an employer to retaliate against an employee for filing a charge with EEOC or participating in EEOC proceedings. An employer would be compounding its legal exposure if it unwisely tried to act against employees for making a complaint to the EEOC.

The claim that the conciliation rule will expose employees to retaliation is a red herring.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote against this misguided resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, just to state on the question of whether or not the individuals can be revealed, identifying the aggrieved individuals must take place, but not if the individual or individuals have requested anonymity. That means you have to know that you are about to be revealed. You have to proactively request anonymity. If you haven't gone through those steps, then you will be revealed.

That is an unnecessary step. It puts people in unnecessary jeopardy, and I hope they would not subject that. It is not necessary. The EEOC has an obligation to do conciliation, but they need to do it on an individualized case, best aimed at settlement and based on an individual case, and reveal the information that is best for that purpose, and no more.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, in 2015, the Supreme Court harshly criticized EEOC's conciliation process in the Mach Mining decision, which held that a court may review whether the EEOC satisfied its statutory obligation to engage in conciliation before filing a lawsuit.

The agency claimed that two ''bookend letters'' were all that was needed to satisfy the statutory conciliation requirement, one at the beginning of the process announcing a finding of discrimination, and one at the end stating that conciliation had failed.

The Supreme Court disagreed and ruled that the EEOC must disclose to the employer ''what practice has harmed which person or class, and provide the employer an 'opportunity' to discuss the matter in an effort to achieve voluntary compliance.''

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, S.J. Res. 13 is a partisan maneuver to overturn an eminently reasonable regulation. Before the rule, the EEOC's conciliation process was out of date, opaque, and ineffective. Individuals subject to workplace discrimination should not have to wait years for justice.

Employers are not asking too much when they request basic information about the EEOC's findings. The conciliation rule updates a broken system and is beneficial to both workers and employers.

S.J. Res. 13 delivers a partisan victory for the Democrats' technocrat base.

Madam Speaker, I reject S.J. Res. 13, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, it is our responsibility to reverse the EEOC's new conciliation rule. Before this harmful rule change, the EEOC's conciliation process was what it was meant to be, an informal, flexible, confidential opportunity to settle discrimination claims before going to court. That is what the Supreme Court ruled unanimously in 2015.

□ 1445

Now, the new conciliation rule is threatening to stack the process against workers by subjecting those who make discrimination claims to an increased risk of retaliation and allowing employers to hijack the process to focus on whether it failed to conciliate, not whether the employer violated the law.

Simply put, this is an unnecessary new regulation which will, at best, delay justice for victims of discrimination and, at worst, open the door for collateral litigation, adding potentially years to the process before ever reaching the merits of the discrimination claim.

That is why advocates of victims of discrimination support the resolution.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights signed by 24 civil rights groups in support of the resolution.

THE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
ON CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS,
Washington, DC, June 9, 2021.

Re Support S.J. Res. 13, a Congressional Review Act Resolution of Disapproval to Protect Workers from a Harmful EEOC Rule

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: The undersigned 24 civil and workers' rights organizations urge you to vote for S.J. Res. 13, a Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolution of disapproval to undo a January 14, 2021, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) final rule that threatens to harm working people seeking relief from discrimination and to impede the work of the EEOC.

The EEOC final rule made several changes to conciliation, the process by which the EEOC tries to settle a charge of workplace discrimination. Instead of ensuring that discrimination charges are resolved fairly, the EEOC's final rule imposes several new obligations and disclosures that:

Significantly weight the conciliation process in favor of employers;

Delay justice and increase the likelihood of harm to working people;

Divert scarce EEOC staff time and resources away from investigating discrimination; and

Contravene controlling U.S. Supreme Court precedent.

The Senate passed S.J. Res. 13 on May 19, 2021. If the House now passes this resolution, Congress could undo this harmful rule and restore the status quo with respect to the EEOC's procedures. A resolution of disapproval is an appropriate exercise of Congress's power in this case, because the CRA is the most expeditious and effective option for addressing the negative impacts of the EEOC's final rule.

The EEOC must be able to conduct its work efficiently in order to be effective in its mission to prevent and remedy workplace discrimination. This mission is even more critical in the middle of a global pandemic that continues to have severe economic repercussions for women, people of color, and other marginalized communities, including a heightened risk of job loss, health and safety hazards, and discrimination based on sex, race, age, and disability.

Individuals who experience discrimination on the job already face significant hurdles to seeking redress, including retaliation, lack of information about their rights, and lack of access to legal assistance. When an individual does file a charge of discrimination against their employer with the EEOC, the agency collects information and conducts an investigation. If the EEOC finds ''reasonable cause'' to believe employment discrimination has occurred, the parties are invited to participate in the conciliation process, which seeks to settle or resolve the charges of discrimination informally and confidentially, in lieu of filing a lawsuit. Title VII requires the EEOC to attempt resolution of charges informally before considering or proceeding with litigation, and the EEOC may only pursue litigation if conciliation has failed.

The final rule will only deepen the barriers working people face coming forward to report discrimination and obtain justice. It requires the EEOC to grant the employer access to details of the victim and witnesses' identity and allegations, escalating the risk of retaliation for workers. Claims of retaliation made up more than half of all charges filed at the EEOC in FY 2020, and fear of retaliation prevents many victims of discrimination from coming forward and many witnesses from being forthright—something that may be especially true during an economic crisis. The rule also requires the EEOC to disclose critical information concerning the EEOC's legal analysis of the case to employers, and employers only. In other words, the EEOC would be required to automatically tum over its case files to employers whom the agency believes to have acted unlawfully, but not to the working people who are seeking a remedy for the discrimination they faced. This practice would exacerbate resource and information inequities between the parties to the benefit of employers only. Although the proposed rule would allow disclosures to the charging party upon request, many working people who file charges are unrepresented by counsel and will not know to make such a request. The EEOC, whose mission is to prevent and remedy discrimination, should not, in its own procedural rules, disadvantage the very party seeking to remedy discrimination.

By imposing inflexible rules on the conciliation process, the EEOC final rule also flouts congressional intent and is inconsistent with Supreme Court precedent. In its unanimous 2015 decision Mach Mining, LLC v. EEOC, the Supreme Court explained that

''every aspect of Title VII's conciliation provision smacks of flexibility,'' which allows the EEOC to tailor its approach to conciliation in the way most appropriate in each case. Without flexibility, the EEOC will be forced to divert resources away from investigating and remedying workplace discrimination and put them toward satisfying the final rule's burdensome standards, resulting in increased delays at the expense of victims of discrimination.

In addition, the rules would saddle EEOC with wasteful collateral litigation attacking the conciliation process, prolonging harm to workers through increased delay. This tactic was prevalent before Mach Mining, and that case itself shows the potential impact: The workers in Mach Mining—women excluded from coal mining jobs due to sex discrimination—were forced to wait nine years after the first charge was filed for relief, in part because of unmeritorious employer challenges to the conciliation process.

By invoking the CRA and passing a resolution of disapproval, Congress could quickly restore the status quo with respect to the EEOC's conciliation procedures, minimizing the harm to workers and eliminating the need for the EEOC to expend its scarce resources either undertaking rulemaking processes to rescind the conciliation rule or implementing the onerous new procedures in the final rule, and defending the sufficiency of the new conciliation process in collateral litigation by employers.

Importantly, application of the CRA to the final rule ensures that the EEOC would be prohibited from promulgating a ''substantially'' similar rule in the future that would hinder vigorous enforcement of federal workplace antidiscrimination laws. The final conciliation rule was both procedurally and substantively flawed, raising concerns about its integrity. As such, Congress's exercise of the CRA would be warranted here.

Accordingly, we urge you to support and vote for S.J. Res. 13, the CRA resolution of disapproval of the EEOC's final rule. Please contact Gaylynn Burroughs of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights at burroughs@civilrights.org, or Maya Raghu of the National Women's Law Center at mraghu@nwlc.org, if you have any questions.

Thank you,

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, National Women's Law Center, A Better Balance, AFL–CIO, American Association of University Women (AAUW), Anti-Defamation League, Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL–CIO, Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, Center for American Progress, Equal Rights Advocates, Feminist Majority, Futures Without Violence, Institute for Women's Policy Research, National Action Network, National Association of Councils on Developmental Disablities, National Employment Law Project, National Organization for Women, National Partnership for Women & Families, National Workrights Institute, Public Citizen, Sikh Coalition, TIME'S UP Now, Women Employed, Workplace Fairness.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, we cannot allow employers to drag out the conciliation process rather than be held accountable for violating workers' civil rights.

As I said at the beginning of this debate, justice delayed is justice denied. That is why I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for this resolution and taking a critical step to ensuring that those who suffer workplace discrimination can get timely and fair justice.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) for working with me on the House version of the resolution.

I ask for the support of the House to pass the resolution to overturn the EEOC regulation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as a senior member of the Judiciary Committee, I rise in strong support of S.J. Res. 13, a Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolution of disapproval to undo an Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) final rule issued January 14, 2021 that threatens to harm working people seeking relief from discrimination and to impede the work of the EEOC.

The EEOC final rule made several changes to conciliation, the process by which the EEOC tries to settle a charge of workplace discrimination, all of which harm employees.

Instead of ensuring that discrimination charges are resolved fairly, the EEOC's final rule imposes several new obligations and disclosures that:

1. Significantly weight the conciliation process in favor of employers;

2. Delay justice and increase the likelihood of harm to working people;

3. Divert scarce EEOC staff time and resources away from investigating discrimination; and

4. Contravene controlling U.S. Supreme Court precedent.

The Senate passed S.J. Res. 13 on May 19, 2021, and by following suit, the House can ensure this harmful rule is rescinded and the status quo ante is restored with respect to the EEOC's procedures.

The EEOC must be able to conduct its work efficiently in order to be effective in its mission to prevent and remedy workplace discrimination.

This mission is even more critical in the middle of a global pandemic that continues to have severe economic repercussions for women, people of color, and other marginalized communities, including a heightened risk of job loss, health and safety hazards, and discrimination based on sex, race, age, and disability.

Madam Speaker, individuals who experience discrimination on the job already face significant hurdles to seeking redress, including retaliation, lack of information about their rights, and lack of access to legal assistance.

When an individual does file a charge of discrimination against their employer with the EEOC, the agency collects information and conducts an investigation.

If the EEOC finds ''reasonable cause'' to believe employment discrimination has occurred, the parties are invited to participate in the conciliation process, which seeks to settle or resolve the charges of discrimination informally and confidentially, in lieu of filing a lawsuit.

Title VII requires the EEOC to attempt resolution of charges informally before considering or proceeding with litigation, and the EEOC may only pursue litigation if conciliation has failed.

The final rule will only deepen the barriers working people face coming forward to report discrimination and obtain justice by requiring the EEOC to grant the employer access to details of the victim and witnesses' identity and allegations, escalating the risk of retaliation for workers.

Claims of retaliation made up more than half of all charges filed at the EEOC in FY 2020, and fear of retaliation prevents many victims of discrimination from coming forward and many witnesses from being forthright—something that may be especially true during an economic crisis.

The rule also requires the EEOC to disclose critical information concerning the EEOC's legal analysis of the case to employers, and employers only.

In other words, the EEOC would be required to automatically turn over its case files to employers whom the agency believes to have acted unlawfully, but not to the working people who are seeking a remedy for the discrimination they faced.

This practice would exacerbate resource and information inequities between the parties to the benefit of employers only.

The EEOC, whose mission is to prevent and remedy discrimination, should not, in its own procedural rules, disadvantage the very party seeking to remedy discrimination.

By imposing inflexible rules on the conciliation process, the EEOC final rule also flouts congressional intent and is inconsistent with Supreme Court precedent.

In its unanimous 2015 decision Mach Mining, LLC v. EEOC, 575 U.S.____, 135 S. Ct. 1645, No. 13–1019 (2015), the Supreme Court stated that ''every aspect of Title VII's conciliation provision smacks of flexibility,'' which allows the EEOC to tailor its approach to conciliation in the way most appropriate in each case.

Without flexibility, the EEOC will be forced to divert resources away from investigating and remedying workplace discrimination and put them toward satisfying the final rule's burdensome standards, resulting in increased delays at the expense of victims of discrimination.

By invoking the CRA and passing a resolution of disapproval, Congress could quickly restore the status quo with respect to the EEOC's conciliation procedures, minimizing the harm to workers and eliminating the need for the EEOC to expend its scarce resources either undertaking rulemaking processes to rescind the conciliation rule or implementing the onerous new procedures in the final rule, and defending the sufficiency of the new conciliation process in collateral litigation by employers.

In addition, application of the CRA to the final rule ensures that the EEOC would be prohibited from promulgating a ''substantially'' similar rule in the future that would hinder vigorous enforcement of federal workplace antidiscrimination laws.

For all of these reasons, I strongly support S.J. Res. 13, the CRA resolution of disapproval of the EEOC's final rule and urge all Members to join me in voting for its passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the previous question is ordered on the joint resolution.

The question is on third reading of the joint resolution.

The joint resolution 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 joint resolution.

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

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

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

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 47 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1500

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. MCCOLLUM) at 3 p.m.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER OF CURRENCY RELATING TO ''NATIONAL BANKS AND FEDERAL SAVINGS ASSOCIATIONS AS LENDERS''

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on passage of the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 15) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Office of the Comptroller of Currency relating to ''National Banks and Federal Savings Associations as Lenders'', on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the joint resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 218, nays 208, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 181]

YEAS—218

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Auchincloss
Axne
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brown
Brownley
Bustos
Butterfield
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis, Danny K.
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fletcher
Foster
Frankel, Lois
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Grothman
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Kahele
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newman
Norcross
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Rice (NY)
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NAYS—208

Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bentz
Bergman
Bice (OK)
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brady
Brooks
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Calvert
Cammack
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Comer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Estes
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Gohmert
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harris
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
Jacobs (NY)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Katko
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kim (CA)
Kinzinger
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
LaTurner
Lesko
Letlow
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Mace
Malliotakis
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
Meijer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Mullin
Murphy (NC)
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunes
Obernolte
Owens
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Young
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—4

Bush
Fulcher
Khanna
Mooney

□ 1530

Messrs. GARCIA of California, DUNN, ROY, and HICE of Georgia changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Ms. SÁNCHEZ changed her vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the joint resolution was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms. BUSH. Madam Speaker, due to being stuck in traffic, I was unable to make it in time to vote on rollcall No. 181. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 181.

Stated against:

Mr. MOONEY. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 181.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Aderholt (Moolenaar)
Amodei (Balderson)
Beatty (Clark (MA))
Buchanan (Walorski)
Burgess (Jackson)
Castor (FL) (Demings)
Crist (Deutch)
DeFazio (Davids (KS))
DeSaulnier (Matsui)
Grijalva (García (IL))
Hoyer (Brown)
Johnson (TX) (Jeffries)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lieu (Beyer)
Lowenthal (Beyer)
Meng (Clark (MA))
Miller (WV) (Walorski)
Mullin (Cole)
Napolitano (Correa)
Pappas (Kuster)
Payne (Pallone)
Rice (NY) (Peters)
Ruiz (Aguilar)
Rush (Underwood)
Sewell (DelBene)
Soto (Deutch)
Titus (Connolly)
Van Drew (Reschenthaler)
Veasey (Fletcher)
Vela (Gomez)
Velázquez (Jeffries)
Wasserman Schultz (Deutch)
Waters (Takano)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)
Young (Joyce (OH))

LGBTQ BUSINESS EQUAL CREDIT ENFORCEMENT AND INVESTMENT ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on passage of the bill (H.R. 1443) to amend the Equal Credit Opportunity Act to require the collection of small business loan data related to LGBTQ-owned businesses, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 252, nays 176, not voting 2, as follows:

[Roll No. 182]

YEAS—252

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Auchincloss
Axne
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brown
Brownley
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Emmer
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fitzpatrick
Fletcher
Foster
Frankel, Lois
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gimenez
Golden
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Hinson
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Joyce (OH)
Kahele
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kinzinger
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Luria
Lynch
Mace
Malinowski
Malliotakis
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McNerney
Meeks
Meijer
Meng
Mfume
Miller-Meeks
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (NC)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newhouse
Newman
Norcross
O'Halleran
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reed
Rice (NY)
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Salazar
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stansbury
Stanton
Steel
Stevens
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth
Young
Zeldin

NAYS—176

Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bentz
Bergman
Bice (OK)
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Brady
Brooks
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Cammack
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Comer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson
DesJarlais
Donalds
Duncan
Dunn
Estes
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fleischmann
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gibbs
Gohmert
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harris
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Hill
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
Jacobs (NY)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (PA)
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
LaTurner
Lesko
Letlow
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McKinley
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Mullin
Nehls
Norman
Nunes
Owens
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Van Duyne
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack

NOT VOTING—2

Fulcher
Higgins (LA)

□ 1552

Mr. MEUSER changed his vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Aderholt (Moolenaar)
Amodei (Balderson)
Beatty (Clark (MA))
Buchanan (Walorski)
Burgess (Jackson)
Castor (FL) (Demings)
Crist (Deutch)
DeFazio (Davids (KS))
DeSaulnier (Matsui)
Grijalva (García (IL))
Hoyer (Brown)
Johnson (TX) (Jeffries)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lieu (Beyer)
Lowenthal (Beyer)
Meng (Clark (MA))
Miller (WV) (Walorski)
Mullin (Cole)
Napolitano (Correa)
Pappas (Kuster)
Payne (Pallone)
Rice (NY) (Peters)
Ruiz (Aguilar)
Rush (Underwood)
Sewell (DelBene)
Soto (Deutch)
Titus (Connolly)
Van Drew (Reschenthaler)
Veasey (Fletcher)
Vela (Gomez)
Velázquez (Jeffries)
Wasserman Schultz (Deutch)
Waters (Takano)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)
Young (Joyce (OH))

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION RELATING TO ''UPDATE OF COMMISSION'S CONCILIATION PROCEDURES''

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on passage of the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 13) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission relating to ''Update of Commission's Conciliation Procedures'', on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the joint resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 219, nays 210, not voting 1, as follows:

[Roll No. 183]

YEAS—219

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Auchincloss
Axne
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brown
Brownley
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis, Danny K.
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fletcher
Foster
Frankel, Lois
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Kahele
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newman
Norcross
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Rice (NY)
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Scott (VA)

Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NAYS—210

Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bentz
Bergman
Bice (OK)
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brady
Brooks
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Calvert
Cammack
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Comer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Estes
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Gohmert
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harris
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
Jacobs (NY)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Katko
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kim (CA)
Kinzinger
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
LaTurner
Lesko
Letlow
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Mace
Malliotakis
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
Meijer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Mullin
Murphy (NC)
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunes
Obernolte
Owens
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Young
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—1

Fulcher

□ 1615

So the joint resolution was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Aderholt (Moolenaar)
Amodei (Balderson)
Beatty (Clark (MA))
Buchanan (Walorski)
Burgess (Jackson)
Castor (FL) (Demings)
Crist (Deutch)
DeFazio (Davids (KS))
DeSaulnier (Matsui)
Grijalva (García (IL))
Hoyer (Brown)
Johnson (TX) (Jeffries)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lieu (Beyer)
Lowenthal (Beyer)
Meng (Clark (MA))
Miller (WV) (Walorski)
Mullin (Cole)
Napolitano (Correa)
Pappas (Kuster)
Payne (Pallone)
Rice (NY) (Peters)
Ruiz (Aguilar)
Rush (Underwood)
Sewell (DelBene)
Soto (Deutch)
Titus (Connolly)
Van Drew (Reschenthaler)
Veasey (Fletcher)
Vela (Gomez)
Velázquez (Jeffries)
Wasserman Schultz (Deutch)
Waters (Takano)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)
Young (Joyce (OH))

EQUAL ACCESS TO CONTRACEPTION FOR VETERANS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on passage of the bill (H.R. 239) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for limitations on copayments for contraception furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 245, nays 181, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 184]

YEAS—245

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Auchincloss
Axne
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brown
Brownley
Burgess
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crenshaw
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fitzpatrick
Fletcher
Foster
Frankel, Lois
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gimenez
Golden
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Hollingsworth
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Joyce (OH)
Kahele
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kinzinger
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Luria
Lynch
Mace
Malinowski
Malliotakis
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCarthy
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller-Meeks
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newhouse
Newman
Norcross
O'Halleran
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reed
Rice (NY)
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Salazar
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stansbury
Stanton
Steel
Stevens
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Upton
Van Drew
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth
Young

NAYS—181

Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bentz
Bergman
Bice (OK)
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Brady
Brooks
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Calvert
Cammack
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Comer
Crawford
Curtis
Davidson
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Estes
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fleischmann
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Gibbs
Gohmert
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harris
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Hudson
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
Jacobs (NY)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (PA)
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
LaTurner
Lesko
Letlow
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
Meijer
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Mullin
Murphy (NC)
Nehls
Norman
Nunes
Owens
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Spartz
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup

Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—4

Fulcher
Johnson (LA)
Smucker
Van Duyne

□ 1637

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 184.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Aderholt (Moolenaar)
Amodei (Balderson)
Beatty (Clark (MA))
Buchanan (Walorski)
Burgess (Jackson)
Castor (FL) (Demings)
Crist (Deutch)
DeFazio (Davids (KS))
DeSaulnier (Matsui)
Grijalva (García (IL))
Hoyer (Brown)
Johnson (TX) (Jeffries)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lieu (Beyer)
Lowenthal (Beyer)
Meng (Clark (MA))
Miller (WV) (Walorski)
Mullin (Cole)
Napolitano (Correa)
Pappas (Kuster)
Payne (Pallone)
Rice (NY) (Peters)
Ruiz (Aguilar)
Rush (Underwood)
Sewell (DelBene)
Soto (Deutch)
Titus (Connolly)
Van Drew (Reschenthaler)
Veasey (Fletcher)
Vela (Gomez)
Velázquez (Jeffries)
Wasserman Schultz (Deutch)
Waters (Takano)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)
Young (Joyce (OH))

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OR REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 24, 2021.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House or Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on June 24, 2021, at 2:53 p.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 1251.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk.

REDUCING CHILD POVERTY

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

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the child tax credit, which will start reaching families next month.

It is hard to overstate the tremendous good that the American Rescue Plan is doing for people all across Pennsylvania and, indeed, all across this country. Soon, we will see even more direct relief heading to families in Monroe, Northampton, and Lehigh Counties in my district.

Starting in July, nearly all families with children in my district will receive monthly payments of up to $300 per child through the end of the year as part of the expanded and improved child tax credit. The expanded and improved child tax credit will be a lifeline for many struggling families, helping more than 133,000 children in my district.

I cannot overstate how meaningful this assistance is to families who have been hit so hard this past year. These are payments that will help families pay for the cost of childcare, healthcare, diapers, and clothing. For many, these payments will be the difference between food on the table or hunger.

I am proud to have fought for and passed the American Rescue Plan, and I am glad we were able to get important help like the child tax credit into the hands of families across Pennsylvania 7.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 18, NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT

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

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, the Hyde amendment is an essential protection for the conscience rights of Americans and has saved over 2 million innocent lives.

The prohibition on the use of taxpayer funds for abortion has been enacted annually on a bipartisan basis despite our country's divisions on the question of abortion itself. Yet, despite President Biden's decades of support for the Hyde amendment, his budget request bows to the radical left and fails to include these longstanding protections.

As ranking member of the Appropriations Committee, I am committed to protecting all existing pro-life protections and advancing the pro-life cause whenever possible.

I will strongly oppose the elimination of the Hyde amendment from annual appropriations bills. But to strengthen the Hyde amendment, we must make it permanent law. That is why I support H.R. 18, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 18, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOWMAN). Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

□ 1645

HONORING BSA TROOP 19 FROM SHORT HILLS, NEW JERSEY

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

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor BSA Troop 19 in Short Hills, New Jersey, and their historic first class of female Eagle Scouts.

Five members in the troop in my district earned this prestigious rank in the first year young women were able to obtain the status in the organization's 111-year history.

I first met Katelyn Cannon, Keira Lowden, Riya Tyagi, and Bridget and Morgan Lomax virtually in February and I was lucky enough to attend their Eagle ceremony earlier this month. Their pioneering leadership has paved the way for many more young women to follow.

From creating a nonprofit corporation, to leading conservation efforts for koalas; to preserving and digitizing hundreds of hours of music for the New Jersey Youth Symphony; to building and installing houses for bats in local open spaces, these Scouts have gone above and beyond.

The Scouting community is better with Katelyn, Keira, Riya, Bridget, and Morgan as Eagle Scouts.

Congratulations to these trailblazing young women, and thank you to their Scoutmaster, Daniel Cannon.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF WAYNE SEAY

(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 to remember and honor Wayne Seay of Pooler, Georgia, who peacefully passed away on June 21 at the age of 81.

A lifelong resident of Pooler, Wayne attended Chatham Junior High, graduated from Savannah High School and Georgia Southern College. He was then drafted into the United States Army where he proudly served in the 1st Infantry Division.

After completing his military service, he joined the faculty of Robert W. Groves High School where he taught history and social studies for 28 years.

Wayne was a devoted Pooler resident and was elected to the city council where he served as mayor pro tempore. I had the honor and privilege of serving on the Pooler City Council with Wayne Seay. He was an outstanding member.

I also had the honor and privilege of being a former student of Mr. Seay. I know everyone will remember his kind and gentle spirit. I am thankful for the immense impact Wayne Seay had on the Pooler community and on myself, and I know his legacy will remain.

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

CHILD TAX CREDIT

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

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the expanded child tax credit. Thanks to the American Rescue Plan, working families across the country will receive a monthly child tax credit payment of up to $300 per child, covering nearly 90 percent of all children and cutting child poverty in half.

In my district, the expanded child tax credit will improve the lives of families from Newton to Fall River, helping almost 60 percent of children and lifting 3,800 children out of poverty. As a father, I am committed to providing parents with the support needed to navigate the high cost of raising a child.

From affording their food bills to paying for childcare, this substantial tax relief will set our parents and children up for success. The expanded child tax credit is a necessary investment in our families so that we can build an economy that works for everyone. We must make the expansion permanent.

RECOGNIZING HERITAGE HIGH TRACK TEAM

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Heritage High School girls track and field team in Lynchburg, Virginia, for winning their second consecutive Virginia Class 3 State championship. The Heritage Pioneers racked up 74 points at the title meet with only five girls.

Star student athlete junior, Alaysia Oakes said: ''Our coach always calls us the SEAL team. We go into states with five people, and it was definitely a tough battle,'' she continued, ''but everybody did what they needed to do. Just stayed strong. We knew it was going to be a battle, but we didn't back down, so I'm proud of us.''

Oakes captured three events, and seniors Tya Blake, Kaelynn Hawkins, Graysen Arnold, and Jalasia Jones helped the Pioneer's pour on the points.

Oakes came away as the individual State champion in the triple jump, long jump, and 100-meter dash, while placing second in the 200-meter and 400-meter dash; all making for a tremendous showing from the junior phenom.

This team is a shining example of hard work paying off. Congratulations to the athletes and coaches on an incredible season. We look forward to seeing what the future has in store for this talented group.

CHILD TAX CREDIT AND JUSTICE IN THE COURTS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, the greatest wealth enhancer that I have seen in our immediate time in the United States Congress is the child tax credit, which should be made permanent. It will provide an opportunity for life and liberty and, yes, freedom for families in my community; hardworking mothers and fathers and children who look up into your eyes, some of them sometimes hungry.

It is important that this child tax credit be made permanent, and I stand here ready to move it as fast as possible. Thank you to our administration for what they are doing.

Now, I simply want to talk about justice in the courts, justice in a court system that sentences individuals, nonviolent individuals to years in prison to rot, even individuals who have done reimbursement or compensation for their offense. Courts have to be, yes, a coequal branch of government, but they have to have justice.

What about an individual that I have no stake in who happens to be an entertainer under a horrible guardianship, forced to take medications, forced not to have children?

I am on the Judiciary Committee and there is a lot to be done. Yes, it is a coequal branch of government, but there has to be real justice. When you go into a courthouse you deserve justice.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 18, NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT

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

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a voice for all Kansans, including those who have yet to be born.

Kansans have long valued life. From our entry into the Union as a free State before the Civil War to the Summer of Mercy in Wichita, the Sunflower State has been a beacon of hope and freedom for those without a voice.

In Congress, we should follow the lead of Kansans and recognize the intrinsic value of human life. Yet, the left continues to push radical and unscientific policies that end the lives of unborn babies.

What is worse, they want to pay for their abortion-on-demand policies with your tax dollars, a provision that has wide, bipartisan opposition. New polling shows that 58 percent of voters and 65 percent of Independents oppose taxpayer-funded abortion.

The No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act is a no-brainer. Simply put, we need to save the Hyde amendment. It saved nearly 2.5 million lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 18, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

IMPACT OF BIG TECH CENSORSHIP IN FIGHT AGAINST COVID

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, for far too long, the mainstream media and Big Tech companies like Twitter, Google, and Facebook have used their power to censor one type of speech while favoring and promoting other speech that they prefer in an attempt to manipulate public discourse.

There is even evidence that the mainstream media and Big Tech use their own judgment to suppress information related to the origins of coronavirus as well as available medication and treatment options.

In December 2020, shortly after medical professionals and infectious disease specialists testified before the United States Senate on the effectiveness of COVID–19 treatments, Google's YouTube removed the testimony from their online platform. The big takeaway is that these conglomerates have been complicit in limiting discussion of facts and evidence about the COVID–19 pandemic to the detriment of the American people.

We must rein in Big Tech and the mainstream media's abusive and monopolistic practices that have led to an abundance of censorship, views, and opinions deemed, in their own judgment, to be objectionable.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARK DOUMIT

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

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Southwest Washington and Cathlamet resident Mark Doumit.

Sadly, Mark passed away this week at the age of 59. For decades, Mark's life had been defined by a commitment to his home community. Mark served two terms as Wahkiakum County commissioner, then as a State house member representing the 19th legislative district for 10 years.

Though he left elected office, he never abandoned public service. He served as a steady leader of the Washington Forest Protection Association for the last 15 years until his passing.

A stalwart supporter of our forests, fish, water, and our economy, Mark was never hemmed in by Democrat versus Republican politics. He was a friend and an ally to me and anyone who cared about these priorities.

I want to extend my deepest sympathies to Mark's family, friends, and

colleagues as they grapple with this profound loss. He will be dearly missed.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 18, NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT

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

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, for more than 40 years American taxpayers have been protected from paying for abortions on demand with their tax dollars. Alarmingly, President Biden's budget proposal calls for the Hyde amendment to be removed. This radical, immoral policy makes it legal for taxpayer dollars to support and enable the abortion industry.

Nearly 60 percent of Americans agree that taxpayer dollars should not be used to fund abortion. This is not a partisan issue. One of the most basic ways we can protect innocent life is ensuring that taxpayer money is not being used to fund abortions.

As a defender of the unborn, I do not support the removal of the Hyde amendment. I oppose all efforts to mandate taxpayer funding for abortion.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 18, and ask for its immediate consideration in the

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 18, NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT

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

Mrs. HINSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on my colleagues to consider the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, legislation that would preserve the longstanding Hyde amendment.

For the first time in over 40 years, the administration's proposed budget does not include Hyde protections, protections that have long ensured taxpayer dollars are not used to fund abortions.

Mr. Speaker, Hyde protections have saved 2.4 million babies. Reversing this longstanding pro-life policy is wrong. The right to life is the most fundamental of all of our rights. We must defend those who cannot defend themselves.

I will always lend my voice to the voiceless and fight to ensure that Iowa taxpayers are never forced to fund abortions against their will.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary, be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 18, and I ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 18, NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT

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

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 18, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act. This bill codifies the Hyde amendment which ensures that taxpayer dollars aren't spent on abortions.

For over 40 years, both Democrats and Republicans have understood the value of this important protection which has saved more than 2.4 million lives. The right to life precedes all other rights and is fundamental to everything I believe.

I urge my colleagues across the aisle to embrace life and support H.R. 18. As President Biden said in 1994, ''Those of us who are opposed to abortion should not be compelled to pay for them.''

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 18, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

□ 1700

CONGRATULATING AMBASSADOR DAVID FRIEDMAN

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

Mr. GARBARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in acknowledgment of Long Island's own David Friedman, former U.S. Ambassador to Israel.

In a few days, there will be a dedication ceremony to rename a local street in his honor, but I would be remiss if I did not state for the Record Ambassador Friedman's tremendous accomplishments in support of our ally, Israel, during his tenure.

Whether it be countering the anti-Semitic Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign against Israel or recognizing Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights, he has been a leading example on how best to represent our Nation abroad.

Most notable, of course, was his leadership in advancing the Abraham Accords, the greatest development in normalized relations between Israel and its Arab neighbors in over 40 years, and the movement of the U.S. embassy to its rightful and lawful place, Jerusalem.

I implore my colleagues to stand with me in a commitment to affirming and building upon the advancements that Ambassador Friedman made to strengthen U.S.-Israeli relations, and I congratulate him once again on his achievements.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION INDICATOR SPECIES

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, environmental protection of species revolves around the use of indicator species. But what has been lost in recent years is the impact also on humans and their needs.

The indicator, for example, for farmers in California is very grave in the great Central Valley and up at the Klamath Basin.

Up on the Klamath, you have one environmental management plan that says more water is needed for salmon, for example, under a biological opinion, and another management plan that says more water is needed to be stored in the lake for suckerfish. You can't do both at the same time, and the result is the salmon are not more plentiful and the suckerfish are not recovering as a species.

But the rural areas in Klamath and Siskiyou Counties are being cut off from their main economic driver. The farms up there are suffering badly because of water that has been taken by the Federal Government that does not belong to the Federal Government.

The stored water in that lake was created for agriculture solely, and yet it is being used as more or less a slush fund for Federal agencies that want to take this water and somehow try and make a difference in the river. This has got to come to a stop, because we need agriculture in California.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY AFTER THE PANDEMIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. CAWTHORN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CAWTHORN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CAWTHORN. Mr. Speaker, what is the American businessman to do

when the American worker will not come into work?

For the past nearly 7 months, this President has held America's small business owners hostage and declared a de facto strike on the American economy.

Following the end of this COVID pandemic, the Biden administration has been granted the political gift of a lifetime: take a staggering American economy, still reeling from the economic collapse, and simply let it return to normal. If the Biden administration had done nothing, zero, if they had sat on their hands and twiddled their thumbs, if Joe Biden had taken more naps, then experts say our economy would be in a much better place than where it is right now.

Instead, the Biden administration's efforts place the American economy in a financial choke hold that threatens to obliterate hundreds of small businesses in my district.

It was John Adams that said: ''Facts are stubborn things; and whatever may be our wishes, our inclinations or the dictates of our passions, they cannot alter the state of facts and evidence.''

Let's cast our eyes over the facts, shall we?

Back in April, economists predicted over 1 million new jobs to be added to our economy. Biden added just over 250,000. In May, economists adjusted their expectations, acknowledging this administration simply cannot deliver the type of job growth past administrations could.

Even with adjusted expectations, the Biden administration still fell short of the mark. There is no debate that the Biden administration of free handouts has dramatically undercut efforts to restart our economy. His massive increase of unemployment benefits has kept workers at home and left store owners scrambling to keep up with the growing consumer demand.

In my own district, business leaders in Asheville, Hendersonville, Franklin, and Macon County, have spoken with me about the difficulty in getting employees back to work. Who can blame them? Biden is literally paying American citizens to stay home instead of getting them back to work.

Who would fault an American husband or mother when they decide to stay home with their family and earn double their salary while doing it?

The Biden administration knows that their policy of handouts harms and is hurting business owners, but the game has always been about creating a welfare class, not empowering our economy. It is disgusting.

With those thoughts in mind, I now recognize one of my fellow North Carolina champions, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman and my fellow North Carolinian, Mr. CAWTHORN, for having this Special Order.

My comments will echo his. Look, the pandemic is over. Thank goodness. Our economy should be seeing robust growth. Instead, businesses cannot fill the record number of jobs available.

In fact, the number one issue that I hear, not only from business owners and managers, but from all constituents, is that folks will not come to work, businesses cannot find workers.

Last month, despite 9.3 million job openings, there were only 69,000 more new hires than in the month before. How is that possible with unemployment at 6 percent?

Simply put, President Biden and Democrats have insisted on continuing to pay people more to stay home than to work.

Despite consistent warnings from Republicans and economists, the so-called American Rescue Plan continued expanded unemployment benefit programs enacted in the heart of the pandemic.

In my home State, in North Carolina, these expanded benefits are worth $650 a week. That is about $50 more than the Progressives' preferred minimum wage of $15 an hour. You don't have to be an economist to see why small businesses can't fill job openings, and it is beyond time that Congress fix this self-inflicted wound.

That is one reason that Representative JODEY ARRINGTON and I introduced the Jump-Start the Economy with Jobs Act. This bill, which ought to move promptly in this Congress, requires an individual who is currently receiving enhanced unemployment benefits to recertify that they do not have a job offer waiting for them in order to continue receiving enhanced benefits.

If their former employer would receive a communication, and if they say we are prepared to give an offer to that person to come back to work, then they can't continue to receive unemployment benefits. How appropriate. That would tailor the program to those people that continue to need it because of a job dislocation they cannot resolve. Enhanced unemployment benefits should continue for those who truly need them and not for those who have a job waiting for them.

The extended Federal unemployment benefits implemented during COVID–19 had their time, but they should not be the mainstay now. They are, instead, artificially reducing the workforce.

Across the country, let's all be thankful, communities are opening up their economies and getting back to normal.

It is past time for this government to stop holding back the recovery and to stand up for small businesses, job generators, by ceasing to pay people to stay home.

A good first step would be to enact the Jump-Start the Economy with Jobs Act.

Mr. CAWTHORN. Thank you very much, Congressman BISHOP, for those words. I echo the sentiments of both JODEY ARRINGTON and DAN BISHOP of wanting to jump-start this economy again.

With the fact that there are 9.3 million job openings in this country right now, we do need to change something to be able to actually fill the hire rate that has not increased at all. In fact, last quarter it only increased by 4.2 percent.

My friends, we will have artificial inflation if we do not do something to act quickly, and I believe the Jump-Start the Economy with Jobs Act is a great idea.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize another North Carolinian, a lion of our mountains, my dear friend, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD).

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend and colleague, Congressman CAWTHORN, for organizing this.

Last month, the NFIB, or the National Federation of Independent Businesses, reported that 48 percent of small businesses currently have unfilled job openings, and that is an all-time high. Right now—you have heard the number mentioned—9.3 million jobs remain unfilled nationwide.

This sluggish recovery is a direct result of the Federal Government paying people not to work. Essentially, the Federal enhanced unemployment benefit constitutes a ''stay-at-home'' bonus for millions of people.

Instead of following the lead of dozens of other States, North Carolina's Governor refuses to end this very backwards incentive.

That is why I introduced a solution that would help. It is called the Back to Work Bonus Act. First and foremost, my proposal would end the $300 Federal unemployment bonus on day one.

Second, the bill would allow a new worker to receive a $900 back-to-work bonus only if they get back in the workforce and stay on the job for at least 4 weeks.

Now, to be clear, someone would only receive these dollars if they not only accepted the job offer, but fully went back to work.

Third, I want to highlight that this legislation is a specific solution to what we hope is a temporary problem, using already appropriated funds that would expire on August 14.

Look, we simply can't continue to pay people to stay at home. For workers that stayed in the workforce throughout the pandemic, we need to cut their taxes, so they get to keep more of their hard-earned money.

We need to get the economy booming again, like it was during the Trump years. We need to stop the overspending in Washington that causes inflation to soar and eat away at a family's buying power.

But above all, our number one priority needs to be getting folks back to work as quickly as possible. There are just too many opportunities out there, 9.3 million of them, to be exact. So let's get America back to work.

Mr. CAWTHORN. Congressman, thank you for introducing that bill.

If you think about it, $387 is the amount the average American receives from their home State in weekly unemployment benefits. You add to that the $300 boost that the Federal Government is putting on, on top of that, and it is no wonder why people aren't going back to work. They get to stay at home with their families while making $17.17 an hour. That sounds like a good deal to me.

But I genuinely hope that we can find some way out of this, because there is a real spiritual poverty created when you don't actually work for your living.

It is now time for me to recognize a dear friend of mine from a Carolina that is not as good a North Carolina, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN).

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for offering this Special Order. It couldn't come at a better time and a better place in history.

Mr. Speaker, Americans have been subjected to one of the most testing years we have ever seen. Just as they are starting to get back on their feet and the great economic engine that is the American economy is starting to turn over, this administration and my Democratic colleagues are proposing to shut down the engine that we had running so robustly for the last 4 years under President Trump.

Six trillion dollars in spending, with no offsets, is downright irresponsible and unfair to the American taxpayer. We are not going to get this economy on the right foot by expanding our Government even more.

Growing inflation concerns have already begun to hit our constituents where it hurts the most, at the gas pump—have you tried filling up your car lately? It has hit you in the grocery stores. It has hit you in the checkbooks.

This oncoming crisis is putting hardworking Americans on rocky footing, and this President is proposing to pull the rug out from underneath them. Another cash infusion will do nothing more than kick those Americans while they are down by driving prices up even more. Enough is enough.

Businesses are opening up, construction projects are expanding our neighborhoods and cities, and there is a light at the end of the tunnel and the light is a bright one. Don't shut the door on that light by throttling the demands of everyday items.

Ultimately, there are a variety of reasons for these rising prices, many of which are industry specific. However, it is important to remember that big government spending is only going to make this problem worse.

I was elected to Congress to take care of the American people. I was not elected to bankrupt this country. I was not elected to burden them even more. It is clear that the American economy wants to make a comeback. The only question is, will bureaucrats, will politicians, will government get out of the way.

□ 1715

Mr. CAWTHORN. Mr. Speaker, Congressman NORMAN was elected to take care of the American people, but right now the Democrats in Congress—although it is hard to call them Democrats because right now I believe that they have a socialist agenda, which is sabotaging America's jobs recovery with a crippling tax hike that targets our small businesses, the backbone of our economy.

Their plans raise small business taxes to the highest point in a generation, halt new projects and small business growth by doubling taxes on investments, and Democrats supercharge a second death tax, if you can believe that, where they want to tax you more. It would hit farms, machine shops, and other small businesses.

With all that in mind, I now yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER).

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, one of the greatest threats that emerged from this pandemic is an expanding government unwilling to relinquish control and restore Americans' God-given rights.

We see it all across our country. President Biden and liberal Governors tout the ''follow the science'' talking point while failing to follow the science themselves, keeping in place pandemic restrictions while knowing full well that our economy can fully reopen.

While the left virtue signals, pushing radical policies like vaccine passports and critical race theory, American families are still struggling to make ends meet. Tens of thousands of businesses have closed their doors for good, and our children have fallen behind because they are denied in-person learning.

Some Federal agencies are still not operating at pre-pandemic levels. We have American veterans who cannot access records they need for treatment and benefits they earned because of career bureaucrats who can't be bothered to go back to work. This is wrong and completely avoidable.

Here, in Congress, we see the hypocrisy of the left on display. Speaker PELOSI lifts the mask mandate for the House floor, but keeps the people's House closed to the public. We have Members of this body not showing up and voting in person. The people that we represent go to work every day, and they expect us to do the same. Americans have never been and never will be a nation ruled by fear and control.

Reopen the Capitol Building, reopen our country, and restore freedom and power to the American people.

Mr. CAWTHORN. Mr. Speaker, I can see why Pennsylvania loves their Congressman so much.

When I think about what is going on in Congress and I see that Democrats are prioritizing wasteful spending over hardworking Americans' paychecks, I realize that the Democrats' socialist agenda won't produce long-term growth or greater economic security for American families.

A majority of Americans say they fear for an impending crash following the injection of Federal stimulus money during the pandemic. This is an unsettling thought for those who are trying to deal with dining room politics.

With all those thoughts in mind, I am very pleased to yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEHLS), my dear friend and America's sheriff, who represents Texas' 22nd District.

Mr. NEHLS. Mr. Speaker, it is time to get the American people back to work. The vaccine has been available for all Americans for weeks. Cases across the country are drastically decreased, and businesses are opening back up. Thank God.

Why, then, is the Federal Government still paying people not to work?

Why, then, are we still considering multitrillion-dollar proposals when there is billions upon billions of previously appropriated COVID relief money that hasn't been touched?

Inflation is higher than at any point in over a decade. Americans are paying more for goods they need to survive. Businesses that are open and want to expand their workforce can't find the employees willing to come to work because the government is paying them to stay home.

And amidst all of this, the Biden administration is proposing tax increases on job creators. It doesn't take an economics Ph.D. to conclude that raising taxes on job creators amid record levels of inflation and this underperforming economy will lead to economic disaster.

Small business owners in this country are trying to rebuild and get people back to work. Raising taxes on them will only hurt them and the Americans they want to hire.

The Biden tax-and-spend model is failing our country. We need to get back to the free-market approach that we had under President Trump: Slashing regulation, reducing taxes, and increasing economic freedom.

That is the light at the end of the Biden economic crisis tunnel. But to get there, we need Democrats to stop playing politics with the future of our country and work with the Republicans.

Mr. CAWTHORN. Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. ESTES), a dear friend of mine who represents the Fourth District.

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, we should be experiencing one of the greatest economic booms in our history as we emerge from COVID, yet prices are climbing, consumer sentiment is plunging, and there are more than nine million open jobs without workers to fill them. That is the most ever.

In my State of Kansas, we have 3.6 jobs available for every job seeker. Subsidizing people not to work and spending without restraint is stalling out this recovery and causing inflation.

In May, core inflation rose at its fastest pace since 1992. That is because Democrats' untargeted spending has acted like kindling for inflation. There is too much money chasing too few goods. Recent surveys show that 70 percent of Americans are concerned that President Biden's spending plans could lead to inflation. But if you have filled up your gas tank recently or entered a grocery store, you know that it is already there.

Instead of working to quickly reopen and prioritize getting America back to work, upon entering office, President Biden took his eyes off the ball and squandered the recovery that President Trump had handed to him. In the first five months of 2021, the current administration has added 500,000 fewer jobs than the last 5 months of 2020. President Biden should be concerned about his economic crisis.

Biden's slow-growth agenda calls for $6 trillion in government spending with $3 trillion in new taxes. That would crush small and midsized companies, resulting in far fewer jobs down the road.

One of the most antigrowth policies in President Biden's agenda is his plan to revert America's business tax rate to one of the worst in the world again at 28 percent, a move that would return us to the old tax code that incentivized jobs to be shipped overseas.

Biden's budget even acknowledges that a real recovery isn't their priority. It only forecasts a meager 2 percent GDP growth by 2023, with it dropping even lower until 2029.

The American people should contrast Biden's tax-and-spend agenda with what Republicans have done and are fighting to do. In 2017, we put the American people first by passing a progrowth tax code while removing massive amounts of government regulation. That created an economic atmosphere that enabled wages to grow for historically disadvantaged workers, brought the unemployment rate down to the lowest in 50 years, and allowed more people to find jobs in America than at any point in our history. The income gap was even shrinking as lower income wages were increasing faster.

We need to get back to that. It is not hard to see the impact that commonsense, progrowth policies can make. Our focus should be on filling available jobs and rebuilding our economy, not to line the pockets of progressive special interest groups with millions in Federal spending, as Biden's agenda would do. It is hard to ignore that, across the country today, the six States with the lowest unemployment rates all have Republican leadership.

Mr. Speaker, President Biden and Speaker PELOSI need to prioritize economic recovery, not unrestrained government spending.

Mr. CAWTHORN. Mr. Speaker, I think Congressman ESTES touches on a great point. Under Republican leadership, under the last administration, business applications were at record levels. The TCJA encouraged business creation, as the amount of business applications reached its highest level ever, of over 880,000.

Now, you contrast that with what is going on in America today. There are many people who own restaurants in my own district, who are having to literally pay people $50 just to turn an application in, and then they never show up for the interview or even for work.

Because of how bleak things are looking, I am very happy to yield to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MCCLAIN), the most loved and the most feared woman in all of Congress.

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, for more than 40 years, Joe Biden has been a staunch supporter of the Hyde amendment. So have the American people. Just this past January, polling found that nearly 6 in 10 Americans oppose using tax dollars to terminate innocent lives. That number includes a majority of Independents and nearly one-third of Democrats.

For decades, congressional Democrats joined Republicans in a truly bipartisan effort to ensure tax dollars of hardworking Americans do not pay for abortions. Unfortunately, President Biden is trying to shatter years of congressional bipartisanship with a radical budget that has no Hyde amendment protections.

The President ran on unity, yet his first budget proposal immediately divides. This Congress must take back its congressional responsibility and craft spending bills which protect the lives of the unborn, just as past Congresses have done since 1976.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 18, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

Mr. CAWTHORN. Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 37 minutes remaining.

Mr. CAWTHORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER).

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, over the past year, it really has felt like our small businesses, our middle class, our communities have really taken one punch after another.

First, we were handed mandatory shutdowns of our restaurants, our small businesses, and our churches, while Walmart and Lowe's and other big box retail stores were allowed to remain open. In some places around the country, we were not even allowed to leave our homes unless it was for a purpose that the government deemed essential.

Like all Americans, I am extremely excited and pleased to see that most of the economy in our communities have reopened. But we can't help but observe that it seems like the reopening is occurring because of the independence and resilience of the American people, despite the best efforts by some to keep us shuttered indefinitely.

It is baffling that during this time when our neighbors have the opportunity to finally get back to work, Democrats are pushing policies to hurt them.

Oh, you are trying to find employees for your diner so you can reopen?

Well, they are paying those employees more to sit at home.

You have a corner store in central South Dakota?

Sorry, but President Biden canceled the Keystone XL pipeline and instantly caused your customers to lose their jobs.

You want to go back to work, but have two children at home?

Well, unbelievably, the Biden education plan included zero requirement that your son's or daughter's school reopens.

You were excited for your hotel to be busy this spring?

Well, the CDC was still advising Americans not to travel, even if they were vaccinated.

Your bait shop along the Canadian border has been struggling since the border closure?

Too bad President Biden and Justin Trudeau decided that couldn't be solved at the G7 last week.

You need gas to get to work, to get to your job site?

Well, it costs you $50 more this year than it did last year.

Mr. Speaker, this is a staggering laundry list of policies that individually would be an enormous impediment to our success, but together it is a brick wall. Without urgent changes to these antijobs, anti-small business policies, our communities will continue to struggle to reopen completely, and more families will feel the negative impacts of the Biden-Pelosi economy.

As a small business owner myself, I know what these men and women are going through. I know that they were the ones who built their business, not the government. And despite opposing efforts, they won't let the government take it away from them either.

Mr. CAWTHORN. Mr. Speaker, I believe we are created to work, and I believe we are created to work hard, and the right to work and the determination to build with one's hands is as foundational to the American ethos as it can be.

We were not set in this universal orchard to stand still as trees. There is no substitute under the heavens for productive labor. It has been said that a firm work ethic is the process by which dreams become realities. It is the process by which idle visions become dynamic achievements.

This administration seeks, though, to strip employment from the men and

women of America, to replace work with welfare and service with subservience. I reject that notion.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER), my dear friend.

□ 1730

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the most important issue facing our country today: the reopening of the U.S. economy.

For 16 long months, the U.S. economy has been held hostage by government, both elected and unelected. What started as a 15-day shutdown to allow hospitals to brace for the coming wave of COVID cases has ballooned into over a year of shifting goalposts, evolving science, and political power grabs.

Since the pandemic began, over 200,000 small businesses, which the President once claimed were the backbone of the U.S. economy, have been shuttered for good. This has left their owners jobless and futures uncertain.

Those whose businesses did survive the long lockdowns still face harsh restrictions. For too long and in too many cases, we have seen restrictions on controlling how many customers they can serve, how their employees can conduct business, and, by default, how much revenue they can bring in.

Worse, the reopening of our economy has been prolonged even further by the misguided attempts from the political left to provide relief.

The example I hear the most from constituents and businesses back in George's First Congressional District is the increased unemployment benefits. Under these expanded benefits, many Americans have been able to receive more money not working than they did actually working. This is a poor incentive to get people back into jobs, especially as our economy continues to see record-high job openings.

Businesses coming out of their long hibernation will continue to struggle to find employees as long as this benefit is in place.

There are not enough taxpayer dollars in the world to give these businesses the relief they need, but we can remove the Federal Government as an obstacle to returning to normalcy.

We need policies that incentivize Americans to find jobs and allow businesses to stand on their own. Ultimately, we need to put an end to all COVID business restrictions nationwide.

It is hard to say what the long-term impact of prolonged shutdowns will be, but it does not take a Harvard economist to know that losing 200,000 jobs in small businesses alone does not spell good fortune.

The sooner we get Americans back to work and our economy back to full capacity, the sooner we can return to normal or, at the very least, stop the damage from continuing.

To borrow a quote from President Trump, we built the greatest economy in the world, and we will do it a second time.

Mr. CAWTHORN. Mr. Speaker, when we started looking at the American Families Plan, we realized the tax hikes it would increase would raise capital gains and dividends tax from 20 to 39.6 percent, almost two times the normal price. It would impose capital gains taxes at death, which creates a second death tax, although I can't believe that we would ever need to tax anyone more than we do now. It would expand the 3.8 percent Obamacare surtax to hit even more small businesses' income than it already does.

Lastly, it would increase the IRS' auditing power, including monitoring bank accounts, because the very first thing that we need to reopen our economy at a better pace is to give more power to three-letter agencies.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD), my good friend.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, as a Nation founded on a history of rugged individualism, the American people are resilient and self-reliant. They will flourish and prosper absent the intrusion and heavy-handed weight of the government.

Apart from national defense, safety, and security, the less our government does, the better, especially here at the Federal level.

In fact, our country would be far better off if we had just paid this President and his administration to stay home, and they did nothing over these past 5½ months. It is sadly true that the less this government does to us while pretending to do things for us, the better off we will all be.

Incredibly, this administration's disastrous economic policies have produced fewer jobs in their first 5 months of the year than the Trump administration produced in the last 5 months of 2020 when the government restrictions and lockdowns in the name of the China virus were far more widely and strenuously enforced.

Unfortunately, at present time, we have employers, businesses, and job creators literally competing with their own government for employees because of the enhanced $300 a week Federal unemployment benefit.

Every business owner that I talk with in my district tells me that this is a major, ongoing problem. Every business has up signs saying: ''Help Wanted,'' ''Employees Needed.''

We even have this problem in my home district in the city of Charlottesville, in Albemarle County, with the Postal Service. They can't get people to come to work for the starting wage of $18 an hour for a mail carrier because they are getting paid $17 an hour to stay home and not work.

However, the tone-deaf, economically illiterate Democrats, especially those I serve with on the Education and Labor Committee, they tell businesses they simply need to raise their wages so far above what the Federal Government is paying folks not to work—again, $17 an hour in my home State of Virginia—that folks will finally refuse the free income not to work and return for a higher paycheck—this as businesses are struggling to recover from the government shutting them down for a year, again, in the name of the China virus.

We need to fully reopen our economy, end all restrictions, open our schools so parents can go back to work, and stop sending confusing and harmful messages, like requiring masks on public transportation.

In this very House, it was only a couple of weeks ago that we were pretending that even in a Special Order, speaking to an empty Chamber with no one near you—within how many feet?—you needed to wear a mask to keep us safe because we wanted to appear to the American people back home that we were doing something, the theater of wearing masks just a few weeks ago.

That is continuing now on public transportation. What kind of a myth and harmful message does that send to folks?

We need to stop paying folks not to work, reopen our economy, and turn the American people loose.

Mr. CAWTHORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. BUCK).

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank the gentleman for his leadership on this important issue. I think it is something that America needs to talk about, and I am glad we are talking about it on the floor of the people's House.

During the COVID shutdowns, more than 600,000 businesses shut their doors. This is 200,000 more businesses than typically close in a year due to natural market influences.

Unsurprisingly, many of these most severe lockdowns across the country were implemented by liberal Governors who caved to fearmongering and hostility to former President Trump.

To be clear, I recognize the dangers posed by this virus. However, reactionary and overreaching shutdowns significantly worsened the impacts of COVID on our Nation.

One of the most glaring examples of these negative impacts has been on our children who missed a year or more of in-person education because their schools were closed.

The resilience and creativity of many teachers to adjust to these tragic circumstances are admirable. However, the reality is that these closures resulted in deteriorating mental health among students and less effective educational environments for children across America.

Importantly, these shutdowns disproportionately affected children with disabilities, minority students, and students facing economic hardships.

America is beyond ready to reopen. Today, more than half of Americans have been vaccinated, and broad mask

mandates are clearly no longer necessary for most communities. The science overwhelmingly demands that the restrictions continuing to burden our communities be lifted, and efforts by liberal politicians to extend these mandates only serve to reveal their ideological motivations.

I urge our national, State, and local officials to follow the science, unshackle our economy from these burdensome and unnecessary restrictions, and reopen our country.

Mr. CAWTHORN. Mr. Speaker, when we start thinking about what is going on here in our country with unemployment, in the week ending May 1, 2021, about 16 million people collected unemployment. Now, that is a staggering statistic when you realize that over 6.6 million of those people would not have been eligible to receive unemployment benefits in a traditional environment. But because of the trumped-up and boosted-up unemployment benefits the Federal Government is sending out, we are basically incentivizing people by giving them $34,000 a year to not go to work, thus creating more and more inflation. There is no production so, therefore, there are too many dollars chasing too few goods.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. MOORE).

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I certainly appreciate his leadership on this and giving us an opportunity to speak about small business issues in our country.

Mr. Speaker, as restrictive government mandates on Americans have relaxed, our economy has begun recovering from the worst of the pandemic. Many businesses have reopened their doors, and there are now millions of new returning jobs and available jobs across the Nation.

Unfortunately, I hear from businesses large and small across my district that Big Government is getting in the way of the return of our booming prepandemic economy.

It is a bizarre paradox, but under the Biden administration, we are simultaneously facing an intense labor shortage and widespread unemployment at the same time, when our economy should be thriving back to prepandemic levels. Sadly, this is a common story in every corner of our country.

It is clear that the primary driver of this problem is federally subsidized unemployment benefits. In many regions, particularly in rural areas, would-be job seekers make more staying at home than reporting to work.

Recently, I was speaking to a friend of mine, and he called an unemployed driver that he was going to hire. The unemployed driver's response was this: I am going ride this mule until it drops.

Basically, what he was saying was: I am going to take this free money until it goes away.

Many small businesses are facing that very same issue. Some businesses have even offered cash bonuses to interviewees, but small businesses cannot afford this.

There are plenty of examples back home in my district. For example, in Houston County, there are 124 unemployment claims and over 2,000 job openings as we speak. In Coffee County, there are 57 unemployment claims and 570 job openings, with many more coming. In Dale County, there are 47 unemployment claims yet 350 job postings.

It is very simple. Small business cannot compete with government handouts. I am glad that many red States, including my great State of Alabama, have ended all federally funded pandemic unemployment benefits. I hope our numbers will improve as a result.

Removing these payments that were meant to be short-term is necessary to advance our economic recovery. But this is a real problem that betrays the Biden administration and congressional Democrats' fundamental misunderstanding of what powers an economy.

Mr. Speaker, the best welfare program in the world is a job, not government. I know that many of my Democratic colleagues agree with me.

Let's get Americans back to work by empowering workers and removing incentives to stay home. Only then can we truly reopen this economy.

Mr. CAWTHORN. Mr. Speaker, I am disheartened to know that with this Federal unemployment stimulus that we are sending out around the country, although it might solve some short-term financial woes, it is creating a spiritual poverty in the hearts of men and women across this country that I believe cannot be described.

When you start to think about how devastating it would be to one's morale and one's own honor and one's own self-esteem to think that you don't actually create anything, you don't actually build anything, you are not truly benefiting society, it makes me shudder to think about how I would feel about that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN).

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for hosting this Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce you to the newest resident of western and central Kansas. She greets every store's patrons at the business front door and every farmer at the farm gate. She is in the newspaper, on the radio, and all over social media. She goes by Help Wanted, and you have probably met her, too, as she has made herself quite popular under President Biden's policies.

It has been more than a year since the pandemic shut down the country. America is finally getting back to normal. Businesses across the country are ready to reopen and welcome back customers. Unfortunately, President Biden's bonus, the monthly unemployment checks being distributed on top of the already existing unemployment checks, is paying a premium for potential workers to remain at home rather than finding work.

The data doesn't lie. There are nearly 8 million job openings in America right now, a new record. Businesses in the Big First of Kansas—agriculture, hospitality, food service, manufacturing, construction, and healthcare—cannot find workers, leading to reduced hours or closures to accommodate the staffing shortages.

□ 1745

Help is wanted at the North Central Kansas Hospital, short 50 employees and regularly turning away patients as the hospital is unable to properly staff and serve them.

Help is wanted in McDonald's in that same north central Kansas town, closing early each night.

Christina, the owner of hair salons in Garden City, Hays, and Dodge City, Kansas, wants help as she temporarily shuts down one location, only opens another for a few days a week, and shortens hours at all three.

Help is wanted at the ethanol byproducts plants in south central Kansas, unable to find workers even after offering a salary of a $35,000 plus health and retirement benefits.

And PureField Ingredients, a food ingredient manufacturer in Russell, Kansas, wants help as they are staffed at only 30 percent of their normal levels.

Mr. Speaker, hear me say this: If you can get to work, you should. Do it for our local businesses and our State's economy. Do it for your family. Most of all, do it for yourself.

I recently joined fellow Kansas Republicans in urging the Kansas governor to opt out of the enhanced unemployment benefits. Additionally, I cosponsored the Help Wanted Act, which addresses the severe labor shortages caused by the Federal unemployment policy and the Get Americans Back to Work Act, which would shorten the extension of the pandemic unemployment checks.

It is time to take off the masks, get our kids back to school, get our businesses open, get people back to work, and get the country back on track.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 17 minutes remaining.

Mr. CAWTHORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Colorado (Mrs. BOEBERT).

Mrs. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, I am so excited for Congressman CAWTHORN's leadership on this issue tonight. I thank him for making time to address the American people.

Mr. Speaker, there are three people who come to mind when I think of people who cannot even give their money away:

ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ, do you remember when her donations were returned to her by Members of Congress

because they didn't want to be associated with her?

Harvey Weinstein. And Joe Biden.

Those three cannot even give money away. In fact, by July 3, 25 States across America will have rejected President Biden's Federal unemployment benefit bonuses.

I meet with organizations every day that request funds for worthwhile endeavors. Sadly, America is $28 trillion in debt and can't afford to spend the money on many of these worthy causes. But leave it to Joe Biden to try to spend money in a way that actually hurts our economy and is rejected by Republican and Democrat governors across our entire country. That is a special level of basement incompetency.

We have got 9.3 million unfilled jobs. And I hear it back home, businesses can't get people back to work because they are making more to sit at home on the couch. They would rather watch Dave Portnoy eat a slice of pizza. But then, again, maybe that is not his viewers. Maybe it is more of the folks sitting back, watching Joy Behar and ''The View'' cackle and demonize our country and all of our worthwhile efforts to restore dignity in this Nation.

The Biden regime is literally incentivizing laziness. But then again, they set that example on a regular basis, calling it quits in the middle of the day. When is the last time the President hasn't called a ''lid'' before his afternoon snack?

In my home State of Colorado, many corporations are offering bonuses that small businesses can't afford. We are seeing massive signing bonuses, from $10,000 to $30,000 for utility and HVAC workers, and that is simply unsustainable.

According to the Colorado Restaurant Association, more than 90 percent of restaurants are having issues finding workers. I am one of them. I have had employees say, ''I cannot work more than 2 days a week. I cannot exceed 12 hours of work because it will cut into my benefits.'' That is un-American.

Joe Biden is quickly becoming the greatest threat to small businesses since Fauci's fraud. While small businesses across my district and across America are struggling to find workers, struggling to stay open, Joe Biden is struggling to stay awake.

I am calling on this administration to end these excessive Federal COVID payouts and stop disincentivizing work.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman MADISON CAWTHORN for his leadership on this issue.

Mr. CAWTHORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her always incredibly accurate and fierce comments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT), another similarly fierce Congressman.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I certainly appreciate my friend, Congressman CAWTHORN, holding this because it is important.

You know, to some people, it is just about, ''Well, it is the economy. It is an inconvenience.'' Well, that is for rich people, like the billionaires that donated to the current President's campaign. They sure didn't help the former President.

Well, what are we talking about? We are talking about a President that is so out of touch. As he has said, ''I keep forgetting I am President.'' It is very unfortunate.

But if you go back to his days as Vice President, you find what this President, the current President, was doing in the previous administration, and these policies are now coming back.

It ran up the price of oil and gas—natural gas, propane. It ran up the price of gasoline. And unfortunately, for the working people in America, for those that haven't been in Washington for 50 years or so—like the current President—they are getting strangled with debt. They are getting strangled with increasing prices because it just so happens, we don't have a lot of electric 18-wheelers. We don't have a lot of massive electric engines that are pulling countless numbers of cars down the train tracks.

That means every time this President takes another step to raise the price of oil—which raises the price of gasoline—he is economically crippling people that are working, people that are on Social Security, people that have fixed incomes. They are getting hammered. Yeah, it is an inconvenience to the mega wealthy that donated to the President, or people like here in Congress that are millionaires, but it is devastating.

And I go back to when President Biden was Vice President, and a lady from Panola County told me, she said, ''I am 80 years old, and my gas is getting so expensive, I am afraid I am going to end up in a home like I was born in, where the only energy we had was a wood-burning stove.''

And I said, Oh, ma'am, I am so sorry to be the bearer of bad news, but if Biden and Obama have their way, you are not going to be able to even have that wood-burning stove you had when you were born. You are going to be at home without any kind of energy. And that is where this President is now wanting to go back to.

We enjoyed the days of cheaper gasoline, cheaper energy. America was vibrant; and people spent and they went out to eat and they bought clothes, and it generated jobs. And this President is killing those. And he is devastating the people on fixed incomes. The people that are working and poor, he is devastating them—the people that he is supposed to care about.

Well, it is time for this administration to think about somebody besides themselves and their mega-billionaire donors. It is time to think about the American people and the damage that this administration is doing to them.

Mr. CAWTHORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Congressman for his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, as I continue to consider that the Democrats' plan must be to destroy our economy by incentivizing laziness, by incentivizing people not going to work, I shake my head and say, No, that can't be true. That is just one mistake that they made.

But then when I start to look through all the points that I have outlined—of the ridiculous tax increases on dividends, the tax increases on capital gains, the tax increases on small businesses, the tax increases which will increase the cost of living for the middle class, I am sure that they are trying to destroy our economy.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY), the most powerful and the most humble man in Congress.

Mr. BRADY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman CAWTHORN for his leadership on behalf of working families, small business—of which he is one—for getting this economy going again. I thank him for allowing me to be part of this Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, when President Biden promised to focus on climate change, I didn't realize he meant changing the climate of the U.S. economy by cooling off the jobs recovery. The President inherited a strong recovery, life-saving vaccines, a reopening economy, and trillions of dollars in COVID stimulus.

Yet, in his first 5 months of this year, America is nearly 550,000 fewer jobs than in the last 5 months of 2020 under President Trump—550,000 fewer jobs. Inflation is running twice as high as wage growth. In fact, for Americans, their pocketbook, their paycheck has actually declined in buying power since President Biden took office.

America's jobs recovery ought to be surging, but instead, April/May reports were just disastrous. Main Street businesses, Congressman CAWTHORN, as you said, they are struggling to find workers.

Labor force participation is back in the 1970s. Inflation has hit a 13-year high, and a lot of Americans are fearful about the impact of rising prices and slow growth economy when the sugar high from all this COVID stimulus goes away, which is exactly what President Biden's budget admits will do.

This President is sabotaging America's jobs recovery, with crippling tax increases and antibusiness policies that hurt working families and Main Street businesses and drive U.S. jobs overseas.

Treasury Secretary Yellen, the other day, conceded that just as you heard tonight, these lavish Federal employment bonuses really are hurting Main Street and hurting hiring. Thankfully, half of American States, including one blue State, have opted out of these benefits to help reconnect workers and help our economy survive.

A recent analysis of the Ways and Means' staff shows that Congress has

already approved, for an average family of four, where both parents are out of work, we have already approved over $109,000 in stimulus checks, unemployment checks, and child checks.

We were incredibly generous during COVID to help people get back on their feet, defeat this virus, and move back. But the time for emergency spending is over; the time for endless government checks is over. We cannot become the Olive Garden of never-ending government checks. It won't help people rebuild their lives. It won't help us rebuild the economy.

Unfortunately, because of these Federal bonuses on unemployment, we are seeing a record 9.3 million unfilled jobs. It is hurting Main Street businesses; they are struggling. And frankly, it will hurt families who are not going to be able to reconnect again when all these checks run out. And our job creators shouldn't have to compete with the Federal Government.

Instead of helping America get back to work, the Biden administration is pushing crippling tax hikes that will cost us millions of new jobs. I am proud to have led, on behalf of President Trump in a Republican Congress, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that reduced tax cuts across the board, or reduced taxes across the board, redesigned our Tax Code so American businesses could compete and win anywhere in the world.

It made America the most competitive economy on the planet, lifted millions of Americans out of poverty, and stopped U.S. businesses from moving overseas. But now, we face a big risk. President Biden's insistence on repealing the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act will cost 6 million U.S. jobs. For that family of four, middle class, making maybe $73,000 a year, it will rob their family budget of over $20,000 over time.

The attack on American energy will cut jobs by 1.5 million U.S. jobs and repealing stepped-up basis on family farms will cost us another 1 million jobs over 12 years.

Congressman CAWTHORN's efforts to lead commonsense proposals, stop these crippling tax increases, and get the economy back on task is exactly what our country needs today.

Mr. Speaker, I thank him for letting me join him.

□ 1800

Mr. CAWTHORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman BRADY for his leadership on the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I think with everything that has been said from all of these Representatives from all over the country, each of them representing nearly 730,000 people, I believe it is overly and abundantly clear that it is time to end the emergency spending. It is time to end the trumped-up unemployment checks, which are incentivizing laziness. It is time to end government-mandated joblessness in America.

There is a labor shortage in this country, and if we don't end it, we will see inflation, the likes of which our country has never seen before, and I don't know if we will be able to recover from that.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

VIRTUE SIGNALING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, this evening, I am going to try to do something that is a little bit different, and parts of it are going to be incredibly annoying. I am going to hurt some feelings, but my theme is actually very simple.

There are general solutions to so many of the things we consider problems, but we are going to have to deal with something, and it is a true problem around this place. And that is, I am going to use the word ''virtue signaling'' and sort of folklore.

We sometimes know what we know, but the fact of the matter is that technology, science, all of what we were told was wrong, yet we can't get it out of our heads, or, as a society, we care more about the symbolism than actually curing the problem. And I really do believe if we could embrace that thing called a calculator, math, thinking, science, there are some amazingly good things we could do.

But, first, we got to step up and admit that we have been making up a lot of crap. And that is me being slightly on the vulgar side. But it is a frustration I have where often I see our speeches behind these microphones, and we are virtue signaling because that is often what is expected from our voters. At least we think that is what is expected, but I bet you our voters would be elated if we would actually give them the truth and then show them the math.

I am going to show a couple of things to first set up my argument, and then walk through a couple things that I think are incredibly optimistic for our future as a country, but maybe even the entire world.

So, first off, let's just use this. I have done versions of this before, but it is important as a thought experiment.

Do you care about plastic in the ocean?

I think everyone in America cares about plastic in the ocean. Except we have a small problem. We do this virtue signaling of let's ban plastic straws. But the fact of the matter is, the data says that straws that come from North America don't end up in the ocean. We do actually an amazingly good job grabbing our waste and putting it in the landfills or incinerating or taking care of it. But if you actually look at the real math, 90 percent of the plastic in the world's oceans comes from 10 rivers: 8 in Asia, 2 in Africa.

If you actually gave a darn about plastic in the ocean, what would you do?

You would actually go to those 10 rivers—8 in Asia, 2 in Africa—and either add value, use our technical assistance, use our foreign aid, and go and deal with the plastic in the ocean.

But, instead, we give speeches here, we award, we allot cities like D.C. that ban plastic straws. That is pure virtue signaling. It doesn't actually do anything, yet we parade around like we did something.

Instead, this body could actually have an incredible impact on plastic in the ocean. Go to the 10 rivers that are 90 percent of the plastic, and actually get our foreign aid, our technical aid, even some economic incentives to capture that plastic and stop sticking it into rivers that flow into the ocean. It is a simple example of the virtue signaling that actually warps real environmental policy.

Here is one that is going to drive some people crazy.

What would happen if I came to you and said the entire environmental impact of that cloth cotton bag you carry to the grocery store, you have to use 7,100 times to basically equal the plastic bags that are produced out of natural gas?

Yet we walk around with our little plastic bags when we walk into the Trader Joe's and those things, you know, proudly showing, hey, I care about the environment. But the math—that is not the science.

If we are going to make public policy, how does this body, and not only Congress, but our city councils, our county governments, our State legislatures, how do we stop making public policy that is virtue signaling, and the math is the math?

We have this incredible report, detailed. It came out of, I think, Demark. It was looking at the environmental impact. It turns out those crappy little plastic bags that are banned in so many of our cities were less environmentally impactful than the cotton bags we are walking around with, because those cotton ones you have to use 7,100 times to actually have the same environmental impact.

Another one that is going on around the country right now is let's ban natural gas for cook stoves and heating in homes. Except if you actually do the math of burning natural gas to make steam, to turn the turbine, to make electricity, it actually is environmentally substantially better to use natural gas in your home. And there are lots of really good studies and data on this.

But, once again, it is sort of this urban folklore, it is virtue signaling to say my city council is going to ban natural gas from people being able to cook with. Aren't I doing something wonderful for the environment?

But it turns out, no, you are not. We have got to stop doing this.

So there is actually some other really interesting ones.

So how many out there did we watch on the cable news shows after the function of the canceling of the Keystone pipeline?

Now, as Republicans, we all talked about the jobs lost. On the left, they are talking about the environmental benefit of stopping that pipeline.

Well, first, let's deal with the reality. Those hydrocarbons are going somewhere. They are going to be cracked somewhere, turned into distillates or fuels. And they are refined in southeast Asia or refined in Louisiana or Texas. They are going to be refined. So let's just do the math on the transportation.

It turns out the Keystone pipeline has dramatically less carbon impact than sticking it in the rail, sticking it into the rail pipeline attachment, or sticking it in rail or pipeline and putting it on the coast and shipping it out to southeast Asia. Just the shipping part.

If you actually cared about the actual math of the environmental impact of the Keystone pipeline, you would have supported the pipeline, but that wasn't the virtue signaling that came from the environmental community. And being someone who genuinely cares a lot about the actual math, you know, as those of us who try to do the math of what is the actual impacts in global warming, and what is actually the folklore, what is make-believe, what is real, we got to stop doing this.

And I know we love the political wedges, saying, well, they supported this and we supported the union workers.

How do you get some people around the table to use a calculator, and say, well, it turns out, whether you like hydrocarbons or not, the pipeline turns out to have a less environmental load than canceling it does because now we are going to stick it in railcars, now we are going to ship it to other parts of the world?

And I haven't even done the math on other refineries from other parts of world that have dramatically less environmental standards when cracking carbon chains.

So here is another one. This one actually is both hopeful, but we are going to have to start to think a little more creatively. So here is my setup. Half of the noncarbon-emitting electricity in the United States—actually, I think it is slightly more than half—comes from baseload nuclear.

We have a massive amount of our baseload nuclear that is coming off line. If you actually do the math of the amount of nuclear that is coming off line, our renewable baseload cannot keep close to keeping up. So there are a lot of charts. And I have done this on the floor before, showing that as all this nuclear comes off line, carbon emissions in the United States on electrical generation is going up.

Even though we have all this renewable, this wind, this photovoltaic, these things, geothermal hitting the market, it doesn't produce enough power to keep up with the nuclear coming off. And the argument for much of the nuclear is, well, think, they have to do uranium mines, think of this, think of that.

Well, what if I came to you and said, baseload nuclear is absolutely critical to the reliability of the grid and all of those other things, and it is noncarbon-emitting, and we have the technology today?

I have done a whole presentation on this in detail. Basically, we can extract uranium from sea water now. We do this. We have the technology.

But it is even better than that. We have a Nobel Prize physicist who has been writing papers, articles, saying that, within a decade, they believe high-pulse lasers—and, look, I have done my best to read the scientific articles a couple times. Some of it is beyond even—you know, when you are having to read an article and have a dictionary close by to look up some of the technical. But his premise is we can use high-pulse lasers to break up and make inert spent nuclear fuels.

So his theme is, say, in 30 minutes I could take something that would have lasted a million years, and in 30 minutes I can make it inert. If this is true, it is the virtuous cycle on nuclear energy. And you all know, because this place has actually helped fund it, the new compact nuclear reactor design that is dramatically safer, dramatically less intrusive, and much more efficient.

So think of that. I can extract my uranium from rain water, the new nuclear reactor design, and now we have a way of instead of sticking it in Yucca Mountain, we can actually break up that spent nuclear fuel.

This should be exciting. There should be people on the left and the right going, it is worth sticking some money into this type of technology. But it doesn't fit our political folklore around here of, well, we can't have nuclear because of this.

But we claim we give a darn about science and technology, when we have some of our smartest people in our society saying, we think we have a solution.

Why don't we actually invest in those solutions instead of investing in the things that we keep doing around here, where we are investing in technology that is already decades out of date?

So part of my fixation is—the reason I bring this chart is there was a Member, I think, just last week that was on the floor, and she alluded—someone from the left—that the economic growth basically led to more greenhouse gases, more environmental impact. But that is not actually the math.

We are still working on some of the data for 2019, but if you look at 2018 and what we are preliminarily seeing in 2019, you know, greenhouse gases, the environmental impact, went down, even though GDP went up dramatically.

□ 1815

Why? Because what we did in the tax reform created this huge incentive to invest in the latest technology.

Mr. Speaker, you can go buy that new technology, and you could 100 percent expense it. It turned out we were able to create a moment where economic growth took off, jobs took off, and the working poor got dramatically less poor.

It was the first couple of years in modern economic times when income inequality shrank, and it shrank because there was opportunity. People's labor became valuable. And, oh, guess what? Our environment got cleaner while growing the economy. We have the proof. We have the data.

Isn't this the Holy Grail that both the left and the right claim they care about? Except the difference is it didn't require a command-and-control economy. It just required really good technology and the incentive to invest in that technology, and it made a difference.

The other argument we come to the microphone and talk about is that there are incredible technology disruptions on the cusp. If we could get our heads around them, then we could make some amazing things happen. If we don't get our heads around them, then it is going to create economic disruptions. It is going to hurt a lot of people. We need to understand these.

Over the last couple of years, I have done some presentations on something called synthetic biology. The reality is it is incredibly hopeful for humanity. It also has some really scary stuff. Mark my words, we will know in about a decade whether I am right. I believe this piece of technology here will be the single most disruptive technology of our lifetimes.

Here is one: What if I came to you tomorrow and said that we can take plants and make them from the mid-20s to 52 percent more efficient in their growth by tweaking?

Now, I am not a plant biologist, but I have gone out of my way to read every article of the University of Illinois and those who are producing.

Mr. Speaker, you remember your high school biology class? Let's see if I can get this right. You had a plant cell, and it really, really, really wants a carbon molecule to turn it into a sugar to grow. But a quirk of nature, it grabs an oxygen molecule. It now has to spend all this energy to purge that and then turn around and grab the carbon so it can grow.

What happens if every time it grabs the right molecule to maximize its growth?

Okay, it looks like we would now know how to tweak commodity crops and other crops to always grab that carbon molecule and grow.

Now, I need the thought experiment. I need the people around here who all believe we are geniuses to think this through.

What happens tomorrow to the value of farmland? What happens to our trade relationships with the world where it is our agriculture muscle as a country when other countries are now able to grow 40 percent more soybeans on the same land, same water, same fertilizer?

Think about the value of agricultural land. What is the value of agricultural debt?

This is coming. This technology is here.

Are we preparing, thinking what it means? What type of opportunity does this mean? Because the world already produces more food than it needs. Our real problem is distribution.

What happens if tomorrow much of the agriculture in the world could produce 40 percent more on the same piece of land?

There is also a quirky piece of math to think about, and that is world agriculture is estimated to produce about 2.2 times more greenhouse gases than every car on Earth. Mr. Speaker, if you were an optimistic utopian, then this technology is functionally equal to removing every car off the face of the Earth. Yes, that is the positive. But you also have to be ready to deal with the disruption it means economically. And it is coming.

But yet have we ever had a hearing? Have we ever had a discussion? Have we ever invited the scientists to think about and talk us through and have us start to plan economically about what it means?

Or are we just going to do what this place does, which is to avoid difficult discussions until it kicks us in the head?

Let's talk about healthcare a bit. Obviously, that is my fixation. I come here every week and try to talk about ways we can change.

Before we do this, here is a simple thought experiment. Well, it is not a thought experiment. It is the facts. ObamaCare, the ACA, was a financing bill. It is who gets subsidized, who gets to pay. Our Republican alternative is a financing bill. It is who has to pay, who gets subsidized. Medicare for All is a financing bill. They don't actually change what the underlying cost of delivering healthcare is. They just shift around who gets to pay.

This debate here has to become what we pay. What technology and what models are we going to adopt that change the cost of delivering healthcare?

What happens if I come to you, Mr. Speaker, and say that 5 percent of our brothers and sisters have preexisting conditions, that they are suffering, and that they are also over half of the healthcare costs of this Nation?

Wouldn't it be much smarter, much more caring, much more empathetic, and much more compassionate to fixate on that 5 percent who are suffering and say that we are going to do everything we can to push technologies, to push the caring, and to push disruption in biologics to cure or minimize the suffering of the 5 percent? We are living examples of this.

Do you remember, Mr. Speaker, only a few years ago the cost curve we were all looking at in regard to hepatitis C? Do you remember, hep C, you carry the virus in you for sometimes decades and decades and decades, Mr. Speaker. Then, all of a sudden, Mr. Speaker, you need a liver transplant.

We were looking at numbers that were going to essentially bankrupt the VA with all the liver transplant costs. Then what happened? A cure was delivered. It was really expensive at the beginning, but it was dramatically less expensive than somebody having a failed liver.

We are living in the time of disruptions, and we should promote those as a Congress and help many of us who are panicked over the debt but also really care about eliminating suffering.

It is one of the reasons I have an absolute fixation. If you really wanted to help people of color, Mr. Speaker, and my Tribal communities—I represent some of the populations with the highest diabetes in the world, some of my Native Americans—how about an Operation Warp Speed on diabetes?

Remember, Mr. Speaker, in the next 30 years, in today's dollars, inflation-adjusted dollars, we have $121 trillion of debt coming at us. Sixty-seven percent of that is just Medicare.

The single biggest thing you could actually do, Mr. Speaker, the single thing, the biggest thing to deal with future debt that buries and destroys the future for my 5-year-old daughter, believe it or not, is a cure for diabetes because 31 percent of the Medicare future is just diabetes.

One of the most loving and compassionate things we could do as conservatives and liberals is say that we are going to do—call it whatever you want, Mr. Speaker. I want to call it operation warp speed because we are close to the cusp of major revolutionary treatments for type 1, the ability to do stem cells to the pancreas. There are some incredible journal articles out just in the last 6 weeks on that.

Some of that can also be used for type 2. Type 2 is more complicated because it is both the autoimmune but also lifestyle and having a discussion of, as a people, as a society, are we going to continue to fund really unhealthy foods? Are we going to continue to do farm supports in a way where we grow only a handful of crops instead of being able to have a wide variety of different things?

These are really disruptive concepts, and they would be really compassionate and loving for everyone if we took really, really, really seriously what diabetes means to this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, if you really want to deal with the reality, don't come to these microphones and give a speech about how COVID affected certain populations much more dramatically and then, in the next breath, not talk about the fact that the curve is absolutely sympathetic with those same populations having diabetes. The math is the math.

Mr. Speaker, if you really give a darn about people, let's solve that because it is the single biggest thing you and I could do to take on future sovereign debt.

The other one that drives me insane, because this is the one you and I could have the most impact on in the shortest period of time, Mr. Speaker, 16 percent of U.S. healthcare costs, so about $528 billion every single year, is people not taking their pharmaceuticals properly.

I forget to take my hypertension medicine, and I have a stroke. I don't take my statin for my cholesterol, and all of a sudden, I have to get a stent. Someone doesn't maintain use of technology and stay on their insulin properly.

We have lots of data now. This is a really well-vetted number. Sixteen percent of U.S. healthcare is our not taking or taking improperly our pharmaceuticals.

Well, it turns out there is a technology solution to that: the little pill cap that talks to you.

How about for grandma, who has to take some pills in the morning and then in the evening, we have the technology that drops the pills and talks to her. It turns out this technology could save not $100 billion but a few hundred billion dollars every year.

Mr. Speaker, you talk about wanting to have an impact on healthcare and make people healthier and deal with those 5 percent of our brothers and sisters who have chronic conditions that are 50-plus percent of our healthcare. There are things you could do tomorrow that would have an impact on society before the year is over.

We made a proposal last year or just before the pandemic of super-high-value pharmaceuticals. Why don't we put them in sterile blister-pack-type containers and make them recyclable?

I had a number of Members here, particularly one who is my friend on the left, who came to me and said: Oh, that is yucky.

But I remember 10 years ago, when my mother was in hospice care, and one of the nurses there—she was a family friend—took me in the back. We were talking, and she showed me this barrel. She said: You know, there is probably $10,000 to $20,000 of pharmaceuticals in there that I am throwing away from our patients who have passed away in the last few weeks.

That got me thinking: Is this rational?

Besides the fact that the small molecules end up in your water supply, Mr. Speaker, the biologics, but is that rational?

These are just little, incremental, creative things. We know we have technology now—the thing you can blow

into, Mr. Speaker, that instantly tells you that you have the flu that could bounce off your phone with its medical records and say that you are not allergic to this antiviral and instantly order that antiviral, and you would be healthier.

But that process is illegal under the laws that we passed here. The Social Security Act says you are going to need a doctor, Mr. Speaker, the reimbursement from HHS, our State licensing rules.

Are we ready to stop living in virtue signaling, stop living in folklore, and start looking at the actual math?

Yes, we are going to get lobbied like crazy from groups that we are disrupting their business model. But wouldn't it be neat to say: This isn't Republican, and it is not Democrat. It is technology.

Let's make a difference. It is doable, and it is here.

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

INFLATION THREATENS FUTURE OF AMERICA'S ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to discuss the threat of inflation on the future of America's economy.

In other places around the Capitol at this time, people are discussing a new infrastructure bill. They are talking about a new 2022 budget. People talk about the importance of not raising taxes on the poor. Earlier this year, they rejected a possible gas tax hike because it would have fallen disproportionately on the poor. But there is no surer way to penalize the poor of this country than to inflate the currency.

□ 1830

Look at where we already are on other commodities: aluminum, lumber, soybeans.

How are our young people going to buy that first house?

The cost of food, and even prepared food, is going up.

Why is that?

Take a look at the charts showing the amount of currency in banks. M1 currency, which is up by a factor of 5 times; not 5 percent, not 50 percent, but a factor of 5 times in the last year.

Look at M2, up 30 percent in the last year. Of course, the cost of commodities is spiraling through the roof.

America is a wealthy country because our dollar has been the envy of the world. But this Congress has not been acting like a Congress with the world's reserve currency. This Congress is acting like the Congress of a country such as Zimbabwe, and we all saw on TV what happened there.

It is time for the people who are not only negotiating the infrastructure bill, but negotiating the 2022 budget, to take into account what they are doing to the poor of this country or the middle class of this country as they inevitably stoke inflation.

Think of the people on almost fixed incomes, on Social Security. Think of all of the people on pensions, who are locked in at $15,000 a year, $20,000 a year, and think how their purchasing power will go down if we continue along this path, including the bloated budget proposed by President Biden himself.

We must rein in our spending. The poor and the middle class are the ones paying the price. I beg the negotiators to stand up to the people who think that printing hundreds of millions of dollars more in the infrastructure bill or passing this bill with an excessively high spending increase in the regular 2022 budget will not affect the average guy. It is going to affect the average guy. It is going to erode their savings. It will shrink the values of their pension or Social Security. It will be a true disaster for middle class and poor America.

QUESTIONS FOR VICE PRESIDENT HARRIS ON HER TRIP TO THE SOUTHERN BORDER

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to, first of all, applaud the fact that Vice President HARRIS is going to the southern border. I don't know whether she has done this on her own accord or with prodding from President Biden, but, either way, I am glad she is going down there.

I have been to the border several times this year. I think it is very difficult to learn all you should learn in one day. There are nine sectors to the southern border, and what you learn in El Paso is very different from what you learn in Yuma. It is very different from what you learn in San Diego. It is very different from what you learn in McAllen.

Nevertheless, I am glad she is going down there, and I would like to make some suggestions for her, which we will forward to her as questions she should be asking or things she should learn about the southern border.

First of all, Madam Vice President, the Migrant Protection Protocols caused the Mexican Government to hold asylum seekers on the south side of the border. President Biden has since walked away from the protocol. What effect did the nullification of this agreement with the Mexican Government have on the number of people crossing the border? And what effect will it have on the number of people from around the world who will come here in the future?

Secondly, we also had Asylum Cooperative Agreements with Central American countries that held people south not only of the Mexican border, but south of Mexico. What effect did President Biden's ending the Asylum Cooperative Agreements with Central American countries have on the number of people entering southern Mexico? And what effect will this have on people coming through Mexico from around the world?

Third, I want the Vice President to find out what type of drugs are coming across the border. Has there been a change in the fraction of marijuana versus fentanyl coming across the southern border? How lethal is fentanyl?

Fourth, I hear horrific stories from the border guards as far as women and girls being sexually assaulted on their journey through Mexico. What percentage of women and girls are sexually assaulted as they travel to enter the U.S. illegally?

Fifth, you will find when you get down there, Madam Vice President, that families consist of adults and children, find out how many times a family supposedly shows up and the Border Patrol suspects that the children are not part of the family, and what happens when DNA tests are given to children and the adults they are entering with?

Six, how much does it cost for the migrants to enter our country? And by that, I mean how much are they having to pay the drug cartels? I think you will find different numbers for the cost of a Mexican, a Central American, a Brazilian, and Asian. But you should ask these questions when you are on the southern border.

Seventh, got-aways are when people come in this country and have no contact with the Border Patrol. As the Border Patrol must spend time doing paperwork with the huge increase of unaccompanied children coming here, has the number of got-aways, increased from this time last year to now?

Eighth, I think you should look at some demonstrations with some dogs. How effective are dogs in looking for fentanyl and other drugs, and should we be purchasing more dogs in this budget?

Next, I ask you to look at the border wall which you will find is 30-feet high and 8 feet underground. Talk to the Border Patrol, talk to ICE, talk to local law enforcement, and see what they think of that wall and whether it would be worth expanding it or whether your administration was right to just cut it off with equipment just sitting in the open sun.

Next, Madam Vice President, you said you want to focus on the root causes from countries whose citizens are coming here. I ask you to find out what countries are sending its citizens here and which countries have sent a significant amount of people. I think you are going to be surprised that it is not just a matter of people coming here from Mexico or Honduras. They are coming from around the world, but you should report back on the number of countries you would have to improve to prevent the demand from going up further to come here.

Next, in the opinion of the Border Patrol, have you and the President's public comments during your campaign

and after the campaign had an impact on the number of people coming to this country? I would ask members of the Border Patrol.

The twelfth question is: Have your comments, as well as the fact that you have decided to take 13 weeks before you decided to go to the border, had an effect on the morale of the Border Patrol? You and the President have not visited the border, which I think is the biggest crisis facing your administration since you were both sworn in. What do they think about that, and what can you do to make up any dispiriting of these brave people due to your inaction to this point?

Thirteen, and one of the scary things that I don't think we have talked about: Ask the Border Patrol if they keep track of how many people drown in the Rio Grande trying to come here every year, and how many people dehydrate in the Arizona or New Mexico or Texas deserts as they try to come here.

And, finally, look for what policies we can implement from Washington to make your job of securing the border easier.

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

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

PUBLICATION OF BUDGETARY MATERIAL

ALLOCATIONS AND OTHER BUDGETARY LEVELS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET,
Washington, DC, June 24, 2021.

MADAM SPEAKER; Pursuant to sections 1 and 3 of House Resolution 467 (117th Congress) and the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, I hereby submit for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD: (1) allocations for fiscal year 2022 for the House Committee on Appropriations, and (2) a list of discretionary accounts identified for advance appropriations in fiscal year 2022 appropriations bills.

This filing is made for technical purposes as required by House Resolution 467, and the budgetary material published herein is for the purposes of enforcing titles III and IV of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and other budgetary enforcement provisions. If there are any questions, please contact Jennifer Wheelock or Sam Wice of the Budget Committee staff.

JOHN YARMUTH.

TABLE 1.—ALLOCATION OF SPENDING AUTHORITY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

(Unified amounts in millions of dollars)

	2022
Base Discretionary Action:	
BA	1,506,027
OT	1,672,503
Current Law Mandatory:	
BA	1,356,059
OT	1,355,730

TABLE 2.—ACCOUNTS IDENTIFIED FOR ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS

Accounts Identified for Advance Appropriations
For Fiscal Year 2023
Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education
Employment and Training Administration
Education for the Disadvantaged

TABLE 2.—ACCOUNTS IDENTIFIED FOR ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS—Continued

School Improvement Programs
Career, Technical, and Adult Education
Special Education
Transportation, Housing and Urban Development
Tenant-based Rental Assistance
Project-based Rental Assistance
For Fiscal Year 2024
Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education
Corporation for Public Broadcasting
Veterans Accounts Identified for Advance Appropriations
For Fiscal Year 2023
Military Construction, Veterans Affairs
Veterans Medical Services
Veterans Medical Support and Compliance
Veterans Medical Facilities
Veterans Medical Community Care

BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, reported that on June 17, 2021, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills and joint resolution:

H.R. 49. To designate the National Pulse Memorial located at 1912 South Orange Avenue, Orlando, Florida, 32806, and for other purposes.

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.J. Res. 27. Providing for the appointment of Barbara Barrett as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

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 6 o'clock and 40 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, June 25, 2021, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC–1467. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Appropriations, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Report to Congress from the Chairman of the National Advisory Council on International Monetary and Financial Policies June 2021, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 262r(a); Public Law 95-118, Sec. 1701(a) (as amended by Public Law 105-277, Sec. 583); (112 Stat. 2681-202); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC–1468. A letter from the Chairman, Appraisal Subcommittee, Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council, transmitting the Council's 2020 Annual Report, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 3332(a)(5); Public Law 101-73, Sec. 1103 (as amended by Public Law 111-203, Sec. 1473(b)); (124 Stat. 2190); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC–1469. A letter from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's interpretive rule — Examinations for Risks to Active-Duty Servicemembers and Their Covered Dependents received June 16, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC–1470. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73-622(i), Post Transition Table of DTV Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations (Augusta, Georgia) [MB Docket No.: 21-49] (RM-11874) received June 23, 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–1471. A letter from the Chair, Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission, transmitting the Commission's June 2021 Report to Congress on Medicaid and CHIP, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1396(b)(1)(C); Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title XIX, Sec. 1900 (as amended by Public Law 111-148, Sec. 2801(a)(1)(A)(iv)); (123 Stat. 91); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–1472. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's Major final rule — Revision of Fee Schedules; Fee Recovery for Fiscal Year 2021 [NRC-2018-0292] (RIN: 3150-AK24) received June 17, 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–1473. A letter from the Acting Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's Annual Performance Report for Fiscal Years 2020-2022, including the Annual Performance Plan, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1115(b); Public Law 111-352, Sec. 3; (124 Stat. 3867); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC–1474. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's Semiannual Report of the Office of Inspector General for the 6-month period of October 31, 2020 through March 31, 2021; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC–1475. A letter from the Acting Director, Selective Service, transmitting the Service's fiscal year 2022 Congressional Budget Justification, pursuant to 45 U.S.C. 231f(f); Aug. 29, 1935, ch. 812, Sec. 7(f) (as amended by Public Law 93-445, Sec. 416); (97 Stat. 436); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC–1476. A letter from the Acting Deputy Chief, National Forest System, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the final map and perimeter boundary description for the Sturgeon Wild and Scenic River, in Michigan, added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System by Public Law 102-249, March 3, 1992, pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 1274(b); Public Law 90-542, Sec. 3(b) (as amended by Public Law 100-534, Sec. 501); (102 Stat. 2708); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC–1477. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the COPS Office Annual Report to Congress, FY 2020; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–1478. A letter from the Acting Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's Returning the Urban Sea to Abundance: A five-year review of the 2015 Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan report, pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 1269(f)(1); June 30, 1948, ch. 758, title I, Sec. 119 (as amended by Public Law 115-270, Sec. 4104(a)); (132 Stat. 3873); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1479. A letter from the Director, Legal Processing Division, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Modification of 2021 Cost-of-Living Adjustments to the Internal Revenue Code Due Statutory Changes Contained in the American Rescue Plan of 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC–1480. A letter from the Chair, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, transmitting the Commission's June 2021 Report to the Congress: Medicare and the Health Care Delivery System, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1395b-6(b)(1)(D); Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title XVIII, Sec. 1805(b)(1)(D) (as amended by Public Law 111-148, Sec. 2801(b)(2)); (124 Stat. 332); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

EC–1481. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the final report on the national emergency with respect to the International Criminal Court that was declared in Executive Order 13928 of June 11, 2020, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and the Judiciary.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. LYNCH:

H.R. 4112. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to establish clear Federal oversight of the development of credit scoring models by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. ADAMS:

H.R. 4113. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to fix the consumer report dispute process, to ban misleading and unfair consumer reporting practices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. CLARKE of New York (for herself and Mr. UPTON):

H.R. 4114. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to provide equal coverage of in vitro specific IgE tests and percutaneous tests for allergies under the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. TLAIB:

H.R. 4115. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting act to restore the impaired credit of victims of predatory activities and unfair consumer reporting practices, to expand access to tools to protect vulnerable consumers from identity theft, fraud, or a related crime, and protect victims from further harm, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. TRONE (for himself and Mr. PALMER):

H.R. 4116. A bill to authorize appropriations for the Appalachian development highway system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BACON (for himself, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, and Ms. MACE):

H.R. 4117. A bill to establish the National Commission on Domestic Terrorist Attacks on the United States by Antifa, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HORSFORD (for himself, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. BASS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. EVANS, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. NORTON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. MENG, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. PLASKETT, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. SOTO, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. TITUS, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Ms. DEAN):

H.R. 4118. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to build safer, thriving communities, and save lives, by investing in effective community-based violence reduction initiatives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. PRESSLEY:

H.R. 4119. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to remove adverse information for certain defaulted or delinquent private education loan borrowers who demonstrate a history of loan repayment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. PRESSLEY:

H.R. 4120. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to provide comprehensive reforms to the consumer credit reporting laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. ARRINGTON:

H.R. 4121. A bill to codify a final rule issued by the Secretary of Health and Human Services relating to fraud and abuse and the removal of safe harbor protection for certain drug rebates, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BABIN (for himself and Ms. HOULAHAN):

H.R. 4122. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for interest-free deferment on student loans for borrowers serving in a medical or dental internship or residency program; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina (for himself, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. BUDD, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. PERRY, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. CAWTHORN, and Ms. HERRELL):

H.R. 4123. A bill to codify certain rules related to health reimbursement arrangements and other account-based group health plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Labor, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. CLARKE of New York:

H.R. 4124. A bill to establish the ''Biomedical Innovation Fund'', and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Rules, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself and Mr. HICE of Georgia):

H.R. 4125. A bill to authorize Inspectors General to continue operations during a lapse in appropriations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. DAVIDSON (for himself, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. ESTES, and Mr. HERN):

H.R. 4126. A bill to prohibit the Federal Government from issuing vaccine passports, to prohibit businesses from discriminating against patrons and customers by requiring documentation certifying COVID-19 vaccination, or post-transmission recovery, as a condition on the provision of products or services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself and Mrs. WALORSKI):

H.R. 4127. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to encourage the development and use of DISARM antimicrobial drugs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. DEGETTE (for herself and Mr. BUCSHON):

H.R. 4128. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for the regulation of in vitro clinical tests, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DEUTCH (for himself and Mr. BILIRAKIS):

H.R. 4129. A bill to promote the United States-Greece defense partnership, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. DEUTCH (for himself, Mr. ISSA, Mr. NADLER, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Ms. BASS, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, and Ms. CHU):

H.R. 4130. A bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to provide fair treatment of radio stations and artists for the use of sound recordings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. DINGELL (for herself, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. MATSUI):

H.R. 4131. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to expand access to home and community-based services (HCBS) under Medicaid, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DONALDS (for himself, Mr. NORMAN, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. MANN, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. HERN, Mr. BABIN, Mr. OWENS, Mr. ROY, and Mr. GOOD of Virginia):

H.R. 4132. A bill to consolidate or repeal unnecessary agency major rules, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, 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. ESPAILLAT (for himself, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. MCCAUL, and Mr. SIRES):

H.R. 4133. A bill to authorize appropriations for the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative, enhance the United States-Caribbean security partnership, prioritize disaster resilience, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida (for herself, Mr. WALTZ, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mrs. KIM of California, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Ms. BASS, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. RUTHERFORD):

H.R. 4134. A bill to support empowerment, economic security, and educational opportunities for adolescent girls around the world, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. GALLAGHER (for himself and Mrs. LURIA):

H.R. 4135. A bill to require an independent assessment with respect to the Arctic region and establishment of the Arctic Security Initiative, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GOLDEN (for himself and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois):

H.R. 4136. A bill to establish competitive grant programs to incentivize the safe and responsible storage of firearms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRIJALVA (for himself, Ms. NEWMAN, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. CARSON, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Mr. RUSH, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK):

H.R. 4137. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a veterans visa program to permit veterans who have been removed from the United States to return as immigrants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, and 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. HIGGINS of Louisiana (for himself, Mr. KATKO, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. GUEST, and Mr. CUELLAR):

H.R. 4138. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to improve U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) identification of staffing needs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. HIMES:

H.R. 4139. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect more victims of domestic violence by preventing their abusers from possessing or receiving firearms, to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to establish a grant program relating to the removal of firearms from adjudicated domestic violence offenders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota (for himself, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. MANN, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. CUELLAR, Mrs. FISCHBACH, Mr. FEENSTRA, and Mr. LUCAS):

H.R. 4140. A bill to make improvements with respect to the pricing of cattle in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. KIND (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. PASCRELL, and Mr. REED):

H.R. 4141. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to expand the availability of employee stock ownership plans in S corporations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Small Business, and Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KINZINGER (for himself, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. COHEN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. MEIJER, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. PORTER, Mr. PHILLIPS, and Ms. SALAZAR):

H.R. 4142. A bill to require the Secretary of State to establish an investor visa denials database, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut (for himself and Mr. BUCHANAN):

H.R. 4143. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to clarify the mailing requirement relating to social security account statements; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LAWSON of Florida:

H.R. 4144. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to ban the use of credit information for most employment decisions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. LEE of Nevada (for herself and Mr. SCHWEIKERT):

H.R. 4145. A bill to establish a matched savings program for low-income students; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. LIEU (for himself, Mr. KILMER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. WELCH, Mr. YARMUTH, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Ms. CHU, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. POCAN, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. NADLER, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. DEAN, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. MENG, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. BASS, Ms. NEWMAN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. KAHELE, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. MANNING, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. SOTO, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. TONKO, Mr. SIRES, Ms. JACOBS of California, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. COSTA, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Ms. BONAMICI, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, and Ms. TLAIB):

H.R. 4146. A bill to prohibit commercial sexual orientation conversion therapy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LOWENTHAL (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. CHU, Mr. SOTO, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, and Mr. CORREA):

H.R. 4147. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Billie Jean King, in recognition of her contribution to the Nation and her courageous and groundbreaking leadership advancing equal rights for women and the LGBTQ community in athletics, education, and our society; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. MALINOWSKI (for himself, Mr. SIRES, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, and Mr. CARBAJAL):

H.R. 4148. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide an option for first responders age 50 to 64 who are separated from service due to retirement or disability to buy into Medicare; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York (for himself and Mr. TONKO):

H.R. 4149. A bill to extend the authorization of the Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. MATSUI (for herself, Mr. MCKINLEY, Ms. WILD, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Ms. SLOTKIN):

H.R. 4150. A bill to establish a grant program for shuttered minor league baseball clubs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MCCOLLUM (for herself and Mr. YOUNG):

H.R. 4151. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and extend the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Prevention and Services program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCKINLEY:

H.R. 4152. A bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to establish an Appalachian regional energy hub initiative, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself, Mr. SCHRADER, Ms. TENNEY, and Mr. COSTA):

H.R. 4153. A bill to advance clean power technology development and use through innovation and clean energy standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Science, Space, and Technology, Transportation and Infrastructure, Oversight and Reform, and Financial 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. PASCRELL (for himself, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, and Mr. KILDEE):

H.R. 4154. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for direct-pay

credit bonds in the case of certain bonds the proceeds of which are used for the replacement of lead drinking water service lines; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PERLMUTTER (for himself, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. MORELLE):

H.R. 4155. A bill to encourage energy efficiency, conservation, and development of renewable energy sources for housing, and to create sustainable communities; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PHILLIPS (for himself, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. CASE, and Mr. EVANS):

H.R. 4156. A bill to establish the Compassionate Capitalist Award to recognize organizations that substantially benefit the well-being of their employees, stakeholders, and communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. RASKIN (for himself and Mr. JONES):

H.R. 4157. A bill to amend section 1977 of the Revised Statutes to protect equal rights under law; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RUSH (for himself, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. BASS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. EVANS, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MENG, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. SIRES, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. TLAIB, and Mr. VEASEY):

H.R. 4158. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to eliminate cost sharing with respect to coverage of insulin as a covered part D drug under the Medicare program or as a covered outpatient drug under the Medicaid program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SCANLON (for herself and Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS):

H.R. 4159. A bill to develop best practice guidelines for the use of dogs in Federal courts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Ms. BASS, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. MEUSER):

H.R. 4160. A bill to establish a Global Autism Assistance Program; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SMITH of Washington (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. TORRES of California, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. NEWMAN, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. BEYER, Mrs. STEEL, Ms. MENG, and Mr. SUOZZI):

H.R. 4161. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to allow additional funds to be provided under the airport improvement program for certain noise mitigation projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. SPANBERGER (for herself and Mr. VALADAO):

H.R. 4162. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to improve the Rural Energy for America Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. TITUS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. KEATING, Ms. BASS, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. COHEN, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. ROSS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 4163. A bill to amend the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act to provide pay equity for amateur athletes and other personnel; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 4164. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to limit the charitable deduction for certain qualified conservation contributions; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. VAN DUYNE (for herself, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. MAST, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. STEWART, and Mr. DONALDS):

H.R. 4165. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the limitation on qualified first-time homebuyer distributions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. BUSH, Mr. CARSON, Ms. CHU, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. EVANS, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. JONES, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MENG, Ms. NEWMAN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. POCAN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. SIRES, Mr. SOTO, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. YARMUTH):

H.R. 4166. A bill to direct the Secretary Housing and Urban Development to establish a grant program for planting of qualifying trees in eligible areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. WITTMAN:

H.R. 4167. A bill to establish the Northern Neck National Heritage Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CICILLINE (for himself and Mrs. KIM of California):

H. Res. 497. A resolution condemning the murder of Alireza Fazeli Monfared and the practice of so-called ''honor killings'' in Iran, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. PAYNE (for himself, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. NORCROSS, and Mr. KINZINGER):

H. Res. 498. A resolution honoring the lives and legacies of the ''Radium Girls''; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

ML-36. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii, relative to House Resolution No. 47, urging the United States Congress and President of the United States to enact the Protecting the Right to Organize Act of 2021 as expeditiously as possible; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

ML-37. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 45, urging the United States Congress to grant additional authority to the Federal Communications Commission to stop unwanted and illegal robocalls; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

ML-38. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Michigan, relative to Senate Resolution No. 25, urging the United States Congress and the President of the United States to oppose H.R. 1 and similar harmful election policy measures; to the Committee on House Administration.

ML-39. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 81, urging the United States Congress, Federal Aviation Administration, and Hawaii Department of Transportation to take every action necessary to address rapidly increasing safety risks and community disruption from insufficient regulation of tour helicopter and small aircraft operations throughout Hawaii skies; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

ML-40. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 7, memorializing the United States Congress to support H.R. 82 of the 117th Congress, the Social Security Fairness Act of 2021, and all other similar legislation and to take such actions as are necessary to review and eliminate all provisions of federal law which reduce Social Security benefits for those receiving pension benefits from federal, state, or local government retirement or pension systems, plans, or funds; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

ML-41. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, relative to House Concurrent Memorial 2001, urging the Congress of the United States to appropriate monies to eradicate Salt Cedars from Arizona's waterway; jointly to the Committees on Agriculture and Natural Resources.

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 Mr. LYNCH:

H.R. 4112.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

By Ms. ADAMS:

H.R. 4113.

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

Article I, Section VIII of the Constitution of the United States

By Ms. CLARKE of New York:

H.R. 4114.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. TLAIB:

H.R. 4115.

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

Article I, Section VIII, Clause XVIII

By Mr. TRONE:

H.R. 4116.

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. BACON:

H.R. 4117.

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

Article 1, Section 8

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By Mr. HORSFORD:

H.R. 4118.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States

By Ms. PRESSLEY:

H.R. 4119.

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

Article 1 Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. PRESSLEY:

H.R. 4120.

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

Article 1 Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. ARRINGTON:

H.R. 4121.

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

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BABIN:

H.R. 4122.

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

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution: ''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. BISHOP of North Carolina:

H.R. 4123.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. CLARKE of New York:

H.R. 4124.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 4125.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DAVIDSON:

H.R. 4126.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1. The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States;

Under Article I, Section 8 Clause 18 ''to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof''

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution, to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian.

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 4127.

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

Article I of the Constitution and its subsequent amendments and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Ms. DEGETTE:

H.R. 4128.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. DEUTCH:

H.R. 4129.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. DEUTCH:

H.R. 4130.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution; Article 1, Section 8, Clause 8 of the United States Constitution; and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. DINGELL:

H.R. 4131.

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

The Constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DONALDS:

H.R. 4132.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. ESPAILLAT:

H.R. 4133.

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. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida:

H.R. 4134.

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. GALLAGHER:

H.R. 4135.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. GOLDEN:

H.R. 4136.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 4137.

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

U.S. Const. art. I, §§1 and 8.

By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana:

H.R. 4138.

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

U.S.C. Article I Section 8

By Mr. HIMES:

H.R. 4139.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota:

H.R. 4140.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. KIND:

H.R. 4141.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. KINZINGER:

H.R. 4142.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the US Constitution

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut:

H.R. 4143.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution: To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the powers enumerated under section 8 and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. LAWSON of Florida:

H.R. 4144.

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

''Article 1, Section 8: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof

By Mrs. LEE of Nevada:

H.R. 4145.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 1 provides Congress with the power to ''lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises'' in order to ''provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States.''

By Mr. LIEU:

H.R. 4146.

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

U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 8

By Mr. LOWENTHAL:

H.R. 4147.

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

Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. MALINOWSKI:

H.R. 4148.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, Clause 18 of the Constitution.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 4149.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. MATSUI:

H.R. 4150.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the US Constitution

By Ms. MCCOLLUM:

H.R. 4151.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. MCKINLEY:

H.R. 4152.

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. MCKINLEY:

H.R. 4153.

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

Section 8—Powers of Congress. To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. PASCRELL:

H.R. 4154.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. PERLMUTTER:

H.R. 4155.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. PHILLIPS:

H.R. 4156.

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

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

By Mr. RASKIN:

H.R. 4157.

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

Article I, Sec. 8

By Mr. RUSH:

H.R. 4158.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. SCANLON:

H.R. 4159.

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

Article I, Section VIII.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 4160.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the US Constitution

By Mr. SMITH of Washington:

H.R. 4161.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution: The Congress shall have power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes

By Ms. SPANBERGER:

H.R. 4162.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. SPEIER:

H.R. 4163.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. THOMPSON of California:

H.R. 4164.

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

Article I

By Ms. VAN DUYNE:

H.R. 4165.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN:

H.R. 4166.

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

Article 1. Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. WITTMAN:

H.R. 4167.

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

United States of America Constitution:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 18: Mr. CRAWFORD, Mrs. KIM of California, and Mr. UPTON.

H.R. 65: Mr. CASE.

H.R. 82: Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. TENNEY, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, and Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 112: Mr. CARL.

H.R. 228: Ms. BROWNLEY and Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 234: Ms. STRICKLAND.

H.R. 304: Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 310: Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH.

H.R. 392: Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 532: Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. BRADY, and Mr. LATURNER.

H.R. 554: Mr. GOSAR, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. ESTES, and Mr. MOOLENAAR.

H.R. 555: Mr. ESTES.

H.R. 556: Mr. DOGGETT and Ms. SEWELL.

H.R. 604: Mrs. MURPHY of Florida.

H.R. 735: Ms. PELOSI.

H.R. 852: Ms. LETLOW.

H.R. 869: Ms. BASS.

H.R. 890: Ms. SÁNCHEZ and Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 899: Mr. STEUBE.

H.R. 914: Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 1025: Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 1095: Mr. GARCÍA of California.

H.R. 1140: Ms. DEAN.

H.R. 1179: Mr. CARSON, Mr. NEWHOUSE, and Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 1201: Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. HIMES, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. CORREA, Ms. MENG, Ms. SCHRIER, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, and Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.

H.R. 1284: Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH and Mr. HUIZENGA.

H.R. 1304: Mrs. LAWRENCE and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 1309: Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. WILD, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. VEASEY.

H.R. 1348: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. OMAR, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. MFUME, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. VEASEY, and Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H.R. 1355: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 1379: Ms. TLAIB.

H.R. 1394: Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 1408: Ms. SCANLON.

H.R. 1417: Mr. JACKSON.

H.R. 1453: Mr. KIM of New Jersey.

H.R. 1456: Mr. LIEU.

H.R. 1471: Mrs. FLETCHER.

H.R. 1522: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.

H.R. 1534: Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. CARTER of Texas, and Mr. GOODEN of Texas.

H.R. 1551: Mr. LAWSON of Florida.

H.R. 1596: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 1625: Mrs. FISCHBACH.

H.R. 1626: Mr. CLOUD.

H.R. 1630: Mr. BERA.

H.R. 1656: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1661: Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. KAPTUR, and Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 1670: Mr. STANTON.

H.R. 1684: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.

H.R. 1733: Ms. MATSUI and Ms. NEWMAN.

H.R. 1734: Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 1745: Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. ESTES, Mr. SMUCKER, and Mr. COLE.

H.R. 1794: Mr. MFUME.

H.R. 1800: Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 1801: Mr. KIM of New Jersey.

H.R. 1842: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. CARSON, Mr. BROWN, Mr. GAETZ, and Mr. MAST.

H.R. 1916: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mrs. FLETCHER, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. WELCH, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. GOHMERT, Ms. STEFANIK, and Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina.

H.R. 1957: Mr. LIEU.

H.R. 1961: Mr. DUNCAN.

H.R. 1983: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 1986: Ms. JAYAPAL and Mr. LIEU.

H.R. 2028: Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. SEWELL, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 2050: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 2079: Ms. ROSS.

H.R. 2096: Mr. KEATING, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, and Mr. DEFAZIO.

H.R. 2122: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.

H.R. 2126: Mr. LAWSON of Florida.

H.R. 2223: Mr. CLYDE.

H.R. 2278: Ms. SPANBERGER.

H.R. 2294: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 2325: Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mrs. FLETCHER, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 2347: Mr. SCHRADER.

H.R. 2361: Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 2373: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina and Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 2400: Mrs. HAYES and Mr. KUSTOFF.

H.R. 2472: Mr. RYAN and Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 2499: Ms. SCHRIER and Mr. RASKIN.

H.R. 2573: Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. BACON, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. TLAIB, Mrs. LURIA, Mr. YARMUTH, and Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 2586: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. LIEU, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Ms. BASS.

H.R. 2607: Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 2721: Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 2727: Mr. DELGADO.

H.R. 2767: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 2782: Mr. CLYDE.

H.R. 2795: Mr. MOOLENAAR.

H.R. 2810: Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 2816: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 2840: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 2849: Mr. CLYDE.

H.R. 2859: Mr. TORRES of New York and Mr. ALLRED.

H.R. 2886: Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 2920: Ms. NORTON, Ms. ROSS, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, and Ms. OMAR.

H.R. 2924: Mr. MORELLE.

H.R. 2928: Ms. SPANBERGER and Mr. DELGADO.

H.R. 2931: Ms. SPANBERGER.

H.R. 2974: Ms. WILD.

H.R. 2998: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.

H.R. 3031: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 3046: Mr. WALTZ.

H.R. 3076: Mr. NADLER, Mr. MAST, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. BOST, Mr. KHANNA, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 3083: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H.R. 3104: Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H.R. 3105: Mr. CORREA.

H.R. 3126: Mr. YARMUTH.
H.R. 3131: Mr. GIBBS.
H.R. 3180: Ms. STRICKLAND.
H.R. 3187: Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 3254: Mr. MOONEY, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. MAST, and Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
H.R. 3281: Mr. ROSENDALE and Mr. KELLY of Mississippi.
H.R. 3288: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3289: Ms. NEWMAN, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Ms. CHU, Mr. JONES, Mr. SIRES, Mr. RUSH, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. EVANS, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. POCAN, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. BONAMICI, and Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 3291: Mr. HORSFORD.
H.R. 3293: Mr. HORSFORD.
H.R. 3321: Ms. SALAZAR and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 3341: Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.
H.R. 3378: Ms. STRICKLAND.
H.R. 3385: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. COHEN, Ms. MANNING, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. BOURDEAUX, Ms. TLAIB, and Ms. HOULAHAN.
H.R. 3408: Mrs. MCCLAIN and Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 3434: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.
H.R. 3440: Mr. PASCRELL.
H.R. 3482: Mr. TIMMONS.
H.R. 3515: Mrs. LESKO.
H.R. 3537: Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. FEENSTRA, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. ALLRED, and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 3542: Mr. CLYDE.
H.R. 3548: Mr. KHANNA and Mr. CROW.
H.R. 3554: Mr. KELLY of Mississippi and Mr. LATURNER.
H.R. 3584: Ms. BOURDEAUX.
H.R. 3625: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 3630: Mr. PETERS and Mr. KIM of New Jersey.
H.R. 3650: Mr. BOST, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. LAMB, and Mr. KUSTOFF.
H.R. 3780: Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 3790: Mr. TIMMONS.
H.R. 3796: Mrs. BOEBERT.
H.R. 3807: Ms. BASS, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Ms. UNDERWOOD.
H.R. 3818: Mrs. BUSTOS.
H.R. 3821: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H.R. 3860: Mr. NORMAN.
H.R. 3867: Mr. CASE.
H.R. 3880: Ms. WILD.
H.R. 3913: Mr. HUDSON.
H.R. 3926: Mr. FERGUSON.
H.R. 3942: Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 3962: Mr. CROW.
H.R. 3985: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. CRENSHAW, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. COHEN, Ms. MANNING, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. RYAN, Mr. STEWART, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CASE, Ms. BOURDEAUX, Mrs. LURIA, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. HOULAHAN, and Ms. STEFANIK.
H.R. 3988: Mr. NEAL.
H.R. 3992: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.
H.R. 3999: Mr. TRONE, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. BUCSHON, and Ms. LETLOW.
H.R. 4025: Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 4041: Mr. DUNCAN and Mr. CHABOT.
H.R. 4056: Mr. DUNN.
H.R. 4079: Mr. NADLER, Ms. WILD, Mr. MORELLE, and Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 4086: Ms. NORTON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, and Ms. SCANLON.
H.R. 4104: Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. BEYER, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COSTA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. KAHELE, Mr. ALLRED, Ms. DEAN, Mr. HARDER of California, and Mr. KILMER.
H.J. Res. 35: Ms. OMAR, Mr. CARSON, and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.
H.J. Res. 51: Mr. CALVERT.
H.J. Res. 53: Mr. JONES and Ms. SPANBERGER.
H. Con. Res. 33: Ms. MACE, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Ms. HERRELL, Mr. BARR, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. HERN, Mr. MCKINLEY, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
H. Res. 47: Mrs. FLETCHER and Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida.
H. Res. 117: Mrs. KIM of California.
H. Res. 131: Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Ms. DEAN.
H. Res. 259: Mr. CASTEN.
H. Res. 338: Mr. SUOZZI.
H. Res. 361: Mr. WELCH and Mr. CASE.
H. Res. 413: Mr. TURNER.
H. Res. 459: Mrs. HAYES and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H. Res. 471: Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana.
H. Res. 483: Mr. BUCSHON and Mr. MRVAN.
H. Res. 484: Mr. JACKSON.
H. Res. 489: Mr. CASE, Mr. SUOZZI, and Mr. CARBAJAL.

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Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 167 WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 2021 No. 110

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JACKY ROSEN, a Senator from the State of Nevada.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, guide our lawmakers through this day with Your higher wisdom. Help them to walk with integrity, reverence, and humility. May they refuse to deviate from the path that honors You.

Lord, open their minds to Your truth as You use them to bring healing to our Nation and world. May they submit their lives to the light of Your precepts, replacing fear with faith, falsehood with truth, and hate with love.

We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 24, 2021.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JACKY ROSEN, a Senator from the State of Nevada, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Ms. ROSEN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. First, I have a message for the information of the Senate.

I understand there is an important meeting at the White House this morning that several Members are attending. So in order to accommodate them, the first vote will start at 10:45 a.m., not at 11 a.m., and we are going to have to move quickly on that vote so people can get their votes done and get to the White House.

So, Members, please take notice.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, before we reach the conclusion of the June work period, the Senate will confirm yet another one of President Biden's highly qualified nominees to the Federal Bench: Candace Jackson-Akiwumi to serve on the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

A graduate of Princeton and Yale Law School, Ms. Jackson-Akiwumi left a career at a big law firm to work for 10 years as a Federal defender in Illinois. She was a voice in the courtroom for Americans who often had no one else to speak for them: the mentally ill, folks who could not afford an attorney.

We have plenty of former prosecutors and corporate lawyers on the bench. Ms. Jackson-Akiwumi would bring a sorely needed perspective. The more our courts reflect our country as a whole, the more faith Americans will have in the equal application of the law.

Ms. Jackson-Akiwumi will make an outstanding addition to the Seventh Circuit, and I urge all my colleagues to vote for her later today.

Now, I want to reflect for a moment on the pace of judicial nominations in the Democratic-led Senate so far this year. Typically, the first several months of a new administration don't feature a ton of judicial nominations. New Presidents often have ambitious legislative agendas, and it takes a lot of time for a new President to make appointments and to get them to go through all of the background checks and for the Judiciary Committee to advance nominees to the floor. So in administrations past, the first 6 months are a fallow period for judges.

For all the focus that the Republican leader put on judges during the previous administration, the Senate only confirmed one—one district or circuit judge—before July 4 in the first year of Donald Trump's Presidency. By the end of today, the Senate will have confirmed more judges this week than in all 6 months of Donald Trump's first year in office.

In fact, with the confirmations this week, the Senate will have confirmed more district and circuit court judges to the Federal bench in the first 6 months of President Biden's first year than any other administration in 50 years.

Let me say that again so people hear, because I know there is a lot of worry—justified—that President Trump shifted the bench so far to the right that we need to rebalance it, and we need to make that a very high priority. Well, we have. After the confirmation of Ms. Jackson-Akiwumi, the Senate will have confirmed more district and circuit court judges in the first year of a

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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Presidency in over 50 years, including the first 6 months of Donald Trump's Presidency. So we are making good, good progress, and we have done it with judges who break the Federal mold—Federal defenders, civil rights lawyers, voting rights lawyers, the first Native American judge, the first Muslim American judge. Those make me proud that we are constantly expanding who in America can get to the bench. All of these folks have one thing in common: They are individuals of impeccable character and impressive credentials.

The Democratic Senate is restoring balance to the judiciary with highly qualified, mainstream jurists who reflect the diversity of this country, and we are going to keep at it when we come back in July and beyond.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on another matter, infrastructure, our Nation's economic potential depends on the quality of its infrastructure. Our businesses, workers, farmers, manufacturers—you name it—they all depend on the infrastructure networks that connect our country. And here in the 21st century, electrical grids and broadband internet access are just as important as roads, bridges, and highways.

But it has been decades—decades—since Congress passed a significant, stand-alone bill to increase Federal investment in infrastructure. Our roads and bridges are crumbling. Children learn in dilapidated schools. Large swaths of rural America lack access to broadband internet.

We need to refashion much of our infrastructure to address the existential threat of climate change. That is so important and essential to the overwhelming majority of my caucus. So the Senate, this summer, is going to move forward on multiple legislative proposals to make historic investments in our Nation's infrastructure. And when we say that, we mean both types of infrastructure: the concrete and steel and that kind of infrastructure—the physical infrastructure—but also the human infrastructure, so that we can maximize the potential of our people which, after all, is our greatest resource—our greatest resource.

So we are pursuing on multiple—we are making two tracks. The first legislative track is bipartisan. The second track will incorporate elements of the American jobs and families plan and will be done through the budget process, which must pass even if it is not bipartisan.

There has been significant progress this week on both tracks.

Yesterday, a bipartisan group of Senators announced that they had reached an agreement in concept for a bipartisan infrastructure proposal, and I have encouraged them to move forward. But I made it explicit to every one of them, together and separately, that we have to pass both tracks together.

Speaker PELOSI and I were made aware of the concepts of the agreement—the bipartisan agreement—last night. And while we have yet to see the details, I am encouraged by the progress the bipartisan group of Senators has made. I have supported these bipartisan discussions from the beginning, and I want to thank my colleagues for their hard work.

Senate Democrats have also made significant progress on preparing a budget resolution.

These two efforts are tied together. Let me make that clear. The bipartisan infrastructure bill and the budget resolution are tied together. If the Senate is going to move forward with a bipartisan infrastructure bill, we must also move forward on a budget resolution, as well. I have discussed this with President Biden directly on several occasions, and he agrees that we cannot do one without the other, and he has let the participants know that. Speaker PELOSI agrees that we cannot do one without the other. All parties understand that we won't get enough votes to pass either unless we have enough votes to pass both.

When the Senate returns in July, it will be time to take the next step and hold the first votes on the bipartisan infrastructure bill on the floor of the Senate. Senators should also be prepared to consider a budget resolution that will clear the way for the budget reconciliation bill as soon as possible.

The bottom line is, both tracks need to make progress concurrently.

This is about building a foundation for the United States to remain the world economic leader in the 21st century. We are the largest economy in the world, but our infrastructure ranks 13th, behind South Korea, Germany, Japan, and even the United Arab Emirates.

There isn't a community in this country without some glaring infrastructure challenge—certainly, in my home State of New York. If America is going to prosper in the 21st century, we can't have infrastructure that is stuck in the last century.

We need to pass major investment in infrastructure, both physical and human, this year, and I look forward to holding the first votes when we return for the July work period.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

GROWING CLIMATE SOLUTIONS ACT OF 2021

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of S. 1251, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1251) to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to develop a program to reduce barriers to entry for farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners in certain voluntary markets, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2119

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.)

Mr. LEE. Madam President, I call up my amendment No. 2119 and ask that it be reported by number.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Utah [Mr. LEE] proposes an amendment numbered 2119.

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of June 22, 2021, under ''Text of Amendments.'')

Mr. LEE. Madam President, as Americans want to buy more clean and green products, the market has been finding solutions to provide those products.

The Growing Climate Solutions Act before us, however, will not. Though it seeks to aid the carbon credit market, it could ultimately serve only to quell it. Let's just take a look at how the carbon credit market currently works.

Farmers, ranchers, and private foresters develop these credits to sell by taking actions to either limit their greenhouse gas emissions or to capture greenhouse gas emissions from the atmosphere. They work with technical assistance providers to know how to do so and then with third-party verifiers who make sure that the proper standards are met. Companies can then purchase the credits to offset their carbon emissions, and they can also sell unused credits to other companies wanting to offset their carbon emissions. It is a voluntary exchange and an example of the market working as it ought to work.

As the demand for these credits grows, more farmers, ranchers, and foresters would explore this revenue-generating market, more technical assistance providers and third-party verifiers would emerge, and potentially innovation would occur with new types of entities emerging to create and sell carbon credits beyond these initial three.

So what would the bill do? It would establish a USDA certification program for the technical assistance providers and third-party verifiers involved in creating carbon credits on grounds that it would help small farmers better understand the carbon credit market and know with whom they may work.

In other words, it would create a massive accreditation program that would potentially hamper, not foster, innovation. It would insert the Federal Government into a market that is blossoming on its own, imposing burdensome regulation and picking winners and losers in the carbon credit marketplace.

To make matters worse, it would corrupt the financial incentives of the market by allowing the USDA to cap revenues and generally regulate the sale of these credits.

Though it aims to help small farmers to participate in this market, it could easily be manipulated to demand the USDA set unusually high protocols and qualifications and then drive carbon credit purchasers solely to credit sellers working with those who fit and comply with the edicts of the Federal Government.

This will ultimately only impose obstacles for farmers, ranchers, and foresters, impede potential new participants, and, in the end, hurt the environment. That is why I am offering an alternative.

My amendment would transform this program into a transparent, informational resource for farmers, ranchers, and private foresters as they look for technical assistance providers and third-party verifiers. It would include common qualifications and common practices of these entities and a list of providers and verifiers that they could reach out to for assistance.

The Federal Government ought to get out of the way for the carbon credit market to continue innovating and thriving, not squash it. The American Energy Alliance agrees and has issued a favorable vote recommendation.

For all of these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, our farmers, ranchers, and foresters are the greatest stewards of the land, and many have been working for a long time to preserve natural resources and protect the environment through on-farm practices. And now, more than ever, farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners are looking to explore opportunities to benefit financially through emerging voluntary environmental credit markets.

New opportunities to generate benefits through environmental practices hold a great deal of promise. However, producers and landowners must navigate a complex and costly landscape in order to access these markets.

The Growing Climate Solutions Act provides a framework for producers to access technical assistance, guidance, and resources in these emerging markets as they investigate whether to pursue this new opportunity.

USDA certification of entities who will assist farmers in how best to navigate these markets will improve market integrity and provide farmers and ranchers more confidence as they take the first steps. The information gathered by USDA through the certification process will serve as a reliable resource to producers seeking to learn about both the entities involved and the practices being implemented to generate credits that are transacted in voluntary environmental credit markets.

These markets and the key players are evolving very quickly, and this bill directs USDA to first assess the current state of voluntary environmental credit markets because it is important that we all have an understanding of the landscape first.

Further, this bill is farmer-friendly. It acknowledges that for farmers and ranchers to be successful, there cannot be a one-size-fits-all approach. A corn farmer in Indiana, a cherry farmer in Michigan, and a rice farmer in Arkansas have different soil types and varying potential for carbon sequestration. So this bill recognizes the diversity of agriculture and the practices that may be employed by farmers. It provides educational resources for producers who decide this new market opportunity works for their unique business model.

The bill ensures farmers comprise a majority on the USDA advisory committee and protects the information farmers and ranchers share as part of the program.

For these market to work, they must work for our farmers, foresters, ranchers, and landowners. In order to do that, they must be at the table. This bill provides our stakeholders that voice.

Finally, this bill epitomizes a great deal of bipartisan work, while addressing the pressing needs of farmers, ranchers, and foresters. I thank Senators BRAUN and STABENOW for helping us to make this the best bill possible.

Many farmers and stakeholders are excited about this legislation, as are many Members who cosponsored the bill and voted to report it out of committee.

The bipartisan nature of the work of the committee was exciting to see. We came together and accomplished something significant. I hope this spirit of cooperation continues as Congress considers new policies on climate change.

We need to ensure that any policies are farmer-friendly and farmer-focused, remain voluntarily, and avoid a one-size-fits-all approach.

Again, thank you to Chairwoman STABENOW and Senator BRAUN for their efforts. I look forward to the debate and very much support the bill through final passage.

With that, I yield to Senator BRAUN.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. BRAUN. Madam President, in the Senate here, prior to getting here, I have been a tree farmer since the late eighties and have been involved in the agricultural part of farming, other than driving the tractor, for a long time. And farming has got to be one of the most difficult things God ever created in terms of a complicated business that involves risk for a return that, in many cases, just isn't there. Thank goodness, currently, the markets are rewarding that effort and that great risk.

Environmental credits present an incredible opportunity for American farmers because that bottom line is so meager to begin with. And when you have got voluntarily markets out there that are wanting to reward good stewardship, it should be easy. But significant barriers still remain.

In today's market, if you are a small farmer, you are not able to connect with these markets. Only the large farmers, both tree and egg, can do it. This simplifies it; it democratizes it; and it does something, finally, that that small guy, the landowner, the American family farmer, can get some benefit for his or her good stewardship.

The Growing Climate Solutions Act creates a USDA certification program for third-party technical providers and verifiers. It allows the USDA to provide legitimacy to the trustworthy actors in the marketplace. And what is really unusual, in the short time I have been here in the U.S. Senate—it was a surprise yesterday, when I told some folks we are actually voting on something on the floor, and it has 55 cosponsors, almost evenly split between Democrats and Republicans.

More than 100 outside organizations back the bill. Farm bureaus, which are generally very conservative about doing anything where they are going to endorse, stick their neck out, across the board like it. I won't mention all the others. It also does it without adding a dime to our deficit. So it is doing something that has got bipartisan support, tapping voluntary markets, and just providing that portal that all farmers are familiar with to use as the way they take advantage of it.

We are demonstrating the right solution. We are making a statement that we need to be involved in addressing climate, and we are doing it in a place where, thank goodness, agriculture in this country is only 10 percent of the CO_2 emissions. The rest is spread among electric generation, transportation, industrial emitters.

What that says, when it is 25 percent emissions across the world due to agriculture, there is a lot to be learned from this as well.

A quick comment on the amendment that we are going to vote on. The key point is, under both the underlying bill and the Lee amendment, the USDA will publish a list of entities on a USDA website for farmers to use.

The Senate Ag Committee worked closely with the Agency, both Under Secretaries Perdue and Vilsack, to ensure the bill provided the necessary quality checks so that the folks certified under the program know what they are doing.

The Lee amendment keeps the website but strikes these requirements.

This is why groups like the American Farm Bureau write that Senator LEE's amendment would dilute farmers' influence in the composition of the bill's advisory panel and also removes critical protections in the base bill.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the Lee amendment and to support the underlying bill.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION,
Washington, DC, June 23, 2021.

MEMBERS OF THE U.S. SENATE,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR, The American Farm Bureau Federation supports S. 1251, the bipartisan Growing Climate Solutions Act of 2021, and urges its adoption by the Senate.

The Growing Climate Solutions Act would create a certification program at USDA to help solve technical entry barriers for farmers, ranchers and forest landowners who wish to participate in voluntary carbon credit markets. Lack of access to reliable information about markets, qualified technical assistance providers, and credit protocol verifiers has limited both landowner participation and the adoption of practices.

S. 1251 seeks to provide more clarity and guidance for farmers, ranchers and forest landowners who want to provide the ecosystem services that many consumers and businesses are desiring. This builds upon American agriculture's strong foundation of environmental stewardship.

Farm Bureau opposes the Lee amendment and any other amendments that would undermine the bill. The Lee amendment would replace the balanced, and widely supported, program outlined in the current bill with a haphazard alternative program that would undermine confidence in the private marketplace. Sen. Lee's amendment goes on to dilute farmer influence in the composition of the bill's advisory panel, and also removes critical protections in the base bill to ensure farmers and ranchers receive their fair share of proceeds under voluntary environmental credit markets.

The Growing Climate Solutions Act of 2021 is a carefully crafted bipartisan bill with over half the Senate supporting as cosponsors. Your vote in opposition to the Lee amendment and in support of final passage of the overall bill is key to Farm Bureau.

Sincerely,

ZIPPY DUVALL,
President.

JUNE 15, 2021.

Re Support Final Passage of S. 1251.

MEMBERS OF THE U.S. SENATE,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MEMBERS OF THE U.S. SENATE, We write to lend our support for the Growing Climate Solutions Act without changes or amendments that would weaken the bill. Our organizations recognize that there is immense potential for agricultural and forestry-based natural climate solutions to meaningfully contribute to the fight against climate change. Farmers, ranchers, and foresters are on the front lines of severe weather events that are exacerbated by the changing climate. The Growing Climate Solutions Act will help producers remain resilient in the face of these threats and accelerate their contribution to a solution.

The Growing Climate Solutions Act is a thoughtful and nuanced piece of legislation that ensures that farmers are at the forefront in tapping into the potential benefits of a market-based revenue system that rewards climate-smart agricultural practices. The bill is also drafted to ensure that benefits and revenues realized under voluntary market regimes are designed to be equitably distributed among all farmers, including small and beginning farmers, historically underserved farmers, and socially disadvantaged farmers. The bill makes tangible progress in highlighting these important stakeholders throughout.

Thank you again for your leadership on this important legislation. We are proud to lend our support to the Growing Climate Solutions Act and encourage the Senate to the pass without changes or amendments that would weaken the bill and at the earliest possible date.

Sincerely,

CITIZENS CLIMATE LOBBY,
ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND,
THE EVANGELICAL ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK,
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY,
NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION,
THE NATURE CONSERVANCY.

CORN REFINERS ASSOCIATION,
Washington, DC.

The Corn Refiners Association (CRA) strongly supports final passage of S. 1251, the Growing Climate Solutions Act of 2021. This bipartisan legislation reduces technical entry barriers for producers and forest owners interested in participating in voluntary carbon markets and supports our sector's role in delivering innovative climate solutions.

The Growing Climate Solutions Act reflects CRA's climate change principles, which guide our industry's advocacy to ensure a more sustainable future for corn refining, agriculture, and consumers. By lowering this barrier to entry, S. 1251 creates an easier way for landowners to be financially rewarded for the voluntary, sustainable steps they are taking through selling carbon credits.

Unfortunately, the amendment proposed by Senator Mike Lee (R–UT) would undercut the central function of this bill by removing most of the scientific and good governance requirements to become certified under the bill's central program by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Without these critical protections, many farmers and producers will not have access to reliable information, resulting in unrealistic cost estimates and loss of trust in the carbon markets. Lee's amendment would also remove protections for farmers already certified under the program and would remove the legislation's focus on equity that is intended to ensure farmers of color would benefit from the program and inform its creation.

For these reasons, we strongly urge you to vote No on the Lee amendment and Yes on final passage of S. 1251, the Growing Climate Solutions Act. If there are any questions about our position, or interest in holding a brief discussion on the legislation or Lee's amendment, please contact me. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

ROBIN J. BOWEN,
Senior Vice President, External Affairs.

CITIZENS FOR RESPONSIBLE ENERGY SOLUTIONS,
Washington, DC, June 23, 2021.

Hon. MIKE BRAUN.
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR BRAUN, On behalf of Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions (CRES), I am writing to offer CRES' strong support for S. 1251, the Growing Climate Solutions Act (GCSA). This bill was reported by the Senate Agriculture Committee on a unanimous vote and has been cosponsored by 24 Republican Senators. CRES urges the Senate to pass this bipartisan legislation in its current form.

GCSA will break down barriers for farmers, ranchers, and landowners to participate in voluntary carbon credit markets. The bill directs the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to establish a program to certify third-party verifiers and technical assistance providers. This program will connect producers to the experts that will help them earn an additional stream of revenue by monetizing conservation practices, which already produce many soil, water, and air benefits.

This bill establishes a council comprised primarily of experienced farmers and ranchers to advise USDA on program implementation and standards, which will ensure that producers come first in this limited-government approach. GCSA also contains provisions guaranteeing that the program will remain voluntary, that third parties will provide accurate estimates of costs and revenues, and that revenues will be distributed fairly to farms of all types and sizes. These provisions are among the reasons the GCSA has the overwhelming support of agricultural leaders, including endorsements from the American Farm Bureau, National Corn Growers Association, and American Soybean Association.

Addressing climate change while strengthening our international competitiveness will require innovation across all sectors of our economy—including agriculture. CRES thanks you and Chairwoman Stabenow and Ranking Member Boozman, for your judicious, bipartisan work on this commonsense legislation that puts agriculture first while providing a real path for decreased carbon emissions. S. 1251, in its current form, should be expeditiously passed by the U.S. Senate.

Thank you for your leadership on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

HEATHER REAMS,
Executive Director.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE CLIMATE ALLIANCE,
June 23, 2021.

Re Support Final Passage of S. 1251 and Oppose Lee Amendment.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. SENATE: The Food and Agriculture Climate Alliance (FACA) strongly supports final passage of S. 1251, the Growing Climate Solutions Act of 2021. This bipartisan legislation reduces technical entry barriers for producers and forest owners interested in participating in voluntary carbon markets. FACA consists of nearly 80 organizations representing farmers, ranchers, forest owners, agribusinesses, manufacturers, the food and innovation sector, state governments, sportsmen and environmental advocates. We commend Senate Agriculture Committee Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow (D–Mich.), Ranking Member John Boozman (R–Ark.) and Senator Mike Braun (R–Ind.) for crafting overwhelmingly bipartisan legislation that supports our sectors' role in delivering innovative climate solutions.

One of FACA's guiding principles states that federal climate policy must be built upon voluntary, incentive-based programs and market-driven opportunities. By fostering the growth of voluntary markets, S. 1251 does just that.

Unfortunately, the amendment proposed by Senator Mike Lee (R–Utah) undercuts the

central function of this bill by eliminating the scientific and good governance requirements that technical assistance providers and third-party verifiers would need to meet to become certified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The certification program is critical to ensure that farmers are protected in the emerging marketplace and have access to reliable information.

For these reasons, we strongly urge you to vote No on the Lee amendment and Yes on final passage of S. 1251, the Growing Climate Solutions Act.

Sincerely,

Agriculture & Applied Economics Association, Agriculture Retailers Association, Alabama Farmers Federation, American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges, American Biagas Council, American Farm Bureau Federation, American Feed Industry Association, American Mushroom Institute, American Seed Trade Association, American Society of Animal Science, American Soybean Association, American Sugar Alliance, Arizona Farm Bureau Federation, Association of Equipment Manufacturers, Association of Public & Land Grant Universities.

Biological Products Industry Alliance, Biotechnology Innovation Organization, California Farm Bureau Federation, Center for Rural Affairs, Colorado Farm Bureau, Composite Panel Association, Corn Refiners Association, Crop Insurance and Reinsurance Bureau, Croplife America, Ducks Unlimited, Environmental Defense Fund, Evangelical Environmental Network, Farm Credit Council, Farm Journal Foundation, Florida Farm Bureau Federation.

FMI—The Food Industry Association, Global Cold Chain Alliance, Growth Energy, Illinois Farm Bureau, Indiana Agriculture Coalition for Renewable Energy, Indiana Farm Bureau, Iowa Farm Bureau, Kentucky Farm Bureau, Land Trust Alliance, Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, Michigan Farm Bureau, Minnesota Farm Bureau, National Alliance of Forest Owners, National Association for the Advancement of Animal Science, National Association of State Departments of Agriculture.

National Association of University Forest Resource Programs, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, National Corn Growers Association, National Cotton Council, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, National Farmers Union, National Grange, National Milk Producers Federation, National Pork Producers Council, National Potato Council, New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau, New York Farm Bureau, North American Meat Institute, North American Millers' Association, North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation.

North Dakota Grain Growers Association, Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, Oklahoma Farm Bureau, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever, Produce Marketing Association, Shellfish Growers Climate Coalition, Society of American Foresters, Supporters of Agricultural Research (SoAR) Foundation, The Federation of Southern Cooperatives, The Fertilizer Institute, The National Institute for Animal Agriculture, The Nature Conservancy, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, Trout Unlimited, U.S. Durum Growers Association, USA Rice, Vermont Farm Bureau.

Mr. BRAUN. I yield the floor.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I rise today in support of S. 1251, the Growing Climate Solutions Act. I first want to thank my partner in this landmark legislation, Senator BRAUN, and my partner and ranking member on the committee, Senator BOOZMAN, for his leadership and helping us improve this bill and getting it to where we are right now.

Our farmers and ranchers are battling the consequences of carbon pollution and other greenhouse gases every day. They are on the frontlines every day. Producers are having to deal with higher highs and lower lows more so than ever before.

Even as we speak, the Southeast is recovering from catastrophic flooding as a result of Hurricane Claudette, and the West is facing record heat that threatens the health of farmers and farmworkers in an unprecedented wildfire season. Nearly half of the country is in drought, including 90 percent of my home State of Michigan—90 percent. It could not be clearer that climate is in crisis.

The good news is that farmers and foresters are already leading the way on the climate crisis, as my colleagues have said, through their many conservation efforts. They work to reduce their impact every day through conservation practices that cut down on emissions and store carbon in their soil and trees.

According to the National Academies, scaling up these climate-smart agriculture and forestry practices in the United States could offset the annual emissions of nearly 110 million cars. And I am from the car State, Madam President. I still want you to buy an automobile. But this is very significant.

The Growing Climate Solutions Act is a key piece of the enormous potential that land-based solutions have to help solve this crisis. This bill gives producers even more effective tools to lead and new opportunities for economic successes as well.

The bill equips producers to succeed by doing three things. First, it sets up a network of trusted outside experts and third-party verifiers, certified by the USDA, to provide technical assistance and help producers generate and sell their voluntary carbon credits, which, by the way, Senator LEE's amendment would gut, which is why I do not support that amendment.

Then it creates a comprehensive online resource, a one-stop shop, to help our farmers get the information they need and create income by providing sustainable practices through voluntary carbon markets and traditional USDA conservation programs.

Finally, it sets up a very important advisory council made up of a majority of farmers and foresters with tremendous diversity, as well as representatives from the research community and the private industry, to help guide the USDA as they put this together.

The bottom line: It gives them the opportunity to work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to design a carbon market that works for them, not Wall Street. In other words this, bill puts farmers and foresters first.

More than 175 advocates, organizations, and companies support this bill. They see it as a win-win for agriculture and the environment. That coalition is mirrored in the broad support we have here in the U.S. Senate, with now upwards of 55 cosponsors who have joined in this bill. Given today's politics, that says a lot about what this bill represents.

Solving the climate crisis is a critical challenge for all of us, and today we are taking landmark steps toward supporting agriculture and forestry leadership in addressing this.

I encourage all of my colleagues to vote yes on the Growing Climate Solutions Act, to vote no on the Lee amendment, which would essentially gut the bill, and allow us, in this tremendous bipartisan effort, to move forward on something very important.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 2119

Madam President, I would ask unanimous consent that the scheduled vote occur immediately.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 2119.

Mr. LEE. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 11, nays 89, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 250 Leg.]

YEAS—11

Cotton	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cruz	Lankford	Sullivan
Hagerty	Lee	Toomey
Hawley	Paul	

NAYS—89

Baldwin	Graham	Portman
Barrasso	Grassley	Reed
Bennet	Hassan	Risch
Blackburn	Heinrich	Romney
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blunt	Hirono	Rounds
Booker	Hoeven	Rubio
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Sanders
Braun	Inhofe	Sasse
Brown	Kaine	Schatz
Burr	Kelly	Schumer
Cantwell	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Capito	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shelby
Carper	Leahy	Sinema
Casey	Luján	Smith
Cassidy	Lummis	Stabenow
Collins	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Thune
Cornyn	Marshall	Tillis
Cortez Masto	McConnell	Tuberville
Cramer	Menendez	Van Hollen
Crapo	Merkley	Warner
Daines	Moran	Warnock
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warren
Durbin	Murphy	Whitehouse
Ernst	Murray	Wicker
Feinstein	Ossoff	Wyden
Fischer	Padilla	Young
Gillibrand	Peters	

The amendment (No. 2119) was rejected.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

Mr. CARPER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 92, nays 8, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 251 Leg.]

YEAS—92

Baldwin	Graham	Portman
Barrasso	Grassley	Reed
Bennet	Hagerty	Risch
Blackburn	Hassan	Romney
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Rosen
Blunt	Hickenlooper	Rounds
Boozman	Hirono	Rubio
Braun	Hoeven	Sasse
Brown	Hyde-Smith	Schatz
Burr	Johnson	Schumer
Cantwell	Kaine	Scott (FL)
Capito	Kelly	Scott (SC)
Cardin	Kennedy	Shaheen
Carper	King	Shelby
Casey	Klobuchar	Sinema
Cassidy	Lankford	Smith
Collins	Leahy	Stabenow
Coons	Luján	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lummis	Tester
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Thune
Cotton	Marshall	Tillis
Cramer	McConnell	Toomey
Crapo	Menendez	Tuberville
Cruz	Moran	Van Hollen
Daines	Murkowski	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Ernst	Ossoff	Wicker
Feinstein	Padilla	Wyden
Fischer	Paul	Young
Gillibrand	Peters	

NAYS—8

Booker	Lee	Sanders
Hawley	Markey	Warren
Inhofe	Merkley	

The bill (S. 1251) was passed, as follows:

S. 1251

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Growing Climate Solutions Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. GREENHOUSE GAS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDER AND THIRD-PARTY VERIFIER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM.

(a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

(1) to facilitate the participation of farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners in voluntary environmental credit markets, including through the Program;

(2) to facilitate the provision of technical assistance through covered entities to farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners in overcoming barriers to entry into voluntary environmental credit markets;

(3) to assist covered entities in certifying under the Program; and

(4) to establish the Advisory Council to advise the Secretary regarding the Program and other related matters.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADVISORY COUNCIL.—The term ''Advisory Council'' means the Greenhouse Gas Technical Assistance Provider and Third-Party Verifier Certification Program Advisory Council established under subsection (g)(1).

(2) AGRICULTURE OR FORESTRY CREDIT.—The term ''agriculture or forestry credit'' means a credit derived from the prevention, reduction, or mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions or carbon sequestration on agricultural land or private forest land that may be bought or sold on a voluntary environmental credit market.

(3) BEGINNING FARMER OR RANCHER.—The term ''beginning farmer or rancher'' has the meaning given the term in section 2501(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a)).

(4) COVERED ENTITY.—The term ''covered entity'' means a person or State that either—

(A) is a provider of technical assistance to farmers, ranchers, or private forest landowners in carrying out sustainable land use management practices that—

(i) prevent, reduce, or mitigate greenhouse gas emissions; or

(ii) sequester carbon; or

(B) is a third-party verifier entity that conducts the verification of the processes described in protocols for voluntary environmental credit markets.

(5) GREENHOUSE GAS.—The term ''greenhouse gas'' means—

(A) carbon dioxide;

(B) methane;

(C) nitrous oxide; and

(D) any other gas that the Secretary, in consultation with the Advisory Council, determines has been identified to have heat trapping qualities.

(6) PROGRAM.—The term ''Program'' means the Greenhouse Gas Technical Assistance Provider and Third-Party Verifier Certification Program established under subsection (c).

(7) PROTOCOL.—The term ''protocol'' means a systematic approach that follows a science-based methodology that is transparent and thorough to establish requirements—

(A) for the development of projects to prevent, reduce, or mitigate greenhouse gas emissions or sequester carbon that include 1 or more baseline scenarios; and

(B) to quantify, monitor, report, and verify the prevention, reduction, or mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions or carbon sequestration by projects described in subparagraph (A).

(8) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(9) SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMER OR RANCHER; SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED GROUP.—The terms ''socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher'' and ''socially disadvantaged group'' have the meaning given those terms in section 355(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2003(e)).

(10) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The term ''technical assistance'' means technical expertise, information, and tools necessary to assist a farmer, rancher, or private forest landowner who is engaged in or wants to engage in a project to prevent, reduce, or mitigate greenhouse gas emissions or sequester carbon to meet a protocol.

(11) VOLUNTARY ENVIRONMENTAL CREDIT MARKET.—The term ''voluntary environmental credit market'' means a voluntary market through which agriculture or forestry credits may be bought or sold.

(c) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—On the date that is 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and after making a positive determination under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall establish a voluntary program, to be known as the ''Greenhouse Gas Technical Assistance Provider and Third-Party Verifier Certification Program'', to certify covered entities that the Secretary determines meet the requirements described in subsection (d).

(2) DETERMINATION.—The Secretary shall establish the Program only if, after considering relevant information, including the information collected or reviewed relating to the assessment conducted under subsection (h)(1)(A), the Secretary determines that the Program will further each of the purposes described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a).

(3) REPORT.—If the Secretary determines under paragraph (2) that the Program would not further the purposes described in paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a) and does not establish the Program, the Secretary shall publish a report describing the reasons the Program would not further those purposes.

(d) CERTIFICATION QUALIFICATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) PROTOCOLS AND QUALIFICATIONS.—After providing public notice and at least a 60-day period for public comment, the Secretary shall, during the 90-day period beginning on the date on which the Program is established, publish—

(i) a list of, and documents relating to, recognized protocols for voluntary environmental credit markets that are designed to ensure consistency, reliability, effectiveness, efficiency, and transparency, including protocol documents and details relating to—

(I) calculations;

(II) sampling methodologies;

(III) accounting principles;

(IV) systems for verification, monitoring, measurement, and reporting; and

(V) methods to account for additionality, permanence, leakage, and, where appropriate, avoidance of double counting; and

(ii) descriptions of qualifications for covered entities that—

(I) demonstrate that the covered entity can assist farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners in accomplishing the purposes described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a); and

(II) demonstrate proficiency with the protocols described in clause (i).

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—Covered entities certified under the Program shall maintain expertise in the protocols described in subparagraph (A)(i), adhere to the qualifications described in subparagraph (A)(ii), and adhere to any relevant conflict of interest requirements, as determined appropriate by the Secretary, for—

(i) the provision of technical assistance to farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners for carrying out activities described in paragraph (2); or

(ii) the verification of the processes described in protocols for voluntary environmental credit markets that are used in carrying out activities described in paragraph (2).

(2) ACTIVITIES.—The activities for which covered entities may provide technical assistance or conduct verification of processes under the Program are current and future activities that prevent, reduce, or mitigate greenhouse gas emissions or sequester carbon, which may include—

(A) land or soil carbon sequestration;

(B) emissions reductions derived from fuel choice or reduced fuel use;

(C) livestock emissions reductions, including emissions reductions achieved through—

(i) feeds, feed additives, and the use of byproducts as feed sources; or

(ii) manure management practices;

(D) on-farm energy generation;

(E) energy feedstock production;

(F) fertilizer or nutrient use emissions reductions;

(G) reforestation;

(H) forest management, including improving harvesting practices and thinning diseased trees;

(I) prevention of the conversion of forests, grasslands, and wetlands;

(J) restoration of wetlands or grasslands;

(K) grassland management, including prescribed grazing;

(L) current practices associated with private land conservation programs administered by the Secretary; and

(M) such other activities, or combinations of activities, that the Secretary, in consultation with the Advisory Council, determines to be appropriate.

(3) REQUIREMENTS.—In publishing the list of protocols and description of qualifications under paragraph (1)(A), the Secretary, in consultation with the Advisory Council, shall—

(A) ensure that the requirements for covered entities to certify under the Program include maintaining expertise in all relevant information relating to market-based protocols, as appropriate, with regard to—

(i) quantification;

(ii) verification;

(iii) additionality;

(iv) permanence;

(v) reporting; and

(vi) other expertise, as determined by the Secretary; and

(B) ensure that a covered entity certified under the Program is required to perform, and to demonstrate expertise, as determined by the Secretary, in accordance with best management practices for agricultural and forestry activities that prevent, reduce, or mitigate greenhouse gas emissions or sequester carbon.

(4) PERIODIC REVIEW.—As appropriate, the Secretary shall periodically review and revise the list of protocols and description of certification qualifications published under paragraph (1)(A) to include any additional protocols or qualifications that meet the requirements described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (3).

(e) CERTIFICATION, WEBSITE, AND PUBLICATION OF LISTS.—

(1) CERTIFICATION.—A covered entity may self-certify under the Program by submitting to the Secretary, through a website maintained by the Secretary—

(A) a notification that the covered entity will—

(i) maintain expertise in the protocols described in clause (i) of subsection (d)(1)(A); and

(ii) adhere to the qualifications described in clause (ii) of that subsection; and

(B) appropriate documentation demonstrating the expertise described in subparagraph (A)(i) and qualifications described in subparagraph (A)(ii).

(2) WEBSITE AND SOLICITATION.—During the 180-day period beginning on the date on which the Program is established, the Secretary shall publish, through an existing website maintained by the Secretary—

(A) information describing how covered entities may self-certify under the Program in accordance with paragraph (1);

(B) information describing how covered entities may obtain, through private training programs or Department of Agriculture training programs, the requisite expertise—

(i) in the protocols described in clause (i) of subsection (d)(1)(A); and

(ii) to meet the qualifications described in clause (ii) of that subsection;

(C) the protocols and qualifications published by the Secretary under subsection (d)(1)(A); and

(D) instructions and suggestions to assist farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners in facilitating the development of agriculture or forestry credits and accessing voluntary environmental credit markets, including—

(i) through working with covered entities certified under the Program; and

(ii) by providing information relating to programs, registries, and protocols of programs and registries that provide market-based participation opportunities for working and conservation agricultural and forestry lands.

(3) PUBLICATION.—During the 1-year period beginning on the date on which the Program is established, the Secretary, in consultation with the Advisory Council and following the review by the Secretary for completeness and accuracy of the certification notifications and documentation submitted under paragraph (1), shall use an existing website maintained by the Secretary to publish—

(A) a list of covered entities that are certified under paragraph (1) as technical assistance providers; and

(B) a list of covered entities that are certified under paragraph (1) as verifiers of the processes described in protocols for voluntary environmental credit markets.

(4) UPDATES.—Not less frequently than quarterly, the Secretary, in consultation with the Advisory Council, shall update the lists published under paragraph (3).

(5) SUBMISSION.—The Secretary shall notify Congress of the publication of the initial list under paragraph (3).

(6) REQUIREMENT.—To remain certified under the Program, a covered entity shall continue—

(A) to maintain expertise in the protocols described in subparagraph (A)(i) of subsection (d)(1); and

(B) to adhere to the qualifications described in subparagraph (A)(ii) of that subsection.

(7) AUDITING.—Not less frequently than annually, the Secretary shall conduct audits of covered entities that are certified under the Program to ensure compliance with the requirements under subsection (d)(1)(B) through an audit process that includes a representative sample of—

(A) technical assistance providers; and

(B) verifiers of the processes described in protocols for voluntary environmental credit markets.

(8) REVOCATION OF CERTIFICATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may revoke the certification of a covered entity under the Program in the event of—

(i) noncompliance with the requirements under subsection (d)(1)(B); or

(ii) a violation of subsection (f)(2)(A).

(B) NOTIFICATION.—If the Secretary revokes a certification of a covered entity under subparagraph (A), to the extent practicable, the Secretary shall—

(i) request from that covered entity contact information for all farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners to which the covered entity provided technical assistance or the verification of the processes described in protocols for voluntary environmental credit markets; and

(ii) notify those farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners of the revocation.

(9) FAIR TREATMENT OF FARMERS.—The Secretary shall ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that covered entities certified under paragraph (1) act in good faith—

(A) to provide realistic estimates of costs and revenues relating to activities and verification of processes, as applicable to the covered entity, as described in subsection (d)(2); and

(B) in the case of technical assistance providers, to assist farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners in ensuring that the farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners receive fair distribution of revenues derived from the sale of an agriculture or forestry credit.

(10) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section authorizes the Secretary to compel a farmer, rancher, or private forest landowner to participate in a transaction or project facilitated by a covered entity certified under paragraph (1).

(f) ENFORCEMENT.—

(1) PROHIBITION ON CLAIMS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A person that is not certified under the Program in accordance with this section shall not knowingly make a claim that the person is a ''USDA-certified technical assistance provider or third-party verifier for voluntary environmental credit markets'' or any substantially similar claim.

(B) PENALTY.—Any person that violates subparagraph (A) shall be—

(i) subject to a civil penalty equal to such amount as the Secretary determines to be appropriate, not to exceed $1,000 per violation; and

(ii) ineligible to certify under the Program for the 5-year period beginning on the date of the violation.

(2) SUBMISSION OF FRAUDULENT INFORMATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A person, regardless of whether the person is certified under the program, shall not submit fraudulent information as part of a notification under subsection (e)(1).

(B) PENALTY.—Any person that violates subparagraph (A) shall be—

(i) subject to a civil penalty equal to such amount as the Secretary determines to be appropriate, not to exceed $1,000 per violation; and

(ii) ineligible to certify under the Program for the 5-year period beginning on the date of the violation.

(g) GREENHOUSE GAS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDER AND THIRD-PARTY VERIFIER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM ADVISORY COUNCIL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—During the 90-day period beginning on the date on which the Program is established, the Secretary shall establish an advisory council, to be known as the ''Greenhouse Gas Technical Assistance Provider and Third-Party Verifier Certification Program Advisory Council''.

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Council shall be composed of members appointed by the Secretary in accordance with this paragraph.

(B) GENERAL REPRESENTATION.—The Advisory Council shall—

(i) be broadly representative of the agriculture and private forest sectors;

(ii) include socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and other historically underserved farmers, ranchers, or private forest landowners; and

(iii) be composed of not less than 51 percent farmers, ranchers, or private forest landowners.

(C) MEMBERS.—Members appointed under subparagraph (A) shall include—

(i) not more than 2 representatives of the Department of Agriculture, as determined by the Secretary;

(ii) not more than 1 representative of the Environmental Protection Agency, as determined by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency;

(iii) not more than 1 representative of the National Institute of Standards and Technology;

(iv) not fewer than 12 representatives of the agriculture industry, appointed in a manner that is broadly representative of the agriculture sector, including not fewer than 6 active farmers and ranchers;

(v) not fewer than 4 representatives of private forest landowners or the forestry and

forest products industry appointed in a manner that is broadly representative of the private forest sector;

(vi) not more than 4 representatives of the relevant scientific research community, including not fewer than 2 representatives from land-grant colleges and universities (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)), of which 1 shall be a representative of a college or university eligible to receive funds under the Act of August 30, 1890 (commonly known as the ''Second Morrill Act'') (26 Stat. 417, chapter 841; 7 U.S.C. 321 et seq.), including Tuskegee University;

(vii) not more than 2 experts or professionals familiar with voluntary environmental credit markets and the verification requirements in those markets;

(viii) not more than 3 members of nongovernmental or civil society organizations with relevant expertise, of which not fewer than 1 shall represent the interests of socially disadvantaged groups;

(ix) not more than 3 members of private sector entities or organizations that participate in voluntary environmental credit markets through which agriculture or forestry credits are bought and sold; and

(x) any other individual whom the Secretary determines to be necessary to ensure that the Advisory Council is composed of a diverse group of representatives of industry, academia, independent researchers, and public and private entities.

(D) CHAIR.—The Secretary shall designate a member of the Advisory Council to serve as the Chair.

(E) TERMS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The term of a member of the Advisory Council shall be 2 years, except that, of the members first appointed—

(I) not fewer than 8 members shall serve for a term of 1 year;

(II) not fewer than 12 members shall serve for a term of 2 years; and

(III) not fewer than 12 members shall serve for a term of 3 years.

(ii) ADDITIONAL TERMS.—After the initial term of a member of the Advisory Council, including the members first appointed, the member may serve not more than 4 additional 2-year terms.

(3) MEETINGS.—

(A) FREQUENCY.—The Advisory Council shall meet not less frequently than annually, at the call of the Chair.

(B) INITIAL MEETING.—During the 90-day period beginning on the date on which the members are appointed under paragraph (2)(A), the Advisory Council shall hold an initial meeting.

(4) DUTIES.—The Advisory Council shall—

(A) periodically review and recommend any appropriate changes to—

(i) the list of protocols and description of qualifications published by the Secretary under subsection (d)(1)(A); and

(ii) the requirements described in subsection (d)(1)(B);

(B) make recommendations to the Secretary regarding the best practices that should be included in the protocols, description of qualifications, and requirements described in subparagraph (A); and

(C) advise the Secretary regarding—

(i) the current methods used by voluntary environmental credit markets to quantify and verify the prevention, reduction, and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions or sequestration of carbon;

(ii) additional considerations for certifying covered entities under the Program;

(iii) means to reduce barriers to entry in the business of providing technical assistance or the verification of the processes described in protocols for voluntary environmental credit markets for covered entities, including by improving technical assistance provided by the Secretary;

(iv) means to reduce compliance and verification costs for farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners in entering voluntary environmental credit markets, including through mechanisms and processes to aggregate the value of activities across land ownership;

(v) issues relating to land and asset ownership in light of evolving voluntary environmental credit markets; and

(vi) additional means to reduce barriers to entry in voluntary environmental credit markets for farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners, particularly for historically underserved, socially disadvantaged, or limited resource farmers, ranchers, or private forest landowners.

(5) COMPENSATION.—The members of the Advisory Council shall serve without compensation.

(6) CONFLICT OF INTEREST.—The Secretary shall prohibit any member of the Advisory Council from—

(A) engaging in any determinations or activities of the Advisory Council that may result in the favoring of, or a direct and predictable effect on—

(i) the member or a family member, as determined by the Secretary;

(ii) stock owned by the member or a family member, as determined by the Secretary; or

(iii) the employer of, or a business owned in whole or in part by, the member or a family member, as determined by the Secretary; or

(B) providing advice or recommendations regarding, or otherwise participating in, matters of the Advisory Council that—

(i) constitute a conflict of interest under section 208 of title 18, United States Code; or

(ii) may call into question the integrity of the Advisory Council, the Program, or the technical assistance or verification activities described under subsection (d)(2).

(7) FACA APPLICABILITY.—The Advisory Council shall be subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.), except that section 14(a)(2) of that Act shall not apply.

(h) ASSESSMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 240 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall—

(A) conduct an assessment, including by incorporating information from existing publications and reports of the Department of Agriculture and other entities with relevant expertise, regarding—

(i) the number and categories of non-Federal actors in the nonprofit and for-profit sectors involved in buying, selling, and trading agriculture or forestry credits in voluntary environmental credit markets;

(ii) the estimated overall domestic market demand for agriculture or forestry credits at the end of the preceding 4-calendar year period, and historically, in voluntary environmental credit markets;

(iii) the total number of agriculture or forestry credits (measured in metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent) that were estimated to be in development, generated, or sold in market transactions during the preceding 4-calendar year period, and historically, in voluntary environmental credit markets;

(iv) the estimated supply and demand of metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent of offsets in the global marketplace for the next 4 years;

(v) the barriers to entry due to compliance and verification costs described in subsection (g)(4)(C)(iv);

(vi) the state of monitoring and measurement technologies needed to quantify long-term carbon sequestration in soils and from other activities to prevent, reduce, or mitigate greenhouse gas emissions in the agriculture and forestry sectors;

(vii) means to reduce barriers to entry into voluntary environmental credit markets for small, beginning, and socially disadvantaged farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners and the extent to which existing protocols in voluntary environmental credit markets allow for aggregation of projects among farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners;

(viii) means to leverage existing Department of Agriculture programs and other Federal programs that could improve, lower the costs of, and enhance the deployment of monitoring and measurement technologies described in clause (vi);

(ix) the potential impact of Department of Agriculture activities on supply and demand of agriculture or forestry credits;

(x) the potential role of the Department of Agriculture in encouraging innovation in voluntary environmental credit markets;

(xi) the extent to which the existing regimes for generating and selling agriculture or forestry credits, as the regimes exist at the end of the preceding 4-calendar year period, and historically, and existing voluntary environmental credit markets, may be impeded or constricted, or achieve greater scale and reach, if the Department of Agriculture were involved, including by considering the role of the Department of Agriculture in reducing the barriers to entry identified under clause (v), including by educating stakeholders about voluntary environmental credit markets;

(xii) the extent to which existing protocols in voluntary environmental credit markets, including verification, additionality, permanence, and reporting, adequately take into consideration and account for factors encountered by the agriculture and private forest sectors in preventing, reducing, or mitigating greenhouse gases or sequestering carbon through agriculture and forestry practices, considering variances across regions, topography, soil types, crop or species varieties, and business models;

(xiii) the extent to which existing protocols in voluntary environmental credit markets consider options to ensure the continued valuation, through discounting or other means, of agriculture and forestry credits in the case of the practices underlying those credits being disrupted due to unavoidable events, including production challenges and natural disasters; and

(xiv) opportunities for other voluntary markets outside of voluntary environmental credit markets to foster the trading, buying, or selling of credits that are derived from activities that provide other ecosystem service benefits, including activities that improve water quality, water quantity, wildlife habitat enhancement, and other ecosystem services, as the Secretary determines appropriate;

(B) publish the assessment; and

(C) submit the assessment to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives.

(2) QUADRIENNIAL ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Advisory Council, shall conduct the assessment described in paragraph (1)(A) and publish and submit the assessment in accordance with subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (1) every 4 years after the publication and submission of the first assessment under subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (1).

(i) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which the Program is established, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall publish and submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report describing, for the period covered by the report—

(1) the number of covered entities that—

(A) were registered under the Program;

(B) were new registrants under the Program, if applicable; and

(C) did not renew their registration under the Program, if applicable;

(2) each covered entity the certification of which was revoked by the Secretary under subsection (e)(8);

(3) a review of the outcomes of the Program, including—

(A) the ability of farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners, including small, beginning, and socially disadvantaged farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners, to develop agriculture or forestry credits through covered entities certified under the Program;

(B) methods to improve the ability of farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners to overcome barriers to entry to voluntary environmental credit markets; and

(C) methods to further facilitate participation of farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners in voluntary environmental credit markets; and

(4) any recommendations for improvements to the Program.

(j) CONFIDENTIALITY.—

(1) PROHIBITION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary, any other officer or employee of the Department of Agriculture or any agency of the Department of Agriculture, or any other person may not disclose to the public the information held by the Secretary described in subparagraph (B).

(B) INFORMATION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), the information prohibited from disclosure under subparagraph (A) is—

(I) information collected by the Secretary or published by the Secretary under subsection (h) or (i);

(II) personally identifiable information, including in a contract or service agreement, of a farmer, rancher, or private forest landowner, obtained by the Secretary under paragraph (7) or (8)(B)(i) of subsection (e); and

(III) confidential business information in a contract or service agreement of a farmer, rancher, or private forest landowner obtained by the Secretary under paragraph (7) or (8)(B)(i) of subsection (e).

(ii) AGGREGATED RELEASE.—Information described in clause (i) may be released to the public if the information has been transformed into a statistical or aggregate form that does not allow the identification of the person who supplied or is the subject of the particular information.

(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not prohibit the disclosure—

(A) of the name of any covered entity published and submitted by the Secretary under subsection (i)(2); or

(B) by an officer or employee of the Federal Government of information described in paragraph (1)(B) as otherwise directed by the Secretary or the Attorney General for enforcement purposes.

(k) FUNDING.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to the amount made available under paragraph (2), there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

(2) DIRECT FUNDING.—

(A) RESCISSION.—There is rescinded $4,100,000 of the unobligated balance of amounts made available by section 1003 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117–2).

(B) DIRECT FUNDING.—If sufficient unobligated amounts made available by section 1003 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117–2) are available on the date of enactment of this Act to execute the entire rescission described in subparagraph (A), then on the day after the execution of the entire rescission, there is appropriated to the Secretary, out of amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $4,100,000 to carry out this section.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHATZ). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Candace Jackson-Akiwumi, of Illinois, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Iowa.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 831

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I am here with Senators Cornyn and Leahy to ask unanimous consent.

As if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 831 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, that the Grassley amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; and that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. GRAHAM. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I guess I am not surprised that we would have an objection like this because a program that has been corrupt and that we have been trying to reform for 8 years—every time we reach an agreement, there is big-moneyed interests in this town and around the country that keep it from happening.

So today's objection, unfortunately, represents another victory for those same moneyed, powerful, corrupt interests that have so often worked to kill reforms to a program that they love to abuse for nothing more than their own financial benefit.

It also means that Congress will not be able to pass legislation to reauthorize the program in advance of its expiration on June 30. A narrow subset of big-moneyed and corrupt interests has now shown that they would rather kill the program altogether than have to accept integrity programs designed to clamp down on their bad behavior.

I thank all those groups who have been working with us for 8 years to get this program reformed. A lot of those people use that program. They were willing to make it an honest program.

All of this action today of this objection is unfortunate but not surprising.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, EB–5 investments are a major economic driver in Texas. EB–5 projects use merit-based immigration to create thousands of American jobs and bring billions of dollars in investment to major urban areas, like Dallas and Houston, as well as our rural communities across the State. These projects include investments in infrastructure for a wide variety of sectors, including energy, hospitality, residential, and commercial.

I am a supporter of the EB–5 Program and its resources for the community, but there is no question, as Senator GRASSLEY has said, that it could stand some reforms. As with any debate in Congress, there are a lot of different opinions on what those reforms should look like, but we can all agree that we need to strengthen this program and reauthorize it.

I am glad to join Senator GRASSLEY today in offering this legislation to improve the integrity and security of the EB–5 Program, while ensuring law-abiding Texas job creators aren't negatively impacted.

This bill would have reauthorized the EB–5 Program until 2023, with significant oversight and integrity measures. It will require regional centers to have policies and procedures in place to protect against fraud. It will give the Department of Homeland Security greater authority to terminate applications based on fraud, criminal misuse, or threats to public safety or national security. It would subject EB–5 projects to greater oversight. All of these changes come without skewing the framework of the program to benefit certain areas to the detriment of others.

This happens to be very similar to legislation that I introduced in 2015 with Senator SCHUMER and Senator Flake, which included recommendations from both the Department of Homeland Security and the Government Accountability Office.

I appreciate Chairman GRASSLEY's leadership on this legislation, and I hope at some point we can reauthorize the EB–5 Program and safeguard critical investments in communities across the country.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I was happy to join with both Senators

GRASSLEY and CORNYN on the EB–5 reform bill. Senator CORNYN has worked very hard on this, Senator GRASSLEY has, and I have, and it was truly a bipartisan bill. It had widespread support of EB–5 stakeholders—those who responsibly welcomed changes to the program that would improve oversight and accountability.

Senator GRASSLEY and I have been working for years to reform the EB–5 visa program. We wanted to reduce the fraud that has occurred in several EB–5 projects, including one that occurred in my own State of Vermont.

This legislation—again, bringing Republicans and Democrats across the political spectrum together—reflects a careful and thoughtful compromise to both keep the EB–5 Program alive and curtail the worst abuses it has. There is actually only a small minority that wants to keep the program operating without these improved standards and oversight.

I wish they would be willing to come here and bring it up, vote it up or down, and be on the RECORD saying how they are going to vote, because opposing our effort on this is a vote that allows the EB–5 Program to lapse. It will have untold economic consequences throughout the communities that rely on the program for development projects, like those that the Senator from Texas just mentioned.

I wish that Senators had supported Senator GRASSLEY's consent request. But I will take a moment to say I thank Senator GRASSLEY for working with me over the years to find a bipartisan compromise to reform this. Hours have gone into that. He and Senator CORNYN and I and others have worked hard to have a compromise. I am sorry that the unanimous consent was objected to, especially as it means this will expire, and we won't have votes on improvements that could take place. I think it is a wasted opportunity.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. President, actually, if others are waiting, let me say something on another matter. It was 169 days ago that the world witnessed a violent insurrection take place in the seat of American democracy. All of us have the memory of rioters in combat gear who were armed with zip ties and smashing in the windows of the Capitol Building. Everybody in America remembers that. The images of the National Guard patrolling the Capitol grounds behind fences topped with barbed wire—those are going to be in the pages of textbooks of American history for generations to come.

Now, we didn't budget for an insurrection. In a democracy like ours, you should never have to. But the path of destruction from that day left the Capitol Police overburdened and underresourced. Purchases of critical equipment like respirators, ballistic helmets, protective gear, and training—those have been delayed to make up for these unanticipated costs. Efforts to implement the department's wellness program to address mental health concerns following January 6 have been put on the back burner. And if we do nothing, the Capitol Police projects that doing nothing will deplete salary funds in August, and that would be a security crisis that we have created.

Now, 55 sworn officers have left the force since January 6. That is not counting those who died from January 6. That has depleted the force, which is already stressed. It is below what is needed to meet mission requirements. There is an urgent need to address the unanticipated costs associated with the attack on this building, including significant overtime pay, the need for hazard pay, and retention bonuses to keep dedicated officers from leaving the force.

The urgent need extends beyond the Capitol Police. Last week, the Secretary of Defense testified before the full Appropriations Committee and said that if we do not act, the National Guard will be forced to cut training in August as well. I met with the Green Mountain Boys, who came from Vermont to secure the Capitol after January 6. I thanked them for their service. I am sure many other Senators thanked the Guard from their States. But if we don't act, our visits and thanking them is nothing more than empty words for the men and women who put their lives on the line for our country.

And, finally, the trauma that day is shared by every member of the congressional community, from the Speaker of the House to the dedicated support staff in the Capitol—staff we rely on every day to do our work. It should not be lost on us that we weren't the ones who went to sweep up the shattered glass and scrub the floors and walls of this building on that day and throughout the night. It was the people who work here.

It should not be lost on us that during the darkest hours of the pandemic, following the insurrection, these public servants came to work, cleaned our offices, ensured our safety, the safety of our staff, and boarded up shattered windows and broken doors.

Now, we did not budget for both the pandemic and insurrection. We were forced to rob Peter to pay Paul to keep our congressional community safe and healthy. But now necessary legislative branch projects lack the funding to move forward. We ought to have the responsibility to address that.

It has been 169 days since January 6. It has been 169 days since Republicans and Democrats reconvened in this Chamber in bipartisan defiance of those who sought to overthrow democracy and the rule of law through mob violence.

But now, for 35 days, the House-passed emergency supplemental to address the security and the mental health needs of the January 6 insurrection and the lingering scars of the COVID pandemic has languished in the Senate. And why? Because Senate Republicans have refused to begin negotiations on a bipartisan path forward.

So I am urging my colleagues: Begin these negotiations. The clock is ticking. My staff and I are—throughout the Fourth of July recess, we are—willing to meet and talk with anybody to get these negotiations going, because if we don't act, the Capitol Police is going to run out of funding in a very short time in August.

And what are we saying? We are turning our backs on those who fought and bled and died on that day to protect us and defend this building and everything it stands for. How can we possibly do that? We are going to be forcing the men and women of the National Guard to go without training that is necessary to achieve their mission, and we will be telling the women and men of the Capitol staff who support us: Thanks, but we don't support you.

That would be wrong. That goes against everything that I have learned in my years here in the Senate from both Republicans and Democrats.

The security supplemental would address the shortfalls. It would provide new resources for overtime, hazard pay, mental health services, retention bonuses, and new equipment and training for the Capitol Police, all of which is needed. It would fully reimburse the wounded men of the National Guard with costs incurred protecting the Capitol.

They were called. They came. They didn't say: Oh, are we going to get reimbursed?

They answered the call. Of course, they assumed that we would be responsible enough to reimburse them.

We also restored legislative branch funding that was taken to address the immediate needs of keeping our congressional community safe and healthy.

I have been ready to begin bipartisan negotiations. I believe if we begin these negotiations now, we could complete our work in the July session. My door is always open. It will be open throughout the July recess.

I yield the floor.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise once again in support of Jen Easterly's nomination to be Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, commonly referred to as CISA.

Yesterday, I came to the floor to urge my colleagues to swiftly confirm Ms. Easterly to lead CISA so she can get to work in strengthening our Nation's response to the recent onslaught of online attacks that have literally wrought havoc to our critical infrastructure, businesses, and even government.

With her more than three decades of service in the public and private sectors and her critical role in crafting vital cyber security recommendations as a member of the Cyber Solarium

Commission, Ms. Easterly is more than qualified to lead this critical Agency. Her leadership is needed now more than ever, after the damage and the chaos that recent cyber attacks have caused. We urgently need a qualified and Senate-confirmed leader in place before the next major breach, which could be even worse.

Yesterday, when I called on the Senate to immediately confirm this critical nominee, the Senator from Florida objected, not because he opposes Ms. Easterly's confirmation, and, in fact, he actually helped advance her nomination out of my committee just last week. Instead, he blocked the swift confirmation of this critical cyber security leader because he wants to extract a completely unrelated political concession from the Biden administration.

As we now know, Vice President HARRIS has announced that she will travel to El Paso tomorrow, along with Homeland Security Secretary Mayorkas, to assess the situation on the southern border. The Biden administration and Secretary Mayorkas have worked hard to address our border challenges, and, as a result, we have seen a reduction in the number of unaccompanied children who are in DHS custody.

But this nomination is not about the border, as much as my Republican colleagues try to conflate these issues. This nomination is about cyber security. This nomination is keeping American families safe and our economy secure. That is what this nomination is all about. My Republican colleagues are continuing to stall the confirmation of Ms. Easterly at a time when we desperately need strong cyber security leadership.

The Senate is preparing to adjourn for Independence Day, which is a major travel weekend. As we have seen from recent cyber attacks, our transportation networks are vulnerable. Criminal organizations and foreign adversaries will continue their efforts to compromise our networks. We must be prepared for attacks that could disrupt trains or flights over the holiday weekend.

We must confirm Ms. Easterly as the CISA Director now, not in 2 weeks and not in 2 months. We must have a qualified Senate-confirmed leader in place to help us address these attacks.

If our Republican colleagues won't consent, they risk weakening and slowing our cyber defenses at a time when attacks could cause serious disruptions. These attacks risk the lives and livelihoods of countless Americans. Safeguarding against them should not be a partisan issue. Putting in place highly qualified cyber leadership should not hinge on whether Republicans in the Senate approve of the Vice President's travel schedule.

I urge the Senator from Florida to withdraw his objections so that we can do our job, confirm Ms. Easterly today, and help protect the American people from this grave national security threat.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 176, Jen Easterly, of New York, to be the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Department of Homeland Security, and the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, before I address this issue, I will take a moment of personal privilege to talk about the horrific tragedy that occurred in Surfside, FL, when an apartment building collapsed earlier this morning.

Miami-Dade fire and rescue, Miami-Dade police, and our other brave first responders rushed to the scene and have been working nonstop to rescue those trapped in the rubble. It looks horrible. I have talked to quite a few people down there, and we know of one confirmed death, and, hopefully, there won't be no more. But I know they are still trying to get people out of the rubble.

So I join all my Floridians in praying for strength for these first responders and all those impacted by this disaster.

First, I want to thank my colleague for giving me a few moments to speak on this difficult moment for my State.

My colleague raised this same issue yesterday. I am here fighting for accountability for the American people. So I will say the same in return.

I voted to support Ms. Easterly's confirmation in committee last week. If Senator SCHUMER filed for cloture, like he has done for dozens of other nominees this year, I would vote to support her confirmation here on the Senate floor. In fact, I don't understand why Senator SCHUMER didn't file for cloture on Tuesday night when my office first learned of my colleague's intention to raise this. We could be voting on her confirmation right now.

As my colleague has said, this isn't about Ms. Easterly, in my mind. This isn't about cyber security. Remember, we announced and confirmed the National Cyber Director last week. Just yesterday, the Senate confirmed the Administrator of the General Services Administration, which is a key Agency for modernizing and protecting the Federal Government's IT infrastructure. I am here today because families in my State of Florida and across our Nation deserve accountability, and President Biden has shown a total lack of accountability when it comes to addressing the border crisis. That is why I announced last month that I will be holding all of President Biden's nominees for the Department of Homeland Security from being approved through our expedited process until he and Vice President HARRIS visit the border and see for themselves the crisis their failed policies of open borders and the amnesty have created.

As we all know, yesterday, the White House announced that the Vice President will be visiting the border tomorrow, and absolutely, I think we all hope that is true. The administration made a lot of promises they haven't kept. They promised not to raise taxes. They promised to reopen schools quickly. They promised to be tough on Communist China. There is quite a list.

So trust me—I am glad the Vice President seems to be taking my advice and finally listening to the American people and visiting the border. I truly hope she gets down to the border to see the crisis that this administration's failed policies have created.

I hope she meets with the National Border Patrol Council to hear from them what our brave CBP agents are going through every day to keep us safe.

I hope she meets with border community sheriffs who are responsible for keeping our families safe.

I hope she meets with our ICE and CBP section chiefs.

I hope she takes an aerial tour like I did and sees the gaps in the wall. I took a tour with Governor Ducey. You have the wall, and then all of a sudden, there are these openings where the fences weren't put up or the gates weren't put up.

A lot of people up here said: Oh, we don't need the wall; we need, you know, technology.

Well, there are the lights and cameras. I saw places where it just—it wasn't electrified. It just doesn't make sense.

I hope she meets with families who have been victims of trafficking and hears their horrific stories, what this has put people through.

I hope she visits some of the border communities and talks to the mayors and talks to people down there about how they are housing and caring for this historic number of people illegally crossing our borders. This is a tough crisis that has been created.

I hope she talks to families who have lost loved ones from massive, massive amounts of fentanyl that now our cartels are moving across the border.

I hope she talks to ranchers who are impacted by people illegally crossing the border onto their property.

I think all of us would hope that it is not just a political stunt. I hope she actually says: I want to see the crisis. I want to understand exactly what happened here.

When she does, I am going to lift all of my holds, as I told my colleague.

What is happening at the border is a crisis, and I don't think there is another word for it. You can look at this chart. Look at how many people have come across. This is the number of people who have been apprehended. We don't know how many people there are who haven't been apprehended.

More than 180,000 illegal aliens tried to cross our southern border last

month—the highest number in 21 years—threatening our national security and the safety of American families.

President Biden's immigration policies are putting unaccompanied minors at risk of human trafficking, violence, sexual abuse, and separation from their families. I mean, it is horrible. They are leading to an alarming increase in human trafficking and drug smuggling by cartels.

FBI Director Wray said there is ''no question'' that the cartel activity from Mexico is ''spilling over'' to the United States. We are seeing it in Florida. I talk to our sheriffs, and what they are telling me is that they are seeing a lot more deadly fentanyl coming into their counties, and it is showing up in their labs.

But instead of securing the border and finishing the wall construction projects—I don't get it. Why did President Biden terminate all the border wall projects? No one can—he has never had an explanation.

So this inaction of not going to the border by President Biden and Vice President HARRIS doesn't make any sense. Why can't they acknowledge that we expect and we deserve a secure border that is good for our Nation? Why can't they stand up against the radical left and say that open borders are dangerous for our families?

It should make every American furious. It is not something to laugh about. People are dying. Children are being exploited and abandoned in the desert.

This is a picture of two young 3- and 5-year-old Ecuadorian girls. You can see it. They were just dropped. Anybody who has been around little children, 3 and 5 years old—think about it. They were just dropped over the wall and just abandoned, just abandoned, hoping somebody was going to take care of them. Abandoned in the middle of the night. I mean, I have grandkids. I just can't imagine—I can't imagine anybody doing this.

The White House claims that Vice President HARRIS's last trip was to talk about the root causes of immigration. It doesn't make any sense. It seems like it was just a political stunt to me.

President Biden and Vice President HARRIS need to stop avoiding the crisis, stop laughing about the threat, get down to the border, and actually take real steps to really secure the border.

So if either of them goes to the border, I am lifting my holds, but as long as they refuse to help those risking their lives every day to keep us safe, as long as they refuse to visit the border and put an end to the humanitarian crisis they have created, I am going to keep my holds on.

Those two little girls, they deserve better. The millions of immigrants going through the legal immigration process, they deserve better. Our Border Patrol agents deserve better. Our local law enforcement agents deserve better. ICE deserves better. American families deserve better. Therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—NO. S. 2216

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I think we are all aware President Biden has decided to withdraw American troops from Afghanistan in September. Now, some agree with his decision; some disagree with his decision. The bill that I am about to talk about has nothing to do with the merits of his decision.

There are about 18,000—not 1,800, 18,000—interpreters and members of their immediate families who helped our troops fight the war in Afghanistan against the Taliban and against ISIS. They are at risk.

There was an article in a leading newspaper yesterday. I will read you the headline. It says: ''Afghan government could collapse 6 months after US withdrawal.''

These 18,000 interpreters and their immediate families, who have helped American troops, would like to get out. We have a visa process, which is going very, very slowly. We will not be able to get all of those 18,000 human beings out before the withdrawal in September. That much is clear.

Again, my bill has nothing to do with the merits or lack thereof of the war. My bill would direct the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State to develop a plan to relocate the Afghan interpreters and their immediate families who want to get out and bring them to America.

Now, obviously, before we bring them to America, those who want to come, we have to vet them. That is part of the problem. The vetting process right now is very slow. Rather than try to put together a bill that would set forth a specific plan to address this—I consider it a crisis if you are 1 of those 18,000 human beings—my bill will just direct the Defense Department and the State Department to come up with a plan to present to us within 30 days.

Now, my guess, and it is only a guess, is that State and Defense are going to come up with some plan to move those of the 18,000 who want to leave Afghanistan to a safe third place other than America so that we can continue to properly vet folks before they come into America. And I suggest we do need to properly vet them, but I also suggest that, No. 1, this is about right and wrong. These people helped Americans, and they helped American troops. And we owe them. And we don't want to see them massacred. And, No. 2, if we allow them to be massacred, I think it is going to send a message to many people throughout the world that loyalty to America means nothing, absolutely nothing.

So, in a nutshell, this bill would ask our Defense Department and our State Department, in the next 30 days, to give a plan to Congress to properly vet and allow any of these 18,000 interpreters and their families who helped American troops come to America.

With that, Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 2216, which was introduced earlier today; further, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon table the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). Is there objection?

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, in the first two decades after the Revolutionary War, America was under siege and our Capitol was ransacked, but I don't recall in reading history that any of our Founding Fathers said that they would flee the country or leave and give up on the quest for liberty.

The quest for liberty requires fighting by the people who have been given their liberty, the people whom we have helped to get their liberty. You can say the people in Afghanistan helped us or you can also say we helped liberate them as well.

They have been free for 20 years. It seems like it might precipitate the overcoming of the Taliban if you take 18,000 of the most westernized, those who speak English, and you say: Flee, flee, flee. The end is coming. Well, guess what. The end comes quicker if they all leave. So I would encourage them, rather, to stay and fight. I think it would be good to have many English speakers in Afghanistan. The future of Afghanistan could be a bright future, but they are going to have to fight for it. And, ultimately, it is their fight. And if we offer easy escape and easy plans to leave the country, we are assuring the defeat of the people who are our friends in Afghanistan. So I object to this piece of legislation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I respect my colleague, and I certainly respect his right to object. I disagree.

We are all aware of what is going on in Afghanistan. The Afghan Government is in a bitter fight to the end with the Taliban. And the Taliban is winning. And the Taliban is ruthless. And they are going to murder these people. They are going to murder them. And the blood is going to be on American hands if we don't do something to help.

My proposal would not have required any of these 18,000 Afghans who stood with American troops to beat back the Taliban and to beat back ISIS—they stood with us at their own risk, at the risk of their own kids, and their own spouses.

Now, we decided to leave. I am not saying that is right or wrong. I have my own opinion, but that is not what this bill is about. And we owe it to these 18,000 people to offer them a chance to live. And if we don't do something, they are going to be butchered. They are going to be gutted like

a deer—like a deer—and the blood is going to on American hands. And the whole world is going to take notice.

There is right and wrong in this world. There is politics. There is a time for it. But there is a time to do the right thing, and the right thing is to help save these human lives who fought for America and their families and their children.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Arkansas.

MASK MANDATES

Mr. COTTON. There is a disturbing trend in the not-so-friendly skies these days—a big spike in confrontations, often violent, on American airplanes. It is all the more disturbing because it is totally unnecessary. In most cases, these disputes go back to one of the Biden administration's dumbest policies—the mask mandate at airports and on airplanes.

When the Wuhan coronavirus broke out in our country last year, confusion and uncertainty reigned, but within a couple of months, some commonsense standards had emerged: Protect the elderly and the frail. Outdoor activities are safer than indoor ones. Keep your distance. Wear a mask when you can't for prolonged periods inside. Be civil and kind to each other.

Thanks to Operation Warp Speed, these standards are largely a thing of the past. Americans are tired of it, and they want their freedoms back, and they are right. But too many Democratic politicians and know-it-all bureaucrats don't want to give up their newfound powers.

No single action captures this power grab by government busybodies better than the TSA's decision to extend its zero-tolerance mask mandates for planes, trains, and buses until September, through the summer travel season. This mandate applies to the vaccinated and the unvaccinated alike, as well as kids over the age of 2.

Passengers without a mask or accompanied by children without a mask can lose their seats and be banned from airlines and subject to a $1,500 fine. This draconian and punitive policy has no basis in science. After all, airports typically have larger spaces and higher ceilings than, say, a grocery store and pharmacy. Planes have some of the most advanced air filtration systems available in the market today.

But this stupid mandate does have real-world consequences. Just last month, a Colorado mother and her family were removed from their flight because the plane's captain didn't believe that her 3-year-old son with autism would keep his mask on. This mother, unfortunately, was not the first to be removed from a flight, and I am sure she won't be the last if this absurd mandate remains in place.

This policy discourages family travel after a year of separation and forces Americans with children, especially children with disabilities, to cancel travel or else live in constant fear that an untimely tantrum or a bad day could ruin their trip and cost them more than $1,000 in fines.

As the father of two young boys, I can only assume the morons who cooked up this rule don't have children, or perhaps they outsource their kids to nannies and au pairs during flights, just as they do during their dinner parties and fancy retreats. Young kids, especially when they are in a new location surrounded by strangers, tend to act out and misbehave, as any parent will tell you. That entirely predictable behavior shouldn't result in their whole family being kicked off planes, trains, and buses far from home or their destination.

I must also observe—although I know that facts have nothing to do with this mandate—that young kids are also the least likely to get the coronavirus and the least likely to spread it.

Now, I concede that it is not only young kids who sometimes cause problems on planes. There are too many instances of grownups refusing to wear masks or berating flight attendants merely trying to do their job. These unruly adults should know better, of course, but so should the politicians and the bureaucrats who imposed this idiotic mandate in the first place.

Millions of Americans are flying again, and to say simply that ''they should follow my rules'' is impractical and ignores all we know about human nature.

The mandate, therefore, hurts not only passengers but also flight attendants. In our line of work, we probably fly more than most Americans these days. Over the last couple of months, I have personally seen so many flight attendants set up for failure by the Biden administration. They usually don't want to boss around their passengers or kick them off an airplane and cause a scene that will go viral on social media, but they are also told they have to enforce this stupid mask mandate, and it is all for no good reason.

It would be one thing if there was scientific evidence that suggested that these masks in airports and on airplanes or buses or trains actually slowed the spread of the virus among the unvaccinated, but that is not the case. Even the Secretary of Transportation, Pete Buttigieg, can't defend these mandates on the merits. He doesn't even try. The only rationale he could give when recently asked about the mandate was, ''They're a matter of respect,'' to which I would respond, how about some respect for Americans and their common sense?

If you can't defend a policy on the merits, you shouldn't have the policy, and the Biden administration should therefore immediately rescind its mask mandates for airports and airplanes and buses and trains. Vaccinated Americans and their young kids should not be forced to wear face coverings on airplanes or anywhere else, for that matter. It is unnecessary, it is unscientific, and in the case of children, it is cruel.

I think I speak for millions of Americans when I say: Mask mandates have long since outlived their usefulness and their welcome. We have all but won the war against the Wuhan coronavirus. It is time for us to act like it, to reclaim victory and reclaim our freedom.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

Mr. BROWN. Object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I again ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. BROWN. Object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill clerk continued with the call of the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON JACKSON-AKIWUMI NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Jackson-Akiwumi nomination?

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) would have voted ''nay.''

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 252 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	Kelly	Schatz
Cantwell	King	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Leahy	Sinema
Casey	Luján	Smith
Collins	Manchin	Stabenow
Coons	Markey	Tester
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murkowski	Warnock
Feinstein	Murphy	Warren
Gillibrand	Murray	Whitehouse
Graham	Ossoff	Wyden
Hassan	Padilla	

NAYS—40

Barrasso	Grassley	Rounds
Blackburn	Hagerty	Rubio
Blunt	Hawley	Sasse
Boozman	Hoeven	Scott (FL)
Braun	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Capito	Kennedy	Shelby
Cassidy	Lankford	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lee	Thune
Cotton	Lummis	Tillis
Crapo	McConnell	Toomey
Cruz	Paul	Wicker
Daines	Portman	Young
Ernst	Risch	
Fischer	Romney	

NOT VOTING—7

Burr	Johnson	Tuberville
Cramer	Marshall	
Hyde-Smith	Moran	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. VAN HOLLEN). 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 action.

The Senator from Michigan.

FOURTH OF JULY

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about how far our Nation has come in the past 6 months.

Just for a moment, think back to where we were in January. Every day, hundreds of thousands of Americans were being diagnosed with COVID–19, and on many days, more than 3,000—or even 4,000—of our moms and dads and brothers and sisters and children and friends and neighbors were dying of this horrible disease. Meanwhile, millions of Americans were out of work just 6 months ago, and small businesses were unsure whether or not they could reopen safely. During these cold, dark days, it was easy to wonder if things would ever get better.

But something else happened in January. On January 20, President Joe Biden and Vice President KAMALA HARRIS were sworn into office, and with their inauguration came a laser focus on defeating this horrific disease and getting our country moving again.

They had some amazing tools in their arsenals: vaccines that proved to be more effective than anyone could have hoped—thank goodness. And I am so proud that Michigan workers at Pfizer have played a big role in producing these lifesaving vaccines and getting them shipped all over the country.

When President Biden and Vice President HARRIS took office, only 5 percent of American adults had received at least one shot. Now, only 6 months later, 70 percent of Americans over age 30 have received at least one shot. That is a total of 300 million vaccine shots in only 150 days, and we are seeing the results.

This week, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer was able to drop our State's pandemic restrictions. That is great news for our small businesses and our restaurants and our entertainment venues, just in time for peak travel season in beautiful Michigan.

Nationwide, more than 2 million jobs have been created since President Biden took office—2 million jobs since he took office just 6 months ago. Half as many people are applying for unemployment each month as were in January. And, next month, families will begin to receive advance child tax credits that are going to lift half of the poor children in our country out of poverty—incredible. These monthly payments of $250 or $300 per child will help families pay for the things they need to care for their children, and it will also boost the economy.

We have made amazing progress, and it wouldn't have been possible without leadership from the White House, around $20 billion in funding for vaccines from Congress, the dedication of our medical professionals, the hard work of our small businesses that have done so much to keep their employees and their customers safe, and the willingness of so many Americans to literally roll up their sleeves to protect themselves and each other.

It is true that we have a lot more to do, of course. Many families and communities are still struggling to get back on their feet. We need to continue to support our small businesses that have been through so much.

We know that some States and regions are lagging behind on vaccinations for a number of reasons. That is so unfortunate because we know that these vaccinations are safe, they are free to receive, and they are amazingly effective. The numbers prove it.

On January 23, 3,322 Americans died of coronavirus in a single day, and, yesterday, 370 people died of coronavirus in the United States. Of course, that is still 370 too many lives lost. Each one of those lives was precious, and our hearts are with everyone who is grieving.

There is still a risk that variants will spread and cases could rise again, especially in areas with low vaccination rates, which is why it is so critical that people get vaccinated. It is so important to get vaccinated, not only for yourselves but for your friends, for your neighbors, and for your children.

We have come a long way—a really long way—in the last 6 months. It is really amazing, and it is just in time for the Fourth of July. Americans have a lot to celebrate this Independence Day. It is a day when we give thanks for our Nation and for the freedoms we enjoy as Americans, and this year we have a few extra freedoms to celebrate: the freedom to get together with friends again, the freedom to eat dinner at a favorite local restaurant, the freedom to attend a live music event or go to a movie, the freedom to live our lives with a lot less fear—a lot less fear—and the freedom to give our loved ones a hug. And I know I am cherishing every hug I can give my 95-year-old mom.

All of these freedoms are thanks to science and an administration that believes in science, and the willingness of Americans to trust the science.

To my fellow Americans, thank you for that.

Thank you to our President, and happy Fourth of July.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). The majority leader is recognized.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 67.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Uzra Zeya, of Virginia, to be an Under Secretary of State (Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights).

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 67, Uzra Zeya, of Virginia, to be an Under Secretary of State (Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights).

Charles E. Schumer, Jon Ossoff, Margaret Wood Hassan, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Ron Wyden, Robert Menendez, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jacky Rosen, Cory A. Booker, Tammy Duckworth, John Hickenlooper, Jon Tester, Edward J. Markey, Tammy Baldwin, Brian Schatz, Gary C. Peters, Tina Smith.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 63.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Julie A. Su, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Labor.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 63, Julie A. Su, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Labor.

Charles E. Schumer, Patty Murray, Jacky Rosen, John Hickenlooper, Tammy Baldwin, Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Raphael Warnock, Benjamin L. Cardin, Chris Van Hollen, Martin Heinrich, Christopher Murphy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Bernard Sanders, Jeff Merkley, Margaret Wood Hassan.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, June 24, be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

I yield the floor to Mr. CHRISTOPHER COONS, D., Delaware.

Mr. CHRISTOPHER A. COONS?

Mr. COONS. CHRISTOPHER A. COONS. Thank you, Mr. CHARLES E. SCHUMER.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware is recognized.

GROWING CLIMATE SOLUTIONS ACT OF 2021

Mr. COONS. Madam President, today has been great day for the American people, a great day for our democracy and for bipartisanship. Some of you may know that just hours ago, over at the White House, a determined group of Republicans and Democrats, led by Senator KYRSTEN SINEMA, Senator ROB PORTMAN, Senator JOE MANCHIN, Senator SUSAN COLLINS, and a number of others, announced a deal on an infrastructure package with the White House that represents the largest investment in infrastructure in a generation.

This is a big accomplishment that I will talk about in a few moments, but I also want to bring attention to something that happened earlier today on the floor here that may just go overlooked because of the other important news of the day.

By a vote of 92 to 8, this Senate passed the Growing Climate Solutions Act, introduced by my friend and colleague from Michigan Senator DEBBIE STABENOW, the chair of the Agriculture Committee, and my friend and colleague from Indiana Senator MIKE BRAUN, who is my cochair of the Climate Solutions Caucus.

This bill, the Growing Climate Solutions Act, is a great example of how we can bring everyone to the table to find common ground on solutions that will protect our environment, help create jobs, and combat climate change.

It will help farmers and foresters in Delaware, in Michigan, in Texas, across our whole country, and we will benefit from changes in the way that they care for their land or forests, and it will help them to participate in carbon credit markets. It will provide a framework for rewarding America's farms and forests, and those who tend them, for climate-smart practices.

This is a commonsense, broadly bipartisan bill that will help us create a more sustainable future for our communities, our country, and our planet, with our farmers and our agriculture community taking the lead.

It reminds me of another signature moment that happened just at the very end of last year when, in December, the bipartisan Energy Act of 2020 was passed. Senators MURKOWSKI and MANCHIN shepherded that into law late last year, and it modernizes our country's energy policies across a dozen different major areas.

Each of these bills—the Growing Climate Solutions Act and the Energy Act of 2020—were, in part, fostered by the bipartisan Senate Climate Solutions Caucus. Founded in 2019, this caucus has held more than 30 events and meetings, including many focused on natural climate solutions such as the Growing Climate Solutions Act.

Every Member, all 14 Members, of this bipartisan caucus cosponsored the Growing Climate Solutions Act, and I applaud Senators STABENOW and BRAUN for building a significant coalition here in the Senate to support it, a coalition that ranged from some of the most engaged and active environmental groups to the American Farm Bureau, one of the strongest voices for America's agricultural community.

Our work on climate is far from done. Members of the Climate Solutions Caucus have introduced a whole series of bipartisan bills that would promote natural climate solutions. Senator PORTMAN and I have the Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Reauthorization Act; Senator SHAHEEN is leading the Forest Incentives Program Act; Senator RUBIO, the Restoring Resilient Reefs Act; and many more.

We should advance these and many other bipartisan bills that every Member of our caucus supports and on which we are taking the lead. Let me be clear. I support bold action on climate. I support President Biden's climate agenda. And there are many more things we can and should do, but I think it is possible for us to both move ahead on those things that have enduring bipartisan support in this Chamber and across the country and to move ahead on those things that perhaps do not yet enjoy bipartisan support but where the need to act is urgent.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. COONS. Madam President, let me also, if I can, speak for a few more moments about the historic deal reached earlier today on infrastructure.

This is about creating jobs. This is about investing in our economy and our communities and our country, and this is about strengthening the United States globally against our adversaries and competitors.

I need not remind you that just 1 year ago public health and economic crises created by the COVID–19 pandemic were ravaging communities all over our Nation. And today, under the leadership of the Biden administration, COVID–19 cases and deaths are down by over 90 percent. More than 70 percent of adults over the age of 30 have been vaccinated. As a result, businesses are opening, communities are opening, States are opening, our unemployment rate has come down significantly, and our economy is recovering at a robust pace.

But if our economy is going to be sustainable, if it is going to be long term, if it is going to be robust, we have to make long-overdue investments in infrastructure. Globally, the United States now ranks 13th in infrastructure. In every State, we have roads, bridges, tunnels, and water systems that are crumbling or aged. Just in my little State of Delaware, we have more than 200 miles of highway deemed in poor condition.

And as the climate continues to change, low-lying States like mine are particularly susceptible to increased damage. We had more than 10 extreme weather events causing up to $2 billion of damage in the last decade, and a lot of that damaged our infrastructure because it is built right up against the waterways, the coasts, the bays.

We have one of the most important rail lines in the entire country, the

Northeast corridor, that runs right through Wilmington, DE. One day without service on this Northeast corridor costs our economy $100 million. And that day isn't hypothetical; it happened during Superstorm Sandy, the hurricane that pummeled the east coast a few years ago.

Across our State and every State, infrastructure is in dire need of repair, of resiliency, and of upgrade, and doing that can help create jobs and strengthen our country.

We are losing our competitive edge, and our global competitors, like China, are outpacing us. That is why I was so encouraged to see the bipartisan U.S. Innovation and Competition Act pass this body just a few weeks ago. A key piece of it was the bipartisan CHIPS Act that recognizes we need to invest in cutting-edge R&D, in semiconductors, and in the industries of the future.

But we can't move people, capital, products, and ideas if we don't invest in our infrastructure—in the broadband, the highways, the ports, and the roads that make us competitive globally.

The $559 billion in new Federal spending on infrastructure that is the core of the deal announced today is a downpayment on rebuilding our roads and bridges, fixing our lines of public transit, and expanding port and airport capacity. It also includes $47 billion toward climate resiliency, critically needed work to make sure that our infrastructure can sustain the growing storms all across our country.

I think this is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to put America on the right track and exactly at a moment when the leaders of China and Russia are telling the world that American democracy can't work; that the riot that occurred in this building on January 6 is foreshadowing the collapse, the failure of American democracy. It is important for us to show our citizens here at home and our competitors abroad that American democracy still works and that we can deliver meaningful solutions for our States, for our country, and for the world.

There is a lot more for us to accomplish on President Biden's agenda—the American Jobs Plan and the American Families Plan—and we will have to move that forward, but I think this is a day for us to celebrate legislating together and finding a pathway to the House and to the President's desk for the biggest investment in infrastructure of my lifetime.

This is a great day for this institution and our country.

TRIBUTE TO LYNNE TERRY PHIFER

Mr. COONS. Madam President, I rise today in this Chamber to pay tribute to a dedicated Delawarean, a friend who is wrapping up 36 years of public service to our State and our Nation.

Lynne Terry Phifer of Newark, DE, a valued member of my Senate staff, is retiring at the end of this month. She has been a high-spirited, pure-hearted presence for us as long as I have known her, and I am deeply grateful to Lynne for her service and grateful for her significant contributions.

Before I say farewell, though, it is only fitting to highlight her long career and offer up some thanks and some thoughts from her friends, family, coworkers, and well-wishers.

Her story didn't start and doesn't end with her more than 8 years serving in my offices for the Senate and for Wilmington, DE. She grew up in a community along the banks of Naamans Creek, where it empties into the Delaware River. It is known as Claymont, DE, an area that has become better known, perhaps, because of Claymont's favorite son, our President, Joe Biden.

Lynne graduated from Claymont High School in 1972, the same year Biden was first elected to this Chamber. It was at Claymont High School where, some members of my staff report, in good humor, Lynne made a name for herself ''playing a mean clarinet.'' I didn't know clarinets could be mean.

Lynne's public service career began shortly thereafter. She started a 10-year run with Delaware's Department of Labor, the Department of Health and Social Services, and the Division of Personnel. After that, her career continued across city, county, State, and Federal governments.

From 1988 to 1992, she worked for well-known Mayor Dan Frawley of Wilmington. She later took on similar responsibilities for our Lieutenant Governor and now-Governor, John Carney, and later for Paul Clark, my successor as county executive in New Castle County. Paul said it was his good fortune to have hired Lynne.

> She was a shining light in the field of government service—

County Executive Clark said—

> and an absolute joy to work with. I am privileged to call Lynne my friend and wish her the best in retirement.

Governor Carney offered similar sentiments, saying:

> When I was Lieutenant Governor, Lynne helped make our office run smoothly and always offered a helping hand to constituents. She is a compassionate, hardworking colleague and a good friend, and I am personally grateful for Lynne's many years of dedicated service. . . . I wish her and her family all the best in retirement.

For more than 8 years in my office in Wilmington, Lynne has seamlessly managed my front office and my college internship program. And I can't tell you how hard a job it is to be the person who answers the phone, day in and day out, particularly when serving a Senator like me who seems to draw all sorts of attention and angry phone calls.

So Lynne, thank you in particular for handling all the calls and complaints and concerns of Delawareans who call in day in and day out.

Lynne has remained our beloved gatekeeper, the first person to greet visitors, the familiar voice on the main telephone line, someone who has handled sometimes literally hundreds of calls a day. She is known for being reliable and trustworthy. She is highly regarded by my whole team and recognized for her breadth of knowledge of our State, who is who, which call needs to be answered first, who are the movers and shakers.

She is known for always staying calm and professional when helping constituents. And, trust me, some of these calls can be incredibly emotional and difficult, whether assisting someone needing a vaccination appointment or dealing with a veterans benefit question.

She has run my internship program flawlessly, and that is a true testament to Lynne. During her more than 8 years of running that, she has interviewed, hired, trained, mentored, and supported more than 150 college interns—a good number of whom have gone on to join our full-time professional staff.

She is, as Brendan Mackie would say, a true force multiplier. Several of our interns, as I have mentioned, have gone on to be staff, both in Wilmington and in Washington, and many others have gone on to executive branch Agencies or to be activists, attorneys, nonprofit leaders, mentors, and volunteers.

It is a profound understatement to say that my team and I, and my wife Annie and I, will deeply miss Lynne. Annie and I have known Lynne going all the way back to their time together in the Women's Democratic Club of Delaware, when we were young couples and looking forward to someday both being parents of twins.

On my current staff, Marcus Wright, who is my outreach coordinator, added:

> Lynne is always at the top of her game. As her counterpart in DC, I [learned to] lean on her knowledge and followed her example. She helped me be a better staffer, and I owe her an enormous debt of gratitude.

Desiree Burritt, one of my most seasoned and capable caseworkers, said:

> Lynne is ever-present and incredibly dependable.

Jessica Glass, my deputy scheduler said:

> Lynne not only helped me through the intern program . . . but I'm learning so much . . . sitting on the other side [now] and getting to interview interns with her! She . . . [has] watched me go full circle during the past four years.

Brian Cunningham, a beloved former staffer, said:

> I always appreciated Lynne's warm greetings to the littlest guests in the office—

He means his kids—

> when [my] kids came to visit, or sit with their parent to help finish out the workday, it was Lynne who . . . had a stash of snacks [and always a kind word].

Among her coworkers, she has earned a lot of good-natured nicknames: Lynney, Lynney-Boo, Lynne-yrd Skynyrd, and others I won't repeat, but she is clearly omnipresent in the hearts and minds of those who served alongside her in Delaware.

Her dedication goes far beyond government service. She has volunteered her time with so many groups. I mentioned the Women's Democratic Club. She has also served as chair of the 22nd Representative District Committee, serving Hockessin, Pike Creek, North Star, and Newark for many, many years.

And she was honored with the Distinguished Service Award from the New Castle County Democrats in 2008 for her tireless service.

On the homefront, her pride and joy include Dennis Phifer, her husband, and their twin sons, Matthew and Christopher.

We can't forget the beloved family canine, Elle. In her retirement, Lynne will have more time to spend with Dennis, Matt, and Chris, and her network of friends, going all the way back to her Claymont days. She looks forward to spending her mornings with Dennis, she says, making him coffee, reading the paper together, and staying up late, as Dennis dozes off, trying to finish the daily crossword.

She surely will have more time with Elle, walking her around the neighborhood and spoiling her with treats. Dennis said of Lynne, who absolutely loves animals, that she wants to use her newfound time to volunteer to help service dogs and other support animals.

Alice Paul, the famous suffragette, in speaking about the fight for women's rights, said: ''I always feel the movement is a . . . mosaic. Each of us puts in [our own] little stone, and then'' at the end, you see a beautiful mosaic.

When looking back at Lynne's years of public service—36 years—this analogy seems apt. Lynne has been a hardworking and headstrong person, someone who has done incredible things, often behind the scenes, and helped create her own great mosaic through her decades of dedication and service to our community, our city, our county, our State, and this Senate.

Whether it was throwing her support behind Joe Biden amid a Senate reelection run or helping constituents in my office or the hundreds of folks she has trained and recruited and mentored, Lynne's mosaic will last long and reach far, leaving her mark on Delaware for many, many years to come.

Lynne will undoubtedly continue to accomplish good and meaningful things, finding those moments in small pieces of colored stone or glass or ceramic and putting those in place, adding to her ongoing mosaic of life.

In closing, through her career, her volunteerism, and her civic activism, Lynne has made a real difference. I can't thank her enough for her first-class dedication and her friendship. Lynne will be deeply missed in the Senate, and filling her shoes will be near impossible.

Lynne, thank you. Best of luck in all your future endeavors. You are treasured, and we will cheer you on your way as you celebrate this next chapter of your life.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, dating back to his time as a Member of the Senate, President Biden—then-Senator Biden—frequently shared a piece of advice from his dad:

> Don't tell me what you value. Show me your budget, and I'll tell you what you value.

He is not wrong. We have heard countless iterations of the same message from President Biden. Actions speak louder than words. Talk is cheap. Or, as we say in Texas, sometimes someone is all hat and no cattle.

So I want to take President Biden up on his advice. We have spent plenty of time hearing what his values are. He has talked about the importance of rebuilding our economy following the pandemic. We all agree with that—restoring public trust in government, check; protecting low- and middle-income families from tax hikes, check; and standing up to Russia and China, the two greatest threats to the world order. These are priorities shared by Americans with diverse political views, and they are critical goals that any President—Republican or Democrat—should have.

But we don't have to take the President at his word when he talks about the importance of each of these things because we have his budget. We have a written plan from the President of the United States, outlining how his administration wants to turn his spoken intentions into concrete action.

So based upon President Biden's budget, what does he value? It just takes a quick glance to see that responsible spending is not one of the things that he values. The overall pricetag of the President's budget is a whopping $6.4 trillion. Even with the President's massive tax hikes, the United States would still be running more than a trillion dollar deficit each year.

It would only take 2 years for our debt burden to reach the highest level in American history, surpassing even World War II-era debt.

As a reminder, the government has spent a massive amount of money over the last 15 months, as we know. Much of it was a necessary investment in our fight against COVID–19.

On top of that funding, though, our Democratic colleagues circumvented the bipartisan legislative process and added an additional $2 trillion on a host of partisan pet projects, only about 10 percent of which related to COVID–19, even though that was the caption on the bill—a COVID–19 relief bill that was only 10 percent COVID–19.

Now, perhaps nobody expected the President to dramatically cut spending and solve our national debt problems in one go, but this is not a time, after trillions of dollars of necessary COVID–19 spending, to go on another unrelated spending spree, especially once you see where all the money is going. Once again, this is his budget; these are his values.

One of the most critical lines in any President's budget is discretionary spending. For a decade, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have pined for parity between defense and nondefense spending. But as soon as they get unified government—majority in the House, majority in Senate, and the White House—what do they do? Well, they abandon that parity argument and provide a measly 2-percent increase to defense spending while providing a 16-percent increase in the President's budget to domestic spending—hardly parity.

The Federal Government simply cannot provide for the common defense without the resources to do so. In the face of growing threats, which we all have acknowledged—China, Russia, Iran, North Korea—you would think that the President would propose a substantial increase in defense spending, but he proposed a whopping 2 percent.

Now, compare that to the Department of Education, where the President's budget calls for a 41-percent increase, a 28-percent increase for the Department of Commerce, and a 22-percent increase for the Environmental Protection Agency. Well, when you adjust for inflation, the small increase for defense spending actually represents a decrease.

The Department of Defense isn't the only national security Agency that the Biden budget expects to do with less. Even with a humanitarian crisis on our border, the budget for the Department of Homeland Security remains flat. Once again, after inflation, that will represent a decrease in spending over the current year.

Customs and Border Protection personnel are working overtime to take care of unaccompanied children, to stop dangerous drugs from crossing our border, and to enforce the laws that we in Congress have passed. They need more support to handle the situation in a fair and humane way. Cutting already thin resources for the entire Department will only make the circumstances at the border more dangerous—for law enforcement, for local communities that are being overrun by the huge numbers of people coming across the border—and a danger to the migrants themselves.

If this $6.4 trillion budget doesn't support our most urgent priorities, what does it support? What priorities are so critical that they supersede the need to support our national security and protect our borders?

Well, for one, the administration would double the size of the Internal Revenue Service. I am sure that is good news to every taxpaying American. The President has called for increasing the number of IRS agents by 15 percent a year for the next decade.

We have previously seen the damage that a politically motivated IRS can do. We saw the apparent leaking of taxpayer information recently, which is supposed to be confidential by law. And we can remember the IRS targeting controversy under the Obama administration.

Bureaucrats at the IRS subjected conservative groups that they disagreed with politically or ideologically to a different level of scrutiny than left-leaning groups. And, unfortunately, with this sort of huge investment in the IRS, it looks like the Biden administration simply wants to weaponize the IRS once again.

But that is just the start of it. A massive portion of the President's budget stems from two of the programs he has already told us about—one being the $2.6 trillion American Jobs Plan, which relies on a very generous interpretation of the word ''infrastructure,'' and it reads like the Green New Deal 2.0: more than $200 billion to build or retrofit more than 2 million affordable and sustainable places to live; a civilian climate corps; and an unrealistic 100-percent renewable-generated electricity by 2035.

His budget includes a range of other spending to address climate change, including over $1 billion to help other countries—not Americans, not the United States, but other countries—to lower their emissions.

I am sure China will be glad to take our money while continuing to build coal-fired powerplants to meet the demands of their growing economy.

Then there is a broad range of spending from President Biden's $1.8 trillion so-called American Families Plan—you have got to love the names of these pieces of legislation—which includes everything from universal preschool and free community college to mandatory paid leave policies and using the Tax Code to disguise more Washington spending.

If you read through the President's budget, which, as he said, reflects his values, you see the incredible way that President Biden is simply caving in to the radical left. Mothers are no longer called mothers. They are now called ''birthing people''—unbelievably.

Well, it is one thing for far-left activists to use these kinds of terms on Twitter, but it is entirely different to diminish the role of women in an official government document. Women are more than ''birthing people,'' and I think it is insulting to women to characterize them or define them by that.

The President doubled down on the woke ideology by proposing taxpayer funding for abortion. We know abortion is enormously controversial in our society, but this is a jarring break from a decades-long bipartisan, consensual ban provided by the Hyde amendment. It is also stands in stark contrast in the views of most Americans. The majority of Americans say they oppose using taxpayer dollars to support abortions because they are morally or religiously opposed to the practice.

Adding to the list of absurdities is a massive expansion of welfare. We already know that under the COVID–19 relief bills, the administration has argued in favor of paying people more not to work than they would earn if they did work.

A number of Governors—more than 20 of them now—have refused the $300 weekly supplement because of their concern that this was actually discouraging people from returning to work.

We are hearing from employers all across the country that it is hard, if not impossible, for them to find the workforce they need to get the economy growing again. Business owners in my State—and I would bet across the Country—are already struggling to find a reliable workforce following the overly generous pandemic-related unemployment benefits that our Democratic colleagues insisted upon.

We can't continue to discourage Americans from going back to work, because our economy will never recover if we stay on that path.

Overall, the President's budget would dramatically increase the size of government and the role it plays in our everyday lives, especially with education—as my friend Senator TIM SCOTT has said, putting Washington even more in the middle of Americans' lives, from the cradle to college. Is that really what the American dream is all about—more and bigger government intervening in our lives, denying us the freedom to make our own choices and to seek our own way?

It is no wonder that the White House rolled out the President's budget so quietly. Frequently, a lot of this happens on Friday afternoons after the press has left and nobody is paying much attention.

While President Biden has told us what he values over and over again, his budget actually speaks to much more. This is not the plan of someone who is fighting for a strong national defense and a swift economic recovery. This budget prioritizes climate justice over American military servicemembers. It further hampers our economic recovery at the expense of hard-working taxpayers, and it prioritizes the restriction of wealth over the prospect of economic growth, which would lift all boats. It digs the United States deeper and deeper into debt, creating a massive financial pit that our children and grandchildren will have to dig their way out of. We are writing the checks, but they will pay the bills, and that, I believe, is immoral.

It is all well and good to tell the American people that you value the same things they value—freedom, security, prosperity—but this, which in President Biden's own words reflects his values, this is not a blueprint to rebuild America. This is, indeed, strong evidence that President Biden has bowed down to the woke political left in his own base and is ready to bury the United States and future generations with unprecedented debt.

When he released his budget, President Biden said, ''Where we choose to invest speaks to what we value as a Nation.'' The President of the United States has made clear what he values. The Nation? Its future? Its prosperity? Its security? Not much.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Oklahoma.

FOURTH OF JULY

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, I often come to this floor to be able to speak about news of the day, disagreements that we have, ways that we can solve a problem we have as a nation. Today, I come to tell a story.

In 1774, an Englishman met Benjamin Franklin. They spent a lot of time together in conversations, and Franklin convinced this young sailor and writer and young friend to move to America, to move to his hometown, to Philadelphia. A few months later, 1774, he did.

Franklin saw something in this young man that no one else saw. That Englishman who loved freedom and who saw the glaring injustice of the British Crown, 2 years later, on January 10, 1776, wrote a short pamphlet that changed the course of history.

The man's name was Thomas Paine, and the short work that he wrote was called ''Common Sense.'' It was the first publication that declared we should call for independence for these 13 Colonies. It didn't include his name because if it included his name, it would have been a certain death warrant from the King, but it made the case for freedom for each person, for an elected government rather than a monarchy, and the case for religious liberty. In short, he made the case for the United States of America.

He wrote these words:

> The cause of America is, in great measure, the cause of all mankind. Many circumstances have, and will arise, which are not local, but universal, and through which the principles of all lovers of mankind are affected, and in the event of which, their affections are interesting.

He wrote about the rule of law and how that would be different than living under a monarchy, and he challenged the young colonists to be able to pursue more.

He wrote:

> But where says some is the king of America? I'll tell you Friend, he reigns above, and doth not make havoc of mankind like the Royal Brute of Great Britain. Yet that we may not appear to be defective even in earthly honors, let a day be solemnly set apart for proclaiming the charter; let it be brought forth placed on the divine law, the word of God; let a crown be placed thereon, by which

the world may know, that so far we may approve of monarchy, that in America the law is king. For as in absolute governments the king is law, so in free countries the law ought to be king.

He wrote:

As to religion, I hold it to be the indispensable duty of [every] government, to protect all conscientious professors thereof, and I know of no other business which government hath to do therewith.

Suspicion is the companion of mean souls. . . .

He wrote and he said:

It affords us a larger field for our Christian kindness. Were we all one way of thinking, our religious dispositions would want matter for probation; and on this liberal principle, I look to the various denominations among us, to be like children of the same family, differing only, in what is called, their Christian names.

He shared a lot of great ideals in ''Common Sense.'' He challenged the colonists to dream of an America that would set the example for the world.

Thomas Paine's ideas weren't all great, and we didn't accept all of his ideas. In fact, he wrote a long section in ''Common Sense'' saying that when we form our own Constitution, we should take these 13 Colonies and we should elect a President and alternate among each State, so each State would, in turn, have a different President for the whole group. It is a fairly terrible idea that we never implemented. But this passion about the law being king, we did; this passion about religious liberty, we did; this passion that America would be an example to all mankind, we did.

One hundred fifty thousand copies of ''Common Sense'' were printed. That is an enormous number for that time period. On that January day when the first printings of ''Common Sense'' started being passed around the Colonies, it fanned the flame of that spark of freedom in the hearts of the colonists.

By June 11, 1776, Congress had appointed a committee of five to draft the Declaration: John Adams of Massachusetts, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, Robert Livingston of New York, and Robert Sherman of Connecticut—by the way, I think two redheads in that group.

The Declaration ended with this simple paragraph. We are familiar with that Declaration. It said:

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name and by the Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these united Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States.

It ended with this:

And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of the Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.

And they gave their all. John Hart, one of the signers of the Declaration, from New Jersey, ended up hiding in the woods that December of 1776, just a few months later, while the Hessian soldiers hunted him across the countryside. He died before the war's end.

Richard Stockton, also of New Jersey, wasn't so lucky. He was dragged from his bed, thrown into prison, and treated like a criminal. His home was looted, his fortune stripped away.

Thomas Nelson of Virginia: He commanded the militia and served as a Governor during the Revolution. He had to instruct the artillerymen to fire at his own house when the British started using it as their headquarters. Nelson had used his personal credit to raise money for the cause. The Revolution left him in distress, and he was unable to ever recover what he had lost.

Thomas Heyward, Arthur Middleton, and Edward Rutledge were three South Carolina signers who served in their State's militia and were captured when the British seized Charleston. They spent the rest of the time in prison. They pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.

By that December, when all of this was going on to all of these signers of the Declaration, Thomas Paine wrote again, and this time, he wrote directly to the patriots serving with George Washington. In the freezing winter, on December 23, 1776, Thomas Paine wrote these words:

These are the times that try men's souls; the summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of [their] country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly: It is dearness only that gives every [living] thing its value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an article as FREEDOM should not be highly rated.

It is a good thing for us to be able to stop and reflect on these simple words: What we obtain too cheap we esteem too lightly. Sometimes I am afraid that, as we approach the Fourth of July each year, we will have forgotten the sacrifices of previous generations. In our time period and in this wealthy moment in our Nation's history, we seem to esteem too lightly what was obtained too cheaply, and we forget the great sacrifices of the past.

Generation after generation of American history has set an example of how we have worked for a more perfect Union. Generation after generation has served each other and the children who have come after them so that they could have a better future. It is our generation's turn. The generation that I speak of could have never dreamed of the Capitol that stands on this hill. The generation that I speak of could have never dreamed of the 50 States that would cover this continent, but they did dream this, because it is in Thomas Paine's introduction: ''The cause of America is in great measure the cause of all mankind.''

This Fourth of July, we should recommit ourselves to the cause of freedom, the future of our Nation, and the service to our children and the children not yet born. We are still a great nation, conceived in liberty, born to greatness if we are willing to work and sacrifice and give for each other. No generation in the history of the world has inherited more than we have—no generation. We should not receive it too cheaply or hold it too lightly.

Ironically, as I end my story of an Englishman who became a writer and the inspiration of a nation, I must tell you the end. Thomas Paine died a bitter and broken man. He remained a revolutionary in the fight. He could never stop searching for the next revolution. He went off to France to support the French Revolution and almost lost his head for it. He ended up in prison there. He came back to America and determined that George Washington wasn't as loyal as he was. He spent his last years writing against President Washington: that he was the real traitor and that he wasn't strong enough. He ended up dying alone, isolated, rejecting his faith—and a bitter man.

My fellow Senators and fellow Americans, the war has been won. Freedom, that gift, has been passed on to us. Let's protect it. Let's cherish it. Let's pass it on.

Each generation should be passionate about passing that on to the next generation. That is why, on this Fourth of July, it is not just a day off; it is not just a day to be at the mall; it is not just a great day to be at a lake—it is a great day to contemplate how you will serve our Nation in the days ahead in this generation and how you can pass on the freedom that we have to our children.

Our Nation still needs people who will build on the foundation of liberty. We need writers and soldiers and farmers and moms and dads. We still need people who will run for city council and the school board, people who will pick up trash in the neighborhood, people who will march in a protest and then intentionally go love people and work for the reconciliation of broken relationships. We need people who will start new businesses, give to nonprofits, get involved in their churches, and love their neighbors as themselves.

We are free, but as the Bible says in 1 Peter 2, we should live as free people but not use our freedom as a coverup for evil.

Those of us who have freedom should help others to live in the same freedom we have and to serve with joy. That is the legacy that was passed on to us. That is the legacy we should pass down.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

TRIBUTE TO LYDIA JACOBY

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, it is Thursday, and it is my favorite time

of the week. I get to come down to the Senate floor typically every Thursday and talk about Alaskans who are doing something amazing for their communities, their State, maybe even their country. Heck, this one is kind of doing something for the world, whom I refer to as the Alaskan of the Week. I love doing it.

We have a really special Alaskan of the Week this week whom I am going to talk about, Lydia Jacoby—a very special 17-year-old who is from Seward, AK. We are so excited about this.

Those of you who have been following our Alaskan of the Week speeches might notice that this is the first new poster board we have had ever. So this is the poster board of the Alaskan of the Week for Lydia because we are so excited about her.

Before I talk about Lydia, I always like to say a little bit about what is going on in Alaska.

A lot of people always ask about the light. They are curious about the light in the summer, particularly as we just had our summer solstice. If you want to come up and really see it, come on up. We are open. We would love to have you—a trip of a lifetime. If you are thinking about coming to Alaska, come to see it yourself this summer. Every American should come on up, but I will give you a hint. On the light that is happening right now, if you were in Seward, AK, where Lydia is from, the Sun will rise at 4:33 a.m. and set at 11:26 p.m., with a loss of just 36 seconds from the summer solstice, which occurred a few days ago. That is a lot of sunlight, and it doesn't really even get dark when the Sun goes down. It does just for a little bit.

So it is a great time to be in the State. Come on up. It is a great time to be in Alaska, and I can't wait to get home for the recess, our Fourth of July—lots of Sun, lots of excitement.

There is particularly a lot of excitement around this young, intrepid Alaskan, Lydia, who on Tuesday, in Omaha, NE, swam the second fastest time in the world in the women's 100-meter breaststroke finals in the Olympic trials. She is the second fastest breaststroker in the world, and she is only 17. This cinched her spot to represent the United States in the Summer Olympics in Tokyo. This is an incredible and—I will admit it—a rather unlikely story that we are all so proud of in Alaska.

With regard to the Olympics, Alaskans typically punch way above our weight. In the Winter Olympics, we really, really punch above our weight, with many, many Alaskans making the Olympic team for the Winter Olympics every 4 years. We have done well in the Summer Olympics as well. Olympic veteran, rugby player Alev Kelter, from Eagle River, will be competing this year. Shortly, will we will be learning if Allie Ostrander, who is a really amazing young woman, steeplechase champion and another incredible athlete, will be in the Olympics this year. We will learn soon. But we have never sent a swimmer to the Olympics. You don't always equate Alaska and swimming. She will be the first, and Alaskans across the State are cheering on Lydia. So let me tell you a little bit about this remarkable young woman.

Her parents, Leslie and Richard, are both boat camp captains. Leslie is the educational coordinator for the Marine Science Explorer Program at the Kenai Fjords Tours. Rich is a maritime instructor at the Alaska Vocational Technical Center, what we call AVTEC.

By the way, a little aside: AVTEC does great work. I have really enjoyed my visits there.

So, Rich, keep up the great job there.

He is also a guy for Arctic and Antarctic trips.

So that is Mom and Dad. They moved to Alaska when Lydia was 9 years old. Richard came to the State in 1992 when he was fresh out of college, and like so many, they fell in love with the State and stayed. They raised their daughter, as I mentioned, in the town of Seward, AK. There are a little under 3,000 people there, and it is just an hour south of Anchorage. It is nestled between Resurrection Bay and soaring mountains. Its motto is ''Alaska starts here.''

I love Seward, AK. I get there as much as I can. I am going to be there in a couple of weeks, actually. It is known for stunning landscapes, a strong, generous community, and amazing people. So if you are visiting Alaska, you have to go to Seward.

Leslie and Richard signed Lydia up for swim classes when she was just a toddler. She joined the swim club when she was 6 years old. When she was 10, she was selected for the Alaska Swim Zone Team. State qualifying meets allowed her to go on trips. In between all of this, she was a musician, learning to play the guitar. She played at folk festivals. She was also in theater and in track—an all-around great athlete and an all-around great young woman.

As she excelled at swimming, her parents continued to be, in their words, ''surprised and amazed.'' Obviously, she has a deeply competitive streak, but you would not know it when you meet her. Her parents were surprised. ''In the right setting, that streak can really be turned on,'' Rich said. When she has a lousy race, she just shrugs it off. Her dad remembered one of her first swim meets when, halfway across the pool, she inhaled some water. She jumped out and didn't want to get back in. Well, she is back in. As her dad said, she has come a long way.

One of her coaches, Solomon D'Amico, describes her as ''kind, quiet, confident.'' He says she has an ''intense fire,'' and when she sets her mind to something, like the Olympics, she goes for it.

Now, neither of her parents pushed her too hard—they wanted the drive to come from her, not them—but it certainly did come from her.

Solomon, her coach, is a former marine and athlete. Alaska is full of intense runs—marathons, ultra-marathons—but one of the most challenging is in Seward, AK. It is called the annual Mount Marathon Race, the Fourth of July, in Seward, a grueling 1.5-mile climb almost straight up and straight back down Mount Marathon. He has run this 24 years in a row. That is tough—Solomon, her coach.

Solomon really didn't know much about swimming when he started coaching the small Seward swim team. In fact, Seward, AK, doesn't even have an Olympic-size swimming pool, but they all worked hard. He encouraged them to be the best that they could be—to enjoy life but to also lift weights. Strength, Solomon said, is needed to excel in swimming, particularly at the breaststroke.

Lydia took to the weight rooms. She swims between 5 to 7 days a week, 1-hour to 90-minute sessions. She lifts weights about 3 hours a week. And as Solomon has said, ''You want . . . athletes to be more process than outcome driven.''

Lydia fell in love with all the hard work. No one was ever going to give her a hard time if she missed a practice or a session, but every single opportunity she had to swim, she would be there.

Well, on Sunday, Lydia will head to Hawaii to train with Team USA. Then, a few weeks later, she will head to Tokyo.

Now, because of COVID restrictions, unfortunately, her parents won't be there to watch in person. Her father said: ''It's a [bit of a] weird thing to send your kid across the world. But she's an experienced traveler and there are great people involved with USA swimming.''

''We are over the moon proud of her,'' her dad said.

So are we. We are so proud of you, Lydia. You are a role model for so many aspiring swimmers, not just across Alaska but across the country. So thank you for representing Alaska and our Nation so well.

Good luck in the Olympics. Congratulations on your success and congratulations on being our Alaskan of the Week.

DEFENSE BUDGET

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, as my colleague from Oklahoma Senator LANKFORD just gave a wonderful speech on the Fourth of July, we are all focused on heading home for the Fourth of July, celebrating freedom, celebrating our independence, celebrating liberty.

And we all know that that freedom is not free. There is a saying at the Korean War Memorial, etched in stone, that says those very words: ''Freedom is not free.''

The sacrifices of our military are something that all of us are going to be thinking about over the course of the Fourth of July week, weekend, as we

celebrate and commemorate American liberty, American independence, and American freedom.

Our military has helped us provide that, both here at home but also, importantly, abroad.

I had the opportunity to go on a congressional delegation—Senate delegation with two of my Senate colleagues, Senator COONS and Senator DUCKWORTH, a couple weeks ago to Korea—South Korea and Taiwan.

And it doesn't matter where you are from in America, whether you are a Democrat or a Republican, when you go overseas and you go to countries like that, countries and places that literally exist because of the sacrifice of the American military, it makes you humble, and it makes you proud.

South Korea and Taiwan—vibrant economics, vibrant democracies. And if you know the history, those two places wouldn't be that way if it weren't for the sacrifice, literally, of tens of thousands of Americans.

It is no exaggeration to say—whether it is in those places or in places at home or in Europe or in Asia—that the United States has been one of the most powerful forces for liberating humankind from oppression and tyranny than any other force in the world.

Think about it. Hundreds of millions of people across the world and in our own country, over the decades, have been liberated by men and women wearing the uniform of the United States.

As we contemplate the Fourth of July week, weekend, that is something every American can take pride in and should take pride in.

But as we all know, freedom is not free. Many of us think that defending our Nation should be our priority No. 1 as part of our job in the U.S. Senate. Budgets are a reflection of an administration's values and priorities.

And if you look at this budget—this is the $6 trillion blowout budget of the Biden administration, where up here you have every single Federal Agency with double-digit—20-percent increases, 40-percent increases, 15-percent increases across the board.

The two Agencies charged with the national security of our Nation, the Department of Defense and Homeland Security, in terms of priorities for this administration, are dead last.

Actually, if you adjust the budgets for inflation, these are cuts—almost 3 percent cut in our military budgets and probably close to 4 to 5 percent for Homeland Security.

Budgets reflect values of administrations and priorities, and this administration, right now, is prioritizing our military and our national defense dead last.

We had the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in front of the Armed Services Committee last week, and I showed them this chart, and I asked them: How can you tell the troops that you lead that this administration prioritizes our military and national defense over other missions of the Federal Government?

They couldn't give a really good answer because there is no good answer. If you look at this chart, if you look at the Biden administration's budget, they are prioritized at the bottom.

This is a battle of ideas, and when we come back from the Fourth of July recess, we are going to have this battle. I know I have colleagues, Democrats and Republicans—I have spoken to many on both sides of the aisle—who fundamentally disagree with this—fundamentally disagree with this.

You might remember last summer we had a debate when Senator SANDERS brought forth his defund the Pentagon amendment. That is what he called it. At the height of defunding the police, we had Senators saying we are going to now defund the Pentagon—15 percent across-the-board cuts to the military. That is what Senator SANDERS wanted.

By the way, Senator SCHUMER was a cosponsor of that.

And now they are in charge here, the majority leader, the chairman of the Budget Committee, and in many ways they are getting what they wanted—almost 3 percent cut to our military.

I guarantee it is not what the American people want; it is not what my constituents want; and I don't think it is what the vast majority of U.S. Senators want.

So we are going to battle this. We are going to battle this, and I am going to ask my Senate colleagues on both sides of the aisle to work with me to reject this. We need to reject this. We shouldn't prioritize our military dead last, which is what the Biden administration and, unfortunately, some of my colleagues here are doing.

I would like to end by just noting that tomorrow is actually another anniversary. We were talking about the Fourth of July, but June 25 is the 71st anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean war, which was June 25, 1950.

Unfortunately, not enough Americans, in my view, have a lot of knowledge of the Korean war. It is even called the forgotten war. I don't think it should be called the forgotten war. It should be called the noble war because Americans went to a place they didn't even know to defend freedom, which they did after a hard, difficult, violent struggle.

But in the summer of 1950, we lost thousands and thousands of young Americans, young American soldiers, young American servicemen. Why?

Because they were not prepared to fight. We went from 1945, having probably the most formidable military in the history of the world, to 5 years later—because of defense cuts, because of lack of leadership by civilian and military leaders in the United States—a military that could not fight, a military where we lost thousands of young American soldiers because they weren't ready because budgets had been gutted.

We can never allow that to happen again, and as we head into the Fourth of July weekend to celebrate the Fourth of July and our hard-fought freedoms and liberty, we need to look at this budget, come back here and say to the President and others: We are not—we are not going to prioritize the national security of our Nation last.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

AFGHANISTAN

Mr. KING. Madam President, I rise to talk about a moral obligation and a national security obligation.

We are leaving Afghanistan after 20 years, the longest war in the country's history. During the entirety of that 20 years, there were brave people in Afghanistan—Afghanistan people—who helped us, who were translators, who were guides, who assisted us in the struggle against terrorism and in the struggle against the Taliban.

And as we leave, those people are in grave danger. The Taliban has made no secret of the fact that they are in grave danger. They have already started killing them.

If we leave without providing for the safety of those people, providing them a way to maintain their lives, it will be a stain on this country that will exist for generations.

Not only is it a moral and ethical obligation, though, it is a national security obligation because if we don't take care of the people who took care of us, who is going to come to our aid the next time? Who is going to come to the aid of the Americans who turn their backs on those that risk their lives on behalf of this country? The answer is no one.

So this is not only an ethical and moral obligation, this is a matter of national security in terms of our standing in the world and our ability to work with allies and others against adversaries of this country and other countries in the world.

The average time, I am told, it now takes to process the paperwork for one of the people whom we are trying to get out of Afghanistan through the special visa program is 600 days. We are going to have a military presence in Afghanistan less than 90 days. There is a mismatch there.

We have got to take steps to protect these people. Now, maybe its surging—we have talked about military surges; let's surge some paperwork people to get this work done faster. But I don't believe we are going to be able to do that.

Now, by the way, I am not saying we open the door to everyone—there are 18,000 people on their list; that is not to mention their families—that we just open the door and say everybody come here because, as we know, Afghanistan has been the home to very dangerous terrorist groups, al-Qaida, ISIS, and others.

So we do have to have some processing, but we have to be able to process these people in a way that protects

us in terms of our national security but also gets them out of harm's way. One possibility—and I am delighted that just a few hours ago, the President mentioned that he is going to be working with other countries to find a safe place to move these people while we are doing the processing. I think that is exactly what we have to do. We can't just hope that when we leave in August or September 11, as the deadline the President has established, that we just hope that the Taliban won't take over Kabul, that the Taliban won't take over other regions of the country and start murdering people who helped us.

This isn't a speculative problem. This isn't something we think may happen. They have told us it is going to happen. And I have learned all my life, believe people when they tell you what they are going to do, and this is one of those situations. We know what is coming. If what ends up coming is a bloodbath, that blood is on our hands.

I have talked about the national security, but I think, more important, this is a moral and ethical obligation to meet the safety needs of those people who have helped us. I have friends who have fought in Afghanistan, and they are agonized about this. They are agonized about what is going to happen to people that they know, that they have worked with, and that have put their lives on the line for America. What is going to happen to those people when we leave?

This is a moment of test for this country. This is a trial for us, and history is going to judge us as to how we meet this test. This isn't something—we are not talking about landing a man on the Moon or some kind of terrible technological challenge; this is just putting resources in the right place and making the arrangements to take care of these people. It can be done. It can be done. And if it isn't done, shame on us.

I know that is a phrase that is often used, but it fits in this case. If we don't protect those who protected us, shame on us.

On December 1, 1862, Abraham Lincoln came to this Capitol to talk about the course of the Civil War and what was happening. And he was trying to move the Congress out of the politics as usual as they dealt with this extraordinary crisis. His final words echo over the last 100-plus years, and I think they apply exactly today. Here is what Abraham Lincoln said:

> Fellow-citizens, we cannot escape history. We of this Congress and this administration, will be remembered in spite of ourselves. No personal significance, or insignificance, can spare one or the other of us. The fiery trial which we [now] pass, will light us down, in honor or dishonor, to the latest generation.

This is a test of the moral integrity of this country. We must—we must—defend those who have defended us from a peril that we know is imminent.

This fiery trial through which we pass this summer, will light us down—we in the Congress and the administration, as Lincoln said, ''will light us down, in honor or dishonor, to the latest generation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNOCK). The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, let me commend the stirring and thought-provoking words of my colleague from Maine, Senator KING, about our responsibility with respect to those who aided and assisted us in Afghanistan and the status of this Special Immigrant Visa Program.

I think we have to begin with the decision to leave, which puts these individuals at risk. In many respects, President Biden's hands were tied from the outset with regard to our policy in Afghanistan. He inherited a flawed agreement from the Trump administration, which required the United States to withdraw all military forces by May 1 in exchange for the Taliban's agreement not to attack the U.S. and coalition forces and to constrain al-Qaida from using Afghanistan as a safe haven.

It does not appear that the Taliban has observed many of the conditions of this agreement, but we have observed the condition of leaving promptly. The President originally set a date of September 11, but military personnel have been able to rapidly redeploy, and within weeks, we should be moving all of our military personnel.

The manner in which this agreement was reached was also deeply flawed. It was negotiated exclusively between the Trump administration and the Taliban, keeping our allies, even the Afghan Government, out. President Trump's go-it-alone, rush-to-the-exits mentality led to a deal where the Taliban emerged as the key benefactor while the United States and our allies won very little. And while the Taliban has held the condition of not attacking the United States or its allies, as I indicated before, the remaining conditions were virtually unenforceable. By any measure, the Taliban has clearly violated the spirit of the agreement as overall violence inside Afghanistan has steadily increased over the last year. The Taliban has also not made clear that it will constrain al-Qaida as required by the agreement.

During this transition period, the Taliban has gained enormous momentum on the battlefield. As the Washington Post recently reported, Taliban commanders, motivated by their battlefield gains, have ''overrun a number of Afghan bases, even as U.S. air support for the Afghan army has dwindled, and set up numerous checkpoints along the main highways leading in and out of Kabul.''

At least 24 Afghan commandos and police officers were killed in an ambush by the Taliban in northern Afghanistan just last week.

It appears that the Taliban's tactics will only continue to intensify as the transition of U.S. and coalition personnel continues, especially as our airstrikes decline. According to the New York Times, there have been multiple instances where the Taliban, taking advantage of the situation, has been able to negotiate the surrenders of Afghan forces. By their count, since May 1, at least 26 outposts and bases have surrendered after such negotiations.

Violence has increased against the civilian population as well, including a horrific attack against a school outside of Kabul, chillingly timed to target teenage girls leaving class.

The Taliban's steady gains are contrasted with peace talks in Doha that appear to be going at a glacial pace. With these dynamics, the Taliban has no strategic interest to sit down and discuss power sharing. The government of Afghanistan appears to hold a much weaker hand in these negotiations, having proven unable to govern in a way that earns the confidence of the people.

These concerning political and security developments are playing out against the backdrop of regional players that should have high incentives to cooperate to ensure stability and security of Afghanistan. However, nations like Iran, Russia, and China may in fact be working at cross-purposes to the U.S. interests, and others, such as Pakistan, could be using their influence in a much more constructive manner than they are today.

Taken together, these dynamics create a highly challenging landscape. If not addressed deliberately, they could cause a cascade of instability both inside Afghanistan and across the region. To mitigate such an outcome, we must exercise caution and plan prudently.

And again, echoing the comments of Senator KING, this brings me to one of the most immediate and pressing consequences of the situation. How do we help those whose lives were put on the line because they assisted the United States?

There are many press reports of the Taliban threatening Afghan civilians who helped us. USA Today profiled one Afghan interpreter who explained: ''If the U.S. forces leave Afghanistan . . . I cannot guarantee for one minute what's going to happen with me, with my family.''

These threats cannot be ignored. We must demonstrate that we have the capacity to protect those who have a target on their backs because of their association with the United States. More than that, we must ensure that we continue to secure the irreplaceable assistance of the people who willingly risk their lives to help the United States the next time our servicemembers are in a conflict in a distant land. If we set the example of leaving those who assisted us behind, who will assist us in the future?

Currently, the processing of Afghan candidates through Special Immigration Visas or SIVs, which the State Department says is the primary focus, may prove too little, too late. While

the backlog of candidates is 18,000 today, it is unclear how many potential SIV candidates will feel compelled to apply as conditions change on the ground. Processing applications has been further complicated by a long vetting process, declining security conditions, and a recent spike in COVID cases across Afghanistan, which has forced the Embassy to shut down visa interviews. In order to handle the demand, we must add at least 20,000 additional visas for the next fiscal year and do so immediately and find other ways to further streamline the process, as Senator KING described.

We may also come to find that the SIV category does not encompass all those Afghans who would likely be targeted by the Taliban. We should be identifying others who may be at risk and start planning to ensure the safety of those who would seek asylum as a consequence of a potential Taliban takeover or if control of the country fractures.

Now is the time to think about creative solutions and, importantly, understand what will be necessary to ensure that we live up to our moral obligations. I know full well that the United States is capable of this. We have been publicly assured by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, General Milley, and Commander of Central Command, General McKenzie, that the military can carry out such an evacuation, if directed to do so. We have successfully conducted evacuations of refugee populations in the past, including a significant number of Vietnamese refugees in 1975, Iraqi Kurds in 1996, and Kosovo Albanians in 1999. It is imperative that we deliver upon our promises now.

Providing safe harbor for these Afghans who are most vulnerable is front of mind, but we must also ensure that there is a farsighted planning process across the board to ensure success following the transition of our military forces. And I would like to quickly highlight several key questions.

First, can the United States and its allies and partners continue to constrain the threat from terrorist groups like al-Qaida and ISIS that would seek to use Afghanistan as a base for operations?

The Biden administration has discussed its intent to conduct over-the-horizon operations, but we need to ensure that we have accounted for this complexity and are postured for success.

Second, how will the United States continue to distribute and oversee aid to the Afghan Government and Afghan security forces? The Afghan Government remains unable to generate enough revenue to independently fund its military operations, instead relying almost solely on foreign contributions.

We must have robust mechanisms in place to ensure the aid is provided and goes to the intended places.

Third, how can the international community assist the Afghan security forces with maintaining readiness, particularly air power—after all international contractors depart the country? Again, that is another term of the Doha agreement. After 20 years, we have not created a cadre of individuals inside Afghanistan who can independently conduct high-level maintenance on its aircraft, which raises serious questions about how the Afghans can continue air operations without international contracting support.

Fourth, does the international community have real leverage to affect Taliban behavior through political and diplomatic channels? Now is the time to understand what levers are available to mitigate a potentially disastrous situation for the people of Afghanistan, and particularly that of women and girls.

Fifth, will NGOs be able to continue activities to benefit the people of Afghanistan? There appears to be a lack of coordination, including by the Department of Defense, to ensure deconfliction methods are appropriately transitioned to the Afghan Government, which puts humanitarians at risk and could delay the delivery of lifesaving assistance to populations living in hard-to-reach areas.

The time to address these challenges is now. I urge the Biden administration to continue to work through these pressing issues, and I call upon Congress to assist where we can. The consequences of inaction are too great to risk. We must rapidly increase the number of SIV visas, and we must, along with the administration, plan for all the contingencies that I have outlined.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 1520

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I rise for the 15th time, today, to call for every Senator to have the opportunity to consider and cast their vote for the Military Justice Improvement and Increasing Prevention Act. This bill would move serious crimes like sexual assault out of the chain of command and put them in the hands of the most capable people in the military: independent, impartial, highly trained prosecutors.

I began calling for the full floor vote on May 25. That was about a month ago. In that month, an estimated 1,736 servicemembers will have been raped or sexually assaulted. More will have been victims of other serious crimes. Many will not even report those crimes because they lack faith in the system where cases are decided by their commanders, not by trained lawyers. And yet this vote continues to be delayed and denied day after day, week after week.

I have heard proponents of this bill argue that we can't make this change because the military lacks the lawyers necessary to carry out the work. Today, I would like to address this one unfounded claim.

Let's look at the numbers. The Navy, for example, has an Active Duty population of just over 330,000 members. Their military justice system has 935 military lawyers, or judge advocates known as JAGs. That number includes more than 100 special litigators and 85 at the 06-level JAG, which means the colonel or above commanders. And last year, they completed just 78 general courts martial, which are usually cases involved in serious felonies that our bill discusses.

Now, let's look at the civilian counterpart. Take the San Diego County District Attorney's Office. San Diego County has a population of 3.3 million people. To serve that population, the DA's office has just 300 prosecutors who handle 40,000 cases a year.

So the Navy has one-tenth of the population but three times the lawyers. In total, our armed services have just over 1.3 million members and more than 4,000 JAGs. The issue with our military justice system is not that it lacks the lawyers. It is that it does not entrust the most serious crimes to the people who are most professional and trained to address them.

In fiscal year 2020, the armed services completed 720 general courts martial, and in fiscal year 2019, they completed 895 general courts martial. If 300 prosecutors in San Diego County can handle 40,000 cases a year, I trust that more than 4,000 JAGs in our military, some of our Nation's best and brightest, can handle 895 general courts martial.

I have trust in those military lawyers' ability to handle these cases because they are in fact already working on them. This reform would not give them more work. Instead, it would relieve them of the time-consuming work it takes to get a commander properly briefed on cases and allow them to make decisions on those cases instead of just making recommendations to commanders.

In short, making this reform would not require finding a host of new lawyers to do this work or to overtax the lawyers our military already has. Any claims otherwise are nothing more than a delay tactic.

The Military Justice Improvement and Increasing Prevention Act will deliver results our servicemembers and their families deserve. It is supported by the experts, by servicemembers, and by a bipartisan, filibuster-proof majority of Senators, and it is time we bring this to the floor.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Republican leader, the Senate Armed Services Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 1520 and the Senate proceed to its consideration; that there be 2 hours for debate equally divided in the usual form; and that upon the use or yielding

back of the time, the Senate votes on the bill with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Rhode Island is recognized.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, once again, I object to the Senator's request for reasons I have previously stated. But in addition, on Tuesday night, Secretary of Defense Austin released a statement stating that he had received the Independent Review Commission's recommendations and that the administration will work with Congress to remove the prosecution of sexual assault and related crimes from the military chain of command, a recommendation I agree with. I made that clear for weeks now.

And this statement makes it clear that the argument before us is not about removing sexual assault or crimes connected to sexual misconduct from the chain of command. The argument is about removing felonies like barracks larceny, destruction of government property of a significant value, and crimes that have been handled by the military chain of command effectively for years and years and years.

In addition, Secretary Austin notably praised the comprehensive nature of the IRC's assessment across all four lines of effort, not just military justice reforms, but, as importantly, prevention, climate and culture, and victim care.

The necessity to approach this issue in a holistic and comprehensive manner is vitally important if we want to actually reduce the incidence of sexual assault in the ranks. We would be naive to believe we can simply prosecute ourselves out of this problem. That isn't how this will work.

Accountability is important, but it must be part of a larger reform, and I hope we can all agree that it is far preferable to prevent a sexual assault than simply to prosecute one.

Finally, I want to highlight Secretary Austin's statement that the Department will need new resources and authorities to implement these recommendations. It must work with Congress to secure additional authorities and relief where needed, as well as additional personnel, funding, and sufficient time to implement them.

And so, as I have said a number of times already, I intend to include the administration's recommendations that derive from the President's Independent Review Commission in the markup of the defense bill, subject to amendment.

Colleagues who have dedicated themselves for many years to issues of national defense and are knowledgeable of the UCMJ will have an opportunity to make amendments, to make suggestions, to debate this bill in detail, and then the result will be reported to the floor of the Senate, and all Senators will have such an opportunity. That is what we have done traditionally, particularly when it comes to significant changes in the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

And with that, I would reiterate my objection to the Senator from New York's request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I also commend General Austin on his recommendations. He is the first Secretary of Defense in the last 10 years—in the last real 100 years—that has said that sexual assault and related crimes should be taken out of the chain of command, of which I agree completely. He has also acknowledged that it is not necessary for good order and discipline or command control that the convening authority be the commander. The convening authority can be the prosecutor, which is our bill.

The reason why we advocate for a bright line is that while sexual assaults are handled poorly within the military, so are other crimes when it comes to racial disparity. We have evidence that has been detailed and reported by the Department of Defense that if you are a Black servicemember, you are up to 2.61 times more likely to be prosecuted or punished for crimes due to racial bias within the military justice system.

So if we want a military justice system that is fair for everyone, both plaintiffs and defendants, we need a bright line around all serious crimes. I believe that if you allow trained military prosecutors the ability to review the case files for all serious crimes, more cases of sexual assaults will go forward and end in conviction, and then the bias that is seen in other cases will also be reduced.

So for the chairman to say that there is no evidence that the command hasn't been doing a good job in other crimes, I would say that is not true. There is a great deal of evidence that there is racial bias in how our military justice system is used at the detriment to Black and Brown servicemembers.

Second, I would like to say that the commission's recommendations are expansive and excellent, and we look forward to receiving those recommendations. Those recommendations may well require additional personnel and additional resources because they are across many lines, not just about prosecution.

My bill, the Military Justice Improvement and Prevention Act, does not require more resources or more personnel because it is literally creating a bright line of felonies, and while those prosecutors are normally prosecuting those cases, the only change is they get to see the case file first. They get to make a judgment about whether there is enough evidence, and if there is not, it goes right back to the commander where it was.

So I agree that General Austin's statements are important and meaningful. I agree that the commission's work is excellent, and I look forward to supporting them and turning them into law. But I disagree strongly that the broader reform of a bright line around felonies isn't needed because it is, and it shows in the prosecution of sexual assaults, and it shows in the racial disparity of convictions and prosecutions and nonjudicial punishment for Black servicemembers.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday, President Biden announced that his administration would attempt to combat the alarming rise of violent crime unfolding in cities across our country by making it harder for law-abiding Americans to exercise their constitutional right to keep and bear arms. And today our colleagues on the Judiciary Committee voted on the nomination of a person the President intends to lead the effort. David Chipman was tapped to be Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

If he is confirmed, this nominee would bring to the job a dangerous and unprecedented hostility to the Second Amendment. We know it from his record as an anti-gun extremist, and we know it from the reputation he earned among ATF veterans as an ''activist'' and ''a rabid partisan.''

It should go without saying that these are exactly the wrong motivations to encourage at the helm of the Agency charged with firearms enforcement. Then again, it should also go without saying that responsible gun owners don't cause surges in violent crime; they actually prevent them.

Unfortunately, Democrats' latest bout of cognitive dissonance on crime didn't begin just this week. Let's consider what has unfolded over the past year. Last summer, across America, peaceful protests were overtaken by lawless rioters. For nights on end, violence and looting left cities in flames, and in too many State capitals and city halls, local officials froze under pressure from the left and failed to protect their citizens, their homes, and their businesses.

In fact, at every level of government, elected Democrats instead rapidly embraced radical calls to ''defund the police.'' To the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars, they succeeded in gutting local law enforcement budgets and

validating the worst instincts of the anti-police agitators.

The president of the Minneapolis City Council called on her colleagues to ''imagine a future without police.'' And sure enough, in Los Angeles, police were told to make do after a cut of $150 million. In Seattle, the police department budget shrank by nearly 20 percent. Defunding efforts here in Washington were passed by committee unanimously.

The Biden administration has amplified these efforts by appointing avowed supporters of defunding the police, like Vanita Gupta and Kristen Clarke, to high-ranking positions at the Justice Department, the Agency charged with enforcing Federal criminal law.

Now, we didn't have to imagine the consequences of betraying the brave officers charged with keeping the peace. Millions of Americans have been living this dangerous new reality literally for months. Last year closed with the Nation's sharpest 1-year increase in homicides in decades. In New York City, the murder rate jumped nearly 45 percent, and in my hometown of Louisville, it is already on pace this year to exceed last year's all-time record.

New fears arose in communities across the country, and as Democrats flirted with their imagined future without police, Americans did exactly what you would expect of a free people: They looked to their own defense and exercised their Second Amendment rights in record numbers. The FBI processed nearly 40 million background checks on gun purchasers last year, shattering previous records. And, nationwide, 40 percent of the guns sold last year were purchased by—listen to this—first-time buyers. In particular, members of racial minority groups joined the ranks of gun owners in record numbers.

So let's review. In city after city, powerful Democrats vocally refused to uphold their responsibilities to protect public safety. Violent crime filled the void. Against this backdrop, the American people chose to defend themselves by exercising a core constitutional right.

But now, as Democrats at the State and local level play politics with public safety, Democrats here in Washington want to make gun ownership in America more burdensome than ever. Prominent voices on the left, including some of our colleagues, fanned the flames of a dangerously misguided experiment, and law-abiding Americans are paying the price.

Here in the Senate, Republicans have been focused all along on making American communities actually safer. It is why we supported TIM SCOTT's efforts to pass police reform that empowered law enforcement to do their jobs very well rather than federalizing and defunding the police.

It is the reason that Chairman LINDSEY GRAHAM and 46 other Republican Senators joined me today to demand publicly that the Department of Justice cease its efforts to restrict the use of common pistol-brace devices by lawful gun owners. We are talking about a plan that would turn millions of law-abiding Americans into criminals with a stroke of the pen. It would be an outrageous violation, and we expect DOJ to withdraw this attempted confiscation. Federal law enforcement should focus on the criminals committing violent crimes in American cities, not on law-abiding gun owners.

So Republicans will continue to stand for Americans' Second Amendment rights, as a matter of public safety and of basic freedoms.

DEMOCRATIC AGENDA

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on another matter, as the Senate headed into the June work period, the Democratic leader laid out an agenda that was transparently designed to fail, a string of far-left proposals that were not intended to become law or to make a difference in the lives of the American people. They were designed to fail and provide political theater for liberal activists.

And sure enough, the Senate did reject Democrats' brazen attempt to rewrite the rules of American elections, permanently, to their own advantage. We did reject their bid to exploit the cause of paycheck fairness to fill the pockets of the trial bar. And other radical proposals, like the one to impose crushing legal penalties on organizations that failed to conform to leftwing social preferences, didn't make it to the floor.

But, let's remember, this was never just about policy. If our colleagues actually believed that the substance of their plans were viable, they would have submitted more to scrutiny in committee. We know how things work in this body when a narrow majority actually wants to make a law. That is not what we have actually seen.

So Senate Democrats weren't out to pass any legislation this month. Their designed-to-fail agenda was supposed to indicate that the institution of the Senate itself was somehow broken. And on this count, our friends across the aisle failed spectacularly.

See, the Framers designed the upper Chamber, our Chamber, to be a proving ground, a place where good ideas would rise to meet high standards and bad ones would actually fall flat. So this month our Senate colleagues proved that the Senate is working quite well.

We turned away an underhanded attempt to open American employers to a new form of unlimited predatory liability and a hostile takeover of our election system. And the whole time, productive work continued on bipartisan proposals that are actually—actually—intended to become law. From infrastructure to agriculture, many of our colleagues have been hard at work demonstrating the right way to go about legislating. In the Commerce and EPW Committees, they approved smart legislation with wide bipartisan votes. This morning on the floor, we considered another bill from Senator BRAUN that more than half of our colleagues actually cosponsored.

So as we head back to our home States and take time to celebrate our Nation's founding, let's double down on efforts like these and leave designed-to-fail partisan antics in June.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, now on one final matter, earlier today, a bipartisan group of infrastructure negotiators took the results of their efforts down to President Biden. It was an encouraging sign of progress after leading Democrats had gone out of their way to slow the process.

Remember, at the first sign of an agreement last night and then again this morning, both the Democratic leader and the Speaker of the House made it clear they would hold a bipartisan agreement hostage, demanding trillions of dollars in wasteful spending and job-killing tax increases in return for even considering it. The top two Democrats literally pulled the rug out from under their bipartisan negotiators with these unserious demands before they had even made it down to the White House.

So President Biden's show of support earlier today appeared to be a major breakthrough for earning Democrats' support, but, alas, that optimism was short-lived. Less than 2 hours after publicly commending our colleagues and actually endorsing the bipartisan agreement, the President took the extraordinary step of threatening to veto it. It was a tale of two press conferences—endorse the agreement in one breath and threaten to veto it in the next. Less than 2 hours. It almost makes your head spin. Less than 2 hours. As I said, it almost makes your head spin—an expression of bipartisanship and then an ultimatum on behalf of your leftwing base.

I have no doubt the President is under enormous pressure from some on the left to deliver on a laundry list of radical climate demands. The Democratic leader and the Speaker have already made clear they will do whatever it takes to keep their runaway spending train chugging along all summer, and more and more Members of their party are having to contort their positions to keep pace with the expectations of the Green New Deal fringe. But, really, caving completely in less than 2 hours? That is not the way to show you are serious about getting a bipartisan outcome.

So, look, I hope our colleagues can recover and get their good-faith efforts back on track.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip is recognized.

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this week marked the official start of summer, and by all means, it should be a

season of renewal in our Nation. But as we begin to emerge from this public health crisis of COVID–19, we find ourselves facing another crisis: an epidemic of gun violence in America.

The gun violence we are seeing in America today is devastating, and it is the direct result of generations of underinvestment, policy failure, and cycles of trauma.

Yesterday, President Biden spoke to the Nation about this challenge and laid out a clear strategy to keep our communities safe from the scourge of gun violence. The President has called for important reforms to crack down on gun trafficking and gun dealers who willfully violate the law. I agree with this strategy, and I will do everything in my power as chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee to support it.

Already, the administration has worked to rein in the proliferation of untraceable ghost guns. What are these guns? They are guns that can be ordered on the internet. They can be made in component parts with no serial numbers and are impossible to trace. The administration has also worked to issue regular reports on firearms trafficking patterns and trends and to promote model legislation to keep guns out of the wrong hands.

These are all important steps, and so is the President's call for a major commitment of Federal resources to support community violence intervention programs, programs like READI Chicago, which supports members of the community who are most at risk for gun violence with job training and other support. These programs help save lives in our city of Chicago, and they desperately need Federal support. President Biden made it clear yesterday that he is committed to this.

Every Monday, as sad as it is, the people of Chicago awaken to read the heartbreaking headlines about the toll gun violence has taken over the weekend. What was last weekend like in the city of Chicago? Fifty-two people were shot, five fatally.

Young children and babies don't escape this violence. More than 50 children under the age of 15 have been shot in Chicago this year: Kayden Swann, 1-year-old, shot in the head while riding in a car on Lake Shore Drive; 7-year-old Jaslyn Adams was shot and killed at a McDonald's drive-through on the West Side in April; 14-year-old Savanna Quintero, who was shot and killed earlier this month by gang members in the Back of the Yards neighborhood. These children are just a few of the more than 1,500 people who have been shot in Chicago this year.

Our city isn't alone in facing gun violence. We are seeing it across the Nation. And don't believe it is just a problem in blue States; red States face it too.

While a shooting can happen anywhere, the fact is gun violence has disproportionately claimed the lives of Black and Brown Americans living in communities where it is often easier to find a gun than a good-paying job.

I have visited schools across Chicago, and I have asked the students if they know someone who has been shot. In some neighborhoods, nearly every child's hand goes up. In fact, 90 percent of Chicago's homicides occur in neighborhoods where 60 percent of the city's youngest kids live and learn. And when their parents or siblings are shot, it causes damage that, unlike a bullet wound, cannot heal with time alone. Science shows us that trauma rewires children's brains and produces changes that can last a lifetime.

I often ask audiences: Think about your youth. Think about one event in your life that you still remember to this day. I hope it was a happy one. I hope it wasn't a sad one. But think about the fact that no matter how old you are, something that happened when you were a tiny kid is still very fresh in your memory.

Now think about a child who has witnessed a shooting or been the victim of a shooting. That is going to be with them for a lifetime unless we do something. Childhood trauma can make it harder for kids to learn and to form healthy relationships, and it can do serious harm to a child physically, mentally, and emotionally—harm that can change their lives.

But with the right care and support, kids and victims of gun violence can deal with trauma and rise above it. Across Illinois, I have seen programs in schools, hospitals, community centers, and churches that provide the nurturing environments and treatments our children who experience trauma need to thrive.

If we want to end the epidemic of gun violence, we need to invest in community-based solutions that end the cycles of trauma. Last week I joined Senators CAPITO, DUCKWORTH, and MURKOWSKI in introducing a bipartisan bill that will invest in those solutions: the RISE from Trauma Act. This bill would invest billions of dollars over the next 8 years in community-based efforts to support children and families who have endured trauma.

This aligns directly with what President Biden said yesterday and what he requested in his American Jobs Plan. It would help end violence where it begins—in environments where kids are neglected, abused, and left to fend for themselves.

This legislation would fund counseling for gunshot victims and expand our trauma-informed workforce—doctors, teachers, social service professionals, community leaders—to help kids who have experienced trauma.

I believe the RISE from Trauma Act will help offer a long-term solution to the epidemic of gun violence, but we also need to protect our families and neighborhoods in the short term.

In addition to immediate steps it has taken, the administration is asking us to address violent crime. I have been working with leaders in my State to make additional resources available. Earlier this week, Senator DUCKWORTH and I sent a letter to Governor Pritzker highlighting effective strategies for how to use more than $120 million in American Rescue Plan funds to help support targeted violence intervention efforts. These funds, which will help protect Illinois from violent crimes, are available now to help the police, to help the victims, to help the neighborhoods.

When we talk about really caring and really wanting to do something to make a difference, I am sorry that I have to remind the Senate that this bill, the American Rescue Plan, passed the U.S. Senate without a single Republican supporting it, not one—not one Republican vote.

To most effectively address the spike in gun violence, the Senate must also confirm the Director for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

I couldn't help but listen to the Republican leader who came to the floor to talk about David Chipman. He is a man who will be reported out of the Judiciary Committee and brought to the floor. He was considered today, in the Judiciary Committee—11 Democrats and 11 Republicans split along party lines on his vote. It was expected. But Senator SCHUMER can still bring his nomination to the floor.

It is no surprise that the Republicans opposed him, but let's put it in context for a moment. How many times have you heard a gun debate and you heard someone say, ''We don't need any new laws, we just need to enforce the laws we have. Don't dream up some new law that's going to burden someone who is an innocent, law-abiding gun owner, enforce the laws we have.''

So what Agency do we look to for that enforcement? Well, certainly, the Department of Justice. And where do they turn? They turn to ATF. That is the Agency that is supposed to keep an eye on how guns are being sold and whether the wrong people are buying them.

Well, let's look at the leader of the Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Agency under President Trump. I would like to give you his name or her name, but I can't because there was no leader. In 4 years, President Trump and Senate Republicans never put in place any single person to head this Agency. Was it an oversight, an accident? Far from it. Those who are on the side of increased gun rights at the expense of safety don't want anyone to lead this Agency. They want this Agency to go away.

David Chipman, a man with over 20 years' experience in the field, who worked for this law enforcement agency and risked his life in doing so, has been nominated by President Biden to head the Agency. And the Republicans can't stand the idea. The fact that an actual law enforcement agency person who has this experience would lead the Agency just drives them wild to think about it, and they are opposed to it.

Yes, it is true, he is for gun safety, and he has made it clear.

Let me tell you about a couple of radical ideas he had. He believes that we should keep guns out of the hands of felons and people who are mentally unable. Well, there is a radical idea when it comes to gun safety, so radical that 84 percent of the American people—some say 90 percent of the American people, including a majority of gun owners—support this idea, and so does Mr. Chipman. That makes him a radical in the eyes of some of our colleagues. To me, he is as mainstream as they come.

When it comes to assault weapons, for example, he believes there are some guns that really have no place in the ordinary self-defense, sporting, and hunting world and can only be used as machines for killing. Over half the American people happen to agree with him. I do too. For that reason, many Republicans oppose him. They say, ''He's a radical, he's a zealot.'' I have heard all these words.

He is a man who has lived his life through the ATF for more than 20 years. He has the support of law enforcement and deserves a chance to lead this Agency.

These ideas that he has—wouldn't it be wonderful if the U.S. Senate—think about that—the U.S. Senate could pass legislation to require background checks to keep guns out of the hands of convicted felons? The American people want it. We can't touch it.

You ask people on the committee, on the Republican side: Well, what should we do about gun violence? They have got an answer. What is their answer? We need more guns in America. We need more people carrying guns in America. Two or three of the members of the committee today on the Republican side, Senate Judiciary Committee, were proud to speak about this issue of concealed carry. One actually said she carries a gun. I don't know if she does it in the Capitol Building. That is her business. But that is how far it has come, this notion that the solution to gun violence is more guns when 109 people a day are dying in America from gun violence. This isn't happening in other nations around the world. We are unique, and we should be embarrassed by this unique situation that we have so much gun violence and gun death in America.

President Biden made it clear yesterday as well that this notion that he is for defunding the police is ludicrous. He called yesterday for billions of dollars to our police to do their job more effectively, and I support it. I want to make sure that the police who receive these funds are well trained and administer justice in a fair way and without the abuses that we have seen with the death of George Floyd and other instances.

Yes, invest in that, but have the wisdom to understand that the police need helping hands as well. The police would gladly give the issue of domestic violence over to social workers and psychologists, who really could get into this situation and find an effective solution that doesn't risk lives and doesn't endanger the lives of the police. They need a helping hand, and we should give it to them.

When it comes to law and order, I hear the Republican leader come to the floor and talk about the need for law and order, and I can't help but think it was just 2 weeks ago when he was given a chance to support a bipartisan commission to look into the worst lawlessness we have seen in the U.S. Capitol since 1813.

On January 6, 2021, thousands coming from the speech by President Trump formed an insurrectionist mob and descended on this Capitol. I will never forget that day as long as I live, and, yes, we ought to get to the bottom of it. Who financed that? Who planned that? Who was behind that? There are serious questions to be asked and answered. Who stopped the bill with the filibuster for a bipartisan commission asking and answering those questions? The same Senator who was coming here a few minutes ago giving a speech on law and order. It doesn't follow.

If Senator MCCONNELL believes we should have law and order, it should start with the Senate Chamber and the Capitol Building. Isn't that our first responsibility as elected Members? Of course it is. What happened January 6 cannot and should not be swept under the rug.

It is interesting to me, as I consider the nominees of the Biden administration and the reaction on the Republican side. Mr. Chipman was the latest victim of their attacks. Some on the political extreme even went so far as to doctor films so that it reflected the presence of Mr. Chipman at events he didn't even attend, events he had no business with as a member of ATF. That is the extent they will go to undermine the Biden administration's nominees.

And I can't help but notice that when it comes to assertive women of color, that really drives many Republicans to a level of rage. Vanita Gupta. Kristen Clarke. These women are extremely talented, professional women with amazing resumes who are now luckily serving this Nation because of a vote in the Senate, but the opposition to them went way beyond anything that was rational or explainable.

Senator MCCONNELL said we shouldn't make ownership of guns more burdensome. I think that is generally right, but if making sure that convicted felons don't own guns is a slight burden on those who are legally entitled to own guns, I think it is not too much to ask.

I am all for people exercising their Second Amendment rights to use guns safely, respectfully, follow the law, and store them, as well, in that same fashion, and to ask them to go through a background check to make sure they are qualified is not too much, and it saves lives in the process.

The gun lobby tries to stop the Senate from confirming the Director of the ATF, but we are going to move forward and do it. There wasn't a Senate-confirmed Director under President Trump. In fact, there hasn't been one since 2015. This man, Mr. Chipman, is extremely well qualified—25 years of experience. He worked in the field in Virginia, Texas, and Michigan. He knows the Agency inside and out. He is the right person.

Background checks—is that too much to ask? I don't think so. We should pass the bill. In March, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 8, a bipartisan bill to close the gaps in the background checks system. We ought to do the same.

Addressing gun violence is a top priority of the Senate Judiciary Committee. In fact, the committee has already held four hearings on the topic. The first was the day after the mass shooting—the most recent mass shooting in Boulder, CO, that left 10 people dead. Sadly, unimaginably—listen to this number, Mr. President—that was just one of 299 mass shootings in America so far this year. That is more than one mass shooting every single day. What is going on? How can we tolerate that situation in our country?

Yet, during the first hearing on gun violence in our committee, one of the Republican members of the committee described the hearing as ''ridiculous theater.'' Ridiculous theater. Do you want to know what ridiculous theater really looks like? It is filibustering a piece of gun safety reform like universal background checks supported by 90 percent of the people. It is calling for an enforcement of gun laws already on the books and blocking anyone from being confirmed who will do it. Ridiculous theater is tweeting slogans in response to a spike in gun violence rather than coming up with solutions.

The Presiding Officer knows as well as I do and maybe even better that there have been too many funerals, too many lives lost to the scourge of gun violence. Can we get serious for one moment on a bipartisan basis and dedicate ourselves to reducing gun violence and saving lives in America? We have a President who is ready to lead us in that direction. I hope my other colleagues on the other side of the aisle will join Democrats in enacting legislation to keep America safe.

I yield the floor.

REMEMBERING FATHER RAY DOHERTY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, there are some people who leave an indelible mark on your life, from the moment you meet them. On June 7, the Saint Michael's College community lost one such person with the passing of Father Raymond Doherty. As an alumnus of Saint Michael's College, I was shaped by the academic experience and lasting tight-knit community that a small college provides and will always feel a deep connection to the school. As a fellow alumnus, Father Doherty was a

pillar of the Saint Michael's community and played a fundamental role in guiding and molding not only the College but its students for decades.

Raymond J. Doherty was born and raised in Newton, MA, and in 1948 he enrolled as a student at Saint Michael's College in Colchester, VT, a journalism student and skilled pitcher on the varsity baseball team. Upon his graduation in 1951, Father Doherty served his country as a staff sergeant and combat correspondent in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean war.

In 1953, Father Doherty returned to Vermont and joined the Society of Saint Edmund at the Edmundite Novitiate in Putney, where he took his first vows in 1954. Father Doherty was ordained into the priesthood in 1958 at the Cathedral of Immaculate Conception in Burlington, VT. As an Edmundite priest, Father Doherty spent the subsequent decades working throughout Vermont, New England, and across the South during the civil rights era, where he preached, served the community, and worked to further the cause of social justice.

Although his assignments pulled him to different corners of the globe, his home was always Saint Michael's. After many terms as a member of the staff and Campus Ministry at Saint Michael's throughout the 1960s and 1970s, Father Doherty returned permanently to Saint Michael's in 1985. His career at Saint Michael's spanned a variety of roles in the admissions office, athletics department, and as campus chaplain. Until his passing, Father Ray, as he was affectionately known, remained deeply involved on the Saint Michael's campus and in the surrounding community.

He leaves behind a life and legacy that should be an inspiration to many. Father Ray, through his compassion, humility, and commitment to serving his community, exemplifies what it means to be a Vermonter and a true leader. He led by example and inspired his students and those around him to strive to understand and address the needs and circumstances of all, to lead with grace, and to tirelessly work to improve the lives of others.

Father Ray once told me that when the time came for him to be called home, he hoped to fall asleep here and wake up there. That stuck with me. It is a comfort to know that wish came true. Like the extended Saint Michael's College community, I will miss Father Doherty. His legacy will live on in the students he taught, the lives he impacted, and the words he preached. Father Ray will be deeply missed.

TRIBUTE TO BOB GRAY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the efforts and contributions of a longtime friend and advocate for dairy farmers in Vermont and across the country, Bob Gray. As he retires later this month, he leaves an enduring imprint on Vermont's bedrock agricultural sector.

I first met Bob in 1978 when he joined the staff of Vermont Senator Jim Jeffords, who passed away in 2014. Bob and Jim were an unstoppable force, pushing in the late seventies for Federal legislation that eventually became the 1981 federal Farmland Protection Policy Act. Bob understood the growing urgency of protecting the Nation's working landscapes from development, fragmentation, and speculation—and especially for rural States like Vermont. He also understood that, so long as farmers had a voice and a seat at the table, conservation and agriculture could be mutually reinforcing, not adversarial.

Bob's love for the land and those who steward it comes naturally, having been raised on a dairy farm in Cayuga County, NY. After earning his bachelor of science degree in animal science at Cornell University, he served the Nation as an Army officer in the First Infantry Division out of Fort Riley, KS, before joining the New York National Guard and serving for 3 more years, rising to the rank of captain.

Since 1990, Bob has led the Northeast Dairy Farmers Cooperatives, a trade association representing dairy farmers in Vermont and the region. Throughout the decades of challenging policy discussions and many farm bills, I could always count on Bob to provide me with sound counsel, always keeping the interests of Vermont's dairy farmers first and foremost. That counsel has always been especially important to me during challenging years for dairy, like this one has been. Dairy farmers across the United States are much stronger than they would now be were it not for Bob Gray's work.

Bob's immeasurable contributions to the dairy industry and our decades-long friendship are strong enough that I have welcomed him to join me at farm shows and agricultural fairs in New England, despite his unmitigated and puzzling cheerleading for the New York Yankees.

When Bob announced his retirement, I made sure to join his final board meeting with the Northeast Dairy Farmers Cooperatives. The farmers whom he has worked with and industry leaders who have relied on his expertise, including myself, will certainly feel his absence and miss his kindness. Beyond his advocacy, Bob has always been a good friend to Marcelle and me for so many years—something we will always cherish. As he embarks on this next and exciting part of his life, I want to acknowledge Bob's work and thank him for his decades of support for Vermont's dairy farmers and the U.S. dairy industry and wish him the best of luck.

RECOGNIZING WDEV RADIO

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, lost in the continuously emerging world of social media is the iconic bedrock of community news: radio. I would like to take a moment to celebrate a milestone in Vermont radio: 90 years on the air for WDEV. At 5:50 in the morning of Thursday July 16, 1931, the broadcasters at WDEV turned on their microphones for the very first time. Ninety years later, WDEV remains a Vermont institution, bringing colorful conversation, sports commentary, and great music to thousands of listeners every day. Growing up in Central Vermont, I have always enjoyed tuning in to WDEV. Throughout my time in the Senate, I have spoken to anchors and morning show hosts at WDEV more times than I can recall.

WDEV has been independently owned and operated by Radio Vermont since 1935. Radio Vermont was founded by Lloyd Squier, who ran the company for 44 years, until his death in 1979. From then until 2017, Lloyd's son, Ken, has been at the helm. Beginning in 1966, Ken has hosted the Saturday morning classic and a personal favorite: ''Music To Go To The Dump By.'' Ken still cohosts the program—what he calls the ''children's program for adults.'' ''Music To Go To The Dump By'' provides a fun, thoughtful and lighthearted weekly digest of the goings-on throughout the State, with commentary from its panel of hosts and their wide array of guests.

Whether it is ''Music To Go To The Dump By,'' the ''Vermont Viewpoint,'' or a race at Thunder Road, we Vermonters can always turn to WDEV for fresh and interesting programming that keeps us all smiling, engaged, and informed. While it is certainly challenging to catch a broadcast from here in the Nation's Capital, I am eager to listen in once I am back home in a few weeks' time. Congratulations to WDEV and the team at Radio Vermont on 90 years of community radio. Keep up the great work, and I look forward to calling in soon.

NOTICE OF A TIE VOTE UNDER S. RES. 27

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to print the following letter in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

To the Secretary of the Senate:

PN274, the nomination of David H. Chipman, of Virginia, to be Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, having been referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee, with a quorum present, has voted on the nomination as follows—

(1) on the question of reporting the nomination favorably with the recommendation that the nomination be confirmed, 11 ayes to 11 noes.

In accordance with section 3, paragraph (l)(A) of S. Res. 27 of the 117th Congress, I hereby give notice that the Committee has not reported the nomination because of a tie vote, and ask that this notice be printed in the RECORD pursuant to the resolution.

PRIDE MONTH

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, as we celebrate Pride Month, I want to take a moment to acknowledge some of the trailblazers and pioneers in the LGBTQ+ community who have led the fight for equality.

Our Nation—and the world—has come a long way since the first Pride parade was organized more than half a century ago. But that progress didn't come about on its own. It demanded sacrifice, from activists like Marsha P. Johnson, who led the Stonewall Uprising in New York City, and leaders like Harvey Milk, who gave his life to advance LGBTQ+ equality. And it also demanded courage, courage that we see on display every day.

Just this week, a defensive lineman for the Las Vegas Raiders, Carl Nassib, became the first active NFL player to come out as gay. In a video he posted, Mr. Nassib said he hopes that ''one day videos like this and the whole coming-out process are just not necessary . . . but until then I'm going to do my best and my part to cultivate a culture that's accepting, that's compassionate.'' That is really what Pride Month is all about, joining together to embrace our friends and loved ones exactly as they are and cultivating a culture that is more accepting and compassionate.

Carl Nassib's announcement this week is yet another reminder of how far the movement for LGBTQ+ equality has come, in my lifetime and even during my time in Congress. The year I was elected to the U.S. Senate, Congress passed the Defense of Marriage Act, a shameful piece of legislation that outlawed same-sex marriage. But less than two decades later, the Supreme Court corrected that mistake by making marriage equality the law of the land. The sixth anniversary of that decision, Obergefell v. Hodges, is coming up this Saturday, the same day as Chicago's Pride in the Park festival in Grant Park. It is a remarkable trajectory, and it is one nobody could have predicted when I first entered Congress. It also begs the question: What progress will our Nation achieve over the next 20 years?

Earlier this year, as chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I was honored to gavel in the Senate's first-ever hearing on the EQUALITY Act. It is a crucial piece of legislation that would strengthen civil rights protections for LGBTQ+ Americans and would explicitly prohibit discrimination in education, employment, housing, and other facets of everyday life. The EQUALITY Act has already passed the House, but it is currently languishing in this Chamber. Will we allow this Senate to once again stand as a bulwark against the tides of progress? Or will we join Carl Nassib—and others before him—in acting with courage?

This Pride Month, I hope we follow Mr. Nassib's lead, and I hope we do our part to cultivate a culture that embraces all of our Nation's children, exactly as who they are.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA, June 24, 2021.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 21–36, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of the Philippines for defense articles and services estimated to cost $120 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

HEIDI H. GRANT,
Director.

Enclosures:

TRANSMITTAL NO. 21–36

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of the Philippines.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment * $45 million.
Other $75 million.
Total $120 million.
Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Twelve (12) AGM–84L–1 Harpoon Block II Air Launched Missiles.

Two (2) ATM–84L–1 Harpoon Block II Exercise Missiles.

Non-MDE: Also included are containers; spare and repair parts; support and test equipment; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistical support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (PI–P–AAZ)

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: June 24, 2021.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Philippines—AGM–84L–1 Harpoon Air Launched Block II Missiles

The Government of the Philippines has requested to buy twelve (12) AGM–84L–1 Harpoon Block II air launched missiles; and two (2) ATM–84L–1 Harpoon Block II Exercise missiles. Also included are containers; spare and repair parts; support and test equipment; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistical support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total cost is $120 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a strategic partner that continues to be an important force for political stability, peace, and economic progress in South East Asia.

The proposed sale will enhance the Philippines' interoperability with the U.S. and other allied nations, making it a more valuable partner in an increasingly important area of the world. It will improve the Philippines' capability to meet current and future threats by providing flexible solutions to augment existing surface and air defense. The Philippine Air Force is modernizing its fighter aircraft to better support its own maritime security needs. This capability will provide the Philippine Air Force the ability to employ a highly reliable and effective system to counter or deter maritime aggressions, coastal blockades, and amphibious assaults. The Philippines will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractor will be The Boeing Company, St. Louis, MO. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require travel of U.S. Government or contractor representatives to the Philippines on a temporary basis for program technical support and management oversight.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 21–36

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The Harpoon missile is a non-nuclear tactical weapon system currently in service in the U.S. Navy and in 29 other foreign nations. It provides a day, night, and adverse weather, standoff air-to-surface capability and is an effective Anti-Surface Warfare missile. The AGM–84L incorporates components, software, and technical design information that are considered sensitive, to include:

The Radar Seeker.
The Radar Altimeter.
The GPS/INS System.
Operational Flight Program Software.
Missile operational characteristics and performance data.

These elements are essential to the ability of the Harpoon missile to selectively engage hostile targets under a wide range of operations, tactical and environmental conditions.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is CONFIDENTIAL.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that the Philippines can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of the Philippines.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 21–14, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of the Philippines for defense articles and services estimated to cost $2.43 billion. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

HEIDI H. GRANT,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 21–14

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of the Philippines.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* $1.12 billion.

Other $1.31 billion.

Total $2.43 billion.

Funding Source: National Funds

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Ten (10) F–16C Block 70/72 Aircraft.

Two (2) F–160 Block 70/72 Aircraft.

Fifteen (15) F100-PW–229EEP Engines or F110-GE–129D Engines.

Fifteen (15) Improved Programmable Display Generators (iPDG).

Fifteen (15) AN/APG–83 Advanced Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) Scalable Agile Beam Radars (SABR).

Fifteen (15) Modular Mission Computers 7000AH.

Fifteen (15) LN–260 Embedded GPS/INS (EGI) with SAASM and PPS.

Twenty-four (24) Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM) AIM–120C–7/C–8 or equivalent.

One (1) AIM–120 Guidance Section.

Forty-eight (48) LAU–129 Missile Launchers.

Three (3) KMU–572 Laser Joint Direct Attack Munition (LJDAM) Tail Kits.

Six (6) Mk–82 500lb Bombs.

Six (6) Mk–82 500lb Inert Training Bombs.

Six (6) FMU–152 or FMU–139 Fuzes.

Six (6) Sniper Advanced Targeting Pods (ATP) or Litening ATP.

Fifteen (15) Multifunctional Information Display System Joint Tactical Radio System (MIDS-JTRS) Aircraft Terminals.

Fifteen (15) M61Al Vulcan Anti-Aircraft 20mm Guns.

Non-MDE: Also included are AN/ARC–238 radios; Advanced Identification Friend or Foe with Combined Interrogator Transponder and Mode 5; Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing Systems II (JHMCS II) or Scorpion Hybrid Optical-based Inertial Tacker (HObIT); Integrated Electronic Warfare (EW) Suite; Electronic Combat International Security Assistance Program (ECISAP) support; AN/ALE–47 Countermeasure Dispenser Systems (CMDS); Joint Mission Planning Systems (JMPS) or equivalent; AIM–120 CATM; LAU–118 launchers with Advanced Launcher Interface Computer (ALIC); LAU–117 missile launchers; DSU–38 Precision Laser Guided Sensor for LJDAM; Harpoon interface adapter kits; PGU-28 High Explosive Incendiary (HEI) ammunition; PGU–27 ammunition training rounds (non HEI); Cartridge Actuated Devices/Propellant Actuated Devices (CAD/PAD); ARD–446 impulse cartridges; ARD–863 impulse cartridges; BBU-36/B impulse cartridges; BBU–35/B impulse cartridges; MK–124 smoke flares; MJU–7/B Flare Cartridge L463; BRU–61 Bomb Racks; BRU–57 bomb racks; MAU–12 bomb racks and TER–9A triple ejection racks; weapons support, test equipment, and missile containers; chaff and flare; Night Vision Devices (NVD) and support equipment and spares; secure communications; cryptographic equipment; aircraft and personnel support and test equipment; integration and test; weapons, ammunition, pylons, launcher adaptors, weapons interfaces, fuel tanks, and attached hardware; travel pods, precision measurement equipment laboratory, calibration, and simulators; spare and repair parts, repair and return services; maps, publications, and technical documentation; studies and surveys; classified/unclassified software and software support; personnel training and training equipment; facilities and facility management, design and/or construction services; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (PI-D-SAF).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: June 24, 2021.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Philippines—F–16 Block 70/72

The Government of the Philippines has requested to buy ten (10) F-l 6C Block 70/72 aircraft; two (2) F–16D Block 70/72 aircraft; fifteen (15) F100–PW–229EEP engines or F110–GE–129D engines; fifteen (15) Improved Programmable Display Generators (iPDG); fifteen (15) AN/APG-83 Advanced Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) Scalable Agile Beam Radars (SABR); fifteen (15) Modular Mission Computers 7000AH; fifteen (15) LN–260 Embedded GPS/INS (EGI) with SAASM and PPS; twenty-four (24) Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM) AIM-l 20C–7/C-8 or equivalent; one (I) AIM–120 Guidance Section; forty-eight (48) LAU–129 missile launchers; three (3) KMU–572 Laser Joint Direct Attack Munition (LJDAM) tail kits; six (6) Mk–82 5001b bombs; six (6) Mk–82 5001b Inert training bombs; six (6) FMU–152 or FMU–139 fuzes; six (6) Sniper Advanced Targeting Pods (ATP) or Litening ATP; fifteen (15) Multifunctional Information Display System Joint Tactical Radio System (MIDSJTRS) aircraft terminals, and; fifteen (15) M61A1 Vulcan Anti-Aircraft 20mm guns. Also included are AN/ARC–238 radios; Advanced Identification Friend or Foe with Combined Interrogator Transponder and Mode 5; Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing Systems II (JHMCS II) or Scorpion Hybrid Optical-based Inertial Tacker (HObIT); Integrated Electronic Warfare Suite; Electronic Combat International Security Assistance Program (ECISAP) support; AN/ALE–47 Countermeasure Dispenser Systems (CMDS); Joint Mission Planning Systems (JMPS) or equivalent; AIM–120 CATM; LAU–118 launchers with Advanced Launcher Interface Computer (ALIC); LAU–117 missile launchers; DSU–38 Precision Laser Guided Sensor for LJDAM; Harpoon interface adapter kits; PGU–28 High Explosive Incendiary (HEI) ammunition; PGU–27 ammunition training rounds (non HEI); Cartridge Actuated Devices/Propellant Actuated Devices (CAD/PAD); ARD–446 impulse cartridges; ARD–863 impulse cartridges; BBU–36/B impulse cartridges; BBU–35/B impulse cartridges; MK–124 smoke flares; MJU–7/B Flare Cartridge L463; BRU–61 Bomb Racks; BRU–57 bomb racks; MAU–12 bomb racks and TER–9A triple ejection racks; weapons support, test equipment, and missile containers; chaff and flare; Night Vision Devices (NVD) and support equipment and spares; secure communications; cryptographic equipment; aircraft and personnel support and test equipment; integration and test; weapons, ammunition, pylons, launcher adaptors, weapons interfaces, fuel tanks, and attached hardware; travel pods, precision measurement equipment laboratory, calibration, and simulators; spare and repair parts, repair and return services; maps, publications, and technical documentation; studies and surveys; classified / unclassified software and software support; personnel training and training equipment; facilities and facility management, design and/or construction services; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total cost is $2.43 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a strategic partner that continues to be an important force for political stability, peace, and economic progress in South East Asia.

The proposed sale will improve the Philippines' capability to meet current and future threats by enabling the Philippines to

deploy fighter aircraft with precision munitions in support of counterterrorism operations in the southern Philippines, increasing effectiveness and minimizing collateral damage. The Philippines is committed to modernizing its military forces and will have no difficulty absorbing this aircraft and services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Lockheed-Martin, Greenville, SC. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require the assignment of U.S. Government and contractor representatives (fewer than 20) to the Philippines to provide technical support for maintenance operations and to conduct flight and maintenance training.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 21–14

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The F–16 Block 70 weapon system is a fourth generation single-engine supersonic allweather multirole fighter aircraft and features advanced avionics and systems. It contains the General Electric F 110–129 engine, AN/ APG–83 radar, digital flight control system, embedded internal global navigation system, Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing Systems (JHMCS) II or Scorpion Hybrid Optical-based Inertial Tacker (HObIT) with Night Vision Device (NVD) capability, internal and external Electronic Warfare (EW) equipment, Advanced IFF, LINK–16 datalink, operational flight trainer, and software computer programs.

2. General Electric F 110–129 engine is an afterburning turbofan jet engine which delivers 29,400 lb_f (131 kN) thrust.

3. Improved Programmable Display Generator (iPDG) and color multifunction displays utilize ruggedized commercial liquid crystal display technology that is designed to withstand the harsh environment found in modern fighter cockpits. The display generator is the fifth generation graphics processor for the F–16. Through the use of state-of-the-art microprocessors and graphics engines, it provides orders of magnitude increases in throughput, memory, and graphics capabilities.

4. Scalable Agile Beam Radar (SABR) APG–83 is an Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar upgrade for the F–16. It includes higher processor power, higher transmission power, more sensitive receiver electronics, and Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR), which creates higher-resolution ground maps from a greater distance than existing mechanically scanned array radars (e.g., APG–68). The upgrade features an increase in detection range of air targets, increases in processing speed and memory, as well as significant improvements in all modes.

5. Modular Mission Computer (MMC) 7000AH is the central aircraft computer of the F–16. It serves as the hub for all aircraft subsystems and avionics data transfer.

6. The Embedded GPS/INS (EGI) with Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM) is a self-contained navigation system that provides the following: acceleration, velocity, position, attitude, platform azimuth, magnetic and true heading, altitude, body angular rates time tags, and coordinated universal time (UTC) synchronized time. SAASM enables the GPS receiver access to the encrypted P(Y) signal providing protection against active spoofing attacks.

7. The AIM–120–C7 Advanced Medium Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM) is a supersonic, airlaunched, aerial intercept, guided missile featuring digital technology and micro-miniature solid-state electronics. The missile employs active radar target tracking, proportional navigation guidance, and active Radio Frequency target detection. It can be launched day or night, in any weather, and increases pilot survivability by allowing the pilot to disengage after missile launch and engage other targets. This sale will include AIM–120 Guidance Section spares. AMRAAM capabilities include lookdown/shootdown, multiple launches against multiple targets, resistance to electronic countermeasures, and interception of high- and low-flying maneuvering targets.

8. LAU–129 Guided Missile Launcher is capable of launching a single AIM–9 (Sidewinder) family of missiles or AIM–120 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM). The LAU–129 launcher provides mechanical and electrical interface between missile and aircraft.

9. Laser Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAM) (GBU–54/56) converts existing unguided freefall bombs into precision-guided ''smart'' munitions by adding a new tail section containing Inertial Navigation System (INS) guidance/Global Positioning System (GPS) guidance and adds a Semi-active laser seeker. This allows the weapon to strike targets moving at up to 70 mph. The LJDAM weapon consists of a DSU–38/40 sensor, a JDAM guidance set installed on a bomb body; and fuze. The DSU–38/40 consists of a laser spot tracker (same size and shape as a DSU–33 proximity fuze), a cable connecting the DSU–38/40 to the basic JDAM guidance set, a cable cover, cable cover tie-down straps, modified tail kit door and wiring harness, and associated modified JDAM software that incorporates navigation and guidance flight software to support both LJDAM and standard JDAM missions. FMU–152A/B, FMU–139 (all variants) and dummy fuzes are the standard fuzes to be used with this weapon. The quantities in this notification are for testing ad integration effort.

10. Mk–82 Inert General Purpose (GP) bomb is a 500lb, inert, free-fall, unguided, low-drag weapon.

11. FMU–152 or FMU–139 fuzes are multi-delay sensors compatible with weapon guidance kits, tail kits, high-explosive bombs, and reduced collateral damage weapons, which provide all arming and detonation event functions combined in a single fuze system.

12. Sniper Advanced Targeting Pods (ATP) or Litening ATP is a single, lightweight targeting pod for military aircraft that provides positive target identification, autonomous tracking, Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinate generation, and precise weapons guidance from extended standoff ranges. It incorporates a high definition, mid-wave, Forward-Looking Infrared (FLIR), dual-mode laser, visible-light, High Definition television (HDTV), laser spot tracker, video data link (VDL), and a digital data recorder.

13. Multifunction Information Distribution System Joint Tactical Radio System (MIDS–JTRS) is a four-channel software programmable radio for Link–16 digital voice communications and datalink, Tactical Air Navigation (TACAN), and advanced waveforms. Link–16 is a command, control, communications, and intelligence (C3I) system incorporating highcapacity, jam-resistant, digital communication links for exchange of near real-time tactical information, including both data and voice, among air, ground, and sea elements.

14. M61 20mm Vulcan Cannon is a six-barreled automatic cannon chambered in 20x 120mm with a cyclic rate of fire from 2,500–6,000 shots per minute. This weapon is a hydraulically powered air cooled Gatling gun used to damage/destroy aerial targets, suppress/incapacitate personnel targets, and damage or destroy moving and stationary light material targets.

15. AN/ARC–238 radio with HAVE QUICK II is a voice communications radio system that is equipped with HAVE QUICK II, which employs cryptographic technology. Other waveforms may be included as needed.

16. Advanced Identification Friend or Foe (AIFF) Combined Interrogator Transponder (CIT) is a system capable of transmitting and interrogating Mode V. Mode IV and Mode V anti-jam performance specifications/ data, software source code, algorithms, and tempest plans or reports will not be offered, released discussed, or demonstrated.

17. Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing System II (JHMCS II) or Scorpion Hybrid Optical-based Inertial Tacker (HObIT) is a device used in aircraft to project information to the pilot's eyes and aids in tasks such as cueing weapons and aircraft sensors to air and ground targets. This system projects visual targeting and aircraft performance information on the back of the helmet's visor, enabling the pilot to monitor this information without interrupting his field of view through the cockpit canopy. This provides improvement for close combat targeting and engagement.

18. Integrated Electronic Warfare (EW) Suite provides passive radar warning, wide spectrum Radio Frequency (RF) jamming, and control and management of the entire EW system. This system is anticipated to be internal to the aircraft, although mounted pod variants are used in certain circumstances.

19. AN/ALE–47 Countermeasure Dispenser Set (CMDS) provides an integrated threat-adaptive, computer controlled capability for dispensing chaff, flares, and active radio frequency expendables. The system is internally mounted and may be operated as a stand-alone system or may be integrated with other on-board Electronic Warfare (EW) and avionics systems. The AN/ALE–47 uses threat data received over the aircraft interfaces to assess the threat situation and determine a response. Expendable routines tailored to the immediate aircraft and threat environment may be dispensed using one of four operational modes.

20. Joint Mission Planning System (JMPS) or equivalent is a multi-platform PC based mission planning system that uses a set of developed applications built from a Framework, common components, and Unique Planning Components for a particular aircraft allowing aircrews to conduct detailed mission planning to support the full spectrum of missions, ranging from simple training to complex combat scenarios. Aircrews save the required aircraft, navigation, threat, and weapons data on a data transfer device that they load into their aircraft before flight.

21. The highest level of classification of information in this potential sale is SECRET.

22. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

23. A determination has been made that the Philippines can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

24. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of the Philippines.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 21–23, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of the Philippines for defense articles and services estimated to cost $42.4 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

AARON HARDING,
(For HEIDI H. GRANT, Director).

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 21–23

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of the Philippines.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* $27.8 million.

Other $14.6 million.

Total $42.4 million

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Twenty-four (24) AIM–9X Sidewinder Block II Tactical Missiles.

Twenty-four (24) AIM 9X Block II Captive Air Training Missiles (CATMs).

Six (6) Tactical Guidance Units.

Ten (10) Captive Air Training Missile (CATM) Guidance Units.

Non-MDE: Also included are containers, support and test equipment, spare and repair parts, personnel training and training equipment, publications and technical data, software delivery and support, U.S. Government and contractor technical assistance and other related support; and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (PI-P-AAY).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: June 24, 2021.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Philippines—AIM–9X Sidewinder Block II Tactical Missiles

The Government of the Philippines has requested to buy twenty-four (24) AIM–9X Sidewinder Block II tactical missiles; twenty-four (24) AIM–9X Block II Captive Air Training Missiles (CATMs); six (6) Tactical Guidance Units; and ten (10) Captive Air Training Missile (CATM) Guidance Units. Also included are containers, support and test equipment, spare and repair parts, personnel training and training equipment, publications and technical data, software delivery and support, U.S. Government and contractor technical assistance and other related support; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total cost is $42.4 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a strategic partner that continues to be an important force for political stability, peace, and economic progress in South East Asia.

The proposed sale will improve the Philippines' capability to meet current and future threats by enabling the Philippines to deploy fighter aircraft with a short range air-to-air missile defense capability. The Philippines Air Force is modernizing its fighter aircraft to better support its own air defense and maritime security needs. The Philippines will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractor will be Raytheon Missile Systems Company, Tucson, AZ. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require travel of U.S. Government or contractor representatives to the Philippines on a temporary basis for program technical support and management oversight.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 21–23

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The AIM–9X Block II Sidewinder Missile represents a substantial increase in missile acquisition and kinematics performance over the AIM–9M and replaces the AIM–9X Block I Missile configuration. The missile includes a high off-boresight seeker, enhanced countermeasure rejection capability, low drag/high angle of attack airframe and the ability to integrate the Helmet Mounted Cueing System. The software algorithms are the most sensitive portion of the AIM–9X missile. The software continues to be modified via a pre-planned product improvement (P3I) program in order to improve its counter-countermeasure capabilities. No software source code or algorithms will be released.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is CONFIDENTIAL.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that the Philippines can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of the Philippines.

CONFIRMATION OF DAWN O'CONNELL

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I would like to talk about the HHS Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response. The HHS Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, or ASPR, is in charge during a public health emergency and serves as the principal adviser to the Secretary on these matters. This is not a political or a personal choice for any administration; it is the law. I know because I helped write it. It is a national security position, responsible for keeping Americans safe from public health threats, like COVID–19. It is a role that we envisioned with two types of responsibilities. The ASPR serves an operational role. During an emergency, the ASPR coordinates the public health and medical response—whether that threat is a hurricane, a novel virus, or a chemical attack. The ASPR has the responsibility of overseeing the development, purchase, and deployment of lifesaving countermeasures, like the COVID–19 vaccine. The ASPR is also a policy job, assessing the threat landscape and adjusting our strategies to best position the United States for the threats we face today and in the future.

I am glad that today the Senate was able to confirm, by unanimous consent, Dawn O'Connell to be the ASPR. During Ms. O'Connell's nomination process for the job, she repeatedly agreed that she is ready to serve both roles and that the ASPR is in charge during public health emergencies. I believe her current role as a Senior Counselor to the HHS Secretary for COVID Response and her previous roles at HHS and in Congress have provided her with the skills necessary to fulfill the role of the ASPR. I was disappointed that it took the administration so long to nominate someone for this critical role, but I am pleased that they picked someone of Ms. O'Connell's qualifications. The ASPR is critical to the Nation's response and recovery to the COVID pandemic and preparing us against whatever comes next.

I helped orchestrate Ms. O'Connell's confirmation today when I am also releasing a white paper from my role as lead Republican on the Senate HELP Committee about the role of the ASPR. We have learned from two responses under two different administrations—Ebola under Obama and COVID under Trump—that despite Congress's bipartisan intent that the ASPR be in charge in an emergency, that hasn't worked quite the way we envisioned. So I have a series of recommendations to bolster the role of the ASPR and bring greater clarity to our government's response for future emergencies. The ASPR needs to have strong, effective leadership and play a key role in coordinating the Federal Government response. The ASPR needs to have the authority and resources to strengthen public-private partnerships in our medical countermeasures, medical supply chain, and healthcare system. And the ASPR needs to leverage innovation to expand our preparedness infrastructure. Senator MURRAY, the chair of our HELP Committee, and I are working together on bipartisan legislation to address the response to the pandemic, and these recommendations will see their way into that legislation this fall.

MASK MANDATE

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, if you have flown in the past year, you have heard the announcement at the beginning of every flight that says Federal law requires that passengers wear a mask. Well, the last I checked, we have a constitutional system, and Congress makes laws. Something is not required by Federal law unless Congress passes such a law and the President signs it. That is the only way something becomes a federal law in this country.

We are coming through a pandemic, and we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. Over 150 million people in the United States are fully vaccinated against COVID–19. Any American adult who wants to be vaccinated against COVID–19 can get vaccinated at this point, and the science should drive our decisions on how to open up. That is why today I introduced a resolution to encourage the CDC to review and update its guidance on wearing masks in confined spaces to clarify that people who are fully vaccinated against COVID–19 no longer need to wear a mask on public transportation in the United States, including at airports, on commercial flights, and on buses and rail systems, and for the Transportation Security Administration to update its travel guidance to track with the latest science. I was joined in this effort by Senators COLLINS, LUMMIS, WICKER, MORAN and BLACKBURN, and I appreciate their support.

The CDC has been quite clear that masks are not needed for people who are fully vaccinated. Science matters, and vaccines work. The mandate to wear masks on planes and on other modes of transportation—when they are no longer required in many businesses and restaurants for vaccinated people—is hurting the aviation industry.

If the objective is to encourage people to be vaccinated, one way to do that is for there to be a real difference in what you can do after being vaccinated. Repealing this requirement to wear masks on airplanes, at airports, and on public transportation would increase demand, increase travel, and would tie the policy to science. It is a commonsense step to take, and I hope more of my Senate colleagues will join us in encouraging the CDC to follow the science.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DAN HENDRIX

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Dan Hendrix, who is retiring as president and chief executive officer of the World Trade Center Arkansas and associate vice chancellor of the Division of Economic Development at the University of Arkansas after a remarkable career dedicated to economic growth in the Natural State.

Dan is a proud Arkansan who has spent his life demonstrating his commitment to the State and developing opportunities to help businesses grow and flourish. He learned the tools that helped him succeed at the University of Arkansas and Arkansas State University, where he earned a bachelor of science in business administration with minors in marketing and management.

He started his career at ABF Freight System, where he established the subsidiary Container Carrier Corporation to transport ocean containers to and from major ports in the United States and throughout the world. Under his guidance, the company expanded import and export operations to U.S. ports of entry, and he served in several leadership positions within the company. He brought his skills to an Oklahoma Transportation Company in 1998.

In 2001, Dan joined the University of Arkansas and established the Office of Corporate and Foundation Relations, where, among other successes, he led efforts to raise more than $1 billion for the university as part of the institution's Campaign for the Twenty-First Century.

As president and CEO of World Trade Center Arkansas, Dan has used his talent and experience to help connect businesses in the State with international partners since its creation in 2007. His efforts have resulted in significantly increased exports of Arkansas goods and job growth. Today, businesses from all over Arkansas export products to nearly 200 countries and support 350,000 jobs in the State.

During Dan's tenure as leader of the World Trade Center Arkansas, he has also educated university students in global commerce through the center's student intern program. The center has hosted dignitaries from more than 50 countries and enhanced diplomatic relations between the State of Arkansas and the United States with a variety of nations and economic partners.

I applaud Dan for his outstanding leadership and accomplished career. He has led a life of service and deserves our thanks for his military service and vision for expanding Arkansas's footprint around the globe. Dan is leaving a lasting legacy that will benefit future generations of Arkansans. I have been honored to work with him, and I appreciate his friendship. I know his wife Marilyn, children and grandchildren, who are very proud of him, are looking forward to spending more time together. I wish him the best on his retirement.•

TRIBUTE TO DAN SEWELL

• Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the career and service of a proud Ohioan, Dan Sewell, who will retire at the end of June, bringing an end to his 44-year career in journalism.

Dan spent 39 of those years with the Associated Press, serving Americans, both by bringing them the news and by telling their stories—in Buffalo, Miami, San Juan, Atlanta, and Chicago, where he has worked as a writer, editor, assistant bureau chief, and most recently in our home State, in Cincinnati, OH.

A native of Middletown, OH, Dan graduated from Edgewood High School. He got his start in journalism as a student journalist at Ohio University's student newspaper, The Post. That is where Dan and I first met, when he interviewed me as the youngest member of the Ohio State Legislature.

Journalists like Dan play a vital role in our democracy—they ask tough questions, they challenge special interests and uncover corruption, and they connect Americans with their communities and with the world. Whether it was the Grenada Invasion in 1983, Hurricane Andrew in 1992, Hurricane Katrina in 2005, or the mass shooting in Dayton's Oregon District in 2019, Dan has done vital work on the frontlines, covering stories that matter to people.

Not only has he made a difference through his writing, Dan also teaches as a part-time instructor of journalism at Miami University in Oxford, OH, helping mentor the next generation of journalists.

Dan is a devoted husband to Vickii, father of five, and grandfather of nine, and plans to spend time with them during retirement. And he will have more time to partake in his favorite hobby—attending Cincinnati Reds' games.

On behalf of grateful readers in Ohio and around the country, I thank Dan Sewell for nearly four decades of service in journalism, doing work that is important to the fabric of our communities and our country.•

TRIBUTE TO JEFF KIGHTLINGER

• Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the long career of public service provided to the people of Southern California by Jeffery Kightlinger, general manager of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, who is retiring after a 15-year tenure.

I would like to take a few moments to reflect on what an extraordinary leader Jeff has been not just for Southern California but for the whole State. Like Jeff, I care deeply about our water future. For years I have turned to him for his always wise counsel on how to solve the next challenge. Over these many years, I have come to view Jeff as a friend and to value our friendship. I have also learned to value equally his leadership abilities.

The treacherous politics of California water and the immense obstacles to getting anything done are legendary, but Jeff has always been up to the task. Jeff is not only one of the smartest people I know, but he has unparalleled ability to strategize how to approach a complex water negotiation. He has built deep and trusting relationships with many of the key players, not only in California but throughout the Colorado River Basin. Knowing the other parties as well as he does, Jeff is able to map out where there is the possibility of an agreement. He then is able to work steadily and patiently over months and years, gradually removing the obstacles until the parties can finally come together.

Many of Jeff's greatest accomplishments have come in guiding major changes within the Colorado River Basin, helping to collaboratively negotiate landmark pacts among a truce among 7 States, two countries, and 10 Native American tribes. These include the Quantification Settlement Agreement, the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, significant revisions to the U.S.-Mexico water treaty, innovative storage programs in Lake Mead, and the Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan. This has laid a solid foundation for longer term solutions to be negotiated over the next several years. Jeff has helped forge Metropolitan's partnerships with agricultural districts that have replaced litigation with cooperation.

If you evaluate a leader by the results they accomplish, what Jeff has achieved in preparing Southern California for drought is extraordinary. In a time when much of the California and the West is desperate for water, Southern California stands out for how well it is prepared. Millions of acre feet of water in storage ensures that the region can weather this drought even if it lasts for several more years.

It took a whole suite of actions for Jeff and Metropolitan to get to this place. Knowing that the climate is changing and droughts will worsen, Metropolitan has invested, planned, and prepared, resulting in record water storage, reduced water usage in the region, and unprecedented drought resiliency. This didn't happen by itself. Metropolitan's conservation programs, including $350 million in turf removal incentives, transformed the Southern California landscape as Southern Californians embraced conservation as a way of life and permanently lowered water demands. Metropolitan has also launched the Regional Recycled Water Program Advanced Purification Center, a 500,000-gallon-per-day demonstration facility that could ultimately serve as one of the largest recycled water projects in the Nation.

Under Jeff's leadership, Metropolitan weathered the great recession and stabilized its finances while investing billions in restoring its aging conveyance system and improving its water treatment methods, setting a national example for how an agency can meet its infrastructure challenges. His record of environmental stewardship includes installing solar power at Metropolitan's water treatment plants and leading the organization's first efforts to address climate change. Through apprenticeships, recruitment, and promotions, Metropolitan was able to transfer the specialized knowledge of graying workforce to a new, diverse generation of water leaders.

No history of 21st century water in California and the West would be complete without acknowledging his contributions. Jeff has been an invaluable resource to myself, my staff, and those of numerous other Members with his expert analysis and advice that has informed our legislative work. His knowledge and counsel will be greatly missed. I ask our colleagues to join me in congratulating Jeff Kightlinger on his retirement and thanking him for his long career of public service to the people of Southern California.•

RECOGNIZING RUSTIC ROOTS ON SECOND

• 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 woman-owned small business, Rustic Roots on Second of Pikeville, KY, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Located in downtown Pikeville, Rustic Roots on Second opened its doors in 2015. After graduating from the University of Kentucky, founder and owner, Maura Minix, wanted to provide a place for Kentucky artisans to showcase and sell their work. Maura, who grew up in Prestonsburg, KY, saw an opportunity to set up a shop in neighboring Pikeville. She established Rustic Roots on Second, providing a retail outlet for Kentuckian and Appalachian artisans.

Today, Rustic Roots on Second continues supporting and promoting small businesses and artisans in eastern Kentucky. Over 30 local vendors sell their goods at the store, ranging from food and textile goods to artwork and furniture made from used bourbon barrels. Maura's mother, Brenda Minix, is a key part of the operation, working as store manager and serving as the ''face'' of the business around town. Customers are regularly greeted by name and treated according to the golden rule. Rustic Roots on Second also serves as an event venue, renting out its shop for celebrations, fundraisers, and business events. The store works with local artisans to host classes and workshops, rotating offerings to meet community interest. From painting to dulcimer playing, teaching and celebrating the arts is a priority.

Notably, Rustic Roots on Second is a leader in downtown Pikesville's business community. They regularly participate in local and regional events, including the Appalachian Vintage Street Market, Wine-Tasting & Retailgating, and Pikesville's famous Hillbilly Days festival. Rustic Roots on Second is a member of the Southeast Kentucky Chamber of Commerce and is involved with Shaping Our Appalachian Region—SOAR—Kentucky, which fosters entrepreneurship and innovation in the region. They are committed to revitalizing and promoting downtown Pikeville through their support of the Pikeville Main Street Program, Inc.

Like many small businesses, Rustic Roots on Second actively supports charitable and civic organizations. For several years, Maura and Brenda have teamed up with local businesses to host picnics and decorate their storefronts to thank police officers, firefighters, and first responders for their service. They regularly support fundraisers for clubs, churches, and sports teams and have sponsored silent auctions to benefit local schools. Rustic Roots on Second's advocacy and community leadership has been recognized in local and regional publications.

When the COVID–19 pandemic occurred, Pikeville rallied together to support Rustic Roots on Second. As a nonessential business, Rustic Roots on Second was impacted by the lockdowns. Maura and Brenda adapted, overhauling and expanding their online store to continue serving customers nationwide. As Kentucky reopened, Maura and Brenda worked with local small businesses to ensure downtown Pikeville reopened safely, welcoming locals and visitors alike to their vibrant community.

Rustic Roots on Second is an outstanding example of the critical role small businesses play in uplifting and advocating for their communities. Congratulations to Maura, Brenda, and the entire team at Rustic Roots on Second. I wish them the best of luck and look forward to watching their continued growth and success in Kentucky.•

TRIBUTE TO JASON SUSLAVICH

• Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I would like recognize an important

member of my staff, my former director of national security policy, Jason Suslavich. I, along with the rest of my team was saddened to have Jason leave our office this February.

While born in Winchester, MA, Jason was quick to embrace the Alaskan spirit. Up north, Jason traded his beach walks for hikes and his golf clubs for a fishing rod. Like a true Alaskan, he loved his wild Alaska seafood and overall good cooking and could talk for hours about his favorite dishes at his favorite restaurants throughout the State. One of his favorites was the osso bucco at Orso—and could speak tirelessly about it. And did.

In high school, Jason was the all-State wrestling champion and was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. His dedication and tenacity expanded beyond the wrestling mat into his academics. At John Hopkins University, Jason majored in international studies, which he has applied throughout his career.

Jason's work in Alaska politics began over a decade ago in Congressman Don Young's office. As the Congressman's legislative assistant, Jason laid the foundation for his career in the Senate, building productive coalitions and facilitating bipartisan collaboration.

One year into my first term. Jason joined our office. At this time, I was still learning the ropes in the Senate. His work ethic, experience, and dependability made my life a lot easier and made him an irreplaceable asset to my team.

Jason was good-natured, a team player, and a legendary prankster. From day-to-day tricks to years-long plots, Jason was committed to the craft of mischief—just ask his nemesis, Mike Anderson.

Jason's contributions to our office—and to the State of Alaska, particularly building on our three pillars of military might—were enormous. His leadership lives on with Team Sullivan. He is greatly missed.

If this past year has taught us anything, it is the importance of trusting our intuition. After 13 years working for Alaska s delegation, Jason has decided to chart a new journey—working in the aerospace sector. He has loved space since he was a child. In this next chapter, Jason can dedicate time to his great passions: space exploration, the strength of our Nation, the Boston Red Sox, and most importantly, his beautiful and brilliant wife Sarah.

Jason may not be working in my office, but he will always have a home in the Last Frontier. His dedication to the State has forever solidified him as a welcome friend and honorary Alaskan.

Please join me in wishing Jason much success and happiness in the future.●

● Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I rise today in appreciation of a lifelong Rhode Islander and a healthcare trailblazer, Dr. Al Puerini. We wish him well in the next chapter of life.

Al Puerini was born, raised, and trained in Rhode Island. After graduating from his beloved Providence College and training in family medicine at Brown University, Al began his practice in Cranston, RI, in the early eighties. He excelled in his work. He soon began teaching family medicine at Brown's Warren Alpert School of Medicine and was elected a fellow at the American Academy of Family Physicians.

But his revolutionary work began in the mid–1990s, when Al helped to found and then lead the Rhode Island Primary Care Physicians Corporation as it embarked on an important mission: to reimagine the way we deliver healthcare. Al and his RIPCPC colleagues combined the talents of over 150 primary care physicians and over 200 specialists and negotiated new contracts with local health insurers. Instead of following the fee-for-service treadmill that encourages doctors to shuffle as many people through their offices as possible, these new contracts rewarded providers for the health of their patients. They also aimed to increase collaboration and communication among specialists, providers, and hospitals to improve health outcomes.

As these contracts proved effective, Al and his board decided to think bigger. In 2014, they joined with Care New England to help form Integra Community Care Network, the largest accountable care organization, ACO, in Rhode Island. The Affordable Care Act's accountable care organizations take the principle Al had pursued for years—paying providers based on the health of their patients—and put it to use in the Medicare Program. At Integra, primary care providers, hospitals, specialists, extended care providers, and others all work together to achieve more coordinated, accountable care. As someone who fought for ACOs in the ACA, I was thrilled to see Rhode Islanders step up to that challenge.

Integra now serves more than 1 in 10 patients in Rhode Island. It has been a national success. Beyond Medicare patients, it works with major private insurers and Medicaid. It has earned a 95-percent quality rating from the Federal Government and saved over $20 million in healthcare costs since 2015. Integra now stands a model for ACOs across the country.

Even as he built a new national model of care, Al never stopped serving his patients, his community, and his beloved alma mater, Providence College. He maintained his Cranston private practice for over three decades. He was recognized as Rhode Island's ''Top Doc'' twice over that span. He was named a Rhode Island Academy of Family Physicians Physician of the Year in 2017. And he sustained a passion for sports medicine, which he cultivated as the Friars' head team physician from 1988 on. He even earned a spot in the Providence College Hall of Fame 2 years ago.

Dr. Puerini, congratulations on your well-deserved retirement. You have shown us how to change the way health care is delivered and proven to the Nation that the triple aim of better care, lower costs, and happier and healthier patients is achievable. Thank you for everything you did to improve the care of Rhode Islanders and for the care you personally provided to so patients through the years. You made a tremendous difference.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:22 a.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, without amendment:

S. 409. An act 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.

S. 1340. An act to amend title 28, United States Code, to redefine the eastern and middle judicial districts of North Carolina.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 482. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain programs under part A of title XI of such Act relating to genetic diseases, and for other purposes.

H.R. 704. An act to amend section 708 of title 17, United States Code, to permit the Register of Copyrights to waive fees for filing an application for registration of a copyright claim in certain circumstances, and for other purposes.

H.R. 961. An act to exempt juveniles from the requirements for suits by prisoners, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1314. An act to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a consumer product safety rule for free-standing clothing storage units to protect children from tip-over related death or injury, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2062. An act to amend the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 and other laws to clarify appropriate standards for Federal employment discrimination and retaliation claims, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2571. An act to include Portugal in the list of foreign states whose nationals are eligible for admission into the United States as E–1 and E–2 nonimmigrants if United States nationals are treated similarly by the Government of Portugal and to otherwise modify the eligibility criteria for E visas.

H.R. 2679. An act to amend title 36, United States Code, to revise the Federal charter for the Foundation of the Federal Bar Association.

H.R. 2694. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for transportation and subsistence for criminal justice defendants, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2922. An act to amend the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act to authorize the Elder Justice Initiative, to require that online resources of such initiative are made available in Spanish, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3182. An act to provide that inclined sleepers for infants and crib bumpers shall be considered banned hazardous products under section 8 of the Consumer Product Safety Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3239. An act to make improvements in the enactment of title 41, United States Code, into a positive law title and to improve the Code.

H.R. 3241. An act to make improvements in the enactment of title 54, United States Code, into a positive law title and to improve the Code.

H.R. 3723. An act to direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission to establish a pilot program to explore the use of artificial intelligence in support of the mission of the Commission and direct the Secretary of Commerce and the Federal Trade Commission to study and report on the use of blockchain technology and digital tokens, respectively.

H.R. 3752. An act to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to study the effect of the COVID–19 pandemic on injuries and deaths associated with consumer products and to direct the Secretary of Commerce to study and report on the effects of the COVID–19 pandemic on the travel and tourism industry in the United States.

H.R. 3841. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the collection and availability of health data with respect to Indian Tribes, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 482. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain programs under part A of title XI of such Act relating to genetic diseases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 961. An act to exempt juveniles from the requirements for suits by prisoners, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 1314. An act to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a consumer product safety rule for free-standing clothing storage units to protect children from tip-over related death or injury, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 2062. An act to amend the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 and other laws to clarify appropriate standards for Federal employment discrimination and retaliation claims, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 2571. An act to include Portugal in the list of foreign states whose nationals are eligible for admission into the United States as E–1 and E–2 nonimmigrants if United States nationals are treated similarly by the Government of Portugal and to otherwise modify the eligibility criteria for E visas; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 2679. An act to amend title 36, United States Code, to revise the Federal charter for the Foundation of the Federal Bar Association; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 2694. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for transportation and subsistence for criminal justice defendants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 2922. An act to amend the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act to authorize the Elder Justice Initiative, to require that online resources of such initiative are made available in Spanish, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 3182. An act to provide that inclined sleepers for infants and crib bumpers shall be considered banned hazardous products under section 8 of the Consumer Product Safety Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 3239. An act to make improvements in the enactment of title 41, United States Code, into a positive law title and to improve the Code; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 3241. An act to make improvements in the enactment of title 54, United States Code, into a positive law title and to improve the Code; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 3723. An act to direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission to establish a pilot program to explore the use of artificial intelligence in support of the mission of the Commission and direct the Secretary of Commerce and the Federal Trade Commission to study and report on the use of blockchain technology and digital tokens, respectively; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 3752. An act to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to study the effect of the COVID–19 pandemic on injuries and deaths associated with consumer products and to direct the Secretary of Commerce to study and report on the effects of the COVID–19 pandemic on the travel and tourism industry in the United States; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 3841. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the collection and availability of health data with respect to Indian Tribes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 704. An act to amend section 708 of title 17, United States Code, to permit the Register of Copyrights to waive fees for filing an application for registration of a copyright claim in certain circumstances, and for other purposes.

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–1273. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Appropriations, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report to Congress from the Chairman of the National Advisory Council on International Monetary and Financial Policies; to the Committees on Appropriations; and Foreign Relations.

EC–1274. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, four (4) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of State, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 21, 2021; to the Committees on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; and Foreign Relations.

EC–1275. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of State (Intelligence and Research), received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 21, 2021; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM–22. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Missouri applying to the United States Congress, under the provisions of Article V of the United States Constitution, for the calling of a convention of the states limited to proposing amendments to the United States Constitution that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for its officials and members of Congress; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4

Whereas, the Founders of our Constitution empowered state legislators to be guardians of liberty against future abuses of power by the federal government; and

Whereas, the federal government has created a crushing national debt through improper and imprudent spending; and

Whereas, the federal government has invaded the legitimate roles of the states through the manipulative process of federal mandates, most of which are unfunded to a great extent; and

Whereas, the federal government has ceased to live under a proper interpretation of the Constitution of the United States; and

Whereas, it is the solemn duty of the states to protect the liberty of our people—particularly for the generations to come—to propose amendments to the United States Constitution through a convention of states under Article V to place clear restraints on these and related abuses of power; and

Whereas, the Ninety-Ninth General Assembly of Missouri, First Regular Session, adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4, which contained an application for an Article V Convention to propose constitutional amendments identical to those proposed in this resolution, but provided that the application would expire five years after the passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the members of the Missouri Senate, One Hundred First General Assembly, First Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby apply to Congress, under the provisions of Article V of the United States Constitution, for the calling of a convention of the states limited to proposing amendments to the United States Constitution that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for its officials and members of Congress; and be it further

Resolved that the General Assembly adopts this application with the following understandings (as the term ''understandings'' is used within the context of ''reservations, understandings, and declarations''):

(1) An application to Congress for an Article V convention confers no power on Congress other than to perform a ministerial function to ''call'' for a convention;

(2) This ministerial duty shall be performed by Congress only when Article V applications for substantially the same purpose are received from two-thirds of the legislatures of the several states;

(3) The power of Congress to ''call'' a convention solely consists of the authority to name a reasonable time and place for the initial meeting of the convention;

(4) Congress possesses no power whatsoever to name delegates to the convention, as this power remains exclusively within the authority of the legislatures of the several states;

(5) Congress possesses no power to set the number of delegates to be sent by any states;

(6) Congress possesses no power whatsoever to determine any rules for such convention;

(7) By definition, a Convention of States means that states vote on the basis of one state, one vote;

(8) A Convention of States convened pursuant to this application is limited to consideration of topics specified herein and no other;

(9) The General Assembly of Missouri may recall its delegates at any time for breach of their duties or violations of their instructions pursuant to the procedures adopted in this resolution;

(10) Pursuant to the text of Article V, Congress may determine whether proposed amendments shall be ratified by the legislatures of the several states or by special state ratification conventions. The General Assembly of Missouri recommends that Congress specify its choice on ratification methodology contemporaneously with the call for the convention;

(11) Congress possesses no power whatsoever with regard to the Article V convention beyond the two powers acknowledged herein;

(12) Missouri places express reliance on prior legal and judicial determinations that Congress possesses no power under Article I relative to the Article V process, and that Congress must act only as expressly specified in Article V; and be it further

Resolved That this application hereby repeals, rescinds, cancels, renders null and void, and supercedes the application to the Congress of the United States for a convention under Article V of the Constitution of the United States by this state in Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4 as adopted by the Ninety-Ninth General Assembly, First Regular Session; and be it further

Resolved That the Secretary of the Senate be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the President and Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, each member of the Missouri Congressional delegation, and the presiding officers of each of the legislative houses in the several states requesting their cooperation.

POM–23. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Missouri urging the United States Congress to resist any attempt to increase the number of Justices on the United States Supreme Court; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 6

Whereas, an independent United States Supreme Court is an essential element of America's system of checks and balances that protects our constitutional rights; and

Whereas, the United States Supreme Court has been composed of nine Justices for more than 150 years; and

Whereas, the President of the United States and Congress should be prohibited from undermining the independence of the Supreme Court by changing the number of Justices on the Supreme Court: Now therefore be it

Resolved, That the members of the Missouri Senate, One Hundred First General Assembly, First Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby urge the United States Congress to resist any attempt to increase the number of Justices on the United States Supreme Court; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and the members of the Missouri Congressional delegation.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. MENENDEZ for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Larry Edward Andre, Jr., of Texas, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Federal Republic of Somalia.

Nominee: Larry E. André Jr.

Post: Mogadishu:

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, Amount:

1. Self: None.

2. Spouse: Ouroukou Younoussi André, None.

3. Child: Isidore Dieudonné André, None.

Elizabeth Moore Aubin, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.

Nominee: Elizabeth M. Aubin.

Post: Algiers, Algeria.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: None.

2. Spouse: None.

3. Children and Spouses: None.

4. Parents: None.

5. Grandparents: None.

6. Brothers and Spouses: None.

7. Sisters and Spouses: None.

Maria E. Brewer, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Lesotho.

Nominee: Maria E. Brewer.

Post: Ambassador, Lesotho.

The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: None.

2. Spouse: None.

3. Children and Spouses Names: Arina N. Brewer: None.

4. Parents Names: William C. and Maria E. Pallick: None.

5. Grandparents Names: Gregorio and Domitila Lerma: Deceased; John and Mary Pallick: Deceased.

6. Brothers and Spouses Names: William C. and Margaret Pallick: None.

7. Sisters and Spouses Names: N/A.

Christopher John Lamora, of Rhode Island, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Cameroon.

Nominee: Christopher John Lamora.

Post: Cameroon.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, donee:

(Self) Christopher J. Lamora: None.

(Spouse) Eric R. Anderson: None.

Tulinabo S. Mushingi, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Angola, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe.

Nominee: Tulinabo Mushingi Post: Angola and Sao Tome & Principe.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, donee:

1. Self: None.

2. Spouse: Rebecca Mushingi: None.

3. Children and Spouses: Furaha Mushingi: None.

4. Parents: Bahiga & Namazi Mushingi—deceased.

5. Grandparents: Bahiga & Mwandafunga—deceased.

6. Brothers and Spouses: None. None ever visited/lived in the USA.

7. Sisters and Spouses: None. None ever visited/lived in the USA.

Eugene S. Young, of New York, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of the Congo.

Nominee: Eugene S. Young.

Post: Republic of Congo (Brazzaville).

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: None.

2. Spouse: Jessica Zoe Wilson: None.

Michele Jeanne Sison, of Maryland, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Ambassador, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Organization Affairs).

Todd D. Robinson, of New Jersey, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs).

Daniel J. Kritenbrink, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (East Asian and Pacific Affairs).

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, for the Committee on Foreign Relations I report favorably the following nomination list which was printed in the RECORD on the date indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that this nomination lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Susannah Holmes and ending with Aaron Rodgers, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 27, 2021.

By Mr. DURBIN for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Margaret Irene Strickland, of New Mexico, 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.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

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 Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. SMITH, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BROWN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. PETERS):

S. 2203. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to diabetes outpatient self-management training services, to require the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation to test the provision of virtual diabetes outpatient self-management training services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. SINEMA, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 2204. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to clarify the mailing requirement relating to social security account statements; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BURR:

S. 2205. A bill to designate the United States courthouse located at 201 South Evans Street in Greenville, North Carolina, as the ''Malcolm J. Howard United States Courthouse'', and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 2206. A bill to create Federal child savings accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. THUNE:

S. 2207. A bill to temporarily increase the availability of temporary nonimmigrant nonagricultural workers for the purposes of restoring American forests, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. CARPER, Mr. TOOMEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. COONS, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 2208. A bill to require the United States International Trade Commission to investigate tariff policies relating to foreign-trade zones; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 2209. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for the regulation of in vitro clinical tests, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BROWN, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. WARREN, Mr. REED, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BENNET, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. PETERS, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. KING):

S. 2210. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to expand access to home and community-based services (HCBS) under Medicaid, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 2211. A bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to carry out a study of rule 10b5–1 trading plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 2212. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide for the authority to reimburse local governments or electric cooperatives for interest expenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 2213. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to give priority consideration to selecting Pensacola and Perdido Bays as an estuary of national significance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 2214. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to increase the ability of Medicare and Medicaid providers to access the National Practitioner Data Bank for the purpose of conducting employee background checks; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. RISCH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. MORAN):

S. 2215. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an exclusion for assistance provided to participants in certain veterinary student loan repayment or forgiveness programs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 2216. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State to develop a plan for the relocation and admission to the United States of certain citizens of Afghanistan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. PADILLA, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 2217. A bill to increase the participation of historically underrepresented demographic groups in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education and industry; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. PETERS):

S. 2218. A bill to expand the trade adjustment assistance for workers program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. LEE):

S. 2219. A bill to amend the Agricultural Act of 2014 to repeal the forfeiture rule for peanuts under the nonrecourse marketing assistance loan program, prohibit the use of Federal funds for certain activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2220. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to clarify the obligations of licensees under section 331 of that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 2221. A bill to restrict executive agencies from acting in contravention of Executive Order 13950, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 2222. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to lower the standard for removing employees who disclose tax return information without authorization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. KELLY):

S. 2223. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to improve assistance to community wood facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. SMITH, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 2224. A bill to direct the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy to carry out programs and activities to ensure that Federal science agencies and institutions of higher education receiving Federal research and development funding are fully engaging their entire talent pool, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 2225. A bill to require the Director of the Office of Personnel Management to revise job classification and qualification standards for positions in the competitive service regarding educational requirements for those positions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. TESTER, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. WARREN, and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 2226. A bill to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to authorize a special behavioral health program for Indians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. MORAN, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 2227. A bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to enter into contracts with industry intermediaries for purposes of promoting the development of and access to apprenticeships in the technology sector, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 2228. A bill to amend section 230 of the Communications Act of 1934 to correct shortcomings in how that section addresses content moderation, content creation and development, and content distribution; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. KELLY (for himself and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 2229. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to carry out a highway formula modernization study, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. SMITH, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. COONS, and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. 2230. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance the carbon oxide sequestration credit; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 2231. A bill to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to improve the loan guaranty program, enhance the ability of small manufacturers to access affordable capital, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2232. A bill to direct the Secretary of Energy to fund projects to restore and modernize National Laboratories, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. KAINE):

S. 2233. A bill to establish a grant program for shuttered minor league baseball clubs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. 2234. A bill to make housing affordable, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2235. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to require physicians and other prescribers of controlled substances to complete training on treating and managing patients with opioid and other substance use disorders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 2236. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide an option for first responders age 50 to 64 who are separated from service due to retirement or disability to buy into Medicare; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 2237. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to establish and carry out two grant programs to make grants to eligible institutions to plan and implement programs that provide comprehensive support services and resources designed to increase graduation rates and transfer rates to 4-year institutions at community colleges, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2238. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and extend the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Prevention and Services program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. COTTON, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. DAINES, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CRUZ, Ms. ERNST, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CORNYN, and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 2239. A bill to consolidate or repeal unnecessary agency major rules, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. REED):

S. 2240. A bill to establish a national and community service pay for results program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2241. A bill to amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to require States to consider measures to promote greater electrification of the transportation sector, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. REED, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2242. A bill to prohibit commercial sexual orientation conversion therapy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 2243. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to improve the Rural Energy for America Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2244. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for teacher and school leader quality enhancement and to enhance institutional aid; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2245. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to enhance the Office of Credit Risk Management, to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to issue rules relating to environmental obligations of certified development companies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 2246. A bill to provide grants to support the hiring of law enforcement officers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 2247. A bill to protect Federal judges, Federal prosecutors, and Federal law enforcement officers from violence and doxing; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 2248. A bill to increase the penalties for making personal information about a Federal law enforcement officer or other Federal officer available to the public; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 2249. A bill to increase the penalties for damage to Federal courthouses and unauthorized access to areas where Federal judges work, reside, or visit; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 2250. A bill to extend concealed carry rights to Federal judges and prosecutors; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 2251. A bill to expand support for law enforcement officers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 2252. A bill to increase the penalties for ambushing a law enforcement officer; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 2253. A bill to establish a separate criminal offense for targeting an individual based on their status as law enforcement officer; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TESTER:

S. 2254. A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain streams in the greater Yellowstone ecosystem and Smith River system in the State of Montana as components of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 2255. A bill to extend the trade adjustment assistance program for one month; considered and passed.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 2256. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to limit the charitable deduction for certain qualified conservation contributions; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. ROSEN:

S. 2257. A bill to provide Federal support for nonprofit generic and essential medicine and device manufacturers to increase the availability of drugs and devices in order to reduce drug or device shortages and drug and device costs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 2258. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a Parks, Jobs, and Equity Program to support job creation, economic revitalization and park development for communities impacted by COVD–19; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 2259. A bill to require the Secretary of Education to establish a Climate Change Resilience Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 2260. A bill to increase the maximum penalties for assaulting Federal officers by 50 percent; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 2261. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to allow certain alien veterans to be paroled into the United States to receive health care furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. THUNE):

S. 2262. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish an income tax credit for the sale or blending of certain fuels containing ethanol; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. WARNOCK, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 2263. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax credit for sustainable aviation fuel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. TESTER, Ms. SMITH, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. LUJÁN, and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 2264. A bill to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2265. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a veterans visa program to permit veterans who have been removed from the United States to return as immigrants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. CANTWELL, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2266. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve the historic rehabilitation tax credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Ms. ERNST):

S. 2267. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax credit for the production of flexible fuel vehicles, and to amend title 49, United States Code, to restore certain flexible fuel vehicle credits; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 2268. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to identify each alien who is serving, or has served, in the Armed Forces of the United States on the application of any such alien for an immigration benefit or the placement of any such alien in an immigration enforcement proceeding, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. COTTON):

S. 2269. A bill to secure the bulk-power system in the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. WICKER, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. ERNST, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 2270. A bill to prohibit Federal funding to entities that do not certify the entities will not perform, or provide any funding to any other entity that performs, an abortion; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Ms. ERNST):

S. 2271. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to provide grants for eligible entities for activities designed to expand the sales and use of biofuels derived from agricultural feedstocks produced in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 2272. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to increase funding for lead reduction projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Mr. CARPER):

S. 2273. A bill to authorize Inspectors General to continue operations during a lapse in appropriations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2274. A bill to authorize the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to establish an apprenticeship program and to establish a pilot program on cybersecurity training for veterans and members of the Armed Forces transitioning to civilian life, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CASEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 2275. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to build safer, thriving communities, and save lives, by investing in effective community-based violence reduction initiatives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 2276. A bill to support empowerment, economic security, and educational opportunities for adolescent girls around the world, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. COONS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. COLLINS, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 2277. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to foreign persons responsible for violations of the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. PORTMAN:

S. 2278. A bill to improve agency rulemaking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. JOHNSON, and Ms. ERNST):

S. 2279. A bill to affirm the authority of the President to require independent regulatory agencies to comply with regulatory analysis requirements applicable to executive agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PORTMAN, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 2280. A bill to provide PreCheck to certain severely injured or disabled veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. LANKFORD:

S. 2281. A bill to require all Federal contractors and grantees to enroll in, and maintain compliance with, the E–Verify Program; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 2282. A bill to establish in the Executive Office of the President a Council on Military, National, and Public Service to promote and expand opportunities for military service, national service, and public service for all people of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 2283. A bill to improve the Veterans Crisis Line of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 2284. A bill to authorize appropriations for the Appalachian development highway system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2285. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary of Agriculture to maintain the Urban Water Federal Partnership Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. TESTER:

S. 2286. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to use designated funding to pay for construction of authorized rural water projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. SMITH, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. KAINE, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 2287. A bill to improve Federal population surveys by requiring the collection of voluntary, self-disclosed information on sexual orientation and gender identity in certain surveys, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 2288. A bill to amend the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act to provide pay equity for amateur athletes and other personnel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2289. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for direct-pay credit bonds in the case of certain bonds the proceeds of which are used for the replacement of lead drinking water service lines; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 2290. A bill to provide for requirements for data brokers with respect to the acquisition, use, and protection of brokered personal information and to require that data brokers annually register with the Federal Trade Commission; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2291. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a tax credit for production of electricity using nuclear power; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2292. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to study the potential consequences and benefits of amending the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act to allow private companies to take proportional actions

in response to an unlawful network breach; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 2293. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide certain employment rights to reservists of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. KING):

S. 2294. A bill to require an independent assessment with respect to the Arctic region and establishment of Arctic Security Initiative, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. BENNET, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2295. A bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. KAINE):

S. 2296. A bill establish the Northern Neck National Heritage Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 2297. A bill to improve global health, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2298. A bill to amend section 1977 of the Revised Statutes to protect equal rights under law; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CRUZ, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 2299. A bill to modify the age requirement for the Student Incentive Payment Program of the State maritime academies; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. PETERS:

S. 2300. A bill to direct the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to establish a grant program to help revitalize certain localities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2301. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide capacity-building assistance to institutions of higher education to examine and address inequities in college student access and success, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BARRASSO:

S. 2302. A bill to amend the Department of Energy Organization Act to assign certain functions to the Assistant Secretaries of Energy relating to energy emergencies and energy security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SASSE:

S. 2303. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Lai Chee ying (''Jimmy Lai''), Law Wai kwong (''Ryan Law''), Cheung Kim hung, Chow Tat kuen (''Royston Chow''), Chan Pui man, Cheung Chi wai, Yeung Ching kee (''Li Ping''), and all the men and women who worked for Apple Daily in recognition of their commitment to freedom and democracy in Hong Kong in the face of the tyranny of the Chinese Communist Party; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. KING):

S. 2304. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to require that direct-to-consumer advertisements for prescription drugs and biological products include an appropriate disclosure of pricing information; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. OSSOFF:

S. 2305. A bill to enhance cybersecurity education; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 2306. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to support upgrades at existing hydroelectric dams and the removal of obsolete river obstructions to improve the health of the Nation's rivers and associated wildlife habitat and increase clean energy production, public safety, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 284. A resolution recognizing the 125th Anniversary of the Indiana Veterans' Home; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. DURBIN, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. Res. 285. A resolution honoring the lives and legacies of the ''Radium Girls''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. Res. 286. A resolution urging the Biden Administration to work with Congress to ensure that the United States military has sufficient resources; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. KING):

S. Res. 287. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States must continue to demonstrate leadership to achieve significant reforms to the rules of the World Trade Organization in order to promote the advancement of truly developing countries; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Mr. CRAMER):

S. Res. 288. A resolution commemorating the tenth anniversary of the Souris River flood in Minot, North Dakota; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WICKER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. KELLY, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. Res. 289. A resolution designating June 2021 as ''National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Month'' and June 27, 2021, as ''National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Day''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MORAN, Mr. WICKER, Ms. COLLINS, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. Res. 290. A resolution encouraging the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to review and update its guidance relating to mask wearing in confined places; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. Res. 291. A resolution congratulating the University of Oklahoma Sooners softball team on winning the 2021 National Collegiate Athletic Association Women's College World Series; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. BURR):

S. Res. 292. A resolution designating July 9, 2021, as ''Collector Car Appreciation Day'' and recognizing that the collection and restoration of historic and classic cars is an important part of preserving the technological achievements and cultural heritage of the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. Res. 293. A resolution designating June 26, 2021, as the ''International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking''; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. WARREN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. LUJÁN, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. Res. 294. A resolution recognizing the month of June as ''Immigrant Heritage Month'', a celebration of the accomplishments and contributions immigrants and their children have made in making the United States a healthier, safer, more diverse, prosperous country, and acknowledging the importance of immigrants and their children to the future successes of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. Res. 295. A resolution designating June 15, 2021, as ''World Elder Abuse Awareness Day'' and the month of June as ''Elder Abuse Awareness Month''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DAINES:

S. Res. 296. A resolution remembering, as the world acknowledges the 100th anniversary of the Chinese Community Party, the countless lives the Chinese Communist Party has destroyed and the people currently living in fear of its tyrannical ambitions; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CASEY, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. SMITH, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. THUNE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. BROWN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. TOOMEY):

S. Con. Res. 10. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that tax-exempt fraternal benefit societies have historically provided and continue to provide critical benefits to the people and communities

of the United States; to the Committee on Finance.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 204

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 204, a bill to establish the Office of Press Freedom, to create press freedom curriculum at the National Foreign Affairs Training Center, and for other purposes.

S. 335

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 335, a bill to reauthorize the Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Act of 1998.

S. 522

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 522, a bill to require each agency, in providing notice of a rule making, to include a link to a 100-word plain language summary of the proposed rule.

S. 540

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 540, a bill to require Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies to report information related to allegations of misconduct of law enforcement officers to the Attorney General, and for other purposes.

S. 561

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 561, a bill to increase the rates of pay under the statutory pay systems and for prevailing rate employees by 3.2 percent, and for other purposes.

S. 565

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 565, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the treatment of veterans who participated in the cleanup of Enewetak Atoll as radiation-exposed veterans for purposes of the presumption of service-connection of certain disabilities by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 610

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 610, a bill to address behavioral health and well-being among health care professionals.

S. 673

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 673, a bill to provide a temporary safe harbor for publishers of online content to collectively negotiate with dominant online platforms regarding the terms on which content may be distributed.

S. 747

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 747, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for the adjustment of status of essential workers, and for other purposes.

S. 828

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 828, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of marriage and family therapist services and mental health counselor services under part B of the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 916

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 916, a bill to provide adequate funding for water and sewer infrastructure, and for other purposes.

S. 927

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 927, a bill to improve the provision of health care and other benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs for veterans who were exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes.

S. 978

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 978, a bill to provide for the adjustment or modification by the Secretary of Agriculture of loans for critical rural utility service providers, and for other purposes.

S. 1061

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, his name was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 1061, a bill to encourage the normalization of relations with Israel, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1061, supra.

S. 1073

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1073, a bill to rescind each Medal of Honor awarded for acts at Wounded Knee Creek on December 29, 1890, and for other purposes.

S. 1136

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 1136, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the low-income housing credit, and for other purposes.

S. 1142

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1142, a bill to require a determination as to whether crimes committed against the Rohingya in Burma amount to genocide.

S. 1295

At the request of Mr. ROMNEY, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1295, a bill to save and strengthen critical social contract programs of the Federal Government.

S. 1398

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the names of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1398, a bill to establish universal child care and early learning programs.

S. 1404

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1404, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 23d Headquarters Special Troops and the 3133d Signal Service Company in recognition of their unique and distinguished service as a ''Ghost Army'' that conducted deception operations in Europe during World War II.

S. 1588

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1588, a bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to prohibit importation, exportation, transportation, sale, receipt, acquisition, and purchase in interstate or foreign commerce, or in a manner substantially affecting interstate or foreign commerce, or possession, of any live animal of any prohibited primate species.

S. 1613

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor 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. 1777

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1777, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to codify the Trump administration rule on reporting requirements of exempt organizations, and for other purposes.

S. 1859

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1859, a bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to require the Secretary concerned to pay a member in the reserve component of an Armed Force a special bonus or incentive pay in the same amount as a member in the regular component of that Armed Force.

S. 1872

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1872, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States Army Rangers Veterans of World War II in recognition of their extraordinary service during World War II.

S. 1894

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1894, a bill to designate Regional Ocean Partnerships of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 1904

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1904, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to foreign support for Palestinian terrorism, and for other purposes.

S. 1909

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1909, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to reform requirements with respect to direct and indirect remuneration under Medicare part D, and for other purposes.

S. 1921

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1921, a bill to establish the National Institutes of Clean Energy.

S. 1945

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) were added as cosponsors of S. 1945, a bill to provide for the long-term improvement of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and for other purposes.

S. 1978

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1978, a bill to prohibit the use of funds for the 2026 World Cup unless the United States Soccer Federation provides equitable pay to the members of the United States Women's National Team and the United States Men's National Team.

S. 2000

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2000, a bill to promote the United States-Greece defense partnership, and for other purposes.

S. 2032

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2032, a bill to extend and modify the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa Program, to postpone the medical exam for aliens who are otherwise eligible for such program, to provide special immigrant status for certain surviving spouses and children, and for other purposes.

S. 2048

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2048, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to count a period of receipt of outpatient observation services in a hospital toward satisfying the 3-day inpatient hospital requirement for coverage of skilled nursing facility services under Medicare.

S. 2068

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2068, a bill to require the Minority Business Development Agency of the Department of Commerce to promote and administer programs in the public and private sectors to assist the development of minority business enterprises, to ensure that such Agency has the necessary supporting resources, particularly during economic downturns, and for other purposes.

S. 2084

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2084, a bill to terminate the order requiring persons to wear masks while on conveyances and at transportation hubs.

S. 2109

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2109, a bill to prohibit allocations of Special Drawing Rights at the International Monetary Fund for perpetrators of genocide and state sponsors of terrorism without congressional authorization.

S. 2169

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2169, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect more victims of domestic violence by preventing their abusers from possessing or receiving firearms, to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to establish a grant program relating to the removal of firearms from adjudicated domestic violence offenders, and for other purposes.

S. 2177

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2177, a bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to ensure sufficient bonding and complete and timely reclamation of land and water disturbed by Federal and Indian oil and gas production, and for other purposes.

S. 2193

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2193, a bill to ensure that an employment relationship is not established between a franchisor and a franchisee if the franchisor engages in certain activities, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 212

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 212, a resolution establishing a McCain-Mansfield Fellowship Program in the Senate.

S. RES. 275

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 275, a resolution acknowledging and apologizing for the mistreatment of, and discrimination against, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals who served the United States in the Armed Forces, the Foreign Service, and the Federal civil service.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. SINEMA, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 2204. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to clarify the mailing requirement relating to social security account statements; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. WYDEN. Madame President, Senator CASSIDY and I are reintroducing a simple bill that can have a big impact: the Know Your Social Security Act. The bill clarifies the law about Congressional intent so that every worker over 25 receives a paper Social Security statement in the mail each year, unless the worker has accessed their statement online or declined to receive the statement in the mail.

The story is well known in Social Security circles, but it bears repeating: the origin story of the Social Security statement all started with the ''powerful'' Committee on Finance. Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan spelled out the reasoning: ''All of us pay into Social Security but rarely, until we become beneficiaries, do we ever hear from Social Security . . . in every paycheck, we see money withheld for Social Security, but we hear nary a word from the Social Security Administration. Let us take this simple step [sending statements] to reassure Americans that Social Security will be there for them.''

After enactment and once fully phased in, every worker aged 25 and

older received an annual statement from Social Security starting in the year 2000. After a few years, Social Security's website allowed workers to access their statement online. At the time, that was a nice feature—and did not impact the mailing of statements. Later—to fund more pressing needs—SSA viewed the online option as ''providing'' the worker with a statement and fulfilling the requirements of the law. SSA stopped mailing the statements in 2011 to everyone over 25. Currently, only individuals over the age of 60 who are not receiving benefits receive statements automatically through the mail.

Paper statements delivered through the mail are desirable because no action is necessary by the worker and the statement is a yearly reminder to the worker to think about the future. Research has shown that workers provided with statements are significantly more likely to save, more certain about their retirement income, and have higher satisfaction with their finances relative to those who are not provided with any type of financial planning materials. Providing Social Security statement through the mail is a simple policy that could help many workers, hopefully leading to better decisions about their financial future.

Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee Chairman JOHN LARSON and Ways and Means Committee Member VERN BUCHANAN are reintroducing the companion bill in the House of Representatives. The bill is endorsed by AARP, Alliance for Retired Americans, Envelope Manufacturers Association (EMA), Justice in Aging, NAACP, National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Social Security Works, Strengthen Social Security Coalition, The Arc of the United States, and The Senior Citizens League. I hope our colleagues in the Senate will join us and cosponsor the Know Your Social Security Act. Together, we can work towards better retirement outcomes for all workers.

By Mr. THUNE:

S. 2207. A bill to temporarily increase the availability of temporary nonimmigrant nonagricultural workers for the purposes of restoring American forests, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2207

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

SECTION 1. EXEMPTION FROM H–2B NUMERICAL LIMITATION FOR CERTAIN FORESTRY CONSERVATION WORKERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 214(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(g)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(12)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the numerical limitation under paragraph (1)(B) shall not apply to principal aliens described in section 101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(b) who are employed or have received an offer of employment for the work of—

''(i) orchard work and seed collection;

''(ii) tree planting;

''(iii) nursery care;

''(iv) forest management;

''(v) harvesting pine straw or other minor forest products;

''(vi) timber stand improvement;

''(vii) herbicide application;

''(viii) fire prevention and fire management activities;

''(ix) brush clearing and vegetation management;

''(x) maintenance of right of ways;

''(xi) habitat protection and restoration;

''(xii) watershed protection and restoration;

''(xiii) land reclamation; or

''(xiv) other activities with a direct forest health or conservation nexus.

''(B) The exemptions described in subparagraph (A) shall not apply to landscaping or groundskeeping.''.

(b) SUNSET.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall remain in effect until the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. KELLY):

S. 2223. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to improve assistance to community wood facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Ms. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Community Wood Facilities Assistance Act of 2021. My colleagues Senators COLLINS, SHAHEEN, and KELLY are joining me as original cosponsors of the bill.

This bill will assist with the construction of facilities for mass timber, tall wood, and other innovative wood products, in order to make sustainable use of small-diameter timber from forest thinnings and other needed treatments in Eastern and Western forests.

The bill will also help to create jobs in disadvantaged rural and forest-dependent communities, and will help to reduce wildfire risk by removing dangerous fuels that can build up.

The Forest Service reports that 80 million acres of Forest Service lands alone are at risk of catastrophic wildfire or abnormal levels of insect and disease infestations.

While Federal land management agencies are working to increase the pace and scale of restoration activities, clearly we need to do more. In California we are facing a severe drought, and even before the onset of this most recent drought there were 150 million dead or dying trees due to insect damage. We are truly facing a monumental challenge.

A recent comprehensive analysis by The Nature Conservancy and Bain and Company management consultants found that creating a restoration economy can play an important role in expanding the pace and scale of ecologically based forest restoration. The report recommended funding and incentives to ''bridge the gap between the cost of ecological thinning and the economic viability of wood-processing infrastructure.''

As the report explains, ''If more aggressive restoration targets can be met, there will be significant need for additional processing capacity to defray restoration costs and provide valuable end uses for thinned material.''

Our bill responds to the challenge of developing funding measures to improve the economic viability of wood-processing infrastructure to reduce the cost of forest restoration and provide valuable uses for the small diameter material.

Fortunately, we do not need to create a whole new program to improve the economic viability of wood-processing infrastructure. The Forest Service has two existing grant programs that can help: the Community Wood Energy and Wood Innovations Grant Program and the Wood Innovations Program.

These programs would benefit from amendments to increase their utility for improving the viability of wood-processing infrastructure. In particular, the program could benefit from higher Federal cost-shares and an increased ability to provide more funding for each project, in addition to a higher authorization of funding overall.

More specifically, our bill will revise the Forest Service's Community Wood Energy and Wood Innovations Grant Program, which provides assistance to the capital cost of small wood products facilities. Specifically, our bill would:

Increase the authorization from $25 million to $50 million per year;

Increase the maximum grant per facility from $1 to $5 million;

Increase the Federal cost-share from 35% to 50%; and

Increase the maximum size for community wood energy systems eligible for grant funding from 5 to 15 megawatts, among other provisions.

Our bill will also revise the Forest Service's Wood Innovations Grant Program, which provides grants for proposed innovative uses and applications and the expansion of markets for wood products. Our bill would reduce the minimum non-Federal cost-share from 50% to 33.3% and makes other technical changes identified by the Forest Service.

I thank the Senators who have joined me in cosponsoring this bill, and I urge the full Senate to promptly take up this bill and pass it as soon as possible.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2244. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for teacher and school leader quality enhancement and to enhance institutional aid; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, as career opportunities and the requisite skills

for success adapt to the demands of the 21st century, so too must the instruction and preparation educators receive. Educators are tasked with designing educational experiences that rise to the rigorous State academic standards and reflect the needs and interests of our Nation's diverse student population. This past school year with the pandemic was even more demanding our Nation's educators as they were faced with new teaching challenges and adapting to virtual or hybrid learning environments. Prior to the pandemic, school districts were faced with widespread teacher shortages, with nearly every State reporting shortages of teachers in high-need subjects like math, science, ahd special education. Data from the U.S. Department of Education shows COVID–19 has only exacerbated those needs with 43 States reporting shortages in math teachers, 42 in science teachers, and 44 in special education for the 2020–21 school year.

We must find ways to strengthen the educator talent pipeline to ensure our students have access to high-quality educators and school leaders. We also must address the fact that schools in high-need communities are often staffed by a revolving door of underprepared and inexperienced teachers who unable to meet students' needs. According to the U.S. Department of Education's Civil Rights Data Collection, in 2016, schools with high enrollments of students of color were four times as likely to hire uncertified teachers as were schools with low enrollments of students of color. This in part due to State teacher shortages.

This is why I am pleased to introduce today with my colleague, Senator COLLINS, the Preparing and Retaining Education Professionals Act, or PREP Act. As schools across our Nation continue to face growing class sizes, many are struggling with a shortage of qualified teachers. Rural communities in particular are experiencing a dearth of teachers equipped to meet their growing needs. The PREP Act aims to create high-quality teacher residency programs to develop a diverse workforce that is well prepared to provide the educational opportunities students need to be successful in the 21st century.

More specifically, this legislation would expand the definition of ''high need'' districts under the Every Student Succeeds Act, ESSA, to include those experiencing teacher shortages in rural communities and in areas such as special education, English language, science, technology, engineering, math, and CTE, to allow for access to additional support and improvement. It would also encourage school districts to establish partnerships with local community colleges and universities to ensure their education programs are developing future teachers in content areas where there is currently a shortage of educators. It would increase access to teacher and school leader residency programs and preparation training while requiring States to identify areas of teacher or leader shortages by subject across public schools and use that data to target their efforts. Additionally, the PREP Act bolsters support for teacher preparation programs at minority serving institutions, MSIs, or historically Black colleges and universities, HBCUs, to invest in a diverse and well-prepared educator workforce.

Improving our Nation's educational system is contingent on our ability to prepare, support, and retain quality educators. Research shows that better prepared teachers stay longer in the profession and are more likely to remain in their roles and positively impact young people and their communities. As we continue to focus on recovering from the pandemic, I hope that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle see the PREP Act as a commonsense opportunity to help ensure that students in every ZIP Code across the country have the well-prepared teachers and school leaders they deserve.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 2255. A bill to extend the trade adjustment assistance program for one month; considered and passed.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, one week from today, on July 1st, Trade Adjustment Assistance will expire.

This is our only tool to support workers who lose their jobs because of countries like China that cheat the rules. And in one week, it goes away. This is an economic problem and a China problem.

All of us, of both parties, recognize the threat that countries like China pose to our economy. It's why just two weeks ago, we came together and passed the Endless Frontiers Act on a broad, bipartisan basis: To secure and expand our domestic supply chains, to support R&D to ensure the next generation of manufacturing is developed in America and made in America, and to finally—finally—ensure that Americans' tax dollars are used to buy American products that support American jobs.

This should not be controversial.

We are working to undo decades of bad trade policy with China, and decades of neglect for our domestic supply chains. That's going to take years. We know corporations won't stop outsourcing jobs on July 1st. We know China isn't going to stop cheating and undermining American industries on July 1st. And we know our manufacturers will still have to compete against governments that prop up their competitors on July 1st.

We owe it to workers, who we know are going to have their lives upended through no fault of their own to unfair trade, to do everything we can to ease the transition. Today, I'm not asking for a complete renewal of the program. I'm not even asking for an extra year of the program.

I, on behalf of my Democratic colleagues and American workers, asked for unanimous consent from this body for a straight 3–month extension of TAA, so that we can keep having the conversations about how best to structure the program going forward. It appears that my friends on the other side would prefer a 1-month extension. I would like more, but in the spirit of compromise—this beats the alternative—letting TAA expire and leaving workers in the lurch.

And while that dialogue continues, workers get the help they need.

We know workers are losing jobs to China all over the country. Sadly, that happens every week, every day.

By extending this program, service workers and people whose jobs get shipped overseas to countries without trade agreements will get help.

Training funds, will continue being provided, at a time when we need to train people for the new jobs that we want industry to create. We all want the US economy to be more resilient in the face of economic shocks. We all want to see fewer communities devastated by unfair trade. We all want American workers' hard work to pay off TAA is part of that.

We came together to extend it in 2011. We came together to extend it in 2015. We must do the same today.

If you love this country you fight for the people who make it work. That's what we do with Trade Adjustment Assistance.

S. 2255

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Trade Adjustment Assistance Extension Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

(a) EXTENSION OF TERMINATION PROVISIONS.—Section 285 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2271 note) is amended by striking ''June 30, 2021'' each place it appears and inserting ''July 23, 2021''.

(b) REEMPLOYMENT TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE.—Section 246(b)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2318(b)(1)) is amended by striking ''June 30, 2021'' and inserting ''July 23, 2021''.

(c) TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE FOR WORKERS.—Section 245(a) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2317(a)) is amended by striking ''June 30, 2021'' and inserting ''July 23, 2021''.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section take effect on the earlier of—

(1) the date of the enactment of this Act; or

(2) June 30, 2021.

(e) APPLICATION OF PRIOR LAW.—Section 406 of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Reauthorization Act of 2015 (title IV of Public Law 114–27; 129 Stat. 379; 19 U.S.C. 2271 note prec.) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''July 1, 2021'' and inserting ''July 24, 2021''; and

(B) in paragraphs (5) and (6), by striking ''the 1-year period beginning on July 1, 2021'' and inserting ''the period beginning on July 24, 2021, and ending on June 30, 2022''; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking ''July 1, 2021'' each place it appears and inserting ''July 24, 2021''.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. DURBIN, Mr.

BOOKER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 2272. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to increase funding for lead reduction projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the ''Lead-Free Drinking Water for All Act.'' This legislation would authorize $45 billion to replace every lead pipe and service line in America over the next 10 years, ensuring clean water for all.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the most common sources of lead in drinking water are lead pipes, faucets, and plumbing fixtures. Nationwide, there are 6 to 10 million lead service lines serving up to 22 million Americans, affecting Americans living in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico. The only way to guarantee lead-free drinking water is to remove and replace every lead pipe and service line in America—and that's precisely what this legislation calls for.

The Lead-Free Drinking Water for All Act would reauthorize EPA's lead reduction projects grant program and increase the authorization to $4.5 billion per year for 10 years. It would prioritize disadvantaged communities and set a ten-year deadline for projects to complete the lead service line removal. It would also guarantee that funded projects pay a prevailing wage.

Epidemiologic studies have consistently demonstrated that there is no safe level of exposure to lead. According to the EPA, lead is particularly harmful for young children: low levels of exposure have been linked to damage to the central and peripheral nervous system, learning disabilities, impaired hearing, impaired physical development, and impaired formation and function of blood cells. EPA has set the maximum contaminant level goal for lead in drinking water at zero because lead can be harmful to human health, even at low exposure levels.

This problem is particularly prevalent in California's Central Valley, where, for example, in 2017 approximately 25 percent of schools in Fresno County reported lead in their drinking water while statewide, almost 1 in 5 kids attended a school that served drinking water with lead contamination.

The Lead-Free Drinking Water for All Act would protect public health by guaranteeing that all Americans have access to lead-free drinking water. By providing funding for grants and prioritizing disadvantaged communities, this legislation would also reduce disparities in access to clean water and ensure that the burden of paying for lead service line replacement does not fall on disadvantaged communities.

I thank my co-lead, Senator STABENOW, for her tireless leadership fighting for clean water for her constituents in Michigan and all Americans. I also thank the cosponsors of this bill for championing this vital effort with us in the Senate.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact the ''Lead-Free Drinking Water for All Act'' as quickly as possible.

Thank you, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. KING):

S. 2304. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to require that direct-to-consumer advertisements for prescription drugs and biological products include an appropriate disclosure of pricing information; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2304

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Drug-Price Transparency for Competition Act of 2021'' or the ''DTC Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF THE SENATE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Direct-to-consumer advertising of prescription pharmaceuticals is legally permitted in only 2 developed countries, the United States and New Zealand.

(2) In 2018, pharmaceutical ad spending exceeded $6,046,000,000, a 4.8 percent increase over 2017, resulting in the average American seeing 9 drug advertisements per day.

(3) The most commonly advertised medication in the United States has a list price of more than $6,000 for a one-month's supply.

(4) A 2021 Government Accountability Office report found that two-thirds of all direct-to-consumer drug advertising between 2016 and 2018 was concentrated among 39 brand-name drugs or biological products, about half of which were recently approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

(5) According to a 2011 Congressional Budget Office report, pharmaceutical manufacturers advertise their products directly to consumers in an attempt to boost demand for their products and thereby raise the price that consumers are willing to pay, increase the quantity of drugs sold, or achieve some combination of the two.

(6) Studies, including a 2012 systematic review published in the Annual Review of Public Health, a 2005 randomized trial published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, and a 2004 survey published in Health Affairs, show that patients are more likely to ask their doctor for a specific medication and for the doctor to write a prescription for it, if a patient has seen an advertisement for such medication, even if such medication is not the most clinically appropriate for the patient or if a lower-cost generic medication may be available.

(7) According to a 2011 Congressional Budget Office report, the average number of prescriptions written for newly approved brand-name drugs with direct-to-consumer advertising was 9 times greater than the average number of prescriptions written for newly approved brand-name drugs without direct-to-consumer advertising.

(8) The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services is the single largest drug payer in the United States. Between 2016 and 2018, 58 percent of the $560,000,000,000 in Medicare drug spending was for advertised drugs, and in 2018 alone, the 20 most advertised drugs on television cost Medicare and Medicaid a combined $34,000,000,000.

(9) A 2021 Government Accountability Office report found that direct-to-consumer advertising may have contributed to increases in Medicare beneficiary use and spending among certain drugs.

(10) The American Medical Association has passed resolutions supporting the requirement for price transparency in any direct-to-consumer advertising, stating that such advertisements on their own ''inflate demand for new and more expensive drugs, even when these drugs may not be appropriate''.

(11) A 2019 study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association found that health care consumers dramatically underestimate their out-of-pocket costs for certain expensive medications, but once they learn the wholesale acquisition cost (in this section referred to as the ''WAC'') of the product, they are far better able to approximate their out-of-pocket costs.

(12) Approximately half of Americans have high-deductible health plans, under which they often pay the list price of a drug until their insurance deductible is met. All of the top Medicare prescription drug plans use coinsurance rather than fixed-dollar copayments for medications on nonpreferred drug tiers, exposing beneficiaries to WAC prices.

(13) Section 119 of division CC of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260) requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to increase the use of real-time benefit tools to lower beneficiary costs. However, there still remains a lack of available pricing tools so patients may not learn of their medication's cost until after being given a prescription for the medication. A 2013 study published in The Oncologist found that one-quarter of all cancer patients chose not to fill a prescription due to cost.

(14) The Federal Government already exercises its authority to oversee certain aspects of direct-to-consumer drug advertising, including required disclosures of information related to side effects, contraindications, and effectiveness.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) a lack of transparency in pricing for pharmaceuticals has led to a lack of competition for such pharmaceuticals, as evidenced by a finding by the Department of Health and Human Services that ''Consumers of pharmaceuticals are currently missing information that consumers of other products can more readily access, namely the list price of the product, which acts as a point of comparison when judging the reasonableness of prices offered for potential substitute products'' (84 Fed. Reg. 20735);

(2) in an age where price information is ubiquitous, the prices of pharmaceuticals remain shrouded in secrecy and limited to those who subscribe to expensive drug price reporting services, which typically include pharmaceutical manufacturers or other health care industry entities and not the general public;

(3) greater insight and transparency into drug prices will help consumers know if they can afford to complete a course of therapy before deciding to initiate that course of therapy;

(4) price shopping is the mark of rational economic behavior, and markets operate more efficiently when consumers have relevant information about a product, including

its price, before making an informed decision about whether to buy that product;

(5) providing consumers with basic price information may result in the selection of lesser cost alternatives, all else being equal relative to the patient's care, and is integral to providing adequate competition in the market;

(6) the WAC is a factual, objective, and uncontroversial definition for the list price of a medication, in that it is defined in statute, reflects an understood place in the supply chain, and is at the sole discretion of the manufacturer to set;

(7) there is a governmental interest in ensuring that consumers who seek to purchase pharmaceuticals for purposes of promoting their health and safety understand the objective list price of any pharmaceutical that they are encouraged through advertisements to purchase, which allows consumers to make informed purchasing decisions; and

(8) there is a governmental interest in mitigating wasteful expenditures and promoting the efficient administration of the Medicare program by slowing the growth of Federal spending on prescription drugs.

SEC. 3. REQUIREMENT THAT DIRECT-TO-CONSUMER ADVERTISEMENTS FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AND BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTS INCLUDE AN APPROPRIATE DISCLOSURE OF PRICING INFORMATION.

Part A of title XI of the Social Security Act is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 1150D. REQUIREMENT THAT DIRECT-TO-CONSUMER ADVERTISEMENTS FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AND BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTS INCLUDE AN APPROPRIATE DISCLOSURE OF PRICING INFORMATION.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall require that each direct-to-consumer advertisement for a prescription drug or biological product for which payment is available under title XVIII or XIX includes an appropriate disclosure of pricing information with respect to the drug or product.

''(b) APPROPRIATE DISCLOSURE OF PRICING INFORMATION.—For the purposes of subsection (a), an appropriate disclosure of pricing information, with respect to a prescription drug or biological product—

''(1) shall include a disclosure of the wholesale acquisition cost (as defined in section 1847A(c)(6)(B)) for a 30-day supply of (or, if applicable, a typical course of treatment for) such drug or product;

''(2) shall be presented clearly and conspicuously, as appropriate for the medium of the advertisement; and

''(3) may include additional qualitative or quantitative information regarding the price of such drug or product explaining that certain patients may pay a different amount depending on their insurance coverage.

''(c) ENFORCEMENT.—Any person who violates the requirement of this section may be subject to a civil money penalty of not more than $100,000 for each such violation or to another enforcement mechanism determined by the Secretary. Any civil money penalty shall be imposed and collected in the same manner as civil money penalties under subsection (a) of section 1128A are imposed and collected under that section.

''(d) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, shall promulgate regulations to carry out this section. Such regulations shall determine the components of the requirement under this section, including the forms of advertising, the manner of disclosure, the appropriate sanctions, and the appropriate disclosure of pricing information.''.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 284—RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDIANA VETERANS' HOME

Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 284

Whereas Indiana has a proud tradition of honoring its veterans and those who serve our country;

Whereas 3 out of 4 Hoosiers of eligible age served in the Civil War;

Whereas 1 out of every 10 Union Army soldiers enlisted from Indiana, and only 1 State, Delaware, provided more soldiers in the Civil War based on per capita population than Indiana;

Whereas the Soldiers and Sailors Monument is located in the center of Indianapolis and the State of Indiana, and when it was dedicated in 1902, the only monument taller in the United States was the Washington Monument;

Whereas, in 1886, at the annual encampment of the Department of Indiana Grand Army of the Republic (''G.A.R.'') held in Indianapolis, Indiana, Department Commander David N. Foster urged the G.A.R. to establish a State soldiers' home in Indiana to care for the disabled Union Veteran Soldiers;

Whereas intensive lobbying by the G.A.R. resulted in the Indiana General Assembly of 1888 resolving to found a home for veterans, and in 1890, work toward the home began;

Whereas a committee was founded to find a suitable location for the home, with a member-at-large and 1 member from each congressional district, including James R. Carnahan (at large), W.H. Tucker, David N. Foster, C.J. Murphy, D.F. Spees, Andrew Fite, H.B. Martin, U.D. Cole, A.O. Marsh, C.M. Travis, W.S. Haggard, D.B. McConnell, Jacob J. Todd, and Jasper E. Lewis;

Whereas, in the summer of 1892, the committee decided to formally recommend 187 wooded acres in Lafayette, Indiana, as the location of the Indiana State Soldiers' Home (also known as the ''Indiana Veterans' Home'') (referred to in this preamble as the ''Home'');

Whereas the City of Lafayette and the County of Tippecanoe agreed to donate 200 acres of ground and $5,633 for the Home;

Whereas General Richard P. DeHart, a local veteran and business man, donated a 2,000 foot strip of riverfront property, which is now known as the Tecumseh Trails Park, to the Home;

Whereas the committee, having secured a location, prepared a bill to be presented to the Indiana General Assembly for the establishment and maintenance of the Home;

Whereas, due to lack of time, the bill failed to pass the Indiana Senate, but in 1895, the Indiana General Assembly unanimously passed a bill to create the Home and appropriated $75,000 for its buildings;

Whereas, on February 23, 1895, Governor Claude Matthews signed the bill, and it became law;

Whereas the Governor appointed 5 men as the first Board of Trustees of the Home to work without compensation other than their actual traveling expenses;

Whereas the Indiana General Assembly appropriated $61,723.61 to be used in building an old men's home, a chapel, and an addition to the dining room, constructing sewers, furnishing the different buildings, graveling streets, roads, and sidewalks, and purchasing a pump, a dynamo, and a fire apparatus;

Whereas, by 1900, numerous buildings had been erected for the use of the residents of the Home, and the applications for residence at the Home were far greater than its facilities were capable of handling;

Whereas, on October 31, 1900, there were 9 State buildings, 39 county cottages, 5 cottages built by the G.A.R., 1 cottage built by the Woman's Relief Corps of Indiana (''W.R.C.''), 1 cottage each built by the John A. Logan and Marsh B. Taylor W.R.C. of Lafayette, and 1 cottage built by the John A. Logan Circle, Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic of Lafayette;

Whereas, in addition to these buildings, the Home built a public restaurant, Commandant's home, Surgeon's cottage, and combination carpenter and paint shop;

Whereas, in addition to the sums donated for the buildings, the W.R.C. and Ladies of the G.A.R. throughout the State gave $1,326.25 to furnish rooms and cottages in the Home;

Whereas, in his written history of Tippecanoe County from 1909, General Richard P. DeHart wrote of the Home, ''If one ever doubted that America appreciates and cares for her defenders, a visit to this beauty spot of Indiana will convince them that not only in times of peril and war does she care for her brave soldiery, but that now after forty years have come and gone, she still seeks to show these old and infirm men that she wishes them all the peace and comfort possible to provide for them, at any cost.'';

Whereas peak census was reached in the 1910s when the Home housed over 1,400 residents and another 200 staff members;

Whereas the Home operated as its own little town, complete with a hospital, electric light plant, bakery, fire department, and an assembly hall with a seating capacity for 600 people;

Whereas census in the 1920s had declined to the average number of residents numbering in the 1,000s;

Whereas this state of affairs continued, and, by 1950, it was apparent that the Home needed a major revamping;

Whereas this revamping resulted in the destruction of almost all of the original buildings, and today only 5 structures remain from the earlier years of the Home, including the Commandant's home, the Administration Building, the Lawrie Library, the bus station, and the cemetery chapel;

Whereas 9 acres of the Home's land were listed in National Register of Historic Places in 1974, including 4 original buildings—the Commandant's home, the library, the Administration Building, and the post exchange;

Whereas, in addition, a collection of approximately 165 oil portraits and charcoal drawings of Civil War generals and important political figures, painted by Captain Alexander Lawrie, are housed in the library and add a major cultural dimension to the Home;

Whereas, in 1974, the Home became a licensed healthcare facility;

Whereas, on June 4, 1976, the Home's name was officially changed from the Indiana State Soldiers' Home to the Indiana Veterans' Home, and the title of the chief administrator was changed from Commandant to Superintendent;

Whereas, in 1976, the construction of Ernie Pyle Hall, MacArthur Hall, and Mitchell Hall began and continued until completion in 1982;

Whereas, in 2009, the Commandant's Row buildings were placed under the authority of the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs and the Home;

Whereas census has declined over the decades as Civil War veterans passed, but the Home has averaged 200 residents annually,

ranging between 120 to 265 residents from the 1970s to the present;

Whereas the Home is operated by the State of Indiana to care for honorably discharged Indiana veterans and their spouses and Gold Star parents;

Whereas there is no wartime service requirement in order to be eligible to apply for admission to the Home, and the Home accepts all periods of service;

Whereas the Home is a full-service care facility, offering a complete array of on-site services for its residents;

Whereas the Home currently boasts a small museum of historical artifacts related to various wars, as well as artifacts from the Home's history;

Whereas the Home provides quality care for veterans, their spouses, and Gold Star parents;

Whereas there are currently 3,000 graves in the Home's cemetery, which serves as the final resting place for its residents and their spouses who chose internment there; and

Whereas the Home has played a vital role in assisting Hoosier Veterans and their families in their time of need: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Indiana Veterans' Home has been, and continues to be, an example of Hoosiers' dedication to their veterans, especially those who served in the Civil War;

(2) the Indiana Veterans' Home, along with the other State-owned and managed war memorials throughout Indianapolis and Indiana, including the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, highlights Hoosiers' appreciation for the service of its veterans;

(3) the Indiana Veterans' Home continues a strong tradition of providing care to Hoosier veterans at the beautiful property located in Tippecanoe County, Indiana, and offering a historical glimpse into the past with its museum and the notable nearby physical locations; and

(4) the Indiana Veterans' Home should be recognized for its 125 years of care to the veterans of Indiana and their families at this beautiful and historically significant property in the State.

SENATE RESOLUTION 285—HONORING THE LIVES AND LEGACIES OF THE ''RADIUM GIRLS''

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. DURBIN, and Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 285

Whereas Marie and Pierre Curie discovered radium in 1898, sparking a craze for radium-infused consumer goods in the early 20th century;

Whereas many entrepreneurs touted radium's supposedly limitless curative properties, even as some scientists began to report serious health hazards associated with the element;

Whereas the ''Radium Girls'' were teenaged girls and young women who, starting in 1917, worked in United States factories painting watch dials and airplane instruments using glow-in-the-dark, radium-infused paint;

Whereas the early Radium Girls painted watches and instruments that United States troops relied on during World War I;

Whereas the majority of the Radium Girls worked for corporations located in Orange, New Jersey, Ottawa, Illinois, and Waterbury, Connecticut;

Whereas the Radium Girls primarily came from working-class backgrounds and some were first- and second-generation Americans;

Whereas, in several instances, the radium corporations' leadership knew that the element could be harmful to human health, but they did not inform the Radium Girls of the risks or implement basic safety standards;

Whereas, in many cases, the radium corporations' management encouraged the Radium Girls to keep their paintbrush tips moist and as fine as possible by putting the paint-covered brushes between their lips, a technique known as ''lip-pointing'';

Whereas, due to lip-pointing, many of the early Radium Girls ingested extremely harmful quantities of radium;

Whereas the Radium Girls breathed in radium-infused dust and touched radium-infused paint, and they often glowed by the end of the workday due to the radioactive paint on their clothes and skin;

Whereas many of the Radium Girls began to experience mysterious health problems, including necrosis (rotting) of the jaw, cancer, anemia, bone fractures, and infertility;

Whereas many of the Radium Girls were eventually plagued by debilitating physical pain and severe disabilities;

Whereas an unknown number of the approximately 4,000 Radium Girls died prematurely or experienced the devastating health effects of radium poisoning;

Whereas some physicians and dentists initially dismissed the Radium Girls' hypothesis that their illnesses were linked to their occupations;

Whereas, in some cases, the radium corporations conspired with members of the medical community to conceal the origins of the Radium Girls' illnesses and smear their reputations;

Whereas a number of the Radium Girls, in different States, fought to secure justice for themselves, their families, and their colleagues by suing the radium corporations;

Whereas the Radium Girls' difficult and prolonged legal battles and often horrific medical conditions drew national attention;

Whereas some of the Radium Girls who challenged the radium corporations were shunned by their communities for harming the reputation of a prominent local employer;

Whereas many of the surviving Radium Girls volunteered to participate in scientific studies on the effects of radium on the human body;

Whereas investigations of the Radium Girls' illnesses led to the creation of the new scientific field of human radiobiology;

Whereas the Federal Government relied on data from the Radium Girls' cases to develop safety standards for radium and other radioactive materials for factory workers, medical personnel, and scientists, including the workers and scientists of the Manhattan Project;

Whereas some of the Radium Girls and their families received either no compensation or only meager compensation related to their harmful exposure to radium and their contributions to science;

Whereas the Radium Girls' highly publicized case was among the first in which the courts held an employer responsible for the safety and health of its workers;

Whereas the Radium Girls' struggle for justice was a turning point in the movement to protect workers' safety and ultimately spurred Congress to enact critical occupational health reforms; and

Whereas many workers in the United States today are still fighting for a safe and equitable workplace: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the Radium Girls and their determination to seek justice in the face of overwhelming obstacles;

(2) recognizes the invaluable contributions of the Radium Girls to developing modern workplace safety laws and standards; and

(3) reaffirms the commitment of the Federal Government to protecting the health and safety of all workers in the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 286—URGING THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION TO WORK WITH CONGRESS TO ENSURE THAT THE UNITED STATES MILITARY HAS SUFFICIENT RESOURCES

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 286

Whereas the United States faces numerous national security threats from around the world, including from the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic Republic of Korea, and international terrorist and crime networks aided by United States enemies, such as the Republic of Cuba and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela;

Whereas the United States is engaged in a new Cold War with the People's Republic of China, which is—

(1) building up its military to defeat the United States;

(2) stealing United States intellectual property and jobs;

(3) harassing neighboring Asian countries and United States allies and partners;

(4) committing genocide against the Uyghurs; and

(5) denying basic rights to the people of Hong Kong;

Whereas the People's Republic of China is focused on world domination through oppression and communist rule;

Whereas, according to prominent research institutions, including the Center for Strategic and International Studies and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, the Chinese Communist Party has increased its defense spending more than 700 percent during the last decade, with an additional 6.8 percent increase anticipated in the current fiscal year;

Whereas security and foreign policy experts widely acknowledge that—

(1) the People's Republic of China is not forthcoming or transparent with information related to military spending; and

(2) China's military spending may be considerably higher than its reported figures;

Whereas the National Defense Strategy Commission, in its report, *Providing for the Common Defense: The Assessment and Recommendation of the States*, recommended, in accordance with the testimony of Secretary Mattis and Chairman Dunford in 2017, that ''Congress increase the base defense budget at an average rate of three to five percent above inflation through the Future Years Defense Program and perhaps beyond'';

Whereas, when considering the inflation crisis he has created, President Biden's proposed defense budget would be insufficient to address—

(1) new and mounting threats to United States national security and to our allies; and

(2) the need for sufficient military support to deter our enemies and maintain the most lethal fighting force in the world;

Whereas President Biden's proposed budget request includes $715,000,000,000 for the Department of Defense, which is well below the funding needed to keep pace with inflation, while the President's nondefense discretionary spending request represents an increase of almost 20 percent compared to the current fiscal year;

Whereas, in the Department of Defense's fiscal year 2021 Future Years Defense Program, the projected request for the Department of Defense in fiscal year 2022 was targeted at $722,000,000,000, which is $7,000,000,000 higher than President Biden's actual defense budget request for fiscal year 2022;

Whereas President Biden's defense budget—

(1) does not provide adequate resources to deter or defeat United States enemies;

(2) does not even keep up with inflation; and

(3) does not restore our military readiness that was diminished by budget cuts and the sequester under President Barack Obama, which arbitrarily reduced defense spending across the board;

Whereas the lack of sufficient funding will require the Department of Defense to choose between—

(1) providing for United States servicemembers' compensation and benefits;

(2) providing for United States forces' modernization and readiness needs; and

(3) any other priorities that the Biden Administration chooses to pursue; and

Whereas President Biden's level of defense spending—

(1) harms the United States' long-term strategic competition against the People's Republic of China and other adversaries; and

(2) weakens our standing on the global stage: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate urges the Biden Administration to work with Congress to ensure that the United States military has all the necessary resources to build and sustain the overwhelming military might that the United States expects and deserves.

SENATE RESOLUTION 287—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE UNITED STATES MUST CONTINUE TO DEMONSTRATE LEADERSHIP TO ACHIEVE SIGNIFICANT REFORMS TO THE RULES OF THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION IN ORDER TO PROMOTE THE ADVANCEMENT OF TRULY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. KING) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

S. RES. 287

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) although the United States finds value and usefulness in the World Trade Organization in fulfilling the needs of the United States and other free and open economies in the 21st century, significant reforms at the World Trade Organization are needed; and

(2) the United States must continue to demonstrate leadership to achieve reforms that restore the effectiveness of the rules of the World Trade Organization for special and differential treatment to ensure those rules promote advancement for truly developing countries, rather than becoming tools for globally competitive countries, such as the People's Republic of China, to engage in protectionism and market distortions.

SENATE RESOLUTION 288—COMMEMORATING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOURIS RIVER FLOOD IN MINOT, NORTH DAKOTA

Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Mr. CRAMER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 288

Whereas, in late June 2011, the city of Minot, North Dakota, and surrounding communities were inundated by widespread flooding;

Whereas high soil moisture content, above-average snow pack, and persistent spring and summer precipitation produced record-level flooding throughout the Souris River Basin;

Whereas, in June 2011, the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority informed communities downstream that ''reservoirs [had] no capacity to store further inflows'';

Whereas, on June 22, 2011, following continued releases from upstream reservoirs, water began to overtop levees in the city of Minot, resulting in a mandatory evacuation and the displacement of 11,000 Minot residents;

Whereas nearly 11,500 acres in Ward County were covered in 2 to 15 feet of water, impacting nearly 4,800 structures;

Whereas the river's flow peaked at 27,000 cubic feet per second, resulting in almost as much water moving through Minot in June 2011 as in the entire year of 1976, which was the previous all-time annual flow record;

Whereas, on June 26, 2011, the river crested at 1,561.72 feet above sea level, a Minot record;

Whereas the floodwater destroyed 4,100 homes, 250 businesses, and numerous schools, parks, churches, and other public infrastructure at a cost of as much as $1,000,000,000;

Whereas floodwater created national security concerns by temporarily blocking access to some intercontinental ballistic missile facilities operated by personnel at Minot Air Force Base;

Whereas the Federal Emergency Management Agency provided more than 1,500 temporary housing units to address the agency's third largest housing mission in its history to date;

Whereas the people of Minot and surrounding communities demonstrated resilience and worked together to help their fellow neighbors in a time of need;

Whereas Federal, State, and local officials and agencies coordinated to provide immediate recovery assistance;

Whereas Congress provided hundreds of millions of dollars in disaster relief and recovery funding to assist the city of Minot and the surrounding region;

Whereas the people of Minot and surrounding communities continue to deal with the effects of the flood, including efforts to construct permanent flood protection in the Minot area; and

Whereas 2021 marks the tenth anniversary of the Souris River flood in Minot, North Dakota: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the tenth anniversary of the Souris River flood in Minot, North Dakota;

(2) expresses sympathy to people in the Souris River Basin and condolences to the families who lost their homes or businesses;

(3) commends the resilience of the people in the Souris River Basin and their commitment to recovery and rebuilding; and

(4) expresses gratitude and appreciation to State and local leaders, first responders, and the North Dakota National Guard for protecting the people of the Souris River Basin.

SENATE RESOLUTION 289—DESIGNATING JUNE 2021 AS ''NATIONAL POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS AWARENESS MONTH'' AND JUNE 27, 2021, AS ''NATIONAL POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS AWARENESS DAY''

Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WICKER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. KELLY, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mrs. BLACKBURN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 289

Whereas the brave men and women of the Armed Forces, who proudly serve the United States—

(1) risk their lives to protect the freedom, health, and welfare of the people of the United States; and

(2) deserve the investment of every possible resource to ensure their lasting physical, mental, and emotional well-being;

Whereas, since the events of September 11, 2001, nearly 2,800,000 members of the Armed Forces have deployed overseas and served in places such as Afghanistan and Iraq;

Whereas the current generation of men and women in the Armed Forces has sustained a high rate of operational deployments, with many members of the Armed Forces serving overseas multiple times, placing those members at high risk of enduring traumatic combat stress;

Whereas, when left untreated, exposure to traumatic combat stress can lead to severe and chronic post-traumatic stress responses, which are commonly referred to as post-traumatic stress disorder (referred to in this preamble as ''PTSD'') or post-traumatic stress injury;

Whereas many men and women of the Armed Forces and veterans who served before September 11, 2001, live with mental health needs from post-traumatic stress and remain at risk for responses to that stress;

Whereas many post-traumatic stress responses remain unreported, undiagnosed, and untreated due to a lack of awareness about post-traumatic stress and the persistent stigma associated with mental health conditions;

Whereas post-traumatic stress significantly increases the risk of post-traumatic stress responses, including anxiety, depression, homelessness, substance abuse, and suicide, especially if left untreated;

Whereas the Secretary of Veterans Affairs reports that—

(1) between 11 and 20 percent of veterans who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom have post-traumatic stress in a given year;

(2) approximately 12 percent of veterans who served in the Persian Gulf War have post-traumatic stress in a given year; and

(3) approximately 30 percent of veterans who served in the Vietnam era have had post-traumatic stress in their lifetimes;

Whereas public perceptions of post-traumatic stress as a mental health disorder create unique challenges for veterans seeking employment;

Whereas the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, veterans service organizations, and the private and public medical community have made significant advances in the identification, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of post-traumatic stress and the symptoms of post-traumatic stress, but many challenges remain;

Whereas increased understanding of post-traumatic stress can help eliminate stigma attached to the mental health issues of post-traumatic stress;

Whereas additional efforts are needed to find further ways to eliminate the stigma associated with post-traumatic stress, including—

(1) an examination of how post-traumatic stress is discussed in the United States; and

(2) a recognition that post-traumatic stress is a common injury that is treatable;

Whereas timely and appropriate treatment of post-traumatic stress responses can diminish complications and avert suicides;

Whereas post-traumatic stress—

(1) can result from any number of stressors other than combat, including rape, sexual assault, battery, torture, confinement, child abuse, car accidents, train wrecks, plane crashes, bombings, natural disasters, or global pandemics; and

(2) affects approximately 8,000,000 adults in the United States annually;

Whereas traumatic events such as the COVID–19 pandemic could—

(1) increase the number of individuals impacted by post-traumatic stress; or

(2) exacerbate the responses of post-traumatic stress;

Whereas the diagnosis of PTSD was first defined by the American Psychiatric Association in 1980 to commonly and more accurately understand and treat survivors of physical and psychological trauma, including veterans who had endured severe traumatic combat stress;

Whereas the word ''disorder'' can perpetuate the stigma associated with combat stress, so the more general term ''post-traumatic stress'' is often preferred; and

Whereas the designation of a National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Month and a National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Day raises public awareness about issues relating to post-traumatic stress, reduces the stigma associated with post-traumatic stress, and helps ensure that individuals suffering from the invisible wounds of war receive proper treatment: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates—

(A) June 2021 as ''National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Month''; and

(B) June 27, 2021, as ''National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Day'';

(2) supports the efforts of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of Defense, and the entire medical community to educate members of the Armed Forces, veterans, the families of members of the Armed Forces and veterans, and the public about the causes, symptoms, and treatment of post-traumatic stress;

(3) supports efforts by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense to foster—

(A) cultural change around the issue of post-traumatic stress; and

(B) understanding that personal interactions can save lives and advance treatment;

(4) welcomes the efforts of the National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder of the Department of Veterans Affairs and local Vet Centers (as defined in section 1712A(h) of title 38, United States Code) to provide assistance to veterans who are suffering from the effects of post-traumatic stress;

(5) encourages the leadership of the Armed Forces to support appropriate treatment of men and women of the Armed Forces who suffer from post-traumatic stress;

(6) recognizes the impact of post-traumatic stress on the spouses and families of members of the Armed Forces and veterans; and

(7) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to—

(A) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; and

(B) the Secretary of Defense.

SENATE RESOLUTION 291—CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA SOONERS SOFTBALL TEAM ON WINNING THE 2021 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION WOMEN'S COLLEGE WORLD SERIES

Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. LANKFORD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 291

Whereas, on June 10, 2021, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, the University of Oklahoma Sooners softball team (referred to in this preamble as the ''Sooners'') won the 2021 National Collegiate Athletic Association Women's College World Series;

Whereas, after losing the first game in the championship series, the Sooners won 2 consecutive games to beat Florida State University;

Whereas the Sooners, over the 46-year history of the University of Oklahoma softball program—

(1) have won 5 Women's College World Series championships, including 3 championships in the past 5 years; and

(2) have competed in 13 Women's College World Series;

Whereas the 2021 national championship for the Sooners builds on the strong tradition of success for the University of Oklahoma athletics department, the teams of which have delivered 39 team national championships and 295 conference titles throughout the rich history of the department;

Whereas the Sooners were the best team in the United States during the 2021 season, having never lost consecutive games all season and maintaining a perfect record in their home stadium to finish the season with 56 wins and 4 losses;

Whereas, during the 2021 season, the Sooners set records for team batting average, team slugging percentage, on-base percentage, home runs, and runs scored on their way to a fifth national championship;

Whereas Giselle ''G'' Juarez was named Most Outstanding Player of the Women's College World Series, throwing 218 pitches and 2 complete games to sweep the Florida State Seminoles in the final 2 games of the championship series;

Whereas Jocelyn Alo was named the USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year and the Jim Thorpe Oklahoma Athlete of the Year, hitting 34 home runs and maintaining a 0.475 batting average during the 2021 season;

Whereas the Sooners players should be applauded for their outstanding contributions to the University of Oklahoma, to the achievement of winning a national championship, and to the sport of softball, including Rylie Boone, Kinsey Koeltzow, Grace Lyons, Shannon Saile, Taylon Snow, Paige Knight, Olivia Rains, Kinzie Hansen, Nicole Mendes, Mackenzie Donihoo, Macy McAdoo, Brooke Vestal, Nicole May, Jana Johns, Grace Green, Lynnsie Elam, Tiare Jennings, Jayda Coleman, Raylee Pogue, Zaida Puni, Giselle Juarez, Alanna Thiede, and Jocelyn Alo;

Whereas the Sooners coaches should be applauded for their outstanding leadership of the University of Oklahoma softball program and their role in guiding and mentoring young women at the University of Oklahoma, including Patty Gasso, Jennifer Rocha, JT Gasso, Erin Arevalo, Kelsey Arnold, and Sydney Romero;

Whereas head coach Patty Gasso has become a distinguished coach and leader in the softball community, which is evidenced by her—

(1) leading the Sooners to each of the 5 national championships in the history of the University of Oklahoma softball program; and

(2) racking up more than 1,300 wins in her coaching career at the University of Oklahoma;

Whereas the second game in the championship series was viewed by more than 2,600,000 people, setting a new viewership record for the Women's College World Series; and

Whereas the Sooners bring pride to the State of Oklahoma and the entire softball community: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the University of Oklahoma Sooners softball team on winning the 2021 National Collegiate Athletic Association Women's College World Series;

(2) recognizes the excellence and dedication of all coaches, support staff, and players whose contributions led to the victory in the 2021 Women's College World Series;

(3) celebrates alongside the students and faculty of the University of Oklahoma and Sooner fans around the United States; and

(4) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) Joseph Harroz, Jr., President of the University of Oklahoma;

(B) Joseph Castiglione, Director of Athletics and Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletic Programs of the University of Oklahoma; and

(C) Patty Gasso, head coach of the University of Oklahoma Sooners softball team.

SENATE RESOLUTION 290—ENCOURAGING THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION TO REVIEW AND UPDATE ITS GUIDANCE RELATING TO MASK WEARING IN CONFINED PLACES

Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MORAN, Mr. WICKER, Ms. COLLINS, and Mrs. BLACKBURN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 290

Whereas individuals in the United States have sacrificed immensely since the beginning of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19) pandemic in March 2020, including by avoiding travel to see friends and family;

Whereas science shows that individuals fully vaccinated against COVID–19 are protected against asymptomatic infection, and thus very unlikely to spread the disease;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updated its guidance relating to mask wearing in confined places for fully vaccinated individuals, allowing individuals to no longer wear a mask in such instances;

Whereas extending this mask guidance to allow fully vaccinated individuals to travel on public transportation networks throughout the United States, including through commercial aviation, without the need to wear a mask would be instrumental in helping the economic recovery of the United States by boosting travel and benefitting the travel and tourism industries without sacrificing public health; and

Whereas allowing fully vaccinated passengers to travel, including by commercial

aviation, without wearing a mask would incentivize a greater number of individuals to receive the COVID–19 vaccine: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) encourages the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to review and update its guidance relating to mask wearing in confined places to clarify that individuals fully vaccinated against COVID–19 no longer need to wear a mask on public transportation networks throughout the United States, including at airports, onboard commercial aircraft, on over-the-road buses, and on commuter bus and rail systems; and

(2) believes the Transportation Security Administration should update its mask requirements, to be consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance, to permit fully vaccinated individuals to travel on all transportation networks throughout the United States without wearing a mask.

SENATE RESOLUTION 291—CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA SOONERS SOFTBALL TEAM ON WINNING THE 2021 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION WOMEN'S COLLEGE WORLD SERIES

Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. LANKFORD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 291

Whereas, on June 10, 2021, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, the University of Oklahoma Sooners softball team (referred to in this preamble as the ''Sooners'') won the 2021 National Collegiate Athletic Association Women's College World Series;

Whereas, after losing the first game in the championship series, the Sooners won 2 consecutive games to beat Florida State University;

Whereas the Sooners, over the 46-year history of the University of Oklahoma softball program—

(1) have won 5 Women's College World Series championships, including 3 championships in the past 5 years; and

(2) have competed in 13 Women's College World Series;

Whereas the 2021 national championship for the Sooners builds on the strong tradition of success for the University of Oklahoma athletics department, the teams of which have delivered 39 team national championships and 295 conference titles throughout the rich history of the department;

Whereas the Sooners were the best team in the United States during the 2021 season, having never lost consecutive games all season and maintaining a perfect record in their home stadium to finish the season with 56 wins and 4 losses;

Whereas, during the 2021 season, the Sooners set records for team batting average, team slugging percentage, on-base percentage, home runs, and runs scored on their way to a fifth national championship;

Whereas Giselle ''G'' Juarez was named Most Outstanding Player of the Women's College World Series, throwing 218 pitches and 2 complete games to sweep the Florida State Seminoles in the final 2 games of the championship series;

Whereas Jocelyn Alo was named the USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year and the Jim Thorpe Oklahoma Athlete of the Year, hitting 34 home runs and maintaining a 0.475 batting average during the 2021 season;

Whereas the Sooners players should be applauded for their outstanding contributions to the University of Oklahoma, to the achievement of winning a national championship, and to the sport of softball, including Rylie Boone, Kinsey Koeltzow, Grace Lyons, Shannon Saile, Taylon Snow, Paige Knight, Olivia Rains, Kinzie Hansen, Nicole Mendes, Mackenzie Donihoo, Macy McAdoo, Brooke Vestal, Nicole May, Jana Johns, Grace Green, Lynnsie Elam, Tiare Jennings, Jayda Coleman, Raylee Pogue, Zaida Puni, Giselle Juarez, Alanna Thiede, and Jocelyn Alo;

Whereas the Sooners coaches should be applauded for their outstanding leadership of the University of Oklahoma softball program and their role in guiding and mentoring young women at the University of Oklahoma, including Patty Gasso, Jennifer Rocha, JT Gasso, Erin Arevalo, Kelsey Arnold, and Sydney Romero;

Whereas head coach Patty Gasso has become a distinguished coach and leader in the softball community, which is evidenced by her—

(1) leading the Sooners to each of the 5 national championships in the history of the University of Oklahoma softball program; and

(2) racking up more than 1,300 wins in her coaching career at the University of Oklahoma;

Whereas the second game in the championship series was viewed by more than 2,600,000 people, setting a new viewership record for the Women's College World Series; and

Whereas the Sooners bring pride to the State of Oklahoma and the entire softball community: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the University of Oklahoma Sooners softball team on winning the 2021 National Collegiate Athletic Association Women's College World Series;

(2) recognizes the excellence and dedication of all coaches, support staff, and players whose contributions led to the victory in the 2021 Women's College World Series;

(3) celebrates alongside the students and faculty of the University of Oklahoma and Sooner fans around the United States; and

(4) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) Joseph Harroz, Jr., President of the University of Oklahoma;

(B) Joseph Castiglione, Director of Athletics and Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletic Programs of the University of Oklahoma; and

(C) Patty Gasso, head coach of the University of Oklahoma Sooners softball team.

SENATE RESOLUTION 292—DESIGNATING JULY 9, 2021, AS ''COLLECTOR CAR APPRECIATION DAY'' AND RECOGNIZING THAT THE COLLECTION AND RESTORATION OF HISTORIC AND CLASSIC CARS IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF PRESERVING THE TECHNOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. BURR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 292

Whereas many people in the United States maintain classic automobiles as a pastime and do so with great passion and as a means of individual expression;

Whereas the Senate recognizes the effect that the more than 100-year history of the automobile has had on the economic progress of the United States and supports wholeheartedly all activities involved in the restoration and exhibition of classic automobiles;

Whereas the collection, restoration, and preservation of automobiles is an activity shared across generations and across all segments of society;

Whereas thousands of local car clubs and related businesses have been instrumental in preserving a historic part of the heritage of the United States by encouraging the restoration and exhibition of such vintage works of art;

Whereas automotive restoration provides well-paying, high-skilled jobs for people in all 50 States; and

Whereas automobiles have provided the inspiration for music, photography, cinema, fashion, and other artistic pursuits that have become part of the popular culture of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates July 9, 2021, as ''Collector Car Appreciation Day'';

(2) recognizes that the collection and restoration of historic and classic cars is an important part of preserving the technological achievements and cultural heritage of the United States;

(3) encourages the people of the United States to engage in events and commemorations of Collector Car Appreciation Day in accordance with public health guidelines; and

(4) recognizes that Collector Car Appreciation Day events and commemorations create opportunities for collector car owners to educate young people about the importance of preserving the cultural heritage of the United States, including through the collection and restoration of collector cars.

SENATE RESOLUTION 293—DESIGNATING JUNE 26, 2021, AS THE ''INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING''

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. HAWLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 293

Whereas the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime estimated that 269,000,000 individuals used illicit drugs worldwide in 2018, a 30 percent increase from 2009;

Whereas the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime estimated that 35,600,000 individuals globally suffered from substance use disorders in 2018;

Whereas the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration reported that, in 2019, 35,800,000 individuals aged 12 or older used an illicit drug in the United States in the past month, and 21,600,000 individuals aged 12 or older needed substance abuse treatment in the past year;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (''CDC'') estimated that a record 91,862 individuals died from drug overdoses between October 2019 and October 2020;

Whereas, according to the CDC, opioids are the main driver of drug overdose deaths in the United States, with synthetic opioids, such as illicitly manufactured fentanyl and fentanyl analogues, causing approximately 73 percent of opioid-involved overdose deaths;

Whereas CDC data indicates that drug overdose deaths have increased during the coronavirus pandemic;

Whereas the National Institute of Drug Abuse estimates that illicit drug use costs the United States $193,000,000,000 annually in healthcare costs, crime, and lost productivity;

Whereas the Drug Enforcement Administration reports that drug trafficking fuels the drug overdose epidemic in the United States and can lead to violence in communities throughout the country and the world;

Whereas the Department of State reports that the illicit drug trade can undermine the rule-of-law and fuel corruption; and

Whereas the United Nations General Assembly established June 26 as the ''International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) encourages access to prevention, treatment, and recovery programs for individuals with substance use disorders, including access to medication-assisted treatment;

(2) commends the efforts of law enforcement agencies and officers to detect, curtail, and prevent drug trafficking and production domestically and internationally;

(3) applauds the work of law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and judges who work to connect individuals with a substance use disorder to treatment facilities;

(4) supports research into treatments for substance use disorders;

(5) encourages greater international cooperation to dismantle drug trafficking organizations and transnational criminal organizations involved in the illicit drug trade;

(6) supports efforts to unravel financial networks that enable the illicit drug trade;

(7) calls on other United Nations Member States to mark the ''International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking''; and

(8) designates June 26, 2021, as the ''International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking''.

SENATE RESOLUTION 294—RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF JUNE AS ''IMMIGRANT HERITAGE MONTH'', A CELEBRATION OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS IMMIGRANTS AND THEIR CHILDREN HAVE MADE IN MAKING THE UNITED STATES A HEALTHIER, SAFER, MORE DIVERSE, PROSPEROUS COUNTRY, AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE IMPORTANCE OF IMMIGRANTS AND THEIR CHILDREN TO THE FUTURE SUCCESSES OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. WARREN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. LUJÁN, and Ms. HIRONO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 294

Whereas the United States is stronger when all individuals have the opportunity to live up to their full potential;

Whereas about 15 percent of health care workers in the United States are immigrants, including (in order of highest percentage of health care workers who are foreign born)—

(1) 29 percent of physicians;

(2) 25 percent of nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides;

(3) 24 percent of dentists;

(4) 20 percent of pharmacists;

(5) 19 percent of dental assistants;

(6) 15 percent of medical assistants;

(7) 15 percent of registered nurses;

(8) 15 percent of licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses;

(9) 12 percent of dieticians and nutritionists; and

(10) 12 percent of optometrists;

Whereas immigrants working in a health care occupation range from those granted temporary protected status under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a) or deferred action pursuant to the memorandum of the Department of Homeland Security entitled ''Exercising Prosecutorial Discretion with Respect to Individuals Who Came to the United States as Children'' issued on June 15, 2012, (referred to in this preamble as ''DACA'') to naturalized United States citizens;

Whereas more than 12 percent of such immigrants (310,000 individuals) are humanitarian migrants, including refugees, asylees, special immigrant visa holders, and Cuban and Haitian entrants;

Whereas 50,000 DACA recipients perform critical roles in the health care industry;

Whereas immigrants working in health care professions serve throughout the United States, and often in rural or underserved communities;

Whereas the medical students, residents, and physicians who rely on DACA for their ability to practice medicine provide medical care to approximately 4,600 patients a year;

Whereas immigrants have filled approximately ⅓ of physician roles in the United States each year for the 10 years prior to 2021;

Whereas the Association of American Medical Colleges attested to the Supreme Court that the health care system of the United States relies on immigrant health care providers;

Whereas, in response to COVID–19, immigrants are putting their own lives on the line to save lives every day, working as diagnostic and treatment practitioners, physician assistants, physicians, nurses, health aides, nursing assistants and orderlies, health care support workers, medical students and residents, and health technologists and technicians;

Whereas more than 5,200,000 undocumented immigrants, including more than ½ of all DACA recipients (400,000 individuals) and the majority of Temporary Protected Status holders (more than 220,000 individuals) are considered essential critical infrastructure workers;

Whereas immigrant essential workers, including first-responders, health care workers, agricultural workers and meat packers, child care providers, and hospitality and transportation workers, have heroically helped provide medical care, food, shelter, and comfort to the people of the United States impacted by COVID–19;

Whereas undocumented immigrants alone contribute an estimated $228,000,000,000 of spending power annually to the United States economy, after the payment of $49,000,000,000 of combined Federal, State, and local taxes each year;

Whereas the majority of farm workers in the United States are immigrants, and regardless of politics, have been deemed ''essential workers'' in order to maintain a safe food supply for the United States during the COVID–19 pandemic;

Whereas immigrants have served in the Armed Forces since the founding of the United States, and have fought in every major conflict in the history of the United States, including the Civil War, World Wars I and II, and conflicts in Vietnam, Afghanistan, and Iraq;

Whereas immigrants have put their lives on the line to protect the ideals of the United States and democracy, as well as lives of the people of the United States, by serving as translators and interpreters for the Armed Forces, and performing sensitive and trusted activities for United States military personnel stationed with the International Security Assistance Force;

Whereas immigrants who serve in emerging industries with pronounced labor shortages in the United States, such as artificial intelligence, that rely on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (referred to in this preamble as ''STEM'') skills, not only bolster the economy but also enhance national security and global leadership;

Whereas when immigrants have a trusting relationship with local law enforcement, they have reported crime and have worked with police on neighborhood crime reduction strategies;

Whereas more immigrants reside in the United States than any other country in the world and represent almost every country in the world, contributing to the rich diversity in the United States of people, cultures, cuisine, literature, art, language, academia, music, media, fashion, and customs;

Whereas the United States is more diverse than ever before in its history, with greater shares of immigrants from countries such as India, China (including those born in Hong Kong and Macao, but not Taiwan), the Philippines, El Salvador, Vietnam, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, South Korea, and Guatemala, and an increase of 79 percent since 2000 of Black immigrants from across the African continent, the Caribbean, Jamaica, and Haiti;

Whereas Black immigrants and their children make up roughly ⅕ of the overall Black population in the United States (18 percent);

Whereas in response to recent civil unrest in the United States, immigrants of all backgrounds have pledged their support to fight racial injustice, hand-in-hand with Black immigrants, to fight for accountability from law enforcement and the criminal justice system and to demand that law enforcement protect people, regardless of their skin color;

Whereas celebrating the racial, ethnic, linguistic, and religious differences of immigrants has resulted in a unified, patriotic, and prosperous United States;

Whereas immigration has long been one of the greatest competitive advantages of the United States;

Whereas immigrants of all skill levels have helped make the economy of the United States the strongest in the world, complementing existing businesses in the United States in times of need and founding successful businesses of their own;

Whereas, although only accounting for 13.7 percent (nearly 45,000,000 people) of the total population of the United States, more than 40 percent of Fortune 500 companies were founded by immigrants or their children, which has created $4,200,000,000,000 in annual revenue and employ millions of people of the United States;

Whereas 64.5 percent of immigrants aged 16 and older were employed, as opposed to 60.0 percent of native-born people of the United States;

Whereas immigrants are entrepreneurial, self-starters who create their own opportunity and employment opportunities for others, with 11.8 percent of employed immigrants being self-employed compared to 8.9 percent of employed, native-born people of the United States;

Whereas immigrant-owned businesses provide jobs across the United States, creating

more jobs through entrepreneurial activity than they fill;

Whereas immigrants are more likely to have advanced degrees than native-born people of the United States;

Whereas the high-skilled immigration system of the United States has not been updated in more than 25 years and is now outdated and overburdened, putting global leadership of the United States at risk;

Whereas national security experts agree that it is essential for the United States to maintain its military exceptionalism by being the leader in advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, cyber, quantum, robotics, directed energy, and hypersonic weapons, which are all STEM fields where immigrants fill dangerous labor shortages in the United States;

Whereas due to population aging and longer life expectancy of the population in the United States requiring an increase in health care workers, immigrants are expected to fill a crucial need in the future health care of the United States, keeping the people of the United States healthy;

Whereas in just 20 years, meaningful immigration policy reform could reduce the Federal deficit by approximately $1,000,000,000,000, contributing to greater economic stability and safety;

Whereas over the course of the next decade, immigration policy reform would result in the creation of 3,230,000 new jobs, keeping the United States more economically sound;

Whereas future population growth in the United States will require increased immigration, and by increasing immigration substantially, will keep the United States economically competitive with China and other global economies, and reduce future fiscal imbalances for popular programs like programs under the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.); and

Whereas continued integration of immigrants from around the world that encourages and facilitates a pathway to citizenship, economic and social mobility, and civic engagement, will perpetuate the prosperity of the United States and reinforce the patriotism all people of the United States feel for the United States, no matter the color of skin, country of origin, or religious background of the person: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes June 2021 as ''Immigrant Heritage Month'' in honor of the contributions immigrants and their children have made to the United States throughout its history;

(2) pledges to celebrate immigrant contributions to, and immigrant heritages in, each State;

(3) welcomes immigrants presently in the United States and individuals seeking to immigrate to the United States to contribute to the health, safety, diversity, and prosperity of the United States by finding their place in the vibrant, multiethnic, and integrated society of the United States;

(4) encourages the people of the United States to work with their immigrant neighbors and colleagues to advance the current and future well-being of the United States; and

(5) commits to working with fellow Members of Congress, the executive agencies that administer immigration laws and policies, and the President to promote smart and just immigration policy for immigrants presently in the United States, their families, and individuals seeking to immigrate to the United States in the future.

SENATE RESOLUTION 295—DESIGNATING JUNE 15, 2021, AS ''WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY'' AND THE MONTH OF JUNE AS ''ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH''

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 295

Whereas, in 2021, approximately 55,000,000 residents of the United States, or about 1 in every 6 individuals, have attained the age of 65;

Whereas elder abuse remains a challenging problem and can come in many different forms, often manifesting as physical, sexual, or psychological abuse, financial exploitation, neglect, and social media abuse;

Whereas elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation have no boundaries and cross all racial, social, class, gender, and geographic lines, according to the Elder Justice Coalition;

Whereas more than 1 in 10 individuals in the United States over the age of 60 have been subjected to abuse each year, with many such victims enduring abuse in multiple forms, according to the American Journal of Public Health;

Whereas most reported cases of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older adults take place within private homes, and approximately 90 percent of the perpetrators in elder financial exploitation cases are family members or other trusted individuals, according to the National Adult Protective Services Association;

Whereas research suggests that elderly individuals in the United States who experience cognitive impairment, physical disabilities, or isolation are more likely to become the victims of abuse than those who do not experience cognitive impairment, physical disabilities, or isolation;

Whereas other risk factors for elder abuse can include low social support, poor physical health, and experience of previous traumatic events, according to the National Center on Elder Abuse;

Whereas close to half of elderly individuals who suffer from dementia will experience abuse during their lifetime, according to the Department of Justice;

Whereas only a small fraction of elder abuse cases are reported to the authorities;

Whereas, on June 15, 2021, which was World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, the United States mourned the loss of a disturbing number of older people in the United States, who perished in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities during the COVID–19 pandemic;

Whereas, the COVID–19 pandemic also has led to the emergence of new scams against older adults, including those related to vaccines;

Whereas, there has been an increase in hate crimes committed against older, Asian Americans during the COVID–19 pandemic;

Whereas, Congress recently passed and the President signed 2 measures that make nearly $400,000,000 available for implementation of Elder Justice Act (42 U.S.C. 1395i–3a et seq.) initiatives, the largest funding stream related to such initiatives in the history of the Act; and

Whereas Congress, in passing the Elder Justice Act of 2009 (42 U.S.C. 1395i–3a et seq.), the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.), the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act (34 U.S.C. 21701 et seq.), the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117–2), and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260), recognized the importance of protecting older people of the United States against abuse and exploitation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 15, 2021, as ''World Elder Abuse Awareness Day'' and the month of June as ''Elder Abuse Awareness Month'';

(2) recognizes—

(A) judges, lawyers, adult protective services professionals, law enforcement officers, social workers, health care providers, advocates for victims, and other professionals and agencies for their efforts to advance awareness of elder abuse;

(B) the important work of the Elder Justice Coordinating Council, which has continued through the previous 2 Administrations and involves 14 different Federal agencies;

(C) the essential work done by adult protective services personnel, who regularly came to the assistance of victims, investigated reports of abuse, and actively prevented future victimization of older people in the United States, especially during the ongoing COVID–19 pandemic as the social isolation of elderly individuals due to stay-at-home orders only increased the risk of abuse and neglect; and

(D) the importance of supporting State long-term care ombudsman programs, which help prevent elder abuse and neglect in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities, where infection prevention and control deficiencies pose persistent challenges;

(3) applauds the work of the Elder Justice Coalition, and its members, whose efforts to increase public awareness of elder abuse have the potential to increase the identification and reporting of this crime by the public, professionals, and victims, and can act as a catalyst to promote issue-based education and long-term prevention; and

(4) encourages—

(A) members of the public and professionals who work with older adults to act as catalysts to promote awareness and long-term prevention of elder abuse—

(i) by reaching out to local adult protective services agencies, State long-term care ombudsman programs, and the National Center on Elder Abuse; and

(ii) by learning to recognize, detect, report, and respond to elder abuse;

(B) private individuals and public agencies in the United States to continue work together at the Federal, State, and local levels to combat abuse, neglect, exploitation, crime, and violence against vulnerable adults, including vulnerable older adults, particularly in light of limited resources for vital protective services; and

(C) those Federal agencies with responsibility for preventing elder abuse to fully exercise such responsibilities to protect older adults, whether living in the community or in long-term care facilities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 296—REMEMBERING, AS THE WORLD ACKNOWLEDGES THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHINESE COMMUNITY PARTY, THE COUNTLESS LIVES THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY HAS DESTROYED AND THE PEOPLE CURRENTLY LIVING IN FEAR OF ITS TYRANNICAL AMBITIONS

Mr. DAINES submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 296

Whereas the Chinese Communist Party will observe its centenary on July 1, 2021, with a series of celebrations commemorating

its history and accomplishments toward improving the standing of China as a world power;

Whereas untold millions of Chinese citizens became casualties of the Chinese Communist Party's quest for power, enduring severe loss and suffering in what amounts to humanity's worst atrocities since World War II;

Whereas, during the Yan'an Rectification Movement from 1942 to 1945, more than 10,000 people were killed as the Chinese Community Party attempted to attack and replace intellectuals with people who supported the Communist ideology;

Whereas, during the Chinese Land Reform of 1949 to 1953, an estimated 4,700,000 landowners were murdered in order to redistribute land to peasantry;

Whereas, during the Campaign to Suppress Counterrevolutionaries from 1950 to 1952, an estimated 712,000 people were executed for their political views and 1,300,000 more were sentenced to ''labor reform'';

Whereas, during the Three-anti Campaign in 1951 and the Five-anti Campaign in 1952, Mao Zedong humiliated, terrorized, exiled, imprisoned, and killed thousands of political opponents and capitalists, weakening the economies of the major urban centers of China;

Whereas, during the Sufan Movement from 1955 to 1957, the Chinese Communist Party carried out a purge of hidden counterrevolutionaries, arresting an estimated 214,000 people and executing approximately 53,000 people;

Whereas, during the Anti-Rightist Campaign from 1957 to 1959, approximately 550,000 people suffered exile, imprisonment, and execution as Mao Zedong conducted a purge of ''rightists,'' credited for creating the modern one-party state of China;

Whereas, during the Great Chinese Famine from 1959 to 1961, an estimated 30,000,000 people died as a result of the policy of the Chinese Communist Party, which prioritized industrialization over agriculture, remembered today as one of the greatest man-made disasters in human history;

Whereas, during the Socialist Education Movement from 1963 to 1965, an estimated 5,000,000 people were persecuted and 77,560 were executed for their political beliefs;

Whereas, during the Tiananmen Square Massacre on June 4, 1989, an estimated 10,000 protestors were arrested or killed by the People's Liberation Army after the Chinese Communist Party declared martial law;

Whereas, since the transfer of sovereignty of Hong Kong in 1997, the Chinese Communist Party has increasingly undermined the autonomy and judicial independence of Hong Kong, resulting in a series of deadly protests and demonstrations;

Whereas, as of June 2021, an estimated 1,000,000 Uighur Muslims are subject to mass detention and torture, including electric shock, waterboarding, beatings, rape, forced sterilization, forced prostitution, stress positions, forced administration of unknown medication, cold cells, and organ harvesting in re-education camps in the Xinjiang province of China;

Whereas, as of June 2021, an estimated 150,000 Tibetan Buddhists live in exile in India and Nepal, 62 years after their leader, the Dalai Lama, sought refuge from a Chinese uprising in Tibet; and

Whereas, as of June 2021, the Chinese Communist Party exerts increasing political, military, economic, and social pressure on Taiwan in order to undermine its freedom and independence: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that, as the world acknowledges the 100th anniversary of the Chinese Communist Party on July 1, 2021, the Senate solemnly remembers the countless lives the Chinese Communist Party has destroyed and the people currently living in fear of its tyrannical ambitions.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 10—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT TAX-EXEMPT FRATERNAL BENEFIT SOCIETIES HAVE HISTORICALLY PROVIDED AND CONTINUE TO PROVIDE CRITICAL BENEFITS TO THE PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CASEY, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. SMITH, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. THUNE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. BROWN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. TOOMEY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

S. CON. RES. 10

Whereas the fraternal benefit societies of the United States are longstanding mutual aid organizations created more than a century ago to serve the needs of communities and provide for the payment of life, health, accident, and other benefits to their members;

Whereas fraternal benefit societies represent a successful, modern-day model under which individuals come together with a common purpose to collectively provide charitable and other beneficial activities for society;

Whereas fraternal benefit societies operate under a chapter system, creating a nationwide infrastructure, combined with local energy and knowledge, which positions fraternal benefit societies to most efficiently address unmet needs in communities, many of which the government cannot address;

Whereas the fraternal benefit society model represents one of the largest member-volunteer networks in the United States, with approximately 8,000,000 people of the United States belonging to more than 25,000 local chapters across the country;

Whereas research has shown that the value of the work of fraternal benefit societies to society is more than $3,800,000,000 per year, accounting for charitable giving, educational programs, and volunteer activities, as well as important social capital that strengthens the fabric, safety, and quality of life in thousands of local communities in the United States;

Whereas, in 1909, Congress recognized the value of fraternal benefit societies and exempted those organizations from taxation, as later codified in section 501(c)(8) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

Whereas fraternal benefit societies have adapted since 1909 to better serve the evolving needs of their members and the public;

Whereas the efforts of fraternal benefit societies to help people of the United States save money and be financially secure relieves pressure on government safety net programs; and

Whereas Congress recognizes that fraternal benefit societies have served their original purpose for more than a century, helping countless individuals, families, and communities through fraternal member activities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the fraternal benefit society model is a successful private sector economic and social support system that helps meet needs that would otherwise go unmet;

(2) the provision of payment for life, health, accident, or other benefits to the members of fraternal benefit societies in accordance with section 501(c)(8) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is necessary to support the charitable and fraternal activities of the volunteer chapters within the communities of fraternal benefit societies;

(3) fraternal benefit societies have adapted since 1909 to better serve their members and the public; and

(4) the exemption from taxation under section 501(c)(8) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 of fraternal benefit societies continues to generate significant returns to the United States, and the work of fraternal benefit societies should continue to be promoted.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2120. Mr. DURBIN (for Mr. KELLY) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 270, honoring the memory of the fallen heroes of the Granite Mountain Interagency Hotshot Crew; as follows:

In the fourth whereas clause of the preamble, strike ''lightening'' and insert ''lightning''.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2120. Mr. DURBIN (for Mr. KELLY) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 270, honoring the memory of the fallen heroes of the Granite Mountain Interagency Hotshot Crew.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mrs. STABENOW. Mr. President, I have 8 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 24, 2021, at 9 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 24, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 24, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet

during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 24, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 24, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 24, 10:30: a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 24, 2021, at 11 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 24, 2021, at 9 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following interns in my office be granted floor privileges until 1 p.m. on June 25, 2021: Jacob Neer, Lindsey Cox, Nancy Beajeu-Dufour, Raymond Villalobos, and Kaylan Privette.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Carolina Young, of my staff, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the 117th Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Brittany Fifer, a Coast Guard fellow in my office, be granted the privileges of the floor for the remainder of this Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I would also ask unanimous consent that Savannah Johnston, an American Political Science Association fellow in my office, be granted privileges of the floor until we recess in August.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President of the Senate, pursuant to Public Law 106–286, appoints the following Members to serve on the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China: the Honorable MARCO RUBIO of Florida; the Honorable JAMES LANKFORD of Oklahoma; the Honorable TOM COTTON of Arkansas; the Honorable STEVE DAINES of Montana.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 146, 151, 152, 182, 186, 192, 229, 156, 190, and 194.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote en bloc on the nominations, without intervening action or debate; that, if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all without intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nominations; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Faisal Amin, of Maryland, to be Chief Financial Officer, Environmental Protection Agency; Patricia L. Ross, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Congressional and Legislative Affairs); Maryanne T. Donaghy, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection); Carlos Alberto Monje, Jr., of Louisiana, to be Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy; Dawn Myers O'Connell, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, Department of Health and Human Services; Robin C. Ashton, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Central Intelligence Agency; Christine Abizaid, of Maryland, to be Director of the National Counterterrorism Center, Office of the Director of National Intelligence; Shannon Aneal Estenoz, of Florida, to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife; Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon, of Connecticut, to be Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, Department of Health and Human Services; and Anne Milgram, of New Jersey, to be Administrator of Drug Enforcement, all en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 201 through 228, with the modification at the desk, and all nominations placed on the Secretary's Desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Space Force; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

IN THE NAVY

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Robert T. Clark
Rear Adm. (lh) Nancy S. Lacore
Rear Adm. (lh) Theodore P. LeClair

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Eileen H. Laubacher

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. David R. Storr

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt Michael J. Schwerin

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Bradley D. Dunham
Capt. Mark F. Haigis
Capt. Scott W. Ruston
Capt. Douglas W. Sasse, III

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Dennis E. Collins

IN THE ARMY

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Army Judge Advocate General's Corps to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 624, 7037, and 7064:

To be brigadier general

Col. Alison C. Martin
Col. David E. Mendelson
Col. George R. Smawley

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. Eugene D. Cox
Col. Clinton K. Murray
Col. Deydre S. Teyhen

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Jonathan P. Braga

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Antonio A. Aguto, Jr.

The following named officer for appointment as the Judge Advocate General, United States Army, and for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned as position under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601, 7037 and 7064:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Stuart W. Risch

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. David J. Furness

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be Lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Matthew G. Glavy

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Paul A. Chamberlain

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be brigadier general

Col. Haldane B. Lamberton

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be brigadier general

Col. Joseph A. Dinonno

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Michael N. Adame
Brig. Gen. Joseph R. Baldwin
Brig. Gen. Ronald W. Burkett, II
Brig. Gen. Henry S. Dixon
Brig. Gen. John J. Driscoll
Brig. Gen. Kevin W. Gallagher
Brig. Gen. John D. Haas
Brig. Gen. Michael K. Hanifan
Brig. Gen. Shawn A. Harris
Brig. Gen. Jon M. Harrison
Brig. Gen. David M. Jenkins
Brig. Gen. Kipling V. Kahler
Brig. Gen. Moses Kaoiwi, Jr.
Brig. Gen. Steven T. King
Brig. Gen. Richard J. Lebel
Brig. Gen. Michael J. Leeney
Brig. Gen. Mark A. Merlino
Brig. Gen. Stephen E. Osborn
Brig. Gen. Roger A. Presley, Jr.
Brig. Gen. Jerry F. Prochaska
Brig. Gen. Javier A. Reina
Brig. Gen. Adam R. Silvers
Brig. Gen. Timothy J. Winslow

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Robert A. Boyette
Brig. Gen. Jimmie L. Cole, Jr.

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Michael J. Garshak

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Damian K. Waddell

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be brigadier general

Col. Mark G. Alessia

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Rose P. Keravuori

The following named officer for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Army under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Mark T. Simerly

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be brigadier general

Col. Christopher A. Holland
Col. Kevin W. Lochtefeld
Col. Cristina M. Moore
Col. Brian H. Pfarr
Col. Warner A. Ross, II
Col. Chad E. Stone

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be brigadier general

Col. Derek L. Adams
Col. Andrew C. Anderson
Col. Troy E. Armstrong
Col. Frederick W. Bates, V
Col. Lavetta L. Bennett
Col. James W. Bibb
Col. John B. Bowlin
Col. Sean T. Boyette
Col. Felicia Brokaw
Col. Stephen M. Burggraff
Col. Jelora J. Coman
Col. David A. Dailey
Col. Marlena A. Decelle
Col. Jonathan S. Ebbert
Col. Jonathan J. Erickson
Col. Michael D. Evans
Col. Tod M. Fenner
Col. Richard D. Ferguson
Col. Robert J. Ferry, Jr.
Col. James R. Fidler
Col. Glenn H. Finch
Col. Gregory D. Fix
Col. Rodney K. Ginter
Col. Joseph W. Green
Col. Jeffrey S. Hackett
Col. Kevin T. Hamm
Col. Scott J. Hartman
Col. Dennis R. Hawthorne
Col. Jamison A. Herrera
Col. Craig A. Holan
Col. Michael A. Honeycutt
Col. Joseph A. Hopkins, III
Col. Robert W. Hughes, Jr.
Col. Joseph M. Huss
Col. Michael A. Izzo
Col. Stephen P. Jones
Col. Michael J. Karwatka
Col. Clayton E. Kuetemeyer
Col. John D. Laing
Col. Joseph D. Lear
Col. Tommy C. Leeper
Col. Debra K. Lien
Col. Justin L. Mann
Col. David D. McGraw, Jr.
Col. Chris A. McKinney
Col. Elizabeth B. McLaughlin
Col. Alexander V. McLemore
Col. Kevin D. McMahan
Col. Richard F. Mifsud, II
Col. Joe H. Miller, II
Col. Louis B. Millikan
Col. Robert A. Mitchell
Col. Patrick R. Monahan
Col. John D. Morgen
Col. Jason P. Nelson
Col. Jeffrey A. Norris
Col. Robert W. O'Connell
Col. Paul S. Peters
Col. Michael S. Peyerl
Col. David M. Pidone
Col. John R. Pippy
Col. James A. Reed
Col. Millard G. Reedy, IV
Col. Moses P. Robinson, II
Col. Robert J. Rodgers
Col. Gary A. Ropers
Col. Walter R. Ross, Jr.
Col. Edith C. Sailor
Col. Paul W. Schneider
Col. Leland T. Shepherd
Col. Douglas L. Simon
Col. Jeffery M. Smith
Col. Patrick D. Stapleton
Col. Matthew J. Strub
Col. Jonathan M. Stubbs
Col. Tyson Y. Tahara
Col. Timothy J. Tomcho
Col. James H. Treece
Col. Benjamin S. Valentine
Col. Jeffrey Watkins
Col. Denise L. Wilkinson
Col. Gerard B. Williams, II
Col. Teri D. Williams
Col. Timothy A. Wood
Col. Matthew S. Woodruff

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Vice Adm. William R. Merz

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Francis D. Morley

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C. section 601:

To be lieutenent general

Lt. Gen. Edwin J. Deedrick, Jr.

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN583 AIR FORCE nominttion of Whit A. Collins, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 25, 2021.

PN584 AIR FORCE nomination of Timothy E. Holland, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 25, 2021.

PN585 AIR FORCE nomination of Karl J. Vogel, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 25, 2021.

PN586 AIR FORCE nomination of Nicholas R. Reynolds, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 25, 2021.

PN663 AIR FORCE nomination of Jeannette M. Watterson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN664 AIR FORCE nomination of Jason O. Allen, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN665 AIR FORCE nominations (113) beginning CONNIE IRENE ARMSTRONG, and ending KEVIN S. YOKLEY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

IN THE ARMY

PN293 ARMY nominations (22) beginning RAMIE K. BARFUSS, and ending DENTONIO WORRELL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 12, 2021.

PN294 ARMY nominations (63) beginning ERIC P. AHNFELDT, and ending D0160ll, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 12, 2021.

PN587 ARMY nomination of Christopher A. Blanco, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 25, 2021.

PN588 ARMY nomination of Curt C. Lane, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 25, 2021.

PN589 ARMY nominations (15) beginning DAVID P. CURLIN, and ending ERNEST P. WEST, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 25, 2021.

PN590 ARMY nomination of Michael R. Bean, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 25, 2021.

PN591 ARMY nomination of Daniel J. Meyers, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 25, 2021.

PN592 ARMY nomination of James M. McKnight, III, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 25, 2021.

PN593 ARMY nomination of Craig P. Lanigan, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 25, 2021.

PN594 ARMY nomination of Lisa M. Kopczynski, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 25, 2021.

PN595 ARMY nominations (6) beginning TOBY J. ALKIRE, and ending JOE E. MURDOCK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 25, 2021.

PN596 ARMY nominations (55) beginning JEREMY C. ABRAMS, and ending BRIGITTA WOODCOX, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 25, 2021.

PN597 ARMY nominations (211) beginning DONNA M. ALEXANDER, and ending CHARLES S. ZAKHEM, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 25, 2021.

PN598 ARMY nomination of Anthony C. Bonfiglio, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 25, 2021.

PN599 ARMY nominations (185) beginning DAVID A. ACOSTA, and ending MEAGO H.Y. YUOTANG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 25, 2021.

PN666 ARMY nomination of David R. Evans, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN667 ARMY nomination of Nicollette A. Dennis, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN668 ARMY nomination of Waldo D. Galan, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN669 ARMY nomination of Roger W. Dodson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN670 ARMY nominations (2) beginning CHASE D. CRABTREE, and ending TRAVIS H. OWEN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN671 ARMY nomination of Donald A. Vacha, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN672 ARMY nomination of Michael E. Lane, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN673 ARMY nomination of Timothy J. Redhair, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN674 ARMY nominations (2) beginning BRYCE E. LIVINGSTON, and ending GREGORY K. PERSLEY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN675 ARMY nominations (22) beginning MARIA I. BRUTON, and ending YOUNG J. YAUGER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN676 ARMY nominations (33) beginning RYANS S. BIBLE, and ending JASON C. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN677 ARMY nominations (6) beginning AVERY J. CARNEY, and ending CHRISTOPHER C. PASE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN678 ARMY nominations (3) beginning ROBIN L. BURKE, and ending JUSTIN R. SCHLANSER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN679 ARMY nomination of Brenton A. Arihood, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN680 ARMY nomination of Tracy R. Norman, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN320 MARINE CORPS nomination of Anthony N. Sama, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 12, 2021.

PN600 MARINE CORPS nomination of Joseph L. Gill, II, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 25, 2021.

PN681 MARINE CORPS nomination of Jaclyn N. Urso, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN682 MARINE CORPS nomination of Paul J. Goguen, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN683 MARINE CORPS nomination of Benjamin E. Barr, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

IN THE NAVY

PN516 NAVY nominations (7) beginning PATRICIA H. AJOY, and ending WADE C. THAMES, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2021.

PN517 NAVY nominations (4) beginning ROBIN C. CHERRETI, and ending MIKE E. SVATEK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2021.

PN518 NAVY nominations (7) beginning JOSEPH B. HARRISON, II, and ending BRIAN L. SCHULZ, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2021.

PN519 NAVY nominations (8) beginning TAYLOR R. FORESTER, and ending DANIELLE S. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2021.

PN520 NAVY nominations (10) beginning DAVID B. DAMATO, and ending ANTHONY J. TORIELLO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2021.

PN521 NAVY nominations (2) beginning ROY L. HENKLE, and ending ERIC T. RUIZ, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2021.

PN522 NAVY nominations (2) beginning STEVEN J. DWYER, and ending RANDY R. REID, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2021.

PN523 NAVY nominations (195) beginning THOMAS P. ABBOTT, and ending STEPHEN V. YENIAS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2021.

PN524 NAVY nominations (9) beginning DANIELE BRAHAM, and ending RICHARD E. SCHMITT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2021.

PN525 NAVY nominations (4) beginning SHAWN G. GALLAHER, and ending JULIE A. SPENCER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2021.

PN526 NAVY nominations (19) beginning MICHAEL P. AIENA, and ending TYRONE Y. VOUGHS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2021.

PN527 NAVY nominations (10) beginning JOSH A. CASSADA, and ending JOHN L. YOUNG, III, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2021.

PN528 NAVY nominations (5) beginning KEVIN D. BITTLE, and ending MICHAEL P. MULHERN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2021.

PN529 NAVY nominations (3) beginning JODIE K. CORNELL, and ending JOSHUA A. FREY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2021.

PN530 NAVY nominations (2) beginning JEFFREY N. DUGARD, and ending MARVIN D. HARRIS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2021.

PN531 NAVY nominations (2) beginning KENNETH 0. ALLISON, JR., and ending OMAR G. MARTINEZ, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2021.

PN601 NAVY nomination of Anne C. Mooser, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 25, 2021.

PN684 NAVY nominations (12) beginning KELLY L. BYRNE, and ending NICOLAAS A. VERHOEVEN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN685 NAVY nominations (25) beginning JOHN A. ALLEN, and ending BRADLEY J. WILLIFORD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN686 NAVY nominations (29) beginning JORDAN M. ADLER, and ending BRIAN P. WORDEN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN687 NAVY nominations (29) beginning KYLE C. BACHMAN, and ending MICHAEL B. ZIMET, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN688 NAVY nomination of Ashley S. M. McAbee, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN689 NAVY nominations (14) beginning ANTONIO BARCELOS, JR., and ending ALFRED J. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN690 NAVY nominations (9) beginning CHRISTOPHER M. ANCTIL, and ending ALAN W. YOUNG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN691 NAVY nominations (19) beginning JEMAR R. BALLESTEROS, and ending EMILY K. WILSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN692 NAVY nominations (514) beginning MARCO A. ACOSTA, and ending JOHN G. ZILAI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN693 NAVY nominations (36) beginning SUNG H. AHN, and ending JON M. WASHKO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN694 NAVY nominations (14) beginning DREW R. BARKER, and ending KRISTEN S. WHITESELL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN695 NAVY nominations (11) beginning MIGUEL A. BERNAL, JR., and ending PHILLIP A. ZAMARRIPA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN696 NAVY nominations (7) beginning RICHARDS. CHERNITZER, and ending RUSSELL P. WOLFKIEL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN697 NAVY nominations (16) beginning JASON K. BRUCE, and ending TROY M. WILLMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN698 NAVY nominations (16) beginning SYLVESTER C. ADAMAH, and ending MATTHEW T. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN699 NAVY nomination of Patrick L. German, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN700 NAVY nomination of Andrew S. Foor, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN701 NAVY nomination of Kevin M. Bacon, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN702 NAVY nominations (10) beginning ABDESLAM BOUSALHAM, and ending CHARLES S. WHITE, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN703 NAVY nominations (17) beginning CHABONNIE R. ALEXANDER, and ending JERRY R. TOFTE, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN704 NAVY nominations (50) beginning MICHAEL J. ARNOLD, and ending TAMARA J. WORLTON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN705 NAVY nominations (20) beginning CASEY J. BURNS, and ending KIRSTIN C. WIER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN706 NAVY nominations (19) beginning TIMOTHY D. BARNES, and ending JACQUELINE P. VANMOERKERQUE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN707 NAVY nominations (7) beginning DEREK BUTLER, and ending BRENT E. TROYAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN708 NAVY nominations (21) beginning ACCURSIA A. BALDASSANO, and ending JACQUELINE R. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN709 NAVY nominations (27) beginning ANTHONY P. BANNISTER, and ending MICHAEL R. WILSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN710 NAVY nominations (12) beginning JENNIFER D. BOWDEN, and ending DAVID A. STROUD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

IN THE SPACE FORCE

PN602 SPACE FORCE nominations (765) beginning HEATHER J. ANDERSON, and ending CRAIG M. ZINCK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 25, 2021.

PN711 SPACE FORCE nominations (20) beginning EDWARD G. FERGUSON, and ending KIMBERLY A. TEMPLER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

PN712 SPACE FORCE nominations (3) beginning JAMES J. WATSON, and ending LINCOLN K. MILLER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 15, 2021.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session and that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of the following nominations: PN 357, as modified by the list that is at the desk; that the nominations be confirmed; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nominations; that any related statements be printed in the Record; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

PN537

Ordered, That the following nominations be referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

The following-named Career Members of the Senior Foreign Service of the Department of State for promotion within the Senior Foreign Service of the United States of America, Class of Minister-Counselor:

Deanna Hanek Abdeen, of Virginia
Begzat Bix Aliu, of Virginia
Jorgan Kendal Andrews, of Virginia
Mary Emma Arnold, of Virginia
Jennifer L. Bachus, of Virginia
Lance M. Bailey, of Virginia
Nicholas R. Berliner, of Virginia
Tobin J. Bradley, of the District of Columbia
Katherine Ann Brucker, of the District of Columbia
Robert G. Burgess, of the District of Columbia
Michelle Ann Burton, of Washington
Kelly S. Cecil, of Florida
Ricardo Cifredo Colon, of Virginia
Angela Colyvas-McGinnis, of Maryland
Kathryn Taylor Crockart, of North Carolina
Jill E. Darken, of Illinois
James R. Dayringer, of Missouri
Marc Douglas Dillard, of Virginia
James Edward Donegan, of Virginia
Kurt D. Donnelly, of Virginia
Abigail Lee Dressel, of Connecticut
Patrick M. Dunn, of Virginia
David S. Elmo, of Virginia
Gabriel Escobar, of Texas
Yuri P. Fedorenko, of Michigan
Tara Elizabeth Feret, of Virginia
Julie Davis Fisher, of Virginia
Kathleen A. Fitzgibbon, of Virginia
J. Robert Garverick, of Virginia
Jennifer Gavito, of Missouri
Ellen J. Germain, of New York
Carolyn B. Glassman, of California
Ryan M. Gliha, of Arizona
Michael Gonzales, of Maryland
Robert F. Hannan, of Virginia
Keith Lee Heffern, of Virginia
Christina Maria Huth Higgins, of Virginia
Melanie Harris Higgins, of Virginia
Elizabeth K. Horst, of the District of Columbia
Paul R. Houston, of Virginia
Bryan D. Hunt, of Virginia
David R. Johnson, of Minnesota
Mark Coolidge Johnson, of Virginia
Karen D. Kelley, of Hawaii

Martin T. Kelly, of Florida
Angela M. Kerwin, of Virginia
Cynthia A. Kierscht, of Virginia
Margaret Kurtz-Randall, of New York
Helen Grace LaFave, of New Hampshire
Daniel J. Lawton, of Virginia
Panfilo Marquez, of California
Paul Overton Mayer, of Virginia
Joshua D. McDavid, of Washington
John W. McIntyre, of Texas
Deborah Rutledge Mennuti, of the District of Columbia
Jonathan Robert Mennuti, of the District of Columbia
Mario McGwinn Mesquita, of Virginia
Herro K. Mustafa, of California
George M. Navadel, of Texas
J. Robert Post, of the District of Columbia
Timothy Meade Richardson, of Maryland
Karen Hideko Sasahara, of Virginia
Jonathan L. Shrier, of New York
Michael H. Smith, of Maine
Willard Tenney Smith, of Virginia
Thomas D. Smitham, of Maryland
Howard T. Solomon, of Michigan
Linda S. Specht, of Rhode Island
Ellen Barbara Thorburn, of Florida
Christina Tomlinson, of Virginia
Pamela M. Tremont, of Virginia
Hale Colburn VanKoughnett, of the District of Columbia
Lesslie C. Viguerie, of Virginia
Peter H. Vrooman, of New York
JoAnne Wagner, of Virginia
Eva Anne Weigold Schultz, of Virginia
Aleisha Woodward, of Virginia
Marta Costanzo Youth, of Maryland
The following-named Career Members of the Foreign Service for promotion into the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor:
Stefanie R. Altman, of Virginia
Geoffrey J. Anisman, of Maryland
Allison V. Areias, of Maryland
Wallace R. Bain, of California
John A. Ballard, of Maryland
John M. Barrett, of California
Katharine Monique Read Beamer, of the District of Columbia
Manu Bhalla, of Virginia
Orna T. Blum, of Virginia
Lisa Brodey, of Washington
Shannon Nagy Cazeau, of Maryland
Lucy M. Chang, of Florida
Katelyn S. Choe, of Florida
Brent T. Christensen, of Virginia
Patrick D. Connell, of Virginia
Colin T. Crosby, of Virginia
Jessica L. Davis Ba, of Florida
Michael L. Dickerson, of Virginia
Alison E. Dilworth, of Virginia
Jason A. Donovan, of the District of Columbia
Jack T. Doutrich, of Washington
Julie A. Eadeh, of Michigan
Ana A. Escrogima, of the District of Columbia
Fiona Scholand Evans, of Virginia
Mark Robert Evans, of Virginia
Naomi C. Fellows, of Virginia
Julia C. Fendrick, of Washington
Tressa R. Finerty, of the District of Columbia
Carla Jenny Fleharty, of Florida
Mark L. Fleming, of the District of Columbia
Michael Flores, of Virginia
Rafael P. Foley, of the District of Columbia
Brian J. Fouss, of Colorado
Robert R. Gabor, of California
Melissa Jo Garza, of Maryland
Brian Joseph George, of Virginia
Brian M. Gibel, of Virginia
Tobias H. Glucksman, of the District of Columbia
Silvio I. Gonzalez, of Virginia
Elizabeth M. Gracon, of New York
Meghan Gregonis, of the District of Columbia
Henry R. Haggard, of Virginia
Stephanie L. Hallett, of Florida
Aaron M. Hellman, of Virginia
Andrew R. Herrup, of the District of Columbia
Christopher W. Hodges, of Virginia
David A. Holmes, of California
Catherine E. Holt, of California
Jeffrey D. Horwitz, of Virginia
Joseph S. Jacanin, of Virginia
Cheryl Norman Johnson, of Virginia
Seneca Elizabeth Johnson, of Maryland
Kali C. Jones, of Louisiana
Dean M. Kaplan, of Virginia
Michael Christopher Keays, of Virginia
Christine M. Lawson, of the District of Columbia
Katherine E. Lawson, of Texas
William Glover Lehmberg, of California
Jennifer R. Littlejohn, of Virginia
Casey K. Mace, of Virginia
Gregory C. May, of Virginia
Kimberly A. McDonald, of Virginia
H. Martin McDowell, of Virginia
Jason P. Meeks, of Virginia
Richard C. Michaels, of Arizona
Gregory R. Morrison, of North Carolina
Junaid M. Munir, of Michigan
Brian Thomas Neubert, of Virginia
Sean K. O'Neill, of Virginia
Patrick Raymond O'Reilly, of Florida
Jennifer Davis Paguada, of Virginia
Robert J. Palladino, of Virginia
Yolanda Alicia Parra, of Florida
Troy E. Pederson, of Virginia
Amanda C. Pilz, of Virginia
Lawrence M. Randolph, of the District of Columbia
Jeffrey Kimball Reneau, of the District of Columbia
Roger Claude Rigaud, of Virginia
Deborah Robinson, of Colorado
Catherine Rodriguez, of Florida
Philip W. Roskamp, of Virginia
Ryan D. Rowlands, of Virginia
Taylor V. Ruggles, of Virginia
Amy W. Schedlbauer, of Virginia
Gregory K. Schiffer, of Virginia
David Allen Schlaefer, of Virginia
Gregory Paul Segas, of Virginia
Peter T. Shea, of Virginia
Jessica L. Simon, of Oregon
Chahrazed Sioud, of Maryland
Shelby Venida Vernelle Smith-Wilson, of Virginia
Brian K. Stimmler, of Florida
Karin B. Sullivan, of Virginia
Sonya M. Tsiros, of Virginia
Jennifer DeWitt Walsh, of Wyoming
Tamir G. Waser, of Virginia
Hans Wechsel, of Montana
Matthew Alan Werner, of Virginia
Benjamin V. Wohlauer, of Washington
Janine Young, of Virginia
The following-named Career Members of the Foreign Service for promotion into the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, and a Consular Officer and a Secretary in the Diplomatic Service of the United States of America:
Bryan Bachmann, of North Carolina
Roberto Bernardo, of Florida
David Holman Bodycoat, of Florida
Jason A. Coe, of Florida
John T. Conway, of Virginia
Maureen Danzot, of Maryland
Karl E. Field, of Virginia
Paul J. Fiffick, of Virginia
Keith D. Hanigan, of Virginia
Mohammad A Khan, of Maryland
Anton G. Kort, of the District of Columbia
Jeremy T. Larson, of Virginia
Ronald George Lay, of Virginia
Seth Joseph Lindenfeld, of the District of Columbia
Thomas A. Mak, of Ohio
Fernando J. Matus, of Virginia
Eric B. Millson, of Virginia
James E. Nicodemus, of Virginia
Roger S. Owens, of Texas
Ruth E. Petzold, of Virginia
Stephen A. Rice, of Virginia
Peter M. Riva, of Virginia
Jeffrey J. Schroeder, of Virginia
Stephen M. Sexton, of the District of Columbia
Ellen K. Tannor, of Virginia

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

SUPPORTING THE FOUNDATION FOR THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH AND THE REAGAN-UDALL FOUNDATION FOR THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 76, S. 1662.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1662) to increase funding for the Reagan-Udall Foundation for the Food and Drug Administration and for the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the bill be considered read a third time and the Senate vote on passage.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 1662) was passed, as follows:

S. 1662

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Supporting the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health and the Reagan-Udall Foundation for the Food and Drug Administration Act''.

SEC. 2. REAGAN-UDALL FOUNDATION AND FOUNDATION FOR THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH.

(a) REAGAN-UDALL FOUNDATION FOR THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION.—Section 770(n) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 379dd(n)) is amended by striking ''$500,000 and not more than $1,250,000'' and inserting ''$1,250,000 and not more than $5,000,000''.

(b) FOUNDATION FOR THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH.—Section 499(l) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290b(l)) is amended by striking ''$500,000 and not more than $1,250,000'' and inserting ''$1,250,000 and not more than $5,000,000''.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE EXTENSION ACT OF 2021

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 2255, introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2255) to extend the trade adjustment assistance program for one month.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I further ask that the bill be read three times and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 2255) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 2255

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Trade Adjustment Assistance Extension Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

(a) EXTENSION OF TERMINATION PROVISIONS.—Section 285 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2271 note) is amended by striking ''June 30, 2021'' each place it appears and inserting ''July 23, 2021''.

(b) REEMPLOYMENT TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE.—Section 246(b)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2318(b)(1)) is amended by striking ''June 30, 2021'' and inserting ''July 23, 2021''.

(c) TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE FOR WORKERS.—Section 245(a) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2317(a)) is amended by striking ''June 30, 2021'' and inserting ''July 23, 2021''.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section take effect on the earlier of—

(1) the date of the enactment of this Act; or

(2) June 30, 2021.

(e) APPLICATION OF PRIOR LAW.—Section 406 of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Reauthorization Act of 2015 (title IV of Public Law 114–27; 129 Stat. 379; 19 U.S.C. 2271 note prec.) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''July 1, 2021'' and inserting ''July 24, 2021''; and

(B) in paragraphs (5) and (6), by striking ''the 1-year period beginning on July 1, 2021'' and inserting ''the period beginning on July 24, 2021, and ending on June 30, 2022''; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking ''July 1, 2021'' each place it appears and inserting ''July 24, 2021''.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET JUSTIFICATION TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2021

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 66, S. 272.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 272) to amend the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, to require the budget justifications and appropriation requests of agencies be made publicly available.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Congressional Budget Justification Transparency Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF BUDGET JUSTIFICATIONS AND APPROPRIATION REQUESTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3 of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 3. FULL DISCLOSURE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than monthly when practicable, and in any event not less frequently than quarterly, the Secretary (in consultation with the Director and, with respect to information described in subsection (b)(2), the head of the applicable Federal agency) shall ensure that updated information with respect to the information described in subsection (b) is posted on the website established under section 2.

''(b) INFORMATION TO BE POSTED.—

''(1) FUNDS.—For any funds made available to or expended by a Federal agency or component of a Federal agency, the information to be posted shall include—

''(A) for each appropriations account, including an expired or unexpired appropriations account, the amount—

''(i) of budget authority appropriated;

''(ii) that is obligated;

''(iii) of unobligated balances; and

''(iv) of any other budgetary resources;

''(B) from which accounts and in what amount—

''(i) appropriations are obligated for each program activity; and

''(ii) outlays are made for each program activity;

''(C) from which accounts and in what amount—

''(i) appropriations are obligated for each object class; and

''(ii) outlays are made for each object class; and

''(D) for each program activity, the amount—

''(i) obligated for each object class; and

''(ii) of outlays made for each object class.

''(2) BUDGET JUSTIFICATIONS.—

''(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph—

''(i) the term 'budget justification materials' means the annual budget justification materials of a Federal agency, or a component of a Federal agency, that are submitted, in conjunction with the budget of the United States Government submitted under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code; and

''(ii) the term 'open Government data asset' has the meaning given that term in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code.

''(B) INFORMATION.—The information to be posted—

''(i) shall include any budget justification materials—

''(I) for the second fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this paragraph, and each fiscal year thereafter; and

''(II) to the extent practicable, that were released for any fiscal year before the date of enactment of this paragraph; and

''(ii) shall not include budget justification materials the disclosure of which is prohibited by law, that are classified, or that are exempt from disclosure under section 552(b) of title 5, United States Code.

''(C) FORMAT.—Budget justification materials shall be posted under subparagraph (B)—

''(i) as an open Government data asset;

''(ii) in a manner that enables users to download individual reports, download all reports in bulk, and download in bulk the results of a search, to the extent practicable; and

''(iii) in a structured data format, to the extent practicable.

''(D) DEADLINE.—The budget justification materials required to be posted under subparagraph (B)(i) shall be posted not later than 2 weeks after the date on which the budget justification materials are first submitted to Congress.

''(E) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to authorize a Federal agency, or a component of a Federal agency, to destroy any budget justification materials relating to a fiscal year before the fiscal year described in subparagraph (B)(i).''.

(b) INFORMATION REGARDING AGENCY BUDGET JUSTIFICATIONS.—Section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(i)(1) The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall make publicly available on a website, and continuously update, a tabular list for each fiscal year of each agency that submits budget justification materials, which shall include—

''(A) the name of the agency;

''(B) a unique identifier that identifies the agency;

''(C) to the extent practicable, the date on which the budget justification materials of the agency are first submitted to Congress;

''(D) the date on which the budget justification materials of the agency are posted online under section 3 of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note);

''(E) the uniform resource locator where the budget justification materials are published on the website of the agency; and

''(F) a single data set that contains the information described in subparagraphs (A) through (E) with respect to the agency for all fiscal years for which budget justifications of the agency are made available under section 3 of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) in a structured data format.

''(2)(A) Each agency that submits budget justification materials shall make the materials available on the website of the agency, in accordance with the policies established by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget under subparagraph (B).

''(B) Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, shall establish policies and data standards for agencies relating to making available materials under subparagraph (A), which shall include guidelines for making budget justification materials available in a format aligned with the requirements of section 3(b)(2)(C) of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) and using a uniform resource locator that is in a consistent format across agencies and is descriptive, memorable, and pronounceable, such as the format of 'agencyname.gov/budget'.

''(C) If the Director of the Office of Management and Budget maintains a public website that contains the budget of the United States Government submitted under subsection (a) and any related materials, such website shall also contain a link to the tabular list required under paragraph (1).

''(3) In this subsection, the term 'budget justification materials' has the meaning given that term in section 3(b)(2) of the Federal Funding

Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note).''.

SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go-Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled ''Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation'' for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; the bill, as amended, 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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 272) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

CASA/GAL VOLUNTEERS DAY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 219.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 219) designating May 18, 2021, as ''CASA/GAL Volunteers' Day''.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of May 18, 2021, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF JUNE 2021 AS NATIONAL DAIRY MONTH

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 268.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 268) expressing support for the designation of June 2021 as ''National Dairy Month'' to recognize the important role dairy plays in a healthy diet and the exceptional work of dairy producers in being stewards of the land and livestock.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 268) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of June 14, 2021, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE FALLEN HEROES OF THE GRANITE MOUNTAIN INTERAGENCY HOTSHOT CREW

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 270.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 270) honoring the memory of the fallen heroes of the Granite Mountain Interagency Hotshot Crew.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; that the Kelly amendment at the desk to the preamble be considered and agreed to; that the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 270) was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 2120) was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the preamble)

In the fourth whereas clause of the preamble, strike ''lightening'' and insert ''lightning''.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. RES. 270

Whereas the Granite Mountain Interagency Hotshot Crew (referred to in this preamble as the ''Granite Mountain Hotshots'') was organized within the Prescott, Arizona, Fire Department;

Whereas the Granite Mountain Hotshots was originally formed in 2002 as a fuels mitigation crew, but later transitioned to a hotshot crew in 2008, becoming the first municipal hotshot crew in the United States;

Whereas the mission of the Granite Mountain Hotshots was to perform physically demanding fireline work in hazardous conditions, on difficult terrain, and in extreme heat;

Whereas, on June 28, 2013, lightning ignited the Yarnell Hill Fire on a ridge west of the community of Yarnell, Arizona;

Whereas, on June 30, 2013, 19 firefighters of the Granite Mountain Hotshots gave their lives battling the Yarnell Hill Fire in Yavapai County, Arizona, including—

(1) Eric Marsh, 43, who served as the superintendent of the Granite Mountain Hotshots;
(2) Jesse Steed, 36;
(3) Clayton Whitted, 28;
(4) Robert Caldwell, 23;
(5) Travis Carter, 31;
(6) Christopher MacKenzie, 30;
(7) Travis Turbyfill, 27;
(8) Andrew Ashcraft, 29;
(9) Joe Thurston, 32;
(10) Wade Parker, 22;
(11) Anthony Rose, 23;
(12) Garret Zuppiger, 27;
(13) Scott Norris, 28;
(14) Dustin DeFord, 24;
(15) William ''Billy'' Warneke, 25;
(16) Kevin Woyjeck, 21;
(17) John Percin, Jr., 24;
(18) Grant McKee, 21; and
(19) Sean Misner, 26;

Whereas the Yarnell Hill Fire resulted in—

(1) the largest wildland firefighter loss of life in 80 years;
(2) the sixth deadliest firefighter tragedy in the history of the United States; and
(3) the greatest loss of life for fire services in the United States since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001;

Whereas, on July 9, 2013, thousands of people attended a memorial service held in Prescott Valley, Arizona, including then-Vice President Joseph R. Biden and representatives from more than 100 hotshot crews from across the United States; and

Whereas the memory of each fallen firefighter is honored at the Granite Mountain Hotshots Memorial State Park, which was dedicated in 2016: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the memory of the fallen heroes of the Granite Mountain Interagency Hotshot Crew of the Prescott, Arizona, Fire Department;
(2) extends its deepest condolences and sympathy to the surviving families of the 19 firefighters lost in the line of duty; and
(3) commends the bravery and sacrifice made by these fallen wildland firefighters in the service of their communities.

NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY EDUCATION WEEK

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 279.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 279) designating June 21, 2021 through June 25, 2021, as ''National Cybersecurity Education Week''.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 279) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of June 17, 2021, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions submitted earlier today: S. Res. 284, S. Res. 292, and S. Res. 293.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

COLONEL JOHN M. MCHUGH TUITION FAIRNESS FOR SURVIVORS ACT OF 2021

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 1095 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1095) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the disapproval by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of courses of education offered by public institutions of higher learning that do not charge veterans the in-State tuition rate for purposes of Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask that the bill be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. DURBIN. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 1095) was passed, as follows:

S. 1095

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Colonel John M. McHugh Tuition Fairness for Survivors Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS DISAPPROVAL OF COURSES OFFERED BY PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING THAT DO NOT CHARGE VETERANS THE IN-STATE TUITION RATE FOR PURPOSES OF SURVIVORS' AND DEPENDENTS' EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(1) in paragraph (1)—

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

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

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

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

SGT. KETCHUM RURAL VETERANS MENTAL HEALTH ACT OF 2021

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from H.R. 2441 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent 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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 2441) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JUNE 28, 2021, THROUGH MONDAY, JULY 12, 2021

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted, on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Monday, June 28 at 9 a.m.; Thursday, July 1 at 11 a.m.; Monday, July 5 at 2:30 p.m.; and Thursday, July 8 at 12 noon. I further ask that when the Senate adjourns on Thursday, July 8, it next convene at 3 p.m., Monday, July 12; further, 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 Zeya nomination; finally, that the cloture motions filed during today's session ripen at 5:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, JUNE 28, 2021, AT 9 A.M.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:34 p.m., adjourned until Monday, June 28, 2021, at 9 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

XOCHITL TORRES SMALL, OF NEW MEXICO, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT, VICE LISA AFUA SERWAH MENSAH.

HOMER L. WILKES, OF MISSISSIPPI, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT, VICE JAMES E. HUBBARD.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

DAVID UEJIO, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, VICE ANNA MARIA FARIAS.

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

MAX VEKICH, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE A FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSIONER FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2026, VICE MICHAEL A. KHOURI, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

M. CAMILLE CALIMLIM TOUTON, OF NEVADA, TO BE COMMISSIONER OF RECLAMATION, VICE BRENDA BURMAN.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

CHRISTI A. GRIMM, OF COLORADO, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, VICE DANIEL R. LEVINSON, RESIGNED.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

ISMAEL N. AHMED, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2024, VICE OLGA VISO, TERM EXPIRED.

KINAN AZMEH, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2024, VICE CHARLOTTE P. KESSLER, TERM EXPIRED.

HARRY S TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

STACEY MICHELLE BRANDENBURG, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HARRY S TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 10, 2025, VICE STEVEN H. COHEN, TERM EXPIRED.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

CONSTANCE HESS WILLIAMS, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2026, VICE BARBARA ERNST PREY, TERM EXPIRED.

KAMILAH FORBES, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2026, VICE LEE GREENWOOD, TERM EXPIRED.

HARRY S TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

ROBERT GARCIA, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HARRY S TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 10, 2023, VICE JAMES L. HENDERSON, TERM EXPIRED.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

HUASCAR MEDINA, OF KANSAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2026, VICE IRVIN M. MAYFIELD, JR., TERM EXPIRED.

CHRISTOPHER KAUI MORGAN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2024, VICE DAVID MASUMOTO, TERM EXPIRED.

FIONA WHELAN PRINE, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2024, VICE DIANE HELEN RODRIGUEZ, TERM EXPIRED.

JAKE SHIMABUKURO, OF HAWAII, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2024, VICE RICK LOWE, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

LAURA DANIEL-DAVIS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, VICE JOSEPH BALASH, RESIGNED.

MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD

CATHY ANN HARRIS, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD FOR THE TERM OF SEVEN YEARS EXPIRING MARCH 1, 2028, VICE ANNE MARIE WAGNER, TERM EXPIRED.

CATHY ANN HARRIS, OF MARYLAND, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD, VICE SUSAN TSUI GRUNDMANN.

RAYMOND A. LIMON, OF NEVADA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD FOR THE TERM OF SEVEN YEARS EXPIRING MARCH 1, 2025, VICE MARK A. ROBBINS, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

HAMPTON Y. DELLINGER, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, VICE BETH ANN WILLIAMS.

DISCHARGED NOMINATIONS

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of the following nominations by unanimous consent and the nominations were confirmed:

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DEANNA HANEK ABDEEN AND ENDING WITH ELLEN K. TANNOR, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 13, 2021.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate June 24, 2021:

THE JUDICIARY

CANDACE JACKSON–AKIWUMI, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

FAISAL AMIN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

PATRICIA L. ROSS, OF OHIO, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (CONGRESSIONAL AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS).

MARYANNE T. DONAGHY, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (OFFICE OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION).

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

SHANNON ANEAL ESTENOZ, OF FLORIDA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

CARLOS ALBERTO MONJE, JR., OF LOUISIANA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION FOR POLICY.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DAWN MYERS O'CONNELL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

MIRIAM E. DELPHIN–RITTMON, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

ROBIN C. ASHTON, OF MARYLAND, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ANNE MILGRAM, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF DRUG ENFORCEMENT.

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) ROBERT T. CLARK
REAR ADM. (LH) NANCY S. LACORE
REAR ADM. (LH) THEODORE P. LECLAIR

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) EILEEN H. LAUBACHER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. DAVID R. STORR

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. MICHAEL J. SCHWERIN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. BRADLEY D. DUNHAM
CAPT. MARK F. HAIGIS
CAPT. SCOTT W. RUSTON
CAPT. DOUGLAS W. SASSE III

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. DENNIS E. COLLINS

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624, 7037, AND 7064:

To be brigadier general

COL. ALISON C. MARTIN
COL. DAVID E. MENDELSON
COL. GEORGE R. SMAWLEY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. EUGENE D. COX
COL. CLINTON K. MURRAY
COL. DEYDRE S. TEYHEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JONATHAN P. BRAGA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. ANTONIO A. AGUTO, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL, UNITED STATES ARMY, AND FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED AS POSITION UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601, 7037 AND 7064:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. STUART W. RISCH

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. DAVID J. FURNESS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. MATTHEW G. GLAVY

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. PAUL A. CHAMBERLAIN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. HALDANE B. LAMBERTON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. JOSEPH A. DINONNO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL N. ADAME
BRIG. GEN. JOSEPH R. BALDWIN
BRIG. GEN. RONALD W. BURKETT II
BRIG. GEN. HENRY S. DIXON
BRIG. GEN. JOHN J. DRISCOLL
BRIG. GEN. KEVIN W. GALLAGHER
BRIG. GEN. JOHN D. HAAS
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL K. HANIFAN
BRIG. GEN. SHAWN A. HARRIS
BRIG. GEN. JON M. HARRISON
BRIG. GEN. DAVID M. JENKINS
BRIG. GEN. KIPLING V. KAHLER
BRIG. GEN. MOSES KAOIWI, JR.
BRIG. GEN. STEVEN T. KING
BRIG. GEN. RICHARD J. LEBEL
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL J. LEENEY
BRIG. GEN. MARK A. MERLINO
BRIG. GEN. STEPHEN E. OSBORN
BRIG. GEN. ROGER A. PRESLEY, JR.
BRIG. GEN. JERRY F. PROCHASKA
BRIG. GEN. JAVIER A. REINA
BRIG. GEN. ADAM R. SILVERS
BRIG. GEN. TIMOTHY J. WINSLOW

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. ROBERT A. BOYETTE
BRIG. GEN. JIMMIE L. COLE, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL J. GARSHAK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. DAMIAN K. WADDELL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. MARK G. ALESSIA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. ROSE P. KERAVUORI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. MARK T. SIMERLY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. CHRISTOPHER A. HOLLAND
COL. KEVIN W. LOCHTEFELD

COL. CRISTINA M. MOORE
COL. BRIAN H. PFARR
COL. WARNER A. ROSS II
COL. CHAD E. STONE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. DEREK L. ADAMS
COL. ANDREW C. ANDERSON
COL. TROY E. ARMSTRONG
COL. FREDERICK W. BATES V
COL. LAVETTA L. BENNETT
COL. JAMES W. BIBB
COL. JOHN B. BOWLIN
COL. SEAN T. BOYETTE
COL. FELICIA BROKAW
COL. STEPHEN M. BURGGRAFF
COL. JELORA J. COMAN
COL. DAVID A. DAILEY
COL. MARLENA A. DECELLE
COL. JONATHAN S. EBBERT
COL. JONATHAN J. ERICKSON
COL. MICHAEL D. EVANS
COL. TOD M. FENNER
COL. RICHARD D. FERGUSON
COL. ROBERT J. FERRY, JR.
COL. JAMES R. FIDLER
COL. GLENN H. FINCH
COL. GREGORY D. FIX
COL. RODNEY K. GINTER
COL. JOSEPH W. GREEN
COL. JEFFREY S. HACKETT
COL. KEVIN T. HAMM
COL. SCOTT J. HARTMAN
COL. DENNIS R. HAWTHORNE
COL. JAMISON A. HERRERA
COL. CRAIG A. HOLAN
COL. MICHAEL A. HONEYCUTT
COL. JOSEPH A. HOPKINS III
COL. ROBERT W. HUGHES, JR.
COL. JOSEPH M. HUSS
COL. MICHAEL A. IZZO
COL. STEPHEN P. JONES
COL. MICHAEL J. KARWATKA
COL. CLAYTON E. KUETEMEYER
COL. JOHN D. LAING
COL. JOSEPH D. LEAR
COL. TOMMY C. LEEPER
COL. DEBRA K. LIEN
COL. JUSTIN L. MANN
COL. DAVID D. MCGRAW, JR.
COL. CHRIS A. MCKINNEY
COL. ELIZABETH B. MCLAUGHLIN
COL. ALEXANDER V. MCLEMORE
COL. KEVIN D. MCMAHAN
COL. RICHARD F. MIFSUD II
COL. JOE H. MILLER II
COL. LOUIS B. MILLIKAN
COL. ROBERT A. MITCHELL
COL. PATRICK R. MONAHAN
COL. JOHN D. MORGEN
COL. JASON P. NELSON
COL. JEFFREY A. NORRIS
COL. ROBERT W. O'CONNELL
COL. PAUL S. PETERS
COL. MICHAEL S. PEYERL
COL. DAVID M. PIDONE
COL. JOHN R. PIPPY
COL. JAMES A. REED
COL. MILLARD G. REEDY IV
COL. MOSES P. ROBINSON II
COL. ROBERT J. RODGERS
COL. GARY A. ROPERS
COL. WALTER R. ROSS, JR.
COL. EDITH C. SAILOR
COL. PAUL W. SCHNEIDER
COL. LELAND T. SHEPHERD
COL. DOUGLAS L. SIMON
COL. JEFFERY M. SMITH
COL. PATRICK D. STAPLETON
COL. MATTHEW J. STRUB
COL. JONATHAN M. STUBBS
COL. TYSON Y. TAHARA
COL. TIMOTHY J. TOMCHO
COL. JAMES H. TREECE
COL. BENJAMIN S. VALENTINE
COL. JEFFREY WATKINS
COL. DENISE L. WILKINSON
COL. GERARD B. WILLIAMS II
COL. TERI D. WILLIAMS
COL. TIMOTHY A. WOOD
COL. MATTHEW S. WOODRUFF

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

VICE ADM. WILLIAM R. MERZ

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. FRANCIS D. MORLEY

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. EDWIN J. DEEDRICK, JR.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

CHRISTINE ABIZAID, OF MARYLAND, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL COUNTERTERRORISM CENTER, OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF WHIT A. COLLINS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF TIMOTHY E. HOLLAND, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF KARL J. VOGEL, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF NICHOLAS R. REYNOLDS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF JEANNETTE M. WATTERSON, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF JASON O. ALLEN, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CONNIE IRENE ARMSTRONG AND ENDING WITH KEVIN S. YOKLEY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 15, 2021.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RAMIE K. BARFUSS AND ENDING WITH DENTONIO WORRELL, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 12, 2021.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ERIC P. AHNFELDT AND ENDING WITH D016011, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 12, 2021.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER A. BLANCO, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CURT C. LANE, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DAVID P. CURLIN AND ENDING WITH ERNEST P. WEST, JR., WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 25, 2021.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MICHAEL R. BEAN, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DANIEL J. MEYERS, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JAMES M. MCKNIGHT III, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CRAIG P. LANIGAN, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF LISA M. KOPCZYNSKI, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TOBY J. ALKIRE AND ENDING WITH JOE E. MURDOCK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 25, 2021.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JEREMY C. ABRAMS AND ENDING WITH BRIGITTA WOODCOX, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 25, 2021.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DONNA M. ALEXANDER AND ENDING WITH CHARLES S. ZAKHEM, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 25, 2021.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ANTHONY C. BONFIGLIO, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DAVID A. ACOSTA AND ENDING WITH MEAGO H. Y. YUOTANG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 25, 2021.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DAVID R. EVANS, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF NICOLLETTE A. DENNIS, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF WALDO D. GALAN, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ROGER W. DODSON, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHASE D. CRABTREE AND ENDING WITH TRAVIS H. OWEN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 15, 2021.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DONALD A. VACHA, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MICHAEL E. LANE, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF TIMOTHY J. REDHAIR, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRYCE E. LIVINGSTON AND ENDING WITH GREGORY K. PERSLEY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 15, 2021.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MARIA I. BRUTON AND ENDING WITH YOUNG J. YAUGER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 15, 2021.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RYAN S. BIBLE AND ENDING WITH JASON C. WILLIAMS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 15, 2021.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH AVERY J. CARNEY AND ENDING WITH CHRISTOPHER C. PASE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 15, 2021.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ROBIN L. BURKE AND ENDING WITH JUSTIN R. SCHLANSER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 15, 2021.

ARMY NOMINATION OF BRENTON A. ARIHOOD, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF TRACY R. NORMAN, TO BE COLONEL.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF ANTHONY N. SAMA, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF JOSEPH L. GILL II, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF JACLYN N. URSO, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL .

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF PAUL J. GOGUEN, TO BE COLONEL.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF BENJAMIN E. BARR, TO BE MAJOR.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH PATRICIA H. AJOY AND ENDING WITH WADE C. THAMES, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 28, 2021.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ROBIN C. CHERRETT AND ENDING WITH MIKE E. SVATEK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 28, 2021.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOSEPH B. HARRISON II AND ENDING WITH BRIAN L. SCHULZ, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 28, 2021.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TAYLOR R. FORESTER AND ENDING WITH DANIELLE S. WILLIAMS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 28, 2021.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DAVID B. DAMATO AND ENDING WITH ANTHONY J. TORIELLO, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 28, 2021.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ROY L. HENKLE AND ENDING WITH ERIC T. RUIZ, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 28, 2021.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH STEVEN J. DWYER AND ENDING WITH RANDY R. REID, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 28, 2021.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH THOMAS P. ABBOTT AND ENDING WITH STEPHEN V. YENIAS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 28, 2021.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DANIELE BRAHAM AND ENDING WITH RICHARD E. SCHMITT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 28, 2021.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SHAWN G. GALLAHER AND ENDING WITH JULIE A. SPENCER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 28, 2021.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL P. AIENA AND ENDING WITH TYRONE Y. VOUGHS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 28, 2021.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOSH A. CASSADA AND ENDING WITH JOHN L. YOUNG III, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 28, 2021.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KEVIN D. BITTLE AND ENDING WITH MICHAEL P. MULHERN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 28, 2021.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JODIE K. CORNELL AND ENDING WITH JOSHUA A. FREY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 28, 2021.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JEFFREY N. DUGARD AND ENDING WITH MARVIN D. HARRIS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 28, 2021.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KENNETH O. ALLISON, JR. AND ENDING WITH OMAR G. MARTINEZ, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 28, 2021.

NAVY NOMINATION OF ANNE C. MOOSER, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KELLY L. BYRNE AND ENDING WITH NICOLAAS A. VERHOEVEN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 15, 2021.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOHN A. ALLEN AND ENDING WITH BRADLEY J. WILLIFORD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 15, 2021.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JORDAN M. ADLER AND ENDING WITH BRIAN P. WORDEN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 15, 2021.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KYLE C. BACHMAN AND ENDING WITH MICHAEL B. ZIMET, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 15, 2021.

NAVY NOMINATION OF ASHLEY S. M. MCABEE, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ANTONIO BARCELOS, JR. AND ENDING WITH ALFRED J. WILLIAMS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 15, 2021.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHRISTOPHER M. ANCTIL AND ENDING WITH ALAN W. YOUNG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 15, 2021.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JEMAR R. BALLESTEROS AND ENDING WITH EMILY K. WILSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 15, 2021.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MARCO A. ACOSTA AND ENDING WITH JOHN G. ZILAI, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 15, 2021.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SUNG H. AHN AND ENDING WITH JON M. WASHKO, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 15, 2021.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DREW R. BARKER AND ENDING WITH KRISTEN S. WHITESELL, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 15, 2021.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MIGUEL A. BERNAL, JR. AND ENDING WITH PHILLIP A. ZAMARRIPA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 15, 2021.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RICHARD S. CHERNITZER AND ENDING WITH RUSSELL P. WOLFKIEL, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 15, 2021.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JASON K. BRUCE AND ENDING WITH TROY M. WILLMAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 15, 2021.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SYLVESTER C. ADAMAH AND ENDING WITH MATTHEW T. WILLIAMS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 15, 2021.

NAVY NOMINATION OF PATRICK L. GERMAN, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF ANDREW S. FOOR, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF KEVIN M. BACON, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ABDESLAM BOUSALHAM AND ENDING WITH CHARLES S. WHITE, JR., WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 15, 2021.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHABONNIE R. ALEXANDER AND ENDING WITH JERRY R. TOFTE, JR., WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 15, 2021.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL J. ARNOLD AND ENDING WITH TAMARA J. WORLTON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 15, 2021.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CASEY J. BURNS AND ENDING WITH KIRSTIN C. WIER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 15, 2021.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TIMOTHY D. BARNES AND ENDING WITH JACQUELINE P. VANMOERKERQUE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 15, 2021.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DEREK BUTLER AND ENDING WITH BRENT E. TROYAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 15, 2021.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ACCURSIA A. BALDASSANO AND ENDING WITH JACQUELINE R. WILLIAMS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 15, 2021.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ANTHONY P. BANNISTER AND ENDING WITH MICHAEL R. WILSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 15, 2021.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JENNIFER D. BOWDEN AND ENDING WITH DAVID A. STROUD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 15, 2021.

SPACE FORCE

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH HEATHER J. ANDERSON AND ENDING WITH CRAIG M. ZINCK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 25, 2021.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH EDWARD G. FERGUSON AND ENDING WITH KIMBERLY A. TEMPLER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 15, 2021.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JAMES J. WATSON AND ENDING WITH LINCOLN K. MILLER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 15, 2021.

FOREIGN SERVICE

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DEANNA HANEK ABDEEN AND ENDING WITH ELLEN K. TANNOR, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 13, 2021.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

JOHN KOZA—EAGLE SCOUT

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I am here today to recognize John Koza, a Mantua Township Eagle Scout who achieved Scouting's highest rank. John is a senior at Gloucester County institute of Technology and is enrolled in the Performing Arts Academy. He will be attending Rowan University in the fall, pursuing a dual degree in Business and Political Science. For his Eagle Scout Project, John oversaw the construction and staining of a bookcase, cabinet, and safety measures at Saint Margaret's Church of the Infant Jesus Parish in Woodbury Heights. With the help of scouts and adult volunteers, the project took 153 hours to complete. John held positions as Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Bugler, and Den Chief throughout his time as a scout. John attended the National Jamboree in 2017 and remains one of his most memorable highlights of his scouting experience. John earned a total of 28 merit badges and obtained his BSA Lifeguard Certification during his time as a Scout. John has done wonderful things for the South Jersey community over the years, and I know he will excel at Rowan University. God Bless John and God Bless America.

HONORING AVERY FRENCH OF TURKEY HILL SCHOOL IN ORANGE, CONNECTICUT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, each year the community of Orange, Connecticut gathers for a solemn ceremony to mark Memorial Day. As part of this ceremony, local elementary school students are invited to submit essays that share their thoughts on Memorial Day and its meaning to them. Submissions from each of the community's three elementary schools are selected to be included in the ceremony. I had the opportunity to join the Orange ceremony this year and was inspired by the words of this year's winners and am pleased to have this opportunity to share them.

Avery French, a student at Turkey Hill School submitted the following essay:

Memorial Day is a special holiday for all Americans. We celebrate and honor all the soldiers who have bravely given up their lives so we could be a free country. We honor those who fought for our country's future generations. All the soldiers we honor today cared about more than just themselves, they thought about us and sacrificed their lives for the future of our country.

Memorial Day shouldn't be confused with the similar holiday, Veterans Day. Veterans Day honors all who have served in the armed forces while Memorial Day honors those who have died in the forces. Memorial Day was originally given the name Decoration Day because of the tradition of people decorating the graves of the country's fallen heroes. Memorial Day was officially titled a federal holiday in 1971. The tradition of honoring the fallen soldiers started the years following the Civil War. The Civil War claimed many lives of the country's soldiers. People held tributes in the late 60's, around the time the Civil War ended, to honor the dead soldiers, leaving flowers and other decorations at their graves. While it is unclear how the tradition started, it was declared by the Federal Government in 1966 that Waterloo, New York was Memorial Day's official birthplace. Quote from History.com, ''On the first Decoration Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, and 5,000 participants decorated the graves of 20,000 Civil War soldiers buried there.'' This was very important because it was the first time that people had the ability to remember those who died in the armed forces with others.

We celebrate this holiday known as Memorial Day to remember those who have passed that fought hard. On Memorial Day we will remember those who we will for now and forever remember as America's Heroes. So yes, we celebrate Memorial Day in honor of American soldiers.

For more than two hundred years American soldiers have answered the call to defend our land and our values of freedom and democracy. With annual ceremonies like the one in Orange, that engage our youngest citizens, we ensure that we will never forget that our armed forces have a long and proud history, and that every one of our veterans has demonstrated outstanding courage, dedication, and service. It is my honor to rise today to thank A very French for her very special contribution to Memorial Day and her community.

HONORING THE 175 INVENTORS INDUCTED AS THE 2020 FELLOWS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF INVENTORS

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 175 inventors who will soon be inducted as the 2020 Fellows of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI) in an induction ceremony in Tampa, FL that will feature a keynote address by U.S. Commissioner for Patents, Andrew Hirshfeld. To be named as a Fellow, these men and women were nominated by their peers and have undergone the scrutiny of the NAI Selection Committee, having had their innovations deemed as making significant impact on quality of life, economic development and welfare of society.

Collectively, this elite group holds nearly 4,800 patents. This year's class of Fellows includes individuals from 115 research universities and non-profit research institutes spanning across the United States and the world. The now 1,403-member group of Fellows is composed of more than 165 presidents and senior leaders of research universities and non-profit research institutes, nearly 600 members of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine; 45 inductees of the National Inventors Hall of Fame, 63 recipients of the U.S. National Medal of Technology and Innovation and U.S. National Medal of Science, 40 Nobel Laureates, 392 AAAS Fellows, 264 IEEE Fellows and 184 Fellows of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, among other awards and distinctions. The NAI was founded in 2010 to recognize and encourage inventors with patents issued from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, enhance the visibility of academic technology and innovation, encourage the disclosure of intellectual property, educate and mentor innovative students and translate the inventions of its members to benefit society.

We are greatly indebted to innovators such as the ones being inducted this month for their contributions to society through their inventions. I commend these individuals, and the organizations and taxpayers that support them, for the work they do to revolutionize the world we live in. As the following inventors are inducted, may it encourage future generations to strive to meet this high honor and continue the spirit of discovery and innovation.

The 2020 NAI Fellows include: JD Albert, University of Pennsylvania; Naofal AlDhahir, The University of Texas at Dallas; Khalil Amine, Argonne National Laboratory; Ananth Annapragada, Baylor College of Medicine; Samuel Asirvatham, Mayo Clinic; William Bachovchin, Tufts University; George Barany, University of Minnesota; Randall Bateman, Washington University in St. Louis; Eric Beckman, University of Pittsburgh; Gary H. Bernstein, University of Notre Dame; Matt A. Bernstein, Mayo Clinic; Vaughn Betz, University of Toronto; Bir Bhanu, University of California; Riverside Venkat Bhethanabotla, University of South Florida; Ronald Biediger, Texas Heart Institute; Alexandra Boltasseva, Purdue University; Donal D.C. Bradley, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology; Bruce Branchaud, University of Oregon; Daniel Brown, Northwestern University; Susan K. Brown, Cornell University; Scott P. Bruder, Case Western Reserve; University Irwin Chaiken, Drexel University; V. Chandrasekar, Colorado State University; Chih-hung Chang, Oregon State University; HsuehChia Chang, University of Notre Dame; Ramalingam Chellappa, Johns Hopkins University; Kuan-Neng Chen, National Chiao Tung University; Jianjun Cheng, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Mung Chiang, Purdue University; Ki Chon, University of Connecticut; Keith M. Chugg, University of Southern California; Mark Clarke, University of Houston; Jason (Jingsheng) Cong, University of California, Los Angeles; Liming Dai, University of New South Wales; Rajesh Dave', New Jersey Institute of Technology; Valina Dawson, Johns Hopkins University; Nancy DeMore, Medical University

of South Carolina; Reza Derakhshani, University of Missouri-Kansas City; Robert Desnick, Mount Sinai Health System; Michael Diamond, Washington University in St. Louis; Steven Eschrich, H. Lee Mott Cancer Center & Research Institute; Gary Evans, Southern Methodist University; Robin Felder, University of Virginia; Albert J. Fornace Jr., Georgetown University; Gordon Freeman, Harvard University; Alexander Fridman, Drexel University; Andrés García, Georgia Institute of Technology; Sharon Gerecht, Johns Hopkins University; M. Monica Giusti, The Ohio State University; Charles Glabe, University of California, Irvine; Martin Gleave, The University of British Columbia; Michael Goldfarb, Vanderbilt University; Carol Greider, Johns Hopkins University; Paul Hansma, University of California, Santa Barbara; Joseph Harding, Washington State University; William Harris, Massachusetts General Hospital Research Institute; Jibo He, Wichita State University; Sidney Hecht, Arizona State University; Richard Heller, University of South Florida; Paul Hergenrother, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; James Hickman, University of Central Florida; Rodney JY Ho, University of Washington; Eric Holmes, Florida State University; David Horsley, University of California, Davis; Tony Jun Huang, Duke University; Scott Hultgren, Washington University in St. Louis; David Hunn, The University of Texas at Arlington; Laurence Hurley, The University of Arizona; Louis Ignarro, University of California, Los Angeles; Bahram Jalali, University of California, Los Angeles; Susan James, Colorado State University; Nikil Jayant, Georgia Institute of Technology; Michael Jewett, Northwestern University; Lizy Kurian John, The University of Texas at Austin; Henry Kapteyn, University of Colorado Boulder; Thomas Katsouleas, University of Connecticut; Mark Kay, Stanford University; Michael Keidar, The George Washington University; Mark Kendall, Australian National University; Michael Kessler, North Dakota State University; Nicholas Kotov, University of Michigan; Konstantin Kousoulas, Louisiana State University; Boris Kovatchev, University of Virginia; Chung-Chieh ''Jay'' Kuo, University of Southern California; Hoi-Sing Kwok, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology; Michael Lebby, Glynwdr University in Wales, UK; Pooi See Lee, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore; Xiuling Li, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Lanny Liebeskind, Emory University; James Lillard, Morehouse School of Medicine; Chwee Teck Lim, National University of Singapore; Julia Ljubimova, Terasaki Institute for Biomedical Innovation; Laurie Locascio, University of Maryland; Gerald Loeb, University of Southern California; David Luzzi, Northeastern University; Hongbin Ma, University of Missouri-Columbia; Anant Madabhushi, Case Western Reserve University; Duncan J. Maitland, Texas A&M University; Tadeusz Malinski, Ohio University; John Mauro, The Pennsylvania State University; Bill McCutchen, Texas A&M University; Donald McDonnell, Duke University; John McGlone, Texas Tech University; Richard Melker, University of Florida; Anton Middelberg, University of Adelaide, Australia; Richard Miles, Texas A&M University; Charles Mistretta, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Jin Kim Montclare, New York University; Margaret Murnane, University of Colorado Boulder; Mitzi Nagarkatti, University of South Carolina; Vijaykrishnan Narayanan, The Pennsylvania State University; Denise Ney, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Robert A. Norwood, The University of Arizona; Thomas O'Halloran, Northwestern University; Ann Palmenberg, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Eleftherios Papoutsakis, University of Delaware; Keshab Parhi, University of Minnesota; Norbert Pelc, Stanford University; Vir V. Phoha, Syracuse University; Peter Pidcoe, Virginia Commonwealth University; Leonard Pinchuk, University of Miami; Ralph Pollier, Louisiana State University; Behnam Pourdeyhimi, North Carolina State University; David Puleo, University of Mississippi; Judit Puskas, The Ohio State University; David Putnam, Cornell University; Si Zhao (Joe) Qin, City University of Hong Kong; Tariq Rana, University of California, San Diego; Thomas Ranney, North Carolina State University; Vilupanur Ravi, California Polytechnic State University; E. Premkumar Reddy, Mount Sinai Health System; Elsa Reichmanis, Lehigh University; Martin Richardson, University of Central Florida; Naphtali Rishe, Florida International University; Michael A. Rogawski, University of California, Davis; Jannick Rolland, University of Rochester; Jean-Francois Rossignol, University of South Florida; Ashutosh Sabharwal, Rice University; Joshua Sakon, University of Arkansas; Ravi Sandhu, The University of Texas at San Antonio; Edward Schuchman, Mount Sinai Health System; Gregory Schultz, University of Florida; Yang Shao-Horn, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Arlene Sharpe, Harvard University; Rahul Shrivastav, University of Georgia; Sachdev Sidhu, University of Toronto; Larry Sklar, The University of New Mexico; Daniel K. Sodickson, New York University; David Stephens, Emory University; Szymon Suckewer, Princeton University; Timothy Swager, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Nongjian Tao, Arizona State University; Nitish Thakor, Johns Hopkins University; Albell I. Titus, University at Buffalo, The State University of New York; John Trent, University of Louisville; Van N. Truskett, The University of Texas at Austin; Din-Ping Tsai, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University; Ranji Vaidyanathan, Oklahoma State University; George Varghese, University of California, Los Angeles; John Volakis, Florida International University; Luis Von Ahn, Carnegie Mellon University; Bipin Vora, Illinois Institute of Technology; Haiyan Wang, Purdue University; Lihong Wang, California Institute of Technology; Joyce Y. Wong, Boston University; Neal Woodbury, Arizona State University; Han-Chung Wu, Academia Sinica; Changhuei Yang, California Institute of Technology; Gerald Zamponi, University of Calgary; Ling Zang, The University of Utah; Feng Zhang, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Liangfang Zhang, University of California, San Diego; Jia Zhou, The University of Texas Medical Branch; MengChu Zhou, New Jersey Institute of Technology; S. Kevin Zhou, Chinese Academy of Sciences & The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

DOO WOP DRIVE-IN

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I am here today to speak about the nostalgic Doo Wop Drive-In and its founder, Jason Kramer. Doo Wop Drive-In is located in Wildwood Crest, South Jersey and was established last year. I had the pleasure of meeting Jason a couple of weeks ago, and his hard work and dedication to his theater should be an inspiration to all. Jason had the idea of owning a drive-in theater since he was a kid. He loves movies and remembers the good times of going to a drive-in with his family. Jason closes off the parking lot for the drive-in and people will bring chairs, blankets, coolers, and anything else that will make their experience special. Doo Wop Drive-In not only allows people to bring their own food and drinks, but the movie is free, and popcorn is also provided. Jason wanted to open a drive-in so it could be enjoyed by his community. He wanted to make the experience very affordable and a fun place for families to bring their children. It is people like Jason who make me proud to be from South Jersey and proud to have the opportunity to represent the South Jersey community. God Bless Jason and his family and God Bless America.

RECOGNIZING FRICTION SCIENCE, INC. AND GOODYEAR BRAKE'S SUPPORT OF ''BUY AMERICAN''

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Friction Science, Inc. and Goodyear Brakes' contribution and support to a thriving domestic manufacturing sector and the ''Buy American'' initiative.

With 50 years of service, Goodyear Brakes and FDP Friction Science Inc., headquartered in Tappahannock, Virginia employs more than 150 local residents and contributes significantly to the local economy. Goodyear Brakes and FDP Friction Sciences Inc. continue to do their part to ensure a strong domestic manufacturing workforce.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I ask that you rise with me in congratulating to Goodyear Brakes and FDP Friction Science Inc. on their monumental effort to build brake pads and shoes in the United States and support the goal of ''Buy American.''

RECOGNIZING THE McLENNAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE BASEBALL TEAM AND COACH THOMPSON

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, the McLennan Community College baseball team recently won the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division I National Championship. The Highlanders capped their season with a victory over reigning champion Central Arizona by a score of 7–3 at Suplizio Field in Grand Junction, Colorado, in the championship game to complete an undefeated run at the Junior College World Series. For McLennan, located in Waco,

Texas, this was the team's first appearance in the finals since 2015 and its second national championship in baseball, with the first coming in 1983.

The Highlanders are led by head coach Mitch Thompson, my brother-in-law. For Thompson, who has had a long and distinguished baseball career, this was his first national championship. Thompson played college baseball at Fort Hays State University in Kansas, where he twice earned academic all-conference honors and served as team captain as a senior. Following his graduation from Fort Hays State in 1988, Thompson began his coaching career. Prior to being named the head coach at McLennan in 2013, Thompson served as an assistant at Mississippi State University, Radford University, Auburn University, and Baylor University. Additionally, he was a scout for the Kansas City Royals organization in 2013. Throughout his coaching career, Thompson has become widely respected as a recruiter and evaluator of talent.

I want to congratulate Coach Thompson and his team on their fantastic season. Coming off a year in which the baseball season was cut short, this season provided unique challenges and was unlike any other the players had previously experienced. I am proud of the McLennan team and all that the Highlanders accomplished this year by bringing home the top prize in junior college baseball.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF STEVE KERR FROM WHEELER MISSION

HON. TREY HOLLINGSWORTH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a community leader Steve Kerr. Steve is retiring after 28 years of service to Wheeler Mission, a ministry that has been serving Hoosiers for over 128 years, including two locations in my district.

Steve has been with Wheeler since November 22, 1993. He began his role as the Capital Campaign Director and then moved into the Director of Development role. He has built a strong legacy that has impacted thousands of lives, went from three staff members to now twenty-two who make sure the needs of residents, staff, donors and volunteers are met daily.

In 2003 Steve had the vision to bring runners, walkers, and families together on Thanksgiving Day to help raise money for the ministry. The Drumstick Dash is now headed into its 19th Dash and continues to grow. People from all over the country descend on Indy and virtually to "Move Their Feet So Others Can Eat." The annual campaign, along with other special events, raises around million dollars each year for this vital ministry.

Wheeler Mission offers the Indianapolis and Bloomington communities homeless shelters, residential programming, addiction recovery services, and social enterprises. Wheeler has adapted to meet the community's ever-changing needs and is unwavering in its commitment to Christ and the transformation through the Gospel. I thank Steve Kerr for his commitment to Wheeler Mission, and the lives he has and will continue to impact due to his legacy.

HONORING AVERY ALVES OF TURKEY HILL SCHOOL IN ORANGE, CONNECTICUT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, each year the community of Orange, Connecticut gathers for a solemn ceremony and parade to mark Memorial Day. As part of this ceremony, local elementary school students are invited to submit artwork that reflects the special meaning of Memorial Day. One of these submissions is chosen as the cover art for the community's Memorial Day program. I had the opportunity to join the Orange ceremony this year and was inspired by the artwork by Avery Alves of Turkey Hill School, the student whose artwork was selected for the program cover.

I only wish that I could submit the actual artwork. Avery did a wonderful job and I will try to do it justice with this description. On a white backdrop blue blocked letters spell out "Orange, CT"; scripted in black just below "Memorial Day"; blocked red letters spell "Parade"; at the center of the page is a beautifully rendered bald eagle clutching an American flag in its talons; just below scripted in black are the words "Never Forget"; and the final line, once again blocked in blue lettering, is "Ever Honor." For one so young, Avery's artwork is a stirring reminder of why we gather each year to pay homage to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our Nation.

For more than two hundred years American soldiers have answered the call to defend our land and our values of freedom and democracy. With annual ceremonies like the one in Orange, that engage our youngest citizens, we ensure that we will never forget that our armed forces have a long and proud history, and that every one of our veterans has demonstrated outstanding courage, dedication, and service. It is my honor to rise today to thank Avery Alves for her very special contribution to Memorial Day and her community.

DEKON FASHAW, SR.

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I am here today to speak about an inspiring citizen of Cape May, New Jersey—Dekon Fashaw, Sr. Back in February, he became the first Black police chief for the City of Cape May. Before becoming police chief, Dekon was with the Cape May Police Department for 22 years. Throughout his career, he longed to be a police officer because he felt that it was important for a man of color to be in the esteemed position to look after his community. Dekon has the support of many behind him, including his predecessor, Anthony Marino. The City of Cape May Mayor Zack Mullok also emphasized how Dekon has brought the community together through his positive attitude and desire to care for people. I have no doubt that Dekon will serve and protect the City of Cape May. He is an exceptional man who has dedicated his life to public service. God Bless him and God Bless America.

HALBERT SULLIVAN

HON. CORI BUSH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Ms. BUSH. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Halbert Sullivan, founder and CEO of Fathers & Families Support Center (FFSC) who passed away on April 15, 2021. Mr. Sullivan is a shining personification of triumphing over mistakes and using them as a catalyst for change. As the founder of FFSC, Mr. Sullivan was continually recognized for his groundbreaking work in the community, including being awarded with the Gold Pin for the President's Volunteer Service Award, a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Partnership of Community Leadership, multiple honors from the NAACP, Missouri Association of Social Welfare, Washington University, and many others. In 2017, Mr. Sullivan was also named St. Louis' Nonprofit Executive of the Year. He was unquestionably a change agent whose work and impact reverberated in the lives of every person he touched. St. Louis has been made lastingly better because of his legacy and he will be sorely and widely missed.

HONORING SHERIFF JOHN ROBERTSON

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sheriff John Robertson and to recognize his extensive contributions to our community through his leadership in law enforcement.

A California native, Sheriff Robertson was born and raised in Burlingame, California. He went on to attend San Diego State University, where he received his degree in Criminal Justice. Sheriff Robertson began his accomplished career in Law Enforcement at the San Mateo Police Department in 1981. It was there that he established his expertise in Hazardous Materials, Explosives, and Incident Management. Since June 1991, Sheriff Robertson has been with the Napa County Sheriffs Office, where he established himself as a natural leader and resource to the Napa community. Soon after, he began teaching at the Police Academy and Criminal Justice Training Center, where he instructed both Academy Cadets and law enforcement officers on a wide variety of topics.

He became Sheriff of Napa County in 2012 serving for 11 years, including during the terrible earthquake in 2014 and the apocalyptic fires in 2017, 2019, and 2020. Sheriff Robertson's leadership and innovation has recently led to a pilot program utilizing the European "Hi-Lo" siren in patrol cars for use during evacuations. As a result, departments across California began participating in this program, leading to the passage of Senate Bill 909, which amended the California Vehicle Code to

allow for Sheriff Robertson's idea to become an industry norm nationwide.

Throughout his career, Sheriff Robertson has never lost sight of the importance of Community Policing. He has tirelessly advocated for programs to improve his community, including bicycle patrol in jurisdictions like Yountville and Sheriffs Activities League programs in Napa and American Canyon. Serving under the mantra "The less you say, the more people listen," Sheriff Robertson has established himself as a leader in his community and continues to be a resource to elected officials and department directors alike. His extensive legacy will be continued by his son, Jack, who is serving as Deputy Sheriff in Solano County. I wish my friend, colleague, and cycling partner well in his retirement.

Madam Speaker, it is no doubt that Sheriff Robertson's achievements will leave a tremendous impact for generations to come. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

HONORING THE CAREER OF CARLA DOLES

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Carla Doles. Carla just retired after 44 years of service as a public-school teacher and show choir director. All 44 years of her career as an educator were in northeast Indiana.

She was a beloved figure of her community, wielding a profound and lasting influence upon students across two school districts for more than two generations. 27 years of her career were spent at Carroll High School in Fort Wayne; the other 17 at Norwell High School in Ossian.

Carla's love for her vocation and devotion to her students' future was evident every single day. That love and devotion inspired the confidence of many of her students to compete in choral and other national competitions across the country.

It was also evident in her desire to create new opportunities for students. Carla helped found the small mixed (men & women) division of show choirs.

I wish Carla the best for all that she has done after a long and distinguished career. This is a testament to her service and selflessness for which Fort Wayne, Ossian and the entirety of our region is grateful.

DANIEL LEVINE—EAGLE SCOUT

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I am here today to recognize Daniel Levine, a Mantua Township Eagle Scout who achieved Scouting's highest rank. Daniel is a senior at Gloucester County Institute of Technology and is enrolled in their Performing Arts Academy. In the fall, Daniel will be attending Rowan College of South Jersey. For his Eagle Scout Project, Daniel created a sensory path by the playground at Sewell Elementary School. This project provided the children who attended the elementary school the opportunity to do fun activities and work on their gross motor skills. During his time as a Scout, Daniel served as both Assistant Patrol Leader and a Den Chief. Daniel has also earned 35 merit badges as his time as a Scout. Daniel has excelled throughout his time as a scout, and I look forward to seeing what he accomplishes in the future. God Bless Daniel and God Bless America.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JODY HUBBARD

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Jody Hubbard, a former Encinitas city councilmember, who passed away on June 7, 2021 after a courageous battle with cancer.

Jody's life-long dedication to the environment pushed her to serve her community, first as an engaged citizen, then as a Planning Commissioner, and finally as an elected City Council Member and Deputy Mayor of the City of Encinitas from 2018 to 2020. She led the fight for city transportation projects, including a new protected bike lane along Coast Highway 101. She leaves a personal legacy of popular spaces where people walk, run and bicycle safely, including the Coastal Rail Trail and Leucadia Streetscape.

She was an avid bodysurfer and cyclist, especially around her community of Cardiff by the Sea, along the scenic northern coast of San Diego County. She had an infectious smile and was a crucial member of the Encinitas community.

A Southern California native, Jody started her career as a certified public accountant with large public accounting firms followed by fifteen years as a chief financial officer and vice president of finance in the construction and mortgage industries. She then began her own business to provide long-term care planning to serve families in providing for the care of parents and grandparents.

Jody Hubbard will be long remembered by her mother Joanne, her many friends, and everyone she touched.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RONNY JACKSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. JACKSON. Madam Speaker, I was absent from one vote on Wednesday, June 23, 2021. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 176.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, on June 23, 2021, I voted NAY on Roll Call 180 (Passage of H.R. 2062, the Protecting Older Workers Against Discrimination Act of 2021) when I meant to vote YEA. I would like to clarify that my intention was to vote YEA on Roll Call 180.

HONORING ARMAAN SHRIVASTAV OF RACE BROOK SCHOOL IN ORANGE, CONNECTICUT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, each year the community of Orange, Connecticut gathers for a solemn ceremony to mark Memorial Day. As part of this ceremony, local elementary school students are invited to submit essays that share their thoughts on Memorial Day and its meaning to them. Submissions from each of the community's three elementary schools are selected to be included in the ceremony. I had the opportunity to join the Orange ceremony this year and was inspired by the words of this year's winners and am pleased to have this opportunity to share them.

Armaan Shrivastav, a student at Race Brook School submitted the following essay:

> Why is Memorial Day Celebrated? Unreasoning leads to anger. Anger leads to hate. Hate leads to desire for power. Power leads to war. For war, we need soldiers. So many soldiers die serving their nation. Memorial Day is for remembering those brave soldiers who gave up their lives for their fellow citizens.
>
> Memorial Day is when we honor and remember the brave soldiers. We celebrate Memorial Day to show respect for them. We must thank these soldiers who sacrificed themselves for the country. Memorial Day is a day to bow to them. Many people celebrate this day by going to their family's graves together and hold a gathering or participate in a parade. New York is the birthplace of Memorial Day. After the Civil War, which claimed many lives, people started decorating graves with flowers. This came to be known as Decoration Day. Since then, people have started giving more importance to this day by visiting soldier's graves every year, so the government officially announced the last Monday of May as Memorial Day.
>
> Memorial Day is celebrated on the last Monday of May. This year Memorial Day is on 31st May. We should all honor these brave soldiers, offer flowers to them and remember their selfless service for the nation and what they did for us.

For more than two hundred years American soldiers have answered the call to defend our land and our values of freedom and democracy. With annual ceremonies like the one in Orange, that engage our youngest citizens, we ensure that we will never forget that our armed forces have a long and proud history, and that every one of our veterans has demonstrated outstanding courage, dedication, and service. It is my honor to rise today to thank Armaan Shrivastav for his very special contribution to Memorial Day and his community.

BROADWAY SCOOPS

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I had the pleasure of attending the opening ceremony of Broadway Scoops in Pennsville, South Jersey. At the opening, I met Gary and Sabrina Green who opened Broadway Scoops' doors after finding inspiration through their love for ice cream. The entire shop was constructed by local small businesses and the supplies were sourced from local small businesses as well. Gary and Sabrina wanted to create a place where their local community could come in with their families and have a space to try ice cream and relax outdoors. There are picnic tables, checkers, corn hole, and various other games that patrons can come and enjoy free of charge. Gary and Sabrina told me how the support from their local community has been overwhelming and friends and family have traveled across the country to support their business. It is amazing to see South Jersey small business prosper, and I wish Gary and Sabrina the best of luck in their new venture. God Bless Gary and Sabrina and God Bless America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I am not recorded for Roll Call vote No. 180 on Wednesday, June 23, 2021 because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted Nay on the Protecting Older Workers Against Discrimination Act of 2021, RC No. 180.

The Protecting Older Workers Against Discrimination Act would overturn a 2009 Supreme Court ruling on the basis that the decision negatively impacted age discrimination cases; however, there is no data to support that claim. In fact, this legislation would eliminate the carefully balanced standard Congress adopted when it passed the Age Discrimination in Employment Act and result in frivolous litigation against small businesses.

Since my first day in office, I have been squarely focused on what I was sent here to do: represent Hoosiers of the 6th District.

GO FOR BROKE STAMP

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. CASE. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues to recognize and honor . . . a stamp.

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.

A story of tragedy, perseverance and triumph that is so quintessentially American, that goes so deeply to our essence, 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 Two 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, and so permit me a brief retelling.

The story originates in Japan in the late 1800s when largely rural poverty and lack of opportunity drove emigration to the United States, mainly Hawaii and the West Coast, until the Exclusion Act of 1924 ended any substantial further immigration. This first generation, or Issei, were excluded by reason of their race and origin from citizenship, yet they worked and sacrificed and persevered to provide a better life for their children, the second generation, or Nisei, born American citizens.

As World War Two loomed, Americans of Japanese Ancestry were beginning their third generation, or Sansei, in substantial communities, yet they remained largely marginalized because of race. In my 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 one hundred thousand Japanese were interned for their race, an indelible stain on our national fabric. And 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 One-Puka-Puka), the 442nd regimental Combat Team ("Go For Broke"), the Military Intelligence Service and the 1399th Engineer Construction Battalion.

The rest, as they say, is legend. The 100th and 442nd, after enduring great discrimination and great kindness in mainland training camps where Jim Crow was still very much alive, and even as their parents and brothers and sisters were incarcerated by their government, shipped out and fought their way with the U.S. Army from Africa up through Sicily and Italy and the Rhone and into France and the famous Battles of the Yosges and the Bulge and then into German itself where they liberated the concentration camps of the Third Reich. When it was all over, they had lost so many comrades and had become the most decorated unit for its size and length of service in our nation's history.

But it was not just for their wartime service that they are remembered, but their faith in and dedication to their country upon their return, itself marked even after all that by racism and discrimination. Many of them went on to careers in public service, like U.S. Senator and Medal Of Honor winner Daniel Inouye and U.S. Senator Spark Matsunaga, and many more in other professions and careers and back in their communities where they quietly fought for the principle that the American dream belonged to all Americans.

What an American story, and for all this we honored them in 2010 with our Congressional Gold Medal. But was that enough; would it all be remembered?

Three Japanese American women in California who themselves had been incarcerated—Fusa Takahashi, Chiz Ohira and Aiko King—thought not, and in 2005 they launched Stamp Our Story to convince the U.S. Postal Service to issue a stamp in honor and remembrance of the Japanese American soldiers of World War Two. Sixteen long years later, through continued advocacy led in Congress by my Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus and my colleagues here now and before—especially U.S. Congressman Mark Takai, himself a Japanese American veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, tragically lost to us—this beautiful and moving stamp, impeccably designed by Antonio Alcala, was issued just weeks ago.

The design is taken from a 1944 photograph in the field of 442nd Private First Class Shiroku 'Whitey' Yamamoto, a Nisei born and raise in the plantation village of Ninole on the Hamakua Coast of my home island of Hawaii. His service included the famous rescue of the Texas Lost Battalion in the Vosges, when the 442nd's casualties far exceeded the number of their mostly white comrades rescued. Legend has it that the motto "Go For Broke"—or in our pidgin go fo broke—originated in Hawaii gambling slang for going big against all odds. The soldier's face speaks of fatigue, of questions, but above all of Gaman, of perseverance through great adversity to a better place. Such a fitting tribute, so appropriate. And made possible by so many, including colleagues who are here with me today to contribute their own thoughts.

Mdam Speaker, we are all grateful for the opportunity to remember and retell the American story of the Japanese American soldiers of World War II and to celebrate the lessons of their service and lives through their stamp.

To close, I'd like to recite the 442nd's special song:

Four Forty Second Infantry
We are the boys of Hawai'i nei
We will fight for you
And the red, white and blue
And will go to the front
And back to Honolulu-lu-lu
Fighting for dear old Uncle Sam
Go for broke we don't give a damn!
We will round up the huns
At the point of a gun
And the victory will be ours!
Go for broke! Four Four Two!
Go for broke! Four Four Two!
And victory will be ours.
Mahalo.

COMMENDING FOURTH DISTRICT STUDENTS ON 2021 UNITED STATES SERVICE ACADEMY NOMINATIONS

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor two exceptional students of Arkansas' Fourth Congressional District. These two young men recently accepted appointments into United States Service Academies,

bringing their home district extreme pride in their academic excellence, desire to serve, and commitment to patriotism.

I take this time to congratulate Harrison Brownlee of Hot Springs on his acceptance of an appointment to the United States Military Academy and Cody Lambert of Redfield on his acceptance of an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy. These young Americans embody qualities of academic excellence and service above self which are necessary for military service.

These two young men are a tremendous source of pride not just for their hometowns, but for the entire Fourth Congressional District. Their commitment to excellence is to be commended, but it is their love of country, defense of liberty, and pursuit of a freer America that truly sets them apart from all others.

I take this time to honor them for their successes, encourage them on this new pursuit, and thank them for their example to the rest of the country of what a patriot truly is.

BAYSHORE HERITAGE BYWAY

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I am here today to speak about a historical and scenic road in South Jersey, the Bayshore Heritage Byway. Earlier this year in February, the Federal Highway Administration selected the Bayshore Heritage Byway as a National Scenic Byway. This is a wonderful accomplishment and I congratulate all of those who have worked towards achieving this goal. The Bayshore Heritage Byway was nominated on two intrinsic qualities: its natural beauty and historical components. It will now be featured in a commemorative 2021 National Scenic Byways Program Designations Booklet and will also be listed on the America's Byways website. The Bayshore Heritage Byway is full of beauty and history and I am proud that a South Jersey landmark has been given this distinct recognition.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM BURCHETT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I was unable to attend votes because I was under medical care. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 173, YEA on Roll Call No. 174; NAY on Roll Call No. 175; NAY on Roll Call No. 176; NAY on Roll Call No. 177; NAY on Roll Call No. 178; YEA on Roll Call No. 179; and NAY on Roll Call No. 180.

COMMEMORATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ELEVATION OF ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

HON. DARIN LaHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor and recognize Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople on the historic 30th Anniversary of his election on October 22, 1991, and his elevation on November 2, 1991, as the 270th Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome, and Ecumenical Patriarch.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew was born in the village of Zeytinli on the island of Imbros to Christos and Merope Archontonis. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew belongs to the historically indigenous Rum people, descendants of the Eastern Roman Empire/Byzantine Empire Greek community in Turkey.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is recognized in the United States and abroad as a leader in the quest for world peace, greater religious understanding, and respect for the Earth's environment. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is the spiritual leader of nearly 300,000,000 Orthodox Christians around the world and millions of Orthodox Christians in the United States, with a significant population here in Illinois and the City of Chicago.

On his first official visit to the United States in 1997, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew received the Congressional Gold Medal, presented by the United States on behalf of Congress in recognition of his outstanding and enduring contributions to religious understanding and peace. His Holiness was recognized by the United States in a manner reserved for a very small number of world leaders.

I am grateful for all the good that His All Holiness does for Americans and those around the world. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew serves as a reminder to us all that the positive efforts of just one person can be beneficial to countless lives of others.

CLARIFICATION TO REPRESENTATIVE LIZ CHENEY'S COMMENTS

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address what I think, and what I think the record will establish, are errors pertaining to my inquiry into circumstances surrounding the killing of Ashli Babbitt.

There are rules of decorum in the House of Representatives. In debate, members are to "avoid characterizing another Member's personal intent or motives and discussing personalities." Another rule is that members are to "refrain from speaking disrespectfully of the Speaker, other Members." When made on the floor, such disrespectful behavior and boorish conduct is subject to objection to take down the words. But no such process applies when rude, impolite and candidly false statements are made about one member by another off the floor. So, I take this opportunity now to address and correct the incorrect statements uttered by Rep. LIZ CHENEY, the now former conference chair.

On June 16, 2021, Rep. CHENEY tweeted the following: "On January 6, as the violent mob advanced on the House chamber, I was standing near @RepGosar and helped him open his gas mask. The Capitol Police led us to safety. It is disgusting and despicable to see Gosar lie about that day and smear the men and women who defended us."

First, I did not wear a gas mask on January 6. Second, at no time have I "smeared" any of the "men and women who defended us" nor did I "lie about that day." What I have done is ask questions and demanded transparency. I did express concerns over the actions of one Capitol Police officer, the one who shot and killed Ashli Babbitt. Merely questioning the actions of one officer does not equate to questioning (much less "smearing") "all" the "men and women who defended" us, as stated by Ms. CHENEY. This is a false comparison and not true at all.

I will not be intimidated by false implications. I will continue to seek transparency and find out why, who, and how the officer that killed Ashli Babbitt did what he did. There could be good, solid reasons for using lethal force at that moment. Perhaps he thought Ashli was armed with a knife, a bat, or a gun. Maybe he simply panicked. Unfortunately, with the evidence currently released, we have one video (taken by a CNN collaborator who, while filming for CNN, urged people to "bum" the Capitol) and that video does not show a gun, a bat, or any weapon whatsoever. The video simply shows an unarmed woman starting to climb a window. If there is evidence to the contrary, I have called for its immediate release. I call for all the evidence, all video from that day, whether it incriminates or exonerates. The goal, my goal, is truth.

I have maintained my demand for release of all surveillance video. As it stands, all the American public has, in terms of evidence, is that (1) Ashli Babbitt was in the process of a misdemeanor (entering federal property without permission); (2) Ashli was unarmed; (3) Ashli was a 14-year military veteran who loved her country, the Constitution, and wanted election integrity; (4) no verbal instructions or warnings were given; (5) no escalation of force continuum was considered or used prior to using lethal force; and (6) no aid was rendered by the officer once he killed Ashli. All of these factors suggest an unlawful use of force, and the American public has a right to find out if that is true. Getting to the bottom of this incident is not an indictment of all Capitol police officers and such a suggestion is not logical or fact based.

I have spoken to law enforcement experts. I have watched the only video that is publicly available of the shooting of Ashli Babbitt. The officer that shot Ms. Babbitt is seen on the video hiding in a vestibule. All that can be seen are his hands holding a loaded side arm pointing at Ms. Babbitt. For approximately 14 seconds. The only video available shows no verbal or non-verbal warnings. No effort to tell Ms. Babbitt not to climb through the window. No effort to push her back or use non-lethal force of any type. Rather, after hiding in a vestibule and aiming for 14 seconds, the officer fires one round from the side, killing Ms. Babbitt. Thus, this officer went from "officer presence" straight to lethal force, and skipped verbal commands, soft controls, hard controls

and intermediate weapons. The jump to lethal force needs to be fully reviewed and investigated. At present, it does not appear justified. If there is justification, release the evidence now.

One law enforcement expert I talked to described this as lying in wait to shoot someone and a criminal offense. This was not acceptable police work. I reject the comment that one must either support every police officer 100 percent of the time or be ''against'' law enforcement, or to quote my colleague, to ''smear'' all police officers everywhere. Such notions are not worthy of serious discussion. I put my record of support for law enforcement up for comparison to anyone. But support need not be blind . . . or stupid. I can take issue with a bad cop. I can take issue with a bad killing. To see this swept under the rug under some false pretext of ''he was protecting Congress'' is as ridiculous as it is insulting. Using that logic, no police officer would ever be challenged on any killing—''He was trying to uphold the law.'' Using this logic, that would end the inquiry. That is not how our laws work.

Life is not that simple. The law of self-defense and the defense of others is based on the circumstances. Was the attacker armed? Did the officer have time to use non-lethal force? Was there backup? Was the suspect warned or commanded? What exactly was the risk? Trespassing risk is different than a risk of assault or murder. In this case, Ashli may or may not have been trespassing. I say this only because depending on what door she went through, some of the people in the Capitol on January 6th were literally invited in by the guards. But assuming she was trespassing, did she pose an imminent risk of death to the officer or someone else? This unarmed 110–pound woman, who was draped in a flag and trying to climb a window? Why did the Officer wait 14 seconds to shoot all the while aiming at her? Why did he not audibly warn her? Why didn't he step out of his hiding place and confront her? Or use a taser? Or a baton? Or simply push her back out?

These issues, and the professional opinion of a law enforcement expert, lead to the conclusion that the officer that shot Ashli Babbitt was lying in wait, hid for 14 seconds, then used lethal force to kill an unarmed, non-threatening woman. If that is true, then no way does this constitute a lawful killing. The fact that some members think it is acceptable police work, and call me a liar for pointing out these so far undisputed facts, reflects more on naked hatred for the truth than a love of transparency and honesty. If anyone thinks this is good police work, release all the evidence so we can discuss it. I stand by my concerns, and my questions, and I stand with the American people who demand answers.

HONORING HAMDEN HEROES DAY 2021

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, over the course of the last fifteen months, our communities and our constituents have faced the unique challenges brought on by the COVID–19 pandemic. We have ensured the biggest health and economic crisis our country has seen in a century. What has inspired me most as we have navigated this pandemic has been the unyielding fortitude of our communities and the commitment and dedication of our frontline workers. That is why I was so honored to have been invited to join Hamden Heroes Day where the community gathered to express its thanks and appreciation to the frontline workers who live in and/or work for the Town.

Connecticut was hit harder than most as COVID–19 spread across New England before it reached many other parts of the country. Over, 8,000 Connecticut residents died during this pandemic. Nearly 350,000 have been infected, many of whom are our frontline workers. This year, the Hamden Heroes Committee decided to pay tribute to the frontline workers in their community—our police, fire and emergency medical response personnel; our health department and public works employees; our teachers, nurses, and doctors; our gas station attendants, grocery workers, and convenience store workers; our certified nurse assistants and all those who provide care for those in the community who are older; our childcare providers who help struggling families to make ends meet; and our farmers and food distribution staff who literally are the ones putting food on our tables. Despite the risks, these frontline workers showed up and did their jobs while many of us worked comfortably from home.

These past fifteen months have been extremely challenging, but their dedication to their jobs and the Hamden community never wavered. Every day, they got up and committed their time and talent to serve the people of Hamden. Their efforts have not gone unnoticed. They have my gratitude and heartfelt appreciation for all they do, and we are deeply grateful for all their sacrifices. Their selfless and courageous service helped make it possible for us to get through these tough times. For that, and so much more, we thank them.

At the conclusion of the event, the Hamden Heroes Committee made a request of the elected officials that attended the event. They asked for the day to be declared ''Hamden Heroes Day'' and their elected leaders help spread the word to other communities in the hopes that they too will join in thanking the essential workers. It is my hope that by honoring Hamden Heroes Day, I can do some small part in encouraging communities across the Nation to come together as well.

BARRY'S BUNS

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize Barry's Buns, and its owners Joel and Jen Singer. Barry's Buns just opened a new location in Wildwood Crest in South Jersey, and I was able to meet with Joel and Jen and attend the grand opening. The inspiration for the name ''Barry's Buns'' comes from Joel, who's middle name is Barry. He also says that he was born to be a baker. Joel has always wanted to have his own bakery, and when he was just 14 years old, he started his own cheesecake business. He graduated with a degree in Pastry Arts and was the Assistant Pastry Chef at the Rittenhouse Hotel. Joel drew inspiration to open up his own business from his father, who before his passing had his own farmers style market. Joel developed a passion for customer service from watching his dad, and when a location opened up in Pennsylvania, he knew it was time to start his own bakery. Jen handles the business side of Barry's Buns and its day-to-day operations. Now, Joel and Jen own two locations, and I know that South Jersey will continue to provide overwhelming support for Barry's Buns. God Bless Joel and Jen and God Bless America.

HONORING THE LIFE AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF KATHLEEN ''KITTY'' HILL KUNZ OF BOISE, IDAHO

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Kathleen ''Kitty'' Hill Kunz. Kitty worked as my regional director in Pocatello, Idaho. Kitty always had a smile and a compliment for everyone. She was cheerful and hard working even as she battled an incurable cancer for many years. Kitty raised five beautiful children with her husband Kent Kunz in Pocatello and later they moved to Boise.

She was politically active and her love for our country ran deep. She worked for three Congressmen, ran numerous campaigns, and served as an attaché at the Idaho State Legislature. She was active in Republican groups both in Pocatello and Boise and served for a decade as the secretary of the Idaho Republican Central Committee. She also served faithfully as president of the Idaho Federation of Republican Women. She helped found the Connor Academy in Pocatello, which is named after her grandson, and served as a member of the Idaho Charter School Commission.

When she was diagnosed with cancer, she said she wanted to get a red Mustang convertible and visit as many national parks as possible. Kitty did just that and she and Kent visited almost every national park in the western United States.

Her cheerful disposition, smile, laugh, and hugs will be treasured memories for all who knew her. She served her family, country, and the second congressional district of Idaho for many years.

My wife, Kathy and I, offer our deepest sympathies to Kitty's family, friends, and loved ones during this difficult time of bereavement. I will forever be grateful for Kitty's tireless service. Truly, so many of us are better people for having known Kitty Kunz. We will miss her, but know her good work continues in heaven.

CELEBRATING PRIDE MONTH

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I'm proud to join my fellow members of the Equality Caucus in celebrating Pride Month and the progress our country has made in securing equal rights for all, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. As we recognize our progress, we must keep fighting because the LGBTQ+ community has yet to be granted full equality.

Pride Month commemorates the Stonewall Uprising, the now-famous targeting of the gay community at the Stonewall Inn by police in New York City in June 1969. In the subsequent four decades since Stonewall, LGBTQ+ individuals can serve openly in the military, same-sex couples can wed, and the Supreme Court has upheld certain federal laws prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Much work remains to be done. Transgender individuals still face high levels of violence. Federal, state, and local laws still allow many forms of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. And just last week in Fulton v. City of Philadelphia, the Supreme Court found that anti-LGBTQ+ religious objections can override a government agency's policies to ensure equality. While the case focused on same-sex couples adopting children, it could have much broader ramifications.

For all these reasons, I'm proud to be an original cosponsor of H.R. 5, the Equality Act, which extends anti-discrimination provisions in federal law to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. I'm proud that the House passed this legislation on a bipartisan vote of 224 to 206 on February 25, 2021. I urge the Senate to take up this legislation and send it to the President's desk as soon as possible.

As we celebrate Pride Month, let us also remember the victims of anti-LGBTQ+ hate, mourn the loss of countless loved ones whose lives were lost in the battle against HIV/AIDS, and reaffirm our commitment to fighting for an America where all are equal, no matter their gender identity or sexual orientation.

TRIBUTE TO SOJOURNER KINCAID ROLLE—CALIFORNIA'S 24TH CONGRESSIONAL WOMEN OF THE YEAR

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. CARBAJAL. Madam Speaker, each year, through the Women of the Year Award, my office extends special recognition to women on the Central Coast who have made a difference in our community. I would like to recognize one outstanding Women of the Year Award recipient, Sojourner Kincaid Rolle, of Santa Barbara, California.

It is community members like Sojourner that make Santa Barbara County special, and it is hard to put into words all of her contributions to our community. She is a poet, playwright, environmental educator, and cultural and peace activist. She is known for her work raising awareness of our diverse cultural history throughout the county and is heavily involved as a guiding elder for Juneteenth Santa Barbara and Healing Justice Santa Barbara organizations.

In 2015 Sojourner was named Poet Laureate of Santa Barbara and served a two-year term. As a selldefined ''public poet'', she is invited to compose and present poems for numerous special occasions. She is a two-time recipient of the California Arts Council's Artist-in-Residence program and for nearly 30 years has led poetry workshops throughout the West Coast. Since 1997, she has engaged young poets through her ''Song of Place Poetry Project'' and her work with City at Peace, Speak for the Creeks, California Poets in the Schools, Poetry OutLoud, and the MLK Poetry and Essay Contest.

She is the author of seven books of poetry and six plays, and her poetry is published in across social media. Her arts reviews and commentaries have also appeared in local and regional publications. Sojourner is a truthteller. She exhumes our past stories and brings them to life as a reminder of where we have been and where we can go.

A founding member of Santa Barbara's Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee, Sojourner has also served with multiple Santa Barbara County organizations including the Santa Barbara County Arts Commission, Santa Barbara NAACP, Santa Barbara Arts Council, the Fund for Santa Barbara Grantmaking Committee, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, and the UCSB Center for Black Studies Research.

Sojourner is the glue that connects community members. She holds a B.S. in Criminal Justice with emphasis in Juvenile Delinquency and a J.D., but she is a teacher at heart, always ready to teach and inspire the community at large. She is a worthy candidate for this honor and a role model for community leaders of all kinds. I am honored to recognize Sojourner for her continued commitment to improving our community and the residents of Santa Barbara County. I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 24th Congressional District, Sojourner Kincaid Rolle, for her incredible service to her community.

EAGLE SCOUT COURT OF HONOR—ANTHONY AND MICHAEL ZEG

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, over the weekend, I had the honor to meet Anthony and Michael Zeg from Franklinville, New Jersey. Both Anthony and Michael were awarded their Eagle Scout rank this year, and I had the privilege of attending their Eagle Scout Court of Honor. In order to meet the rank of Eagle Scout, they must participate in community service for their Eagle Scout project. Anthony and Michael both completed their project at the American Legion Post in Atco, NJ where each of them spent over 100 hours repairing and painting the building. Anthony is a senior in high school and is attending Gloucester County Institute of Technology studying HVAC and also interns for two different HVAC companies. Michael plans on attending college to study engineering and will be interning for an engineering company this summer. Both of these boys have a bright future ahead of them and I wish them nothing but success. God Bless Anthony and Michael and God Bless America.

ROSE MARY JOHNSON

HON. CORI BUSH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Ms. BUSH. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize Rose Mary Johnson, a recently retired educator.

Ms. Johnson has led a life of service and true love of community. She has spent several successful years teaching and serving in administrative roles in schools around the region. Shortly after beginning her teaching career, Johnson enlisted in the United States Army Reserves. It was here that she completed and retired with 31 years of service at the rank of Master Sergeant and with an array of medals and honors for her service.

In 1994, Ms. Johnson ran for the Jennings School Board on the platform that children needed to receive breakfast at school. She was successfully elected and has now just completed her 27th and final year on the board. Jennings Junior High was recently renamed Johnson Jennings Junior high school in her honor.

Rose Mary has been recognized by countless organizations for her unyielding commitment to her community, and since retiring she has continued to volunteer in various capacities.

For these reasons and more, St. Louis and I offer our deepest congratulations and gratitude to Rose Mary for her years of service. St. Louis has been enriched because of your contributions.

HONORING RETIRING IU PRESIDENT MICHAEL McROBBIE

HON. TREY HOLLINGSWORTH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH. Madam Speaker, in honor of President Michael McRobbie's upcoming retirement from Indiana University, I am proud to recognize his outstanding record of leadership and service to higher education.

Serving nearly 14 years as president, McRobbie is among the country's longest-serving presidents of a public higher education institution, and his dedication to expanding IU's programs, its impact on students, and the University's greater influence around Indiana is nothing short of remarkable.

Throughout his tenure, President McRobbie has worked to ensure IU remained an academically competitive and excellent institution. Under his leadership, President McRobbie prioritized building curriculums that were highly responsive to the evolving needs of its students, the Hoosier state, and industries

around the world. To that end, over the last decade, IU has strengthened its position as a research powerhouse and invested in improving communities around the state.

President McRobbie's commitment to IU and also serving Hoosiers has made a lasting impact on all who have passed through the institution. His legacy will live on long past his retirement, and I know I join graduates, colleagues, and Hoosiers around the state in thanking President McRobbie for his service to IU.

RECOGNIZING MENDENHALL HIGH SCHOOL AS THE MISSISSIPPI 2020 SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, the American College Application Campaign (ACAC), which is part of the ACT's Center for Equity in Learning, is a national effort to increase the number of first-generation college students and students from low-income families pursuing a college degree or other higher education credential. About 3.7 million students from all 50 states and the District of Columbia have been served, submitting nearly 6 million college applications since the campaign's inception in 2005.

ACAC gives a School of Excellence award for each state, and I'm proud to recognize Mendenhall High School as the 2020 School of Excellence award winner for Mississippi. Mendenhall High School was selected ''based on its demonstrated commitment to student success, timely submission of data, and serving as an exemplary model for our state's application campaign,'' according to ACAC.

As its selection for this prestigious award demonstrates, Mendenhall High School creates unique opportunities that have positive and lasting impacts on the lives of its students. Because of the hard work of teachers, staff, and administration, Mendenhall High School students are better equipped to pursue higher education or become leaders in their communities out of high school.

I am personally thankful for Mendenhall High School's efforts, as I believe the education of our youth, who are the future leaders of our state and country, is a crucial component of our society. I congratulate Mendenhall High School once more on being selected for this outstanding award and encourage the school's administration to continue this wonderful work, which is having such a meaningful impact on the lives of young men and women.

CONGRATULATING THE PROSPECT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to join the many family, friends, and community members gathered to add my congratulations to the Volunteer Fire Department of Prospect, Connecticut as they mark the 75th Anniversary of this very special organization.

Incorporated on September 11, 1945, the Prospect Volunteer Fire Department was founded and continues today as an all-volunteer effort. Over the course of its history, the department has grown and re-shaped itself to meet the changing needs of the community, but at its core has always been dedicated members of the community answering the call and living up to their motto—''neighbors helping neighbors.'' Indeed, many of those who volunteer today are 2nd, 3rd, and 4th generations of the Department's original members.

And it is not just their volunteer efforts when it comes to combatting fires. From the dollars raised to buy their first fire truck to the construction of the Department's first building, to their most recent equipment purchases, the Department and its volunteer members depend more on the generosity of their neighbors and their community than they do on the annual town budget. As their written history accounts, ''from the first dances at the old Chapel School House, through suppers, fireworks sales, ''dollar a month club'', Clyde Beatty Circus, and Carnival, the department has earned its own way. While a small amount of the expenses has been born by the town, fire coverage to equal that furnished by the Prospect Volunteer Fire Department would have cost the town thousands of dollars.''

It is that spirit and deep sense of community that is what makes the Prospect Volunteer Fire Department such a unique and special organization. As the Prospect community gathers today to celebrate this wonderful achievement, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who have dedicated not only their time, but their lives, to the safety of all Prospect residents. Firefighters face risks that many of us can never truly comprehend. Each day they must be able to perform under intense pressure—literally in life or death situations. Few things are more important than feeling safe in our homes and workplaces. Whether hosing down flames, rescuing a child from a burning house, or waiting for our call, firefighters are always there to protect us and provide us with the peace of mind we need to sleep at night. I am proud to recognize and commend the tremendous commitment they have made to our community. Our thanks and appreciation can never repay those who put their lives on the line to ensure our safety.

Today's celebration marks the 75th Anniversary of the Prospect Volunteer Fire Department. The courage and dedication demonstrated each day by these men and women is reflective of the true spirit in which the department was established. I am indeed proud to rise today to extend my thanks for what they do each day, and congratulations on this remarkable accomplishment.

ABSECON DOG SHOW

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize a group of innovative children in South Jersey who thought of and started the Absecon Dog Show. In 2018, Grace Marzick came up with the idea to create a dog show for mixed breeds. Grace then told her friend Zoey about her idea, so Zoey decided to form a committee with a group of their friends. On May 23rd, they held their 3rd annual dog show. Grace, Zoey, and their friends went around town and received sponsorships from local businesses to help fund the event. They even made posters and hung them up all over Absecon in South Jersey to advertise the event. This year's event had the largest turnout with 51 dogs making an appearance in the show. All of the proceeds raised from the Absecon Dog Show are donated to the Humane Society of Atlantic County. For their first event in 2018 they raised $600, in 2019 they raised $2,100 and so far this year they have raised $2,500. These students are remarkable, running this event solely by themselves. This group of extraordinary students have a bright future ahead of them and I commend them on their dedication and community service. God Bless Grace, Zoey, and their friends, and God Bless America.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MILT PETERSON

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness but great respect that I take this time to remember Milton V. Peterson of Fairfax, VA.

Mr. Peterson passed away on Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at the age of 85 surrounded by his family. The founder of Peterson Cos., Mr. Peterson will long be remembered for his outsized impact on developing numerous major projects across the Washington, D.C. region. He developed some of the most successful and award-winning mixed-use retail, residential and office developments in Northern Virginia. In addition to being a visionary developer, Peterson and his wife, Carolyn established the Peterson Family Foundation, donating more than $100 million to area charities.

Mr. Peterson was a thoughtful, hardworking, and passionate individual who greatly contributed to countless lives in Northern Virginia. Madam Speaker, I ask you to rise with me in memory of Mr. Milt Peterson. He will be profoundly missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, on June 23, 2021, I missed Roll Call vote 180. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on H.R. 2062.

HONORING CHLOE CHANG OF PECK PLACE SCHOOL IN ORANGE, CONNECTICUT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, each year the community of Orange, Connecticut gathers for a solemn ceremony to mark Memorial Day. As part of this ceremony, local elementary school students are invited to submit essays that share their thoughts on Memorial Day and its meaning to them. Submissions from each of the community's three elementary schools are selected to be included in the ceremony. I had the opportunity to join the Orange ceremony this year and was inspired by the words of this year's winners and am pleased to have this opportunity to share them.

Chloe Chang, a student at Peck Place School submitted the following essay:

We dress in red, white, and blue, attend parades, and honor the men and women who have fallen in the Civil War. This holiday has been around for 182 years, and we still donate money, coupons, and flowers to the perished soldiers. Their sacrifices have allowed them to serve their country, putting the welfare of others before their own. How can we repay them? We can give a moment of silence, visit their burial ground, and learn about their history.

The holiday started in 1868, where North America was fighting to end slavery, and South America was fighting to preserve slavery. The war to end slavery lasted for over 4 years, and Robert E. Lee finally capitulated the last Confederate Soldiers to General Ulysses S. Grant. ''Decoration Day'' was declared by General John A. Logan in 1868. In ''Decoration Day'', flowers are laid on war graves in honor of the deceased. Memorial Day holiday was declared a national holiday in 1971 to honor those who have died in all American wars.

The Union Army has contributed immensely to our lives, and the least we can do is say a little thank you. The invaluable changes they made upon our history is indescribable, and we are forever indebted to them. These brave men and women have done much for their fatherland by sacrificing their own lives, and we continue to honor them on May 31, Memorial Day.

For more than two hundred years American soldiers have answered the call to defend our land and our values of freedom and democracy. With annual ceremonies like the one in Orange, that engage our youngest citizens, we ensure that we will never forget that our armed forces have a long and proud history, and that every one of our veterans has demonstrated outstanding courage, dedication, and service. It is my honor to rise today to thank Chloe Chang for her very special contribution to Memorial Day and her community.

GREG DESTEFANO

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I am here today to recognize Greg DeStafano, a resilient fighter who left an impact on all of those he ever met. Greg DeStefano was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor at the age of 10 and he defied the odds, living more than 30 years past the doctor's initial prognosis. Greg's family was by his side every step of the way, and they emphasize the fact that he left an impact on all of those he met with his huge smile and kind heart. Despite the multiple brain surgeries that Greg underwent, he graduated from high school and went on to attend a vocational high school for communications. After graduating, he traveled to Mexico to help children in need. Greg longed to help others, despite his own struggles. Greg passed away at the age of 42 this year, with his family by his side, like they always had been. On the day of Greg's memorial, $13,000 had been donated in his honor to the Make a Wish New Jersey Foundation. One week following his passing, the total raised was over $17,000. The impact Greg left not only on his family, but his community, is remarkable. God Bless Greg and his family and God Bless America.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed S. 1251, Growing Climate Solutions Act.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S4735–S4799

Measures Introduced: One hundred four bills and fourteen resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2203–2306, S. Res. 284–296, and S. Con. Res. 10.

Pages S4772–76

Measures Reported:

S. Res. 67, calling for the immediate release of Trevor Reed, a United States citizen who was unjustly found guilty and sentenced to 9 years in a Russian prison.

S. Res. 107, expressing the sense of the Senate relating to the 10th anniversary of the March 11, 2011, earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

S. Res. 165, calling on the Government of the Russian Federation to provide evidence or to release United States citizen Paul Whelan, and with an amended preamble.

S. Res. 176, urging all parties in Georgia to seek prompt implementation of the agreement signed on April 19, 2021, and reaffirming the support of the Senate for Georgia, the territorial integrity of Georgia, and the aspirations of Georgians to join the Euro-Atlantic community, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with an amended preamble.

S. 14, to identify and combat corruption in countries, to establish a tiered system of countries with respect to levels of corruption by their governments and their efforts to combat such corruption, and to evaluate foreign persons engaged in grand corruption for inclusion as specially designated nationals under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 65, to ensure that goods made with forced labor in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China do not enter the United States market, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 89, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to secure medical opinions for veterans with service-connected disabilities who die from COVID–19 to determine whether their service-connected disabilities were the principal or contributory causes of death, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 93, to amend the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act to modify the foreign persons subject to sanctions and to remove the sunset for the imposition of sanctions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 189, 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, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 894, to identify and refer members of the Armed Forces with a health care occupation who are separating from the Armed Forces for potential employment with the Department of Veterans Affairs, with an amendment.

S. 1041, to advance the strategic alignment of United States diplomatic tools toward the realization of free, fair, and transparent elections in Nicaragua and to reaffirm the commitment of the United States to protect the fundamental freedoms and human rights of the people of Nicaragua, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 1061, to encourage the normalization of relations with Israel, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 2000, to promote the United States-Greece defense partnership, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

Measures Passed:

Growing Climate Solutions Act: By 92 yeas to 8 nays (Vote No. 251), Senate passed S. 1251, to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to develop a program to reduce barriers to entry for farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners in certain voluntary markets, after taking action on the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S4736–43**

Rejected:

By 11 yeas to 89 nays (Vote No. 250), Lee Amendment No. 2119, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S4736–39**

Supporting the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health and the Reagan-Udall Foundation for the Food and Drug Administration Act: Senate passed S. 1662, to increase funding for the Reagan-Udall Foundation for the Food and Drug Administration and for the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health. **Page S4793**

Trade Adjustment Assistance Extension Act: Senate passed S. 2255, to extend the trade adjustment assistance program for one month. **Page S4794**

Congressional Budget Justification Transparency Act: Senate passed S. 272, to amend the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, to require the budget justifications and appropriation requests of agencies be made publicly available, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S4794–95**

CASA/GAL Volunteers' Day: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 219, designating May 18, 2021, as "CASA/GAL Volunteers' Day", and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S4795**

National Dairy Month: Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 268, expressing support for the designation of June 2021 as "National Dairy Month" to recognize the important role dairy plays in a healthy diet and the exceptional work of dairy producers in being stewards of the land and livestock, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S4795**

Honoring the Memory of the Granite Mountain Interagency Hotshot Crew: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 270, honoring the memory of the fallen heroes of the Granite Mountain Interagency Hotshot Crew, and the resolution was then agreed to, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S4795**

Durbin (for Kelly) Amendment No. 2120, to amend the preamble. **Page S4795**

National Cybersecurity Education Week: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 279, designating June 21, 2021 through June 25, 2021, as "National Cybersecurity Education Week", and the resolution was then agreed to. **Pages S4795–96**

Indian Veterans' Home 125th Anniversary: Senate agreed to S. Res. 284, recognizing the 125th Anniversary of the Indiana Veterans' Home. **Page S4796**

Collector Car Appreciation Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 292, designating July 9, 2021, as "Collector Car Appreciation Day" and recognizing that the collection and restoration of historic and classic cars is an important part of preserving the technological achievements and cultural heritage of the United States. **Page S4796**

International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking: Senate agreed to S. Res. 293, designating June 26, 2021, as the "International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking". **Page S4796**

Colonel John M. McHugh Tuition Fairness for Survivors Act: Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 1095, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the disapproval by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of courses of education offered by public institutions of higher learning that do not charge veterans the in-State tuition rate for purposes of Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program, and the bill was then passed. **Page S4796**

Sgt. Ketchum Rural Veterans Mental Health Act: Committee on Veterans' Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2441, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to expand the Rural Access Network for Growth Enhancement Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study to assess certain mental health care resources of the Department of Veterans Affairs available to veterans who live in rural areas, and the bill was then passed. **Page S4796**

Appointments:

Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China: The Chair, on behalf of the President of the Senate, pursuant to Public-Law 106–286, appointed the following Members to serve on the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China: Senators Rubio, Lankford, Cotton, and Daines. **Page S4789**

Pro Forma Sessions–Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Senate adjourn, to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted on the

following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Monday, June 28, 2021, at 9 a.m.; Thursday, July 1, 2021, at 11 a.m.; Monday, July 5, 2021 at 2:30 p.m.; and Thursday, July 8, 2021, at 12 noon; and that when the Senate adjourns on Thursday, July 8, 2021, it next convene at 3 p.m., on Monday, July 12, 2021. **Page S4796**

Zeya Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Uzra Zeya, of Virginia, to be an Under Secretary of State (Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights). **Page S4748**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, June 24, 2021, a vote on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, July 12, 2021. **Page S4748**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S4748**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S4748**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senate resume consideration of the nomination at approximately 3 p.m., on Monday, July 12, 2021; and that cloture motions filed during today's session ripen at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, July 12, 2021. **Page S4796**

Su Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Julie A. Su, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Labor. **Page S4749**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Uzra Zeya, of Virginia, to be an Under Secretary of State (Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights). **Page S4749**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Pages S4748–49**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S4749**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 53 yeas to 40 nays (Vote No. EX. 252), Candace Jackson-Akiwumi, of Illinois, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

Pages S4743–48

Dawn Myers O'Connell, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, Department of Health and Human Services.

Christine Abizaid, of Maryland, to be Director of the National Counterterrorism Center, Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

Faisal Amin, of Maryland, to be Chief Financial Officer, Environmental Protection Agency.

Shannon Aneal Estenoz, of Florida, to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife.

Robin C. Ashton, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Central Intelligence Agency.

Patricia L. Ross, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Congressional and Legislative Affairs).

Maryanne T. Donaghy, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection).

Anne Milgram, of New Jersey, to be Administrator of Drug Enforcement.

Carlos Alberto Monje, Jr., of Louisiana, to be Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy.

Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon, of Connecticut, to be Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, Department of Health and Human Services.

134 Army nominations in the rank of general.

2 Marine Corps nominations in the rank of general.

13 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Foreign Service, Marine Corps, Navy, and Space Force.

Pages S4789–92

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Xochitl Torres Small, of New Mexico, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development.

Homer L. Wilkes, of Mississippi, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment.

David Uejio, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Max Vekich, of Washington, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for a term expiring June 30, 2026.

M. Camille Calimlim Touton, of Nevada, to be Commissioner of Reclamation.

Christi A. Grimm, of Colorado, to be Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services.

Ismael N. Ahmed, of Michigan, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2024.

Kinan Azmeh, of New York, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2024.

Stacey Michelle Brandenburg, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation for a term expiring December 10, 2025.

Constance Hess Williams, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2026.

Kamilah Forbes, of New York, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2026.

Robert Garcia, of California, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation for a term expiring December 10, 2023.

Huascar Medina, of Kansas, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2026.

Christopher Kaui Morgan, of Maryland, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2024.

Fiona Whelan Prine, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2024.

Jake Shimabukuro, of Hawaii, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2024.

Laura Daniel-Davis, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

Cathy Ann Harris, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Merit Systems Protection Board for the term of seven years expiring March 1, 2028.

Cathy Ann Harris, of Maryland, to be Chairman of the Merit Systems Protection Board.

Raymond A. Limon, of Nevada, to be a Member of the Merit Systems Protection Board for the term of seven years expiring March 1, 2025.

Hampton Y. Dellinger, of North Carolina, to be an Assistant Attorney General. **Pages S4796–97**

Messages from the House: **Pages S4769–70**

Measures Referred: **Page S4770**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Page S4770**

Executive Communications: **Page S4770**

Petitions and Memorials: **Pages S4770–71**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Pages S4771–72**

Notice of a Tie Vote Under S. Res. 27: **Page S4762**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S4776–77**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S4777–88**

Additional Statements: **Pages S4767–69**

Amendments Submitted: **Page S4788**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S4788–89**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S4789**

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—252) **Pages S4739–40, S4748**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 5:34 p.m., until 9 a.m. on Monday, June 28, 2021. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page (S4796)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the Navy and Marine Corps, after receiving testimony from Thomas W. Harker, Acting Secretary of the Navy, Admiral Michael Gilday, Chief of Naval Operations, and General David H. Berger, Commandant of the Marine Corps, all of the Department of Defense.

ATOMIC ENERGY DEFENSE ACTIVITIES

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Department of Energy and National Nuclear Security Administration on atomic energy defense activities in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2022 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Jennifer Granholm, Secretary, and Charles Verdon, Acting Under Secretary for Nuclear Security, National Nuclear Security Administration, both of the Department of Energy.

HOUSING LEGISLATION

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine bipartisan bills to increase access to housing, including S. 1991, to authorize a new type of housing choice voucher to help achieve the goals of ending homelessness among families with children, increasing housing opportunities, and improving life outcomes of poor children, S. 1820, to increase the number of landlords participating in the Housing Choice Voucher program, S. 1614, to require certain grantees under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to submit a plan to track discriminatory land use policies, S. 2049, to require a study and report on the housing and service needs of survivors of trafficking and individuals at risk for trafficking, S. 2008, to strengthen the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, S. 2092, to

permanently authorize the Native Community Development Financial Institutions lending program of the Department of Agriculture, S. 2131, to require a review of the effects of FHA mortgage insurance policies, practices, and products on small-dollar mortgage lending, S. 2182, to require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to establish a national evictions database, S. 2179, to provide grants to owners of intergenerational dwelling units, S. 2190, to establish the Task Force on the Impact of the Affordable Housing Crisis, S. 1860, to amend the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act to provide for additional procedures for families with children under the age of 6, and S. 598, to authorize additional monies to the Public Housing Capital Fund of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, after receiving testimony from Lisa Mensah, Opportunity Finance Network, Nan Roman, National Alliance to End Homelessness, and Howard Husock, American Enterprise Institute, all of Washington, D.C.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Jennifer L. Homendy, of Virginia, to be Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, who was introduced by Senator Blumenthal, Karen Jean Hedlund, of Colorado, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board, and Robert Cornelius Hampshire, of Michigan, and Carol Annette Petsonk, of the District of Columbia, both to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

ENERGY SECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the infrastructure needs of the U.S. energy sector, western water, and public lands, including an original bill to invest in the energy and outdoor infrastructure of the United States to deploy new and innovative technologies, update existing infrastructure to be reliable and resilient, and secure energy infrastructure against physical and cyber threats, after receiving testimony from Kathleen Hogan, Acting Under Secretary, Office of Under Secretary for Science and Energy, Department of Energy; Tanya Trujillo, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, Department of the Interior; Christopher French, Deputy Chief, National Forest System, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; Douglas Holtz-Eakin, American Action Forum, and Collin O'Mara, National Wildlife Federation, both of Washington, D.C.; and Mark P. Mills, Manhattan Institute, Chevy Chase, Maryland.

NATURAL AND NATURE-BASED FEATURES IN WATER RESOURCES PROJECTS

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the role of natural and nature-based features in water resources projects, after receiving testimony from Todd S. Bridges, Senior Research Scientist, Army Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army; Gerald E. Galloway, University of Maryland, and Julie A. Ufner, National Waterways Conference, both of Arlington, Virginia; Chett Chiasson, Greater Lafourche Port Commission, Cut Off, Louisiana; and Richard M. Johnson, Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency, Sacramento, California.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Sarah Bianchi, of Virginia, to be Deputy United States Trade Representative (Asia, Africa, Investment, Services, Textiles, and Industrial Competitiveness), with the rank of Ambassador, Jayme Ray White, of Washington, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative (Western Hemisphere, Europe, the Middle East, Labor, and Environment), with the rank of Ambassador, and Melanie Anne Egorin, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services, who was introduced by Representative Neal, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 65, to ensure that goods made with forced labor in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China do not enter the United States market, with an amendment;

S. 1061, to encourage the normalization of relations with Israel, with an amendment; and

The nominations of Michele Jeanne Sison, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary (International Organization Affairs), Larry Edward Andre, Jr., of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Somalia, Maria E. Brewer, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Lesotho, Tulinabo S. Mushingi, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Angola, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, Elizabeth Moore Aubin, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, Eugene S. Young, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of the Congo, Christopher John Lamora, of Rhode Island, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cameroon, Todd D. Robinson, of

New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary (International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs), and Daniel J. Kritenbrink, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary (East Asian and Pacific Affairs), all of the Department of State.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

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 Ur Mendoza Jaddou, of California, to be Director of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, and Margaret Irene Strickland, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 56 public bills, H.R. 4112–4167; and 2 resolutions, H. Res. 497–498 were introduced. **Pages H3131–33**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H3135–36**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Gallego to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H3085**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:51 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H3091**

Smithsonian American Women's History Museum Council—Appointment: Read a letter from Representative McCarthy, Minority Leader, in which he appointed the following member to the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum Council: Mrs. Jackie Walorski of Elkhart, Indiana. **Page H3094**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:47 p.m. and reconvened at 3 p.m. **Page H3114**

Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Office of the Comptroller of Currency relating to "National Banks and Federal Savings Associations as Lenders": The House passed S.J. Res. 15, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Office of the Comptroller of Currency relating to "National Banks and Federal Savings Associations as Lenders", by a yea-and-nay vote of 218 yeas to 208 nays, Roll No. 181. **Pages H3099–H3100, H3114**

H. Res. 486, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 2062), (H.R. 239), and (H.R. 1443) and the joint resolutions (S.J. Res. 13), (S.J. Res. 14), and (S.J. Res. 15) was agreed to yesterday, June 23rd.

LGBTQ Business Equal Credit Enforcement and Investment Act: The House passed H.R. 1443, to amend the Equal Credit Opportunity Act to require the collection of small business loan data related to LGBTQ-owned businesses, by a yea-and-nay vote of 252 yeas to 176 nays, Roll No. 182. **Pages H3097–99, H3114–15**

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117–7 shall be considered as adopted, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services now printed in the bill. **Page H3098**

H. Res. 486, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 2062), (H.R. 239), and (H.R. 1443) and the joint resolutions (S.J. Res. 13), (S.J. Res. 14), and (S.J. Res. 15) was agreed to yesterday, June 23rd.

Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission relating to "Update of Commission's Conciliation Procedures": The House passed S.J. Res. 13, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission relating to "Update of Commission's Conciliation Procedures", by a yea-and-nay vote of 219 yeas to 210 nays, Roll No. 183. **Pages H3110–14, H3115–16**

H. Res. 486, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 2062), (H.R. 239), and (H.R. 1443) and the joint resolutions (S.J. Res. 13), (S.J. Res. 14), and (S.J. Res. 15) was agreed to yesterday, June 23rd.

Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act: The House passed H.R. 239, to amend title 38,

United States Code, to provide for limitations on co-payments for contraception furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs, by a yea-and-nay vote of 245 yeas to 181 nays, Roll No. 184.

Pages H3094–97, H3116–17

H. Res. 486, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 2062), (H.R. 239), and (H.R. 1443) and the joint resolutions (S.J. Res. 13), (S.J. Res. 14), and (S.J. Res. 15) was agreed to yesterday, June 23rd.

Senate Referrals: S. 2184 was held at the desk. S. 1251 was held at the desk. **Pages H3094, H3117**

Senate Messages: Messages received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appear on pages H3094.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Four yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H3114, H3115, H3115–16, and H3116–17.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Committee Meetings

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government held a markup on the Fiscal Year 2022 Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bill. The Fiscal Year 2022 Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bill was forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch held a markup on the Fiscal Year 2022 Subcommittee on Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill. The Fiscal Year 2022 Subcommittee on Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill was forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE'S FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET

Committee on the Budget: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Department of Defense's Fiscal Year 2022 Budget''. Testimony was heard from Michael J. McCord, Under Secretary of Defense and Comptroller/Chief Financial Officer, Department of Defense; and Vice Admiral Ronald A. Boxall, Director of Force Structure, Resources and Assessment (J8), Joint Chiefs of Staff, Department of Defense.

EXAMINING THE POLICIES AND PRIORITIES OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Committee on Education and Labor: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Examining the Policies and Priorities of the U.S. Department of Education''. Testimony was heard from Miguel A. Cardona, Secretary, Department of Education.

EMPOWERED BY DATA: LEGISLATION TO ADVANCE EQUITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled ''Empowered by Data: Legislation to Advance Equity and Public Health''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

NATO 2030: A CELEBRATION OF ORIGINS AND AN EYE TOWARD THE FUTURE

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Europe, Energy, the Environment, and Cyber; and North Atlantic Treaty Organization Parliamentary Assembly held a joint hearing entitled ''NATO 2030: A Celebration of Origins and an Eye Toward the Future''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

ADVANCING AND PROTECTING LGBTQI+ RIGHTS ABROAD

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Advancing and Protecting LGBTQI+ Rights Abroad''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

VOTING IN AMERICA: A NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE ON THE RIGHT TO VOTE, METHODS OF ELECTION, JURISDICTIONAL BOUNDARIES, AND REDISTRICTING

Committee on House Administration: Subcommittee on Elections held a hearing entitled ''Voting in America: A National Perspective on the Right to Vote, Methods of Election, Jurisdictional Boundaries, and Redistricting''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee concluded a markup on H.R. 3843, the ''Merger Filing Fee Modernization Act of 2021''; H.R. 3460, the ''State Antitrust Enforcement Venue Act of 2021''; H.R. 3849, the ''ACCESS Act of 2021''; H.R. 3826, the ''Platform Competition and Opportunity Act of 2021''; H.R. 3816, the ''American Choice and Innovation Online Act''; and H.R. 3825, the ''Ending Platform Monopolies Act''. H.R. 3843, H.R. 3460, H.R. 3849, H.R. 3826, H.R. 3816, and H.R. 3825 were ordered reported, as amended.

LEADING BY EXAMPLE: THE NEED FOR COMPREHENSIVE PAID LEAVE FOR THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE AND BEYOND

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Leading by Example: The Need for Comprehensive Paid Leave for the Federal Workforce and Beyond''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

PLASTIC WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING RESEARCH: MOVING FROM STAGGERING STATISTICS TO SUSTAINABLE SYSTEMS

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Research and Technology held a hearing entitled ''Plastic Waste Reduction and Recycling Research: Moving from Staggering Statistics to Sustainable Systems''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

CMMC IMPLEMENTATION: WHAT IT MEANS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Regulations held a hearing entitled ''CMMC Implementation: What It Means for Small Businesses''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

PRESIDENT BIDEN'S FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET REQUEST: AGENCY POLICIES AND PERSPECTIVES (PART I)

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment held a hearing entitled ''President Biden's Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Request: Agency Policies and Perspectives (Part I)''. Testimony was heard from Lieutenant General Scott A. Spellmon, Chief of Engineers and Commanding General, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army; Jaime A. Pinkham, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Department of the Army; Jeff Lyash, President and Chief Executive Officer, Tennessee Valley Authority; and Daniel Avila, Acting Commissioner, U.S. Sector, International Boundary and Water Commission.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 3967, the ''Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2021''. H.R. 3967 was ordered reported, as amended.

NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY BUDGET HEARING

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''National Security Agency Budget Hearing''. Testimony was heard from General Paul Nakasone, Director, National Security Agency, Department of Defense. This hearing was closed.

RETHINKING CONGRESSIONAL CULTURE: LESSONS FROM THE FIELDS OF ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Rethinking Congressional Culture: Lessons from the Fields of Organizational Psychology and Conflict Resolution''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, *p. D668)*

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. Signed on June 23, 2021. (Public Law 117–18)

H.J. Res. 27, providing for the appointment of Barbara Barrett as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution. Signed on June 23, 2021. (Public Law 117–19)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 2021

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, markup on the Fiscal Year 2022 Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, 9 a.m., 2118 Rayburn and Webex.

Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, markup on the Fiscal Year 2022 Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, 11 a.m., 2118 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Global Human Rights, hearing entitled ''Brain Health: A Global Perspective'', 10 a.m., Webex.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9 a.m., Monday, June 28

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Friday, June 25

House Chamber

Program for Friday: Consideration of S.J. Res. 14—Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to ''Oil and Natural Gas Sector: Emission Standards for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources Review''.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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